

TPB-519

**Modernity, Metaphor, and Maples: the Landscape Created by the Wood  
Chemical Plant in Donald**

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**a student report prepared for**

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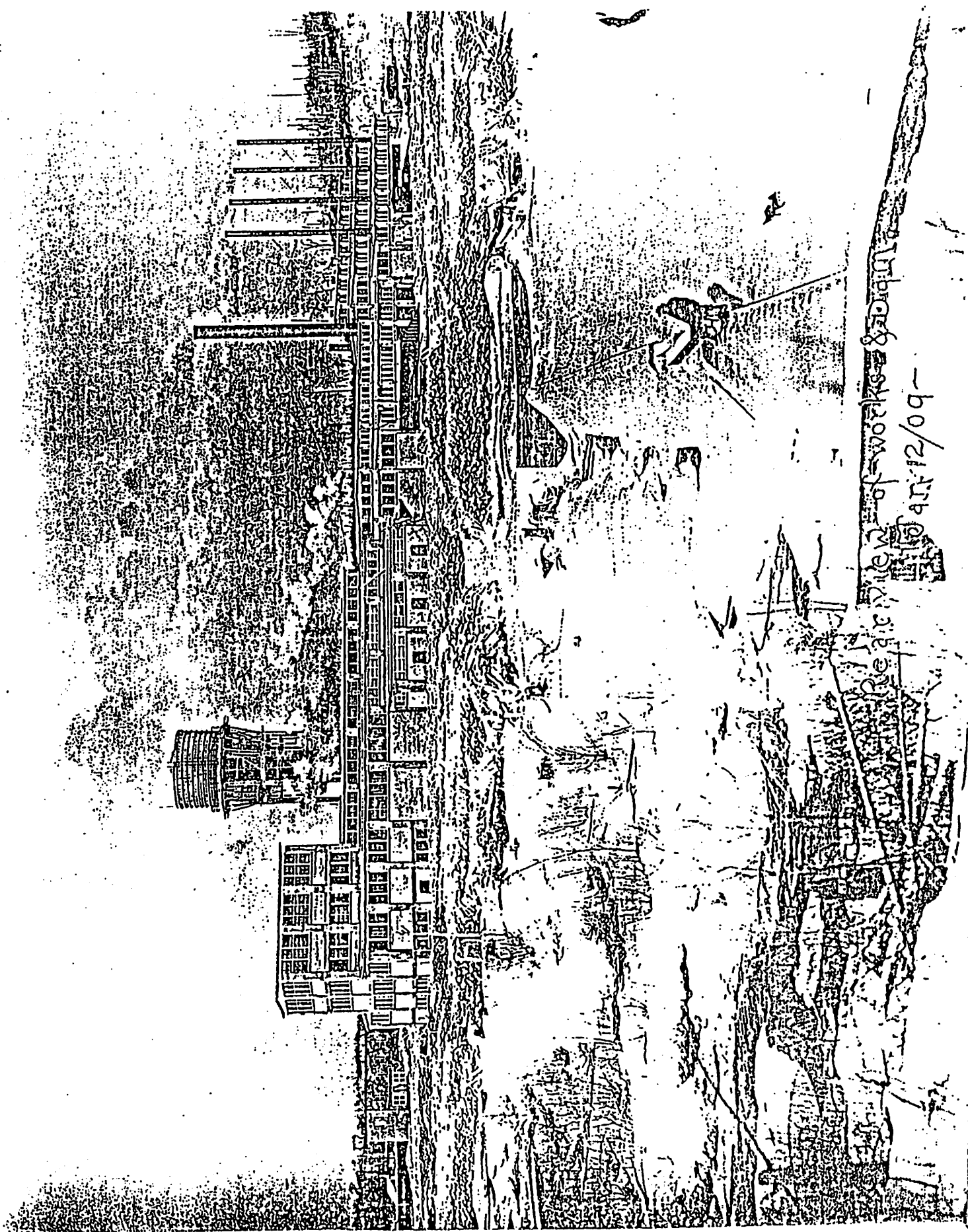
**1992**

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"Why would there still be so much interest in a plant that was only open for thirty years, and closed up over forty years ago?"

Godfry Tyler.

At the centre of this paper is the attempt to try and answer Godfry's question.



View of works & building  
at air 12/09

I.

1) REFLECTIONS ON IMPRESSIONS:

The highway which passes by the small hamlet of Donald is not unlike the many roads which criss-crosses the northern parts of this province. From the highway one can see a small community with a shop, a former school house, and a few other buildings that gives a sense of the meagre size of this town. If one drives fast enough, because of a pressing schedule, one might miss the town or furthermore not even notice it. However, if one travels this highway at a leisurely speed, taking in the beauty of the terrain and the character of Haliburton county, one might observe briefly a skeleton-like edifice which crowns the Donald's skyline. The monument's steel, concrete, and brick does not seem a part of the local vernacular, but rather appears inorganic, as if imposed upon the landscape by some external force. This industrial mirage has no doubt been the source of many a gapping and perplexed looks from visitors to the county. The inquisitive individual can not help asking, "what is this?" and "why in Donald?" To the locals it is just the "Chemical", which has been a part of the local landscape for as long as living memory has known. It has always been there. For this reason, the skeleton, which might be considered unsightly to some aesthetic conscious southerner, transcends the derelict in the eyes of many Haliburtonians. To those who have lived in the area for many years, this dilapidated relic is not an eye-sore but a piece of

local history and a source of local lore.

The remnants of the once proud structure, which housed a chemical plant, is a modern ruin. It is a historical metaphor not only for the people of Donald, but for the citizens of Ontario and Canada. This artifact speaks of change and it is the nature of this historical investigation to reveal the veils of silence which shroud this dormant site. True, much of the human truth which surrounds the "Chemical" has faded from the collective memory as the men who worked in this plant and their families have moved away and moved on. Only their ghosts remain to taunt our questions. But there is still a dispersed knowledge about the plant which survives both in the stories of locals and in the landscape upon which the plant depended. Thus, it is the nature of this investigation to turn to these two sources of information about the plant and place this local knowledge into a larger context of Ontario's economic history.

The most fruitful way of approaching the "Chemical" plant is through the intuition of first impression. Undoubtedly, the most striking feature of the Chemical plant in Donald is the scale. Not only is it one of the largest buildings in the county, indeed, the probable scale of consumption of raw materials and the production of finished goods reflects the concrete skeleton's monumentality. At the time of its construction, the plant was possibly the largest plant in Ontario. Indeed, the building housed Haliburton County's largest single industry, an industry

that in its heyday employed directly and indirectly between three and four hundred people.' The arousing feature of the plant is the fact that it symbolized a highly developed technology in a context of (relatively) untouched nature. In these terms, one can not help but wonder what was the affect of the "Chemical" on the county's environment, be it the state of nature or the community. This reflection leads us to the central question in this investigation: what was the change induced by this unbridled "progress" oriented technology?

ii) technology and bioregionalism:

As Donald Worester claimed, "technology is the application of skills and knowledge to exploiting the environment"<sup>2</sup>. No doubt, human relationships change because of the incorporation of new technologies. To understand the effects technologies and its tendency to bring about change, one must always keep in mind the notion of place and community. Accordingly, what lies at the core of this chemical plant in Donald is the scale of technology which is expressed in the plant's effect upon the physical, economic, social and ecological factor of the community. Thus, essential to an understanding of technology is a integrated understanding of humans and nature. To many, such an understanding is known as bioregionalism.

Despite the negative connotations which may be attached to bioregionalism, the bioregional historian simply wants to know what role nature has had in shaping the productive methods and,

conversely, what impact those methods had on nature,<sup>3</sup> and the community. In terms of the Chemical plant in Donald, the overall intensions of this inquiry is clearly articulated by John Bennet in his work Ecological Transition: the underlying intension is to see, "How and why humans use Nature, how they incorporate Nature into society, and what they do to themselves, Nature, and society in the process." A bioregional perspective will seeks to establish Bennet's imperatives, but at the same time it attempts to bring to the foreground the importance and uniqueness of this specific context -- Haliburton County.

To clarify the approach of this inquiry it is important to note that the essence of the Donald Chemical plant experience is not found so much in universal principle which can be grafted onto the county, but rather the natural and human history of the county which has organically arisen out of the forces which have shape this landscape. This does not mean that a larger historical picture can not be drawn. On the contrary; the chemical plant in Donald is a metaphor for burgeoning modern industrialism on the Canadian frontier, yet the account for this experience has to be spoken in the dialect which is particular to Donald and Haliburton. Ultimately, it is this dialect which arises out of the context and the landscape.

## II. LOCALITY AND ECONOMY

### 1) donald and the world:the big picture.

To begin: what did the Donald chemical do? The plant's initial function was to produce charcoal which would be used in the smelting of iron and steel, as well as being a clean burning fuel for domestic and commercial heaters and stoves. But over time, the plant depended more on the by-products of the charring process: like acetate which was used for explosives, and wood alcohol which was used in a variety of ways for domestic and industries purposes, be it as a cleaning solvent, as a part of distilling, or as anti-freeze for engines. The manufacturing of these wood-charcoal products were directly tied into the demand from southern markets and the changing needs of society and the developing technologies used to supply these demands.

