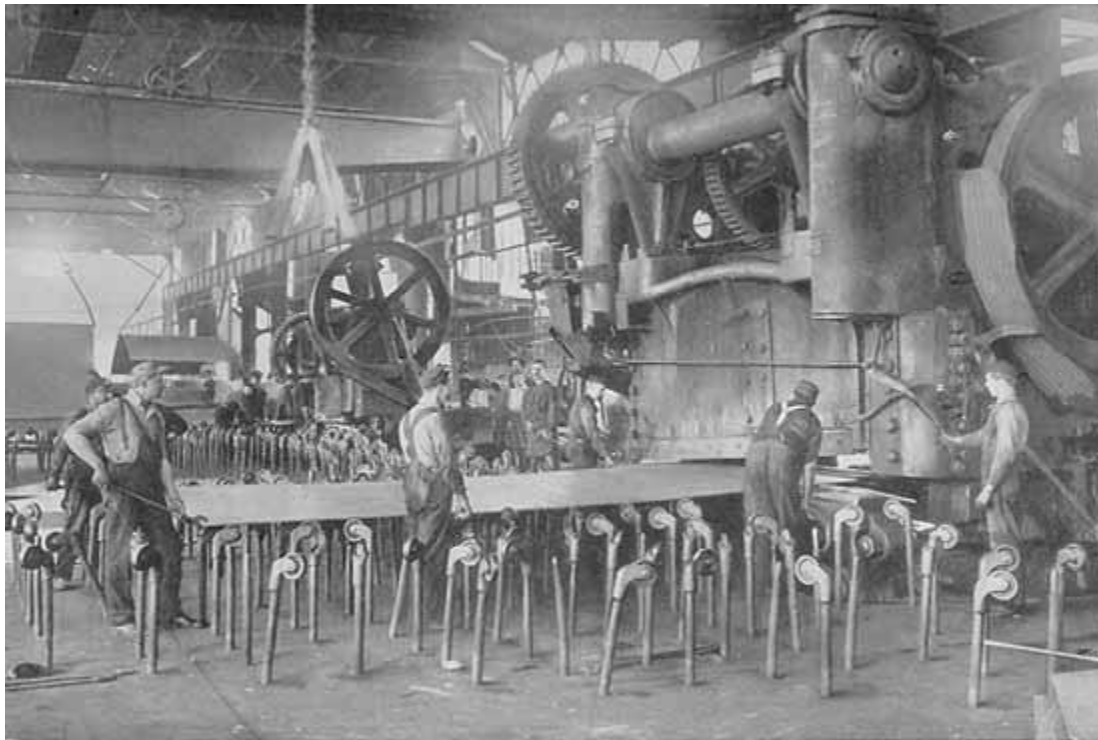


Student Handout 2-Cutting Steel Plate

I began to notice after a time that the men with whom I talked were often a little hard of hearing. It was some time before I connected this fact with the noise of the mill. The rolling mills are all noisy, the blooming mills and the plate mills especially so, while the cold saw bites into the steel with a screech that is fairly maddening. When I finally began to make inquiries I found that among the men I met, partial or slight deafness was quite common, and that they all attributed it to the noise. This noise has an effect also on the nerves, which is intensified by the constant vibration of the machinery; a strain more wearing on some of the men than the work itself.

Source: *The Pittsburgh Survey, Chapter VII: Health and Accidents in Steel Making, p. 58.*



Cutting Steel Plate With Hydraulic Shears

Credit: Fitch, John A. *The Steel Workers: The Pittsburgh Survey findings in six volumes*, ed. P.U. Kellogg
New York: Charities Publications Committee, 1910.

Photography by Lewis Hine