As an experience beginning in the first decade of the century and ending shortly after the conclusion of World War II, the "Chemical" poetically speaks of a complete cycle of change which occurred in the Canadian economy. The plant arose out of the increased demand for metal and natural chemicals and was closed due the creation of new petro-chemical related processes and new smelting techniques developed at the beginning of the



post-war industrial boom. Thus at one point in time, Donald, despite its geographical remoteness, was intricately intertwined into the Canadian and World economy because of the Chemical plant.

b) a detailed account of Canadian industrialization:

Canadian confederation marked the beginning of industrialization in this nation. Important to its development was the production of iron and steel. Metal consumption increased rapidly in the last two decades of the century. Metal was needed for farming tools in the expansion of agriculture onto the prairies, while at the same time new railway lines were being built as communication links which would bind the nation. Protectionist policies were established by the federal government to provide a stable environment for the development of a national iron and steel industry.

Canada, till this time, had imported metal and finished goods from the United Kingdom and the United States. The impetuous to create a national metal industry was rooted in the admiration of these two industrialized nations and their rapid economic and political growth; for iron and steel production contributed to Great Britain's and America's dynamic economic development in the nineteenth century. It was commonly understood that a metal industry would likewise could contribute to Canadian ambition for national power and wealth. The "do or

die" lobby to industrialize is explained by the economic historian, Ian Drummond. It was believed that "Canada can never be great till she makes her own iron. The iron makers in all ages have been masters of the world; the iron importers have always been weak and dependant."<sup>4</sup> It took until the turn of the century for Canada to reach a scale of metal production that the nation could be considered, for the most part, self sufficient.

One firm to enter into production during the 1890s was the Deseronto Iron Company. In 1889, the Rathburns, a family of lumber merchants and industrialists joined with the owners of an abandoned Detroit iron-works and other interests to erect a blast furnace at Deseronto, where the Rathburn sawmill was situated. The blast furnace was built in 1890 with a small municipal subsidy; production began the following year.<sup>5</sup>

This blast furnace was fired by charcoal rather than coal or coke. Until the eighteenth century all iron smelters had used charcoal or wood as its fuel. Learning how to substitute coal or coke for charcoal was an important technological advance during Britain's industrial revolution. By the 1750s iron could be produced more cheaply with coal or coke in Great Britain. Subsequent improvements in the quality and cost of coke iron further imperilled charcoal iron manufacture, which began to decline in Great Britain during the eighteenth century, and by the mid-nineteenth century in western Europe and in the eastern seaboard of North America.<sup>6</sup>

In central Canada, however, wood was cheaper and

metallurgical coal more expensive. Here charcoal smelting was able to survive by securing a specialized market, reducing the price paid for charcoal and improving productivity at the blast furnace. A number of advances had enabled the Deseronto furnace to double its labour productivity and almost doubled its fuel productivity from that of Canadian charcoal furnaces twenty five years earlier. This growth in productivity was the result of improvements in the quality of raw materials and subsequent changes in the technology of smelting.<sup>7</sup> The Rathburn family of Deseronto possessed charcoal kilns used in their processing, but the plants were not located near the resource, but rather, near the industrial site.<sup>8</sup> At this time other metal companies were building charcoal kilns farther north, closer to the hardwoods required for charcoal, so as to keep the price of production down. Subsequently, wood distillation was a natural outgrowth of the province's forest products and charcoal industry, and by 1890 it was also an important output intertwined with the production of charcoal.<sup>9</sup>

By 1900 the Canadian economy had significantly expanded and Canada was producing and consuming its own iron and steel output. It is not surprising that Ontario, which had become the industrial hub of the nation, was in the midst of major northern resource development boom which not only perpetuated production but also consumption of the goods produced. Premier Oliver Mowat and his successor Ross were fundamental in establishing and developing the bureaucratic infrastructure and communication

links so important to a modern industrial economy. Consequently, a major surge of railway tracks were laid in Ontario around the turn of the century. Between 1890 and 1910 numerous foundries were established through out the province to quench the thirst of expansion. Places like Georgian Bay, Port Arthur, Collingwood, North Superior, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Welland all seeking to become prominent industrial production centres.<sup>10</sup>

c) the genesis of Donald and the metal boom:

In this metallurgical boom, the price of charcoal rose because of the dwindling availability of woodlands close to the smelters, which was a result of heavy demand for fuel. The charcoal industry bloomed overnight under these conditions. Charcoal consumption in central Canada almost tripled between 1900 and 1910 as Canada changed from being a net importer in the 1890s to a net exporter by 1910.

Investments by entrepreneurs in this developing modern economy was not limited one's locality, but rather investments and ventures were spread through out the province. Many southerners made large investments in the north reaches. One such entrepreneur was Mr R. A. Donald of Markham, who in 1906, bought the property in Haliburton county, which according to the indenture, "...composed of those portions of lots number SIX and SEVEN in the Second Concession of the said Tounship of Dysart, lying north of the Burnt River, excepting however there out such

portions of the said lots as have already been sold to the Victoria Railway company, now the Grand Trunk Railway company, now the Grand Trunk Railway Company, containing one hundred and eighty four acres, more or less,..."<sup>11</sup>.

It was Donald's intension to supply charcoal for the seemingly unquenchable appetite of Ontario's expanding economy. Mr Donald contracted Westinghouse to start building the plant in 1906 and it was completed two years later at a cost of \$1 million<sup>12</sup>. He ran the plant for seven years until he started to run into financial difficulty. It was at this point in time that the Standard Chemical Company appeared in the County.

The Deseronto Iron Company which was reorganized as the Standard Chemical Company, the Standard Iron Company, and the Standard Iron, Chemical, and Lumber Company, expanded quickly to meet the enormous growth in Canadian demand for railway rolling stock and agricultural implements. By 1913 the firm had established half a dozen charcoal kilns through central Ontario and Quebec as well as chemical refineries in Montreal, England, and Germany. In the same year a new blast furnace was built in Perry Sound.<sup>13</sup>

R.A. Donald's plant had supplied substantial amounts of charcoal to the large Standard Chemical in its first years of operation; however, the economic growth in the nation soon seize up. By 1913, as domestic markets became saturated, a world-wide recession began. In 1915, R.A Donald ran into financial difficulty and sold the Company and all its debts for \$1 to

another interest. The Canada Wood Products Ltd., after only a few years of operation, was subsequently leased to the Standard Chemical Company. Standard Chemical and Iron had lost one of its own plants in Flenon Falls in a fire, so it seemed timely to lease the plant. Although Standard Chemical ran the plant for over thirty years, it didn't actually own it until 1946, after the company had closed the plant. <sup>14</sup>

As it turned out, in 1913 was not a good year for Standard to incur new capital expenditures. Metal consumption diminished drastically in the serious recession. Even worse, the demand derived from investment in agriculture and railway failed to recover during World War One. The war effort consumed large quantities of iron, but munitions and other war related sources of demand placed no special value on the unique properties of charcoal iron. <sup>15</sup>

Secondly, the prospects for charcoal smelting were impaired by the laggard improvement in fuel and labour productivity. Charcoal smelters were no longer as efficient as revised coke and coal plants which had benefited from technological advances. There was a limit to the perfectibility of charcoal furnaces, which apparently could not share further in technical change and the economies of larger-scale production.

Thirdly, the ore price had gone up while the quality of ore had gone down for the Deseronto smelter, thus adding to its uncompetitiveness. In 1917, the blast furnace began to substitute coke for charcoal; two years later the company began

to abandoned the manufacture of iron. Iron production at Deseronto disappeared because charcoal smelting became a more expensive way of manufacturing iron.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the Deseronto blast furnace was shut down in 1919 due to a combination of market and technical influences.<sup>16</sup>

Despite the failure of Standard's iron production, the wartime market, on the contrary, was very favourable to the company's charcoal by-products. Wood chemicals were in strong demand for the manufacture of explosives; Britain's War Office soon purchased directly or indirectly the company's entire chemical output.<sup>17</sup> For this reason output was kept at an optimum level. Thus, the war's demand for acetate freed the wood chemical producer from a dependence upon iron foundries. And so, the economic diversification saved the charcoal and wood chemical

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<sup>1</sup>(Production at a coke furnace in Hamilton serves as a comparison. In Hamilton coke smelting was successful, in Deseronto, charcoal evidently was not (figures should be provided). Raw materials and labour costs comprised about 85% of all costs of iron production. Capital and miscellaneous costs accounted for the remaining 15%. Between 1899 and 1916 material and labour costs per ton of pig iron declined slightly at Hamilton but nearly doubled at Deseronto. The increased relative cost of raw materials and labour doomed the Deseronto blast furnace. Several input prices and productivity developments account for the relative cost of change. ...One important reference was the stagnation of labour productivity at Deseronto in contrast to the considerable increase at the coke furnace. Second, the price of ore rose slightly at Deseronto and declined at Hamilton. At the same time the quality of ore, reflected in its productivity deteriorated much more at the former site. Finally, and most importantly, the price of Deseronto charcoal relative to that of coke at Hamilton, increased, while fuel needs per ton of iron rose at Deseronto and fell at Hamilton.)

industry in Ontario at this time.

Another byproduct in the charring process which came into heavy demand after World War One was wood alcohol. Its uses were wide, yet until the 1920s there was a stiff "sin" tax on its production. A lobby occurred at this time to release the production and consumption of alcohol from this tax. An article by Theo Wardleworth, of the National Drug and Chemical co., in the February 1921 edition of Industrial Canada states the case for promotion of wood alcohol.

Well Known is the fact that alcohol is the universal solvent is utilized by the chemist and manufacturer. The direction in which it can be employed are so manifold that it is impossible to give a complete list. It may be safely stated that additions can be made almost every week to the list of purposes to which it can be devoted as the result of the researchers of chemistry and the new applications of industry.<sup>10</sup>

His reasons for having the taxed removed is tied into the fact that after W.W.I alcohol was needed for the manufacturing boom which was taking place.

...only can denatured alcohol be used for articles which are now being made in Canada, but the privilege opens up very wide field, as a large range of products can now be made in Canada which hitherto could not be produced and no doubt considerable improvement can be effected in the quality of those now made...<sup>11</sup>

In essence, the evolution of the charcoal industry reflects differing capacities for adjustment to input price fluctuation, changes in consumption, for both metal and other wood charring by-products in the highly modernizing economy of Ontario between 1913-1939. Once again World War Two would place a huge demand on Canadian industries for their products, but the war also brought



a transformation in the type of economy in Ontario. The post-war boom would not include wood chemicals. Instead the Standard Chemical Company, like other Canadian chemical companies, turned to the rise of petro-chemicals and metal based chemicals. This industrial shift would effect the Donald plant, and other plants like it along the band of mixed hardwood forest on the shield. Instead, town like Sarnia blossomed in this new age of industry, while towns like Donald faded. All that remains is the battered hulls of these once proud ships of industry and the battered land upon which they depended.

The account which will unfolded is about one of these ships of industry -- the Chemical in Donald -- and the relationship it had to the people and to the land in this community. This tale about the Standard Chemical is by no means complete, but its perspective and partial truth is rooted in the voice of the people who lived with the Chemical and in the area, and it is this contextual discourse that the investigation will now turn.

### III. TECHNOLOGY, LAND, COMMUNITY: A NEED FOR WOOD.

#### 1) the factory, economy, and community:

As Leopolda Dobrensky has claimed, "the factory became the life's blood of the Highland's economy during the thirty seven years" it was operating.<sup>20</sup> It is fundamental to an investigation into the Chemical plant to establish why this is so. An attempt to comprehend the Donald Chemical plant is not complete through an understanding of the factory alone; rather, as Dobrensky alludes, it important to perceive the interrelatedness of the factory, its products, the process, the community and the natural

environment. These factors all combine to create a sense of inner and outer landscape so crucial to the understanding of place and home which was associated with the Chemical.

The probable reasons why D.A. Donald choose the site he did are four fold: first, it was at the end of a train line C.N.R., which could be used to take out the finished product; second, the site is in the middle of a substantial supply of hardwoods; third, Donald is on a flat adjacent to a river, which was needed in the production of wood chemicals both for the boilers and as a means of flushing affluent away<sup>21</sup>; fourth, there was a population of farmers and loggers already in the region which could be easily employed in the factory.

In the beginning, the plant employed as many as 300 full and part time workers, which was quite a substantial number in the early days of Haliburton. There were other saw mills and affiliated lumbering industries, yet none as capital intensive and enormous in scale as the Donald Chemical. For this reason, the people of Dysart and surrounding townships depended upon the Chemical as a means of lively-hood. Even though the plant was owned and run from outside the region, those who worked there were a part of the locality with strong community ties and loyalties which were strengthened rather than broken by the plant. As Johnny Johnson, a former employer, said, "I don't think there was anybody who you'd ever have a disagreement with."<sup>22</sup>

The plant marked a drastic shift in the local economy.

Prior to its creation and the development of saw-milling in the area, much of the local economy was based on informal exchange. Local farmers might be given the opportunity to haul wood or they might provoke their sons to work in a cutting camp or in the plant so as to generate some money. This was important because there was no money in the Haliburton economy. Goods like a turkey or potatoes or a days work might be exchanged for services rendered by say a doctor. Often farmers would work on road crews for four days to pay for taxes.<sup>23</sup> The creation of the Standard chemical plant and wage labour introduced a new modes of relationship in the community -- that of capitalism. Unlike farming, this modern industry created full time wage employment for some in the region which would enable locals to consume goods which might not be made in the locality, such as tools or books. However, money, as a universal mode of exchange, changes the type of relationship one has with the person who having an exchange with -- fundamentally, you do not have to known them.

The people who worked in the plant lived in the surrounding area: Donald, Gelert, Lochlan, Francis. Mr. Harley Fader moved to Donald and started working in the plant in 1942. "People came from all over to work there. I remember one man who walked all the way down the tracks from Gelert every morning and then walked back at night. Stewart Dagg was his name."<sup>24</sup> The plant also offered men with specialized trades a good opportunity to work at the plant; because of the limits of trade apprenticeship in the

region, some of these people might come from farther distances such as South River or Longford<sup>25</sup>.

Along with the new modes of exchange came new definitions of work and home. A farmer would work on his family's land in the midst of his parents, siblings and children. If a young man worked for Standard in the plant or in the bush labouring, this constant connection would disintegrate. It would be absurd to say that the Chemical plant destroyed the family unit, hardly, a younger son would most likely contribute part of his earnings to the family if he did work at the plant. However, it can not be ignored that the plant's presence did change the amount of time and interaction a man would have with his family. Some academics would assert that this is the essence of modernity -- alienation -- and its expression of this in Haliburton county through the Standard Chemical Company is case and point. Rather, this investigation is asserting (mildly) that the Chemical altered the relationships in the community due to the modes of production innate in the plant: meaning the way humans worked and interrelated was to some extent "manufactured" by the plant, as did the existing strong relationships in the community contribute to the successful formation and functioning of the plant. In sum the plant and the community were in a chicken and egg relationship of mutual perpetuation. The point is not to assert which came first but to observe the changing relationship's dynamics and form and the way it might constitute a new form of "inner and outer landscape".

Despite the localness of the plant, it did attract people from outside the county and even the country who were required, for one reason or another, to be brought into the area. No doubt this transformed the face of the county. Skilled labour and technicians who weren't available in the area had to be attracted to the area. Doug Hodgson explained that one of the first distillery technicians was brought all the way from Germany to work at the plant. Germany had a highly developed technical education and with Standard's interests in Germany, it was not that difficult to find willing skilled labour abroad. The individual Hodgson was making reference to eventually married into his family and settled in the area.

The settlement into the area due to the Chemical did not stop with skilled workers and management in the plant. A prominent segment of the Haliburton population are the Italians who were brought into the county especially to cut wood for the plant. Tom Hodgson, a supplier of wood to the plant and an important part of the creation of the Chemical in Donald, was the one who initiated the migration of Italian woodcutters into the area. He helped to arrange their arrival in Canada and provided ready employment through an acquaintance of his, Sam Pasquino. Sam met Hodgson while he was working in a mine in elsewhere and was agreed with Hodgson that they should bring Italians into the County to cut wood for the Chemical. The company's first agents, or "bush boss" was Italian born Domenico Strano and his successor was Ned Blagi. For the most part, the workers who were

contracted out to cut wood for the company were Italians, (Daygos as they were called back then), but there were also Finns who arrived in the county, and both are important to the history of the Chemical and the community it created.

ii) land, economy, and the chemical": formations of a changing community.

Geographically, the Haliburton region is quite hilly due to glacial eskers and is often interrupted by is the harshness of the Canadian shield. The farming in the area is difficult and most of the marginally arable farmland was gone by the turn of the century. Thus, the locals of Haliburton have historically depended upon other resources and opportunities to sustain their existence. In this way, work for a family was seasonal. In the spring and summer a man would tend his farm, while in the winter he might hope to supplement his existence by earning wages working in the lumber industry, until his sugar bush began to "run", or his crops had to be planted. The forests in Haliburton are mixed because of the sundry terrain. There was a substantial supply of hard and soft maple, cedar, hemlock, white, red and yellow birch, and white pines. All of the trees were used in different economies. Cedar for rail ties and telegraph poles, hemlock bark used in tanneries, and of course the white pines were used in the renown lumber industry.<sup>20</sup> Thus, not only was an individual's economy diversified in Haliburton, but the cherished resources of the area, especially in the forest economy, were

cultivated in a diverse way. When the Chemical plant was created in the first decade of the century it too contributed to the diversified economy of the region. Yet, the Donald plant was unique. Unlike the smaller lumber mills, the Chemical's scale of production was quite daunting and its specifications for production were precise. The effects of this specialization exactness appear in the landscape. Like all industry, the resources had to be broken into units and specifications which matched the industrial requirements. In the case of the Standard Chemical and the charcoal industry in general this point could be no truer.

The wood they cut and hauled was almost entirely hard maple, and it had to be smaller than six inches in diameter and no bigger than eight inches while meeting the standard of 48" in length. As a result, great deal of limbs and tops was left in the bush by the cutters and hauliers. The cutters were also not suppose to have more than 10% of non-maples in their wood supply. As Mr Johnny Johnson explained:

cut maples...it was the only thing which would char. You see, the birch would always turn to ash. If anybody got a stick of Birch in a car of wood when it was charred you could see it. Cherry, you see, there is coal for cherry, and white birch just turns to ash and you can see it. If there is a half a dozen sticks of yellow birch in there in that car you'd see it.

b) landscape and economy: land tenure and the plant.

The relationship between economy and landscape is understood in another important ways -- namely land tenure. There were



three types of land tenure which supplied wood to the chemical. There was the land in which the Chemical company bought and eventually cut the trees; there was the land tenure where individuals purchased land with the exclusive aim of cutting maples (fulfilling a timbering licence) and supplying the Chemical with wood; and finally, there were local, such as farmers, who owned their own land and sought to supplement their existence through a temporary income but selectively cutting wood out of their own wood lots.

Land tenure practices of the Chemical plant was consistent with the thinking of the age. There was the popular belief that tree supply was endless, and that they would grow back without too much difficulty and in no time. In Haliburton, as with most regions of Ontario, either of these two expectations have proven unfulfilled. The Standard Chemical owned nearly all the wood they cut in the early years of the plant's operation, but in later years as an immediate supply of hardwood declined close to the plant it became harder and more costly to bring in wood. As cuttable stands of trees got farther away from the plant and the costs of production rose and the competitiveness of the plant diminished. Mr Tyler, a farmer and woodsman, whose land is close to the old Standard plant remarked about the logging practices: "they started cutting around the plant and moved outward, they cleaned it." It appears as if there was no long term plan for the tenure of the wood lands of the plant, probably due to the voracious appetite of the factory.

The private suppliers and contractors of wood for the plant were numerous. They usually sought to buy a large parcel of wooded land from the Canadian Land and Emigration Company and then hire woodsmen who would cut the trees for them. In 1919, the Land Company released for sale 3,000 acres of hardwood bush in the Haliburton Area. The piece of land was divided into three parts. The Western portion was bought by Franklin Austin jr, the central portion was purchased by John Carew of the Haliburton Lumber Co. Tom Hodgson purchased the eastern parcel for the Hodgson brothers. Tom Hodgson, originally of Burnt River, was a supplier of chord wood to chemical companies and was involved in the building of two chemical factories, one in Longford mills and the other in Lindsay. He too aided in the creation of the Donald plant and once it was built, intended to supply wood for the factory.<sup>27</sup>

The type of land tenure of wood practised by farmers varied who sought to supplement their income varied. In 1937, the Tyler family had 50 cords of wood cut on their farm which was cut by Henry and Frank Howe. Upon leaving school, the young Mr. Tyler had to hauled the wood to the plant for his father. He made three trips a day, each trip carrying four cords. Despite the seemingly incredible amount of trees taken out, the Tylers cut the trees in a selective manner with the aim of sustaining their maple bush. Mr. Tyler continued to explain that his neighbours had their entire bush cut down to supply the Chemical. He described his neighbour's land tenure as clear cutting, meaning

no tree was left behind. Tyler illustrated that it is important to have shade for the saplings, or else the new growth gets burned by the sunlight and its growth will be seriously retarded. His neighbour, who cut his bush in 1919, is only now able to re-cut a few scrawny trees for fire wood. Mr. Tyler estimated that he was able to get out three time as much wood as neighbour and at present the family has a healthy bush.

If one could map the logging activity which surrounded the Chemical plant in Donald, one would notice that over time a radius of activity continued to move outwards, pursuing the maples. In the mid 1920s the company was cutting near Loon Lake and by the 1930s wood was coming in from Eagle Lake and West Gilford, at a camp of Clayton Hodgson.<sup>28</sup> Other camps at about that same time were on Hurricane Lake. By the mid 1930s it was not surprising for cutting to be taking place as far away as thirty miles from the plant and By the time the plant closed John Johnson recalls that wood was being cut in Musquabi as well as being trained and trucked in from Huntsville.

iii) changing modes of labour and technology: transformation and diversity of "bush culture".

The importance aspect of the wood cutting for the Chemical was that it was seasonal. At its peak, the plant was estimated to employ almost 300 men.<sup>29</sup> Most of these men were not working in the plant, but in the bush cutting or hauling the maples. When cutting in the spring, summer, and early fall, men would

work ten hours a day six and sometimes seven days a week, with no complaints despite the low wages, hard work and the dreadful bugs. If one was looking for work, he would have to go and talk to a foreman like Ernie Fetterly,<sup>30</sup> and if he thought that this individual was suited to the job he would likely remark, "he's a likely looking lad, we'll hire him."<sup>31</sup>

Work in the bush was divided into several specialized tasks. There were the cutters, the loading crews, the scaler, the road crews, a foreman, and the hauliers; and in almost all bush camps there was a cook and his helper.

The least desirable, but most essential work was the cutting and splitting of chord wood. Usually, two men worked together with axes and a cross-cut saw.<sup>32</sup> One has to imagine how hard the work was and wonder how stoic these cutters must have been. The heat and humidity, the cold and inclement weather, the aggravate mosquitos and blackflies all seem unbearable. Indeed, cutting cord-wood in the bush was a repetitive and monotonous job. One story, told by Leopolda Dobrensky speaks of the effects of the strenuous existence. The Italian woodcutter Baisa, a "hapless fellow", one day ran out of the woods back to camp screaming: I saw the devil in the bush, I'll never go back." Baisa totally different employment in a tannery in Huntsville, where, presumably, no devils lurked behind the machines.<sup>33</sup>

Wages were low even for then, \$1-\$3.00/cord of wood. Depression wages went as low as \$.75 per bush cord. The expectation for a two man bush crew was to cut, split, and pile

three to four bush cord a day.(Hodgson) This quota could only be achieved if the stands of trees were of high quality. Of the cutters employed by the Chemical, Bruno and Leo Tiberi were two legends because of their ability to cut up to 7 cords of hardwood per day. Their appropriate nick-name was the "champions" amongst the cutters.<sup>34</sup>

Once cut and piled the scaler would come around and measure the piles and tally the amount of wood a crew had cut. The standard bush cord he measured was 4.5 foot high, 4 foot long, (the width was 48", the measure desirable for the plant). The Italian cutters were well known for their ability to "maximize" their wood piles. They piled their wood in such a way that holes in the wood piles or they would pile their wood on top of stumps.<sup>35</sup> When done, the piles of wood would be left to dry over the summer and autumn and would be picked up in the winter once the lakes were frozen and ready for Hauling.

iv) home away from home:bush camps.

The bush camps of the cutters is an important way of understanding the process and the culture which encompassed the Standard Chemical company. More than this, it is an important way of understanding the relationship of a community to the land. An easy way to see this difference in to contrast two cultural adaptations to work and the land. The wood camps of the Italians differed from the wood camps of the Anglos, each expressing difference of cultural values and concepts of the landscape and

their place in it.

The cutters and hauliers of Anglo decent would go off to cutting camps to work for 5 weeks and sometimes more. In this time the men would be separated from their families. In contrast, Italians would build shacks and have their family with them all the time. According to Doug Hodgeson, the Italian lumbering camps were a "pleasant place". It is true that children would not get a good formal education, but socially and as for the strengthening of the family unit, the Italian camps provided a positive atmosphere. As Hodgeson further commented that the Italians "did not have much of a house but they had a home." Usually the Italian men would go ahead and try to establish a temporary lodgings out of tar paper shacks. The Italians seem to have transplanted their fundamental "inner landscape" being their concept of community into the new outer landscape -- the bush. Meanwhile, their economic relationships, in this case wood cutting, may have changed from their economy in Italy.

There was a different sense of landscape in the Anglo camps because the camp's sense of community and of work was founded on fundamentally different principles. Work and its efficiency came before the permeance of the family and embodiment of the Anglo home -- the house. Family was not the organizing factor, rather, it was the job one did which organized one's daily routine and relationships. In an Anglo camp jobs were specialized, and the workings of the camp as a whole depended upon the rigid and

understood regimentation of one's actions. In the Anglo bush camps there were specialized institutions and practices which maintained these structures: there was a bunk house, cookery, dinning hall, and an office. Ultimately, one's behaviour in these bush institutions was dictated by work.

On work days the lights would be out by 9:00 p.m. and breakfast was served at 6:00. The men would get three hot meals a day, there was to be no talking in the cook house-- everyone was to eat quickly and get right back to work.<sup>36</sup> Good food was important Hodgson remembers, and working in the bush one would eat a lot. Dried fruit, meat, potatoes, turnip, and porridge from local farms. Often the farmers who worked hauling wood or chopping in the off months would often sell their extra produce and meats to the company. Lunch in the bush usually consisted of tea, bread, balongnie, and pies.

Office was a portable "van" in it there was a desk and a container with a lid on it, in which was kept mitts, socks, tobacco, boots. The company would sell them to its workers and it would be ducked from one's pay.<sup>37</sup>

In the Anglo camps everybody helped each other, old men helped the younger, less experienced. Often 12 year old boys would work in the camps. There was a sense of community in the camps.<sup>38</sup> "Never was there stealing," comments Hodgson, "you could trust others if you left your equipment in the field for two weeks, no one would touch it. Even though it was subsistence living, there was a real feeling of honour."

Leisure

time was short but precious in the lumber camps. Often, on Saturday nights men had stag dances. Despite the joviality in these camps there was no liquor allowed because it might lead to fights if some started over drinking. So a ban was enforced to maintain community. On Sunday, to let off some steam, the camps often organized wrestling matches, or went hunting in season. Otherwise, one often had to end up repairing equipment like saw blades and harnesses, or sew on some patches. One popular activity was playing cards, but no gambling was allowed, most likely to prevent tension from arising in camp. To savour the cherished moments they had off, men would often tell stories. It was an important craft to tell stories, otherwise as Hodgson remembers, "you would be considered boring." There were no books, magazines, newspapers and letters. News of local and wider interest would rarely come into camp via the memory of the boss who would occasionally return to town.

v) wood hauling: the role and change in the local economy due to technology.

After Christmas, roads were prepared to haul the wood to the Chemical. On average, the wood would be hauled anywhere between 10-15 miles back to the Donald plant. The hauling roads seem to have been an integral part of the logging process. In the summer, crews would flag out and cut the proposed roads; in fact, two roads were needed, one to haul the wood to the plant, and the other road "a go back" to draw the sleighs back to the cut



sites."<sup>9</sup> The hauling of wood could only take place in winter because of the rough and varied terrain and the size of the loads. The only vehicle capable of hauling in the early years of the plant were horse drawn sleighs.

Once it was the right conditions to draw in sleighs, the roads would be prepared. In order for the sleighs to work effectively the roads were iced and more slippery for the runners to move on. This was done with a "tank", a sleigh with a large water tank on the back. The Tank crews would go out at night, when the hauliers were in camp asleep to prepare the roads for the next day. It was important to have a road which had as low a grad as possible. The grad of the road was to be as straight as possible so as to put less strain on the horses and to maximize the load. To prevent the horses from getting stalled on the steeper grads, each hill top had a sandman who would put down heated sand onto the road so as to give traction as the horses went up the grad.

Hauling wood was very labour intensive and required many men and horses to work together in a harmonized system so as to be efficient. In the early days of the plant, when farming was still important in the county, local farmers would be hired to haul wood. They were paid \$2 a day to haul without their own horses, \$6 to haul with their team.<sup>10</sup> The company usually provided the hauliers with a sleigh.<sup>11</sup> In 1913, as many as 112 teams of horses were used to draw wood into Donald, each sleigh would taking 4 cords a load. One can not help being overwhelmed

by this scale of operation and co-ordination.<sup>42</sup> To prevent pile ups and waiting around the entire operation was staged and calculated so that the orchestration of the operation would happen as smoothly as possible. This usually meant the men were working at strange hours. By 3:00 a.m., while the icers were working on the roads, the first loaders and sleighs would be heading out to start the day. This meant there was very little waiting around for the next sleighs. So considerate were these hauling operations that even a blacksmith was brought into the field in case a horse would lost a shoe or if some equipment was broken.

An interesting story about hauling across Soyer's lake was passed down from ~~Tom~~ <sup>Clayton</sup> Hodgson to his son Doug. It illustrates the unity and concerted effort which was needed by these men so as to get the job done, even when plans go aery.

Often the hauling roads would cross lakes because of the flat surface and ease of crossing. On Soyer lake one year the road got too close to a set of narrows which drained into another lake. Because of the constant flow of water the ice was not nearly as thick as was necessary. Upon approaching the narrows, the first sleigh went though the ice. The sleigh behind it did not see that the first had gone through the ice and consequently it went through also. This kept occurring until there was a total of eight sleighs which were underwater. Nobody was seriously injured and none of the horses were lost. Amazingly, they managed to recover all the sleighs and wood. Because the

entire operation, upon which everybody was a part of, was seriously backed up, the men all pitched in to clear a new road which avoided the traitorous narrows. Subsequently, they had to take an 8 mile overland detour from Soyer to Kushog Lake. Doug Hodgson concluded his story, which metaphorically sums up the community of the wood and hauling camps: "if one link in the chain does not work, everybody has to help to re-forged it."

b) change in economy due to technology:

Before too long a new technology replaced the labour intensive chore of the farmer-hauliers. In the 1925 the Standard Chemical company bought a Lynn Caterpillar tractor which drew 8 heavy sleighs filled with 6 cords each. The total load it could haul was somewhere close to 50 cords of wood at a time. The first time it was used was in the Loon lake-Dudley area, driven by a Mr Peter Boford. Astonishingly, this one tractor could bring in one trip to the plant a days total production. It has been estimated that the Lynn could make up to three trips a day, depending on how close to the plant it was. The first time this tractor was used in Canada was to supply a similar facility in Parry Sound <sup>43</sup>; because the Donald plant was one of the largest in the province, it only made sense to use it.<sup>44</sup> Further technological improvements effected the traditional patterns of hauling was the eventual introduction of trucks into the hauling process. More precisely, the development of the "balloon tire transformed the industry" <sup>45</sup> and the essence of bush culture.

Trucks took over all deliveries of raw materials to the "Chemical". No longer was hauling to be limited to winter and no longer did it mean temporary employment for so many local men. Rather, a few men would specialize and dedicate themselves to hauling. Also there was no great need for a huge stockpile of wood at the plant to keep it going out of the sleigh hauling season. Like so much "bush" employment with the chemical, men would contract their skills to the company, but with the truck, fewer men were required.

In 1935, Frank Carew, an Italian, bought a truck from a car dealer W.R. Curry and obtained a job to draw wood for the chemical. This is an expression of social mobility, but at the same time it is an expression of the demise of bush camps as they had existed before. At the end of the day, Frank and others like him could drive back to their families at home. But the experience and definition of home had changed as the modes of production changed, due to the simple introduction of a new technology.

These technologies did aid in keeping the plant in operation for a much longer period of time. The scale of production at the chemical in Donald required horrendous amounts of wood, as has been already stated. The increase in efficiency in hauling meant the plant continue its high level of consumption of raw resources which could be brought in from greater distances. Thus, sustainability of the plant was perpetuated not by scale, but by improved technologies. Towards the end of the plants life wood

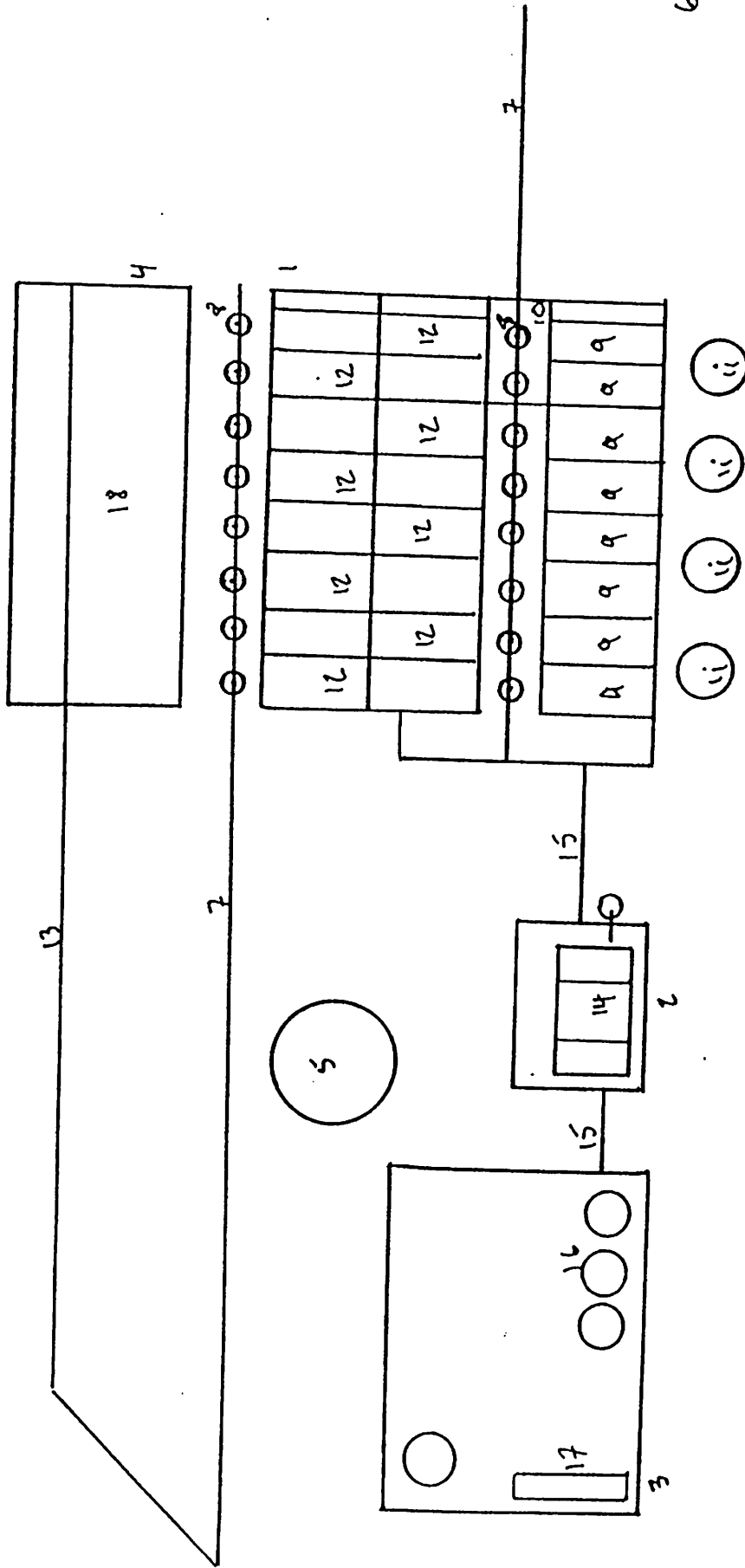
was being brought from as far away as Huntsville and Brooks Falls by rail as well as local cutting in the Musquabi area.

#### IV. TECHNOLOGY OF THE MODERN ECONOMY IN DONALD

The industrial plant itself can be considered a landscape. One's work, the conditions, co-workers, and leisure all constitute the relationships which form, in a person's mind, an industrial landscape. There can be little doubt the Chemical in Donald has such a landscape associated with it. To understand this landscape it is necessary to understand the process of the plant and people's experiences and feelings about work. This is what is known as "contextual discourse", and it will be a useful tool for understanding the Chemical -- as technology -- more fully and its relation to land and community.

##### 1) process of the plant:

The plant itself can be divided into four main areas of activity: first there was the yard where the wood was stored; then there was the oven house, where maple was charred and acetate was boiled down; the boiler room where electricity was generated and water, crucial to the distillation process, was



- MAIN OVEN, CHALKING AND ACETATE BUILDING
- GENERATOR AND WATER PUMP BUILDING
- OUTSIDE
- STORAGE BUILDING NEXT TO CNL WATER TOWER
- WOOD YARD
- LOW GAGE TRACKS FOR WOOD BUCKIES
- TURN TABLES FOR BUCKIES
- CHALKING OVENS
- STOVES BENEATH CHALKING OVENS
- CHIMNEYS FOR OVENS
- 1ST + 2ND COOLING OVENS
- RAMP FOR BUCKIES UP TO STORAGE
- BOILERS
- PIPER FOR BASES WHICH COME OFF OF CHALKING IS ACETATE, ALCOHOL
- LIME MIXED WITH ACETATE
- ALCOHOL TANKS
- STORAGE FOR CHARCOAL & BAGGED ACETATE - SHIPPING DEPT.
- CNL TRACKS

pumped from; and the distillery where wood alcohol, wood oil, acetate were all separated. There were a total of 26 charcoal plants in Ontario of which the Donald plant was the largest. The production of the plant was 50 cords a day which amounted to 15,000 cords a year, (a similar plant in Lindsay only processed 26 cords a day).<sup>46</sup>

The plant employed about sixty men on shift work. Mr. John Johnson figured there would be on average, 18 men working each shift inside the plant; more men working on day shift and if one was to include the yard men the number might reach 35. The break down was: three boiler oven men, three distillery men, four oven firemen, two acetate men, five on charcoal gang, five men and a teamster on the wood pile gang, the rest were helpers shovelling snow or coal and other odd jobs.<sup>47</sup>

a) the wood yard:

(QCC#1)

The yard was an immense space which was full of wood piles. At one time, there was an estimated 16,000 cords of wood piled up.<sup>48</sup> Each pile was stacked ten to twelve feet high by three feet wide and stretched until it reached a track way. The wood piles were placed around an intricate tracks system which weaved throughout the yard. Because of the tracks, it was very systematically organized, there was only one foot in between each pile and wood sometimes sat in the yard for two years before it was used.<sup>49</sup>

Piling wood was a hard job, recalls Mr. Johnny Johnson, who started working at the plant in 1942 at the age of 26. They

would hire almost anyone to do this work, as long as you were strong and willing. For this reason it was much more flexible work. Locals, like Don Emerson, could pile wood for a few months and then go and work in their sugar bush once the sap started to run.

The wood from the sleighs would have to be unloaded in the yard and stacked in the appropriate piles. Later, the wood in piles of would transferred into buggies which would take the wood into the plant. The buggies, which ran along the low gage track in the yard, were 8 feet long 4 feet wide and held two and one eighth cord of wood.<sup>30</sup> The buggies would be loaded in the wood yard where there was miles of low gage track upon which the buggies would ride.<sup>31</sup> There buggies would be hauled by a team of horses towards the plant. Once there the buggies would be drawn into the plant by winches.

b) the factory:

(let 2)

The plant operated all year round, twenty four hours a day, everyday and an individual did the same work everyday. Mr. Johnson reflects upon his daily routine: "When I started there I was suppose to work 8 hours a day...you had so many pans to do, and when you got your work done, you could qualify for overtime and go out into the yard and load cords of wood or bags of charcoal". There were three eight hour shifts: 12:00-8:00, 8:00-4:00, 4:00-12:00 and the pay was between \$1.90 and \$3.25 a day in the early 1940s, while one's rent cost \$4.10 a month, according



to Harley Fader.<sup>52</sup>

Indeed, it was hard work. In summer it must have been wicked working near the kilns, temperatures exceeding 115 degrees. The plant itself was poorly ventilated, and had to be kept enclosed to save heat. Johnny Johnson explained that he and his co-workers punched out the windows so as to let in some cool air to make work a little more humane. To get a sense of the heat, a pair of boots would last a week to ten days if one was working inside the plant. They would eventually just burn through. Leather boots only lasted two days in the hot dry environment. The floors in some areas of the plant were so hot that "if you stopped for a minute your feet wouldn't last long!"<sup>53</sup>

Despite the conditions, Harley Fader said he did not mind the work at the plant, "management gave the workers a good business labour relationship."<sup>54</sup>

c) charring the wood:

(Ref 2)

Once the buggies full of wood were in the ovens, the doors were closed behind them and sealed air tight. There were large loops on either side of the door which was sealed tightly with three and a half inch asbestos rope which fit tightly. Another measure to prevent air from entering into the ovens during the process was the placing of wedges under the door followed by sand to finish the seal. If any air got in the wood would not char but burn.

There were four smoke stacks and eight ovens in the main part of the plant. Each steel oven was 20 feet long and three 8

foot buggies would fit into each oven. Because of the constant intense heat, each oven had to be replaced once a year.<sup>35</sup>

The fires for the ovens were initially stoked with coal and wood, but once the process got going the fire could keep running on the wood oil which was a by-product of the charcoal. Each stove would be stoked until it reached a temperature of 1500 degrees fahrenheit which was the right temperature for the charring process.

The ovens were stoked from fires boxes located below ground. Cecil Robinson fed the ovens and was part of the "pulling gang" for some time. Upon reflection of his work feeding the ovens, he exclaimed:

Oh, that was something else. There was eight feet between the back of the cement wall and the oven. Between each pair of ovens there was a hole where the wood was dumped down (to fuel the ovens) You'd have to go right up between the ovens to get the wood and throw it in the fire. Two guys each worked four ovens. You had to fire them hard for six to eight hours -- it kept you busy. After that, the waist from the alcohol and acetate was piped back over here, and that was used to fuel the ovens. They fuelled themselves after that. I had to buy a new pair of blue jeans every week. I burned the sides of them right up between two ovens. You could touch them and they'd just fall apart in your hands."<sup>36</sup>

The charcoal would remain in the oven from 12 to 24 hours, depending on how dry the wood was before they started to char it. Mr. Johnson recalls the intensity and often perilous job of working with the ovens:

When you first opened the doors it (the wood/charcoal in the buggies) would burst into flames (because of the oxygen that entered). And the three little buggies were connected by a chain, and when one got loose Henry Howe use to cover himself in a blanket made of burlap

bags and turn the hose on him and soak him and send him in there; he'd hitch them up again, and when he came out of there the smoke would be flying. (he had only) thirty seconds to dart in. <sup>57</sup>

"It was a wonder there weren't more fires", recalls Harley Fader. "it'd be just blazing in there. And men had to get down in there to, underneath the flames, and lay that heavy rail down in front of the buggies to winch the buggies out. Those flames whooshed out of there." Strange enough, no one ever got injured.

From the ovens the three buggies of charcoal would be drawn by a winch at the far end of the plant into a cooling oven off for another 24 hours followed by a third cooling oven which would take the same amount of time. The buggies were then drawn outside of the plant put on a turn table, then go along a track along the south side of the plant and then drawn up along a ramp up on top of the storage building by the C.N.R. tracks. Then they would rake the charcoal from the wood. Eventually the charcoal would be loaded into a railway box car which stood adjacent to the plant's charcoal shed. The whole process from beginning to end took five days.

Bagging and loading charcoal was, in so many ways, the worst job because one would come out black. "You could only see the whites of their eyes" remembers Johnny Johnson. And yet, some did not mind the work. "Russell and Cecil Burke worked in charcoal their entire life. For these men "there was a steam bath located in the boiler room." Charcoal men would have to take a shower every day, "even the most loving wife would leave

them" because of how dirty they were."<sup>9</sup>

d) acetate:

(Ref 4405)

Despite the fact that acetate was a side product in the early years of the charring production it became an important part of Donald's output during the two World Wars. Even though the plant benefitted from its production, it was not an enjoyed part of the operation for the workers. "It was one of the worse jobs... nobody wanted it", as a result, "we would get five cents an hour more then firing the boilers".<sup>9</sup> "Acetate" Johnny Johnson said, "looks like hen manure, but smells worse". "You'd get it (the smell) in your clothes and you'd never get rid of it". It took a strong spirit and a stronger stomach to work in the acetate operation. Mr. Johnson remembered "the first time I stepped inside the door I got sick, the fumes of that acetate is something cruel."

The finished product went to an explosives company called Nobel in Parry Sound which refined it into gun powder. Acetate came off the wood as a vapour during the charring in the ovens. This gas and other vapours would go up through a pipe that was at the top far end of each oven. At this point in the operation, water was pumped from the water tower to cool the pipes and cause the gasses to condensate. Once in the distillery, the acetate would be separated from other by-products and eventually it would go into a enormous storage tank where it was mixed with lime. Johnny Johnson exclaimed, "I don't know how many thousand gallons that thing (the storage tank) held...it was alot of it."

Eventually, the acetate was run back, through pipes, to the main plant where the liquid would be poured off into pans to boil off for 8 hours.

On the second floor, above the ovens was a 4 inch concrete floor where the acetate was boiled down into pellets. Even though the floor was four inches thick, you could not stand in one place for very long or else the soles of one's feet would melt through. There were parts of the plant called "cool places" where the men would stand and tend the acetate which was boiled off by the tops of the ovens.

The boiling pans were filled with ten inches of acetate and "you had to put ten inches of stuff in there, we had to make sure...or else our name was mud" claimed Johnny Johnson. "The boss checked that to make sure we put our share and that we weren't trying to get away with it." By the end of the process the acetate would boil down in the open pans to about four or five inches of little kernels. Once dried, one would have to scrape off the kernels with the "spud"--which was three inch blade with a long handle. If it was a bad batch it would create scale on the bottom of the long boiler pans which would have to be scraped off, unlikely to be a pleasant task.

Mr. Johnson summarized the rest of his responsibilities: "After doing your work and scraping the pans, you would fill the pans up and start them boiling, you could go home. Each man was responsible for his own work. In acetate, one would have to do four pans." The dried acetate would then be bagged in the plant.

and then taken off to the storage shed where it would eventually be shipped off.

e) wood alcohol

(Ref 3,6,7)

Wood alcohol would also evaporate in the ovens with the other gasses. It too would be condensed and run off to the distil house through pipes. The distil house was where most of the technicians and chemists worked. As was mentioned, the first chemist came from Germany and one can deduce that to bring him all the way to Donald meant that working in the still house required an extensive training and a good knowledge of what one was doing.

The wood alcohol was put into a big storage tank and later was transferred into a train tanker car, then it was taken to montreal and was refined into what was called "super-pyro" which acted as an anti-freeze for engines. Ironically, the company would send the super-pyro back to Donald to sell at a regular price, event though the raw, unpackaged thing was already in the community.<sup>60</sup> In the early years the wood alcohol was sent to McGuiness Company in Coberville, and Gooderham and Wort liquor, where it acted as a purifying agent.<sup>61</sup> Wood alcohol was also used as an industrial and domestic solvent, but the production of wood alcohol began to wain as grain alcohol becomes cheaper. Eventually the production of this product would tumble into obscurity as petro and artificial chemical and solvents came into production.

#### IV THE PLANT AND THE COMMUNITY

##### i) donald:a company town.

Landscape is more than just natural vistas, it is the habitation and the world which organizes our perception. In this way, the work environment is as much a part of one's landscape as one's home is. We understand this landscape according to time and space, and if the relationship between home and work is one expression of this landscape, it is important to see how the Chemical might have formed an individual's internal landscape.

and a conception of "place" or "home". One of the best sources is a poem written by a resident T. Welford about Donald in 1909 which appeared in the Echo at the time. He declares:

The last place on earth, well this is it,  
Where we worked on the plant built by our friend Pitt,  
We'll be tickled to death to draw the curtain  
On the job five miles from Haliburton.

The relationship between the Chemical and the Haliburton community are very intertwined. The Chemical structured the local economy and it affected the local ecology -- both good and bad. In this way, the chemical shaped the local landscape and the relationship individuals had to this landscape. Donald was a company town and its existence, health, and facilities depended upon the existence and well-being of the Chemical. Therefore one aspect of the economy and ecology (as seen through technology and land) of place can be understood through their interrelationship to community and its advantages, dependencies, and deficiencies.

Donald was an active town during the boom of the charcoal industry, with a population of close to 100 people. The company was responsible for the creation of this town, and was aptly named after the plant's creator. The company's role went beyond employer to the patron of the community. Ultimately, the company ran owned all the facilities from stores to houses and thus determined its growth, shape, and form. In this way, the community can be considered "inorganic" especially when one considers that it imitated so many other northern resource



communities.

For the employees rent was "dirt cheap", recalls Robinson. Houses built by the company for the workers and rented to the families. There are four double houses and 6-8 other houses in the community. One street close to the rail tracks what known as "hell street" to some locals who did not live in town; this was due to the fact that the people who lived there were mostly transient and their stay in the community was on a short term, therefore there actions and feelings towards the community must have expressed such lack of caring and respect. The company's boarding house was a two story house, of which nothing remains except for the foundations after a fire which struck in 1951. In this building there were 14 bedrooms, many of the rooms had two double beds and each man would share a bed. Rent included a breakfast, which was served at 7:00, and a dinner, which was served at 6:00.

Many men who stayed in the boarding houses did so because home was to far away to commute to. No doubt it was difficult for young men working at the Chemical to leave their homes to find employment at the Chemical. T. Welford's poem Donald has an appropriate line about some their distraught youth.

At the mention of home get looking so sick,  
That to me and my chum t'would be no surprise  
To find them one day with tears in their eyes.

The town had a general store which was run by a man named Emerson. Mr Tyler reflected that Emerson ran it well, "he'd make money even in the depression... It was a first class store." The

company also built a community centre where the community could congregate and hold celebrations.

Due to the scale of the plant, the company could supply the community with electricity and hot running water to the residences through its steam generation station. This was unique to the area because hydro was not installed until the 1950s and 1960s. The water came from the river via the big water tank by the plant, so it was unfit to drink, but fine to wash with; the community got its drinking water from a couple of wells. These amenities were much cherished in the community, and when the plant closed down so did the electricity and water.<sup>62</sup>

The plant did affect the local community was not limited to the realm of economics. The nature of the Chemical altered the physical landscape in which people lived. The smell of the chemical also affected the community. On certain days you could smell the acetate. "When that factory was going, and the wind was going the wrong way, you couldn't keep your door or windows open," said Violet Fader. "The old black smoke blew over why, you couldn't do laundry. I had to take mine over to my mother's some days. If you washed, you had to make sure the wind was blowing in the right direction."<sup>63</sup>

It seems that working at the Chemical took up most of one's energy and time. Little time was left over for other tasks or leisure. In this way the Chemical was at the centre of one's daily ritual. Harley Fader said, "we didn't have much time off, and we where so tired when we did we went to bed." Johnny

Johnson lived on his family farm and when he was not working at the plant he was busy with the chores. The mens' day often started by being picked up by a glassed in horse drawn sleigh which would go around and pick up all of the men. Mr Johnson said it started in Gelert and wound its way to the Chemical. There were other ways of getting to the plant, especially if one worked on the night shift. Mr Johnson recalls that he would ski to work sometimes during the winter. But as time went on, and the auto mobile became a much more common possession, Mr Johnson would drive the family car to work.

#### V. CLOSURE OF THE PLANT: ECONOMIC EXTERNALITIES AND THE LOCALITY.

By the 1940s the lack of interest in the products produced at the chemical threatened the future of the plant. Since the 1920s the growth of the synthetic chemical industry and the distillation of gain alcohol drastically reduced the demand in

charing by-products. Charcoal was still a major output because of its use in railcar and boxcar heaters and was subsequently shipped to the rail yards in Montreal.<sup>64</sup> World War Two provided a last boom for the charcoal industry. At this time large quantities of acetate was sent to Mirabelle and was mixed with cordite, "acetate is what put the kick in cordite" which was an important explosive."<sup>65</sup> After the war ended in 1945, the demand for the products produced by the plant diminished and the plant was forced to into a precarious economic position.

Once the war ended a huge transformation took place in the Canadian economy which consequently altered the landscape of Donald and Haliburton county; this was because the Standard Chemical was shut down. The closure was in fact a sign of a larger transformation in the Canadian economy. No longer was the north/south axis the rudimentary economic pattern. Instead, Lake Ontario's "Golden Horseshoe" of secondary industry arose which meant a drastic shift in economic relationships of the province. Donald and Haliburton, likewise, were affected and transformed. Relationships in the community and to the land changed as industry moved out of the area.

Standard Chemical Company by the 1940s was a huge and powerful corporation with holdings and interests across the country and in different industries. In the preceding twenty years the company had attempted to buy outs as much of their competition as possible. The transformation in the post-war economy meant a change in the priorities of the company. Instead

of trying to hold onto and maintain the fading charcoal industry, the Standard Chemical Company, under the chairmanship of E.P. Taylor, decided to move swiftly into the synthetic chemical industry. In the year they closed the Donald Plant, they also closed a similar charcoal plant in Fasset Quebec, claiming that both of these two plants had "abnormally high costs of raw materials".<sup>66</sup>

(REF 91)

In that same year the Company expanded acquired salt facilities in Nova Scotia, and purchased the manufacture and distribution of "Javax" bleach in Quebec. Within two years, a chlorine-caustic soda plant was being built in Sarnia and started the production of carboxyl methyl cellulose plant in Longford Ontario. These expansions and closures by the Standard Chemical Company show not only the changing priorities of the company, but they give and indication of the direction of the company and industry over the next thirty years.

By 1946 the Donald plant completely closed down. What the shareholder's report claimed is true, that the wood had to come in from very far away which no longer made it cost efficient, especially as the price of grain alcohol rivalled wood alcohol and the demand for acetate dropped dramatically.

Mr. Robinson, an employee, was told that E.P. Taylor was closing down the plant because it was not making any money. "E.P. Taylor wasn't long shutting it down. Everything in the yard was moved to another (more efficient) plant in South River. I guess Donald wasn't making enough money for him. He bought into the

Chemical about 1944, I think."<sup>67</sup> In fact the Chemical in Donald was bought out in 1945, and used as collateral for the economic expansion.

The closure of the Donald plant signified the end of an era of relationships to the land and to community as industries, driven by new technologies, no longer played a role in the Haliburton economy. No longer could the residents depend on the localities natural resources, mainly because it was running out and second, it was no longer in demand. Instead, a new industry developed in the region, that of tourism, which depended on an inner and outer landscape of revered and untouched "wilderness". Pristine lakes and untouched nature is what brought people to the region, as sportsmen, cottagers, and camper. The recent history of the Haliburton community, economy, and land has been one which cherishes and covets this new resource, that being the tourist environment. One example of this change in the local economy was the shift in Johnny Johnson's employment. After the plant closed he decided to work in a golf coarse in Haliburton once the plant closed down.

#### CONCLUSION

Today all that remains of the Chemical in Donald is a concrete and steel skeleton, a monument of the once prosperous

industry in the region. No doubt the horrendous appetite of this plant bought about its own demise, like an animal which consumes itself. This plant was created by the demand of outside forces, and it maintained itself by supplying those outside forces. Such is the essence of the modern economy, one of specialization of production in one local for the consumption in another place. Those who designed the plant did so at a time and in a way which did not take into account the fact that resources might run out or that the demands for charcoal would change. The principles behind the plant, and others like it, was not intended to be sustainable, and despite the prosperity it brought to the community, it was short lived.

The Donald Chemical is a chapter in the history of Haliburton and the Canadian economy; a history in which the potential problems of rapid and untethered expansion was of no regard; but as the world becomes smaller and our resources become more scarce and cherished, the Donald Chemical should act as a reminder of our past assumptions in a time of drastically changing attitudes. Indeed, the Chemical, as a personification of modernity, affected the landscape of Haliburton. The technological processes the plant formed the internal and external landscape of those who directly and indirectly were related to the plant. In no way is this more noticeable than in the changes brought about to the once mainly agrarian community as well as to the land which was once heavily forest with mature maple. The people's memories and stories about the Chemical as

well as the landscape which was affected by the plant are a testament to the existence and the relationships it brought to the community. Consequently, what remains of the old Chemical is a heritage inherited by the people of the region speaking of their collective past in the language of place -- a contextual dialogue -- telling the story of changing relationships of community, land, and technology.



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Haliburton on Febuary 20, 1992.

Mr. Douglas Hodgson of Haliburton County, March 3, 1992.

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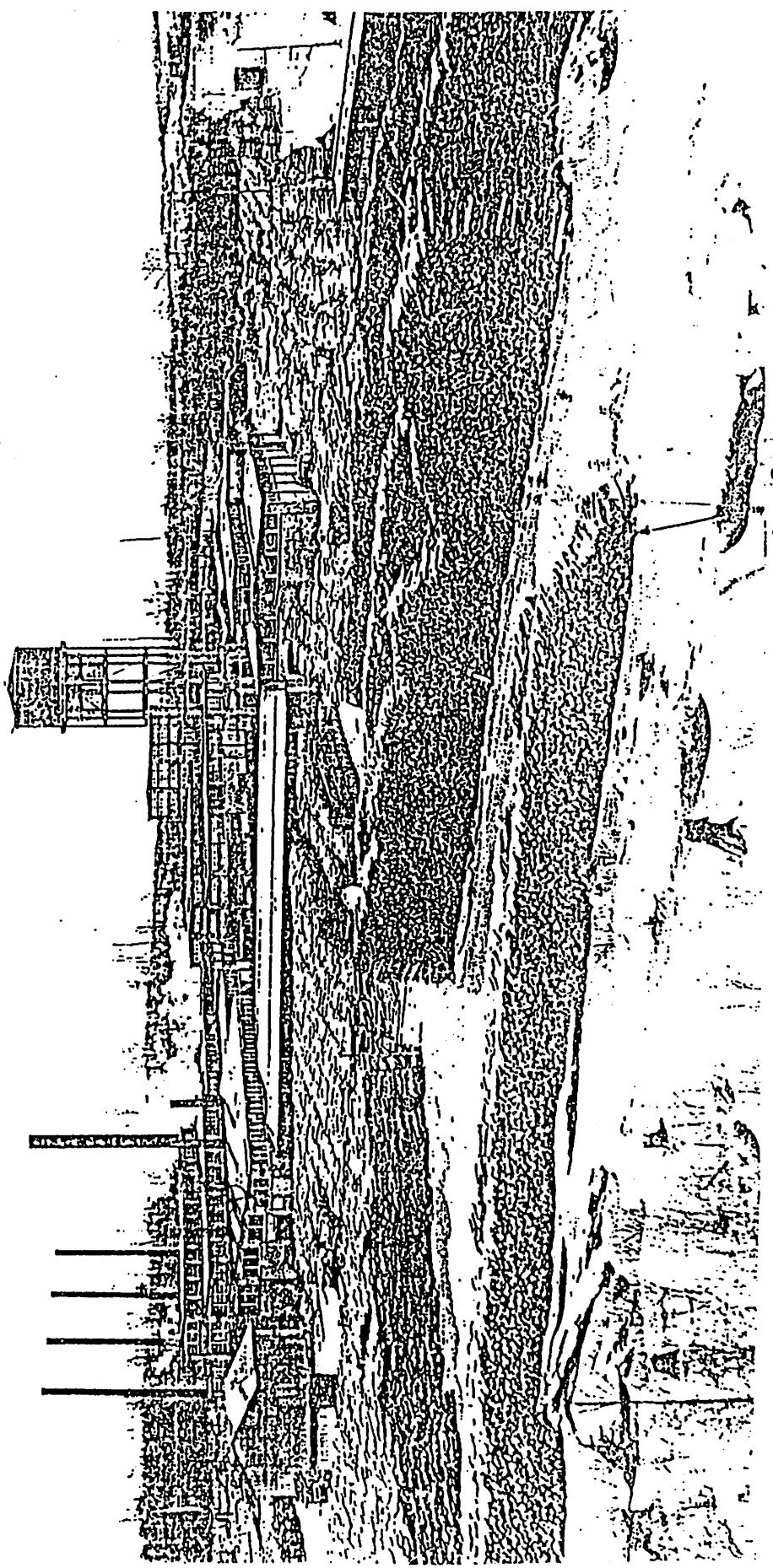
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31. Douglas Hodgson
32. Dobrensky p.18
33. Dobrensky p.18
34. Dobrensky p.30
35. Both Johnny Johnson and Mr. Tyler as well as Douglas Hodgson spoke of this trick used by the Italians.
36. Hodgson
37. Doug Hodgson
38. Doug Hodgson
39. Mr. Tyler
40. Douglas Hodgson
41. Hodgson
42. Hodgson
43. ~~Hodgson~~
44. Hodgson
45. Hodgson
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53. Johnny Johnson
54. Haliburton Echo. 5, July 1978 p.1
55. Johnny Johnson
56. Schafer p.18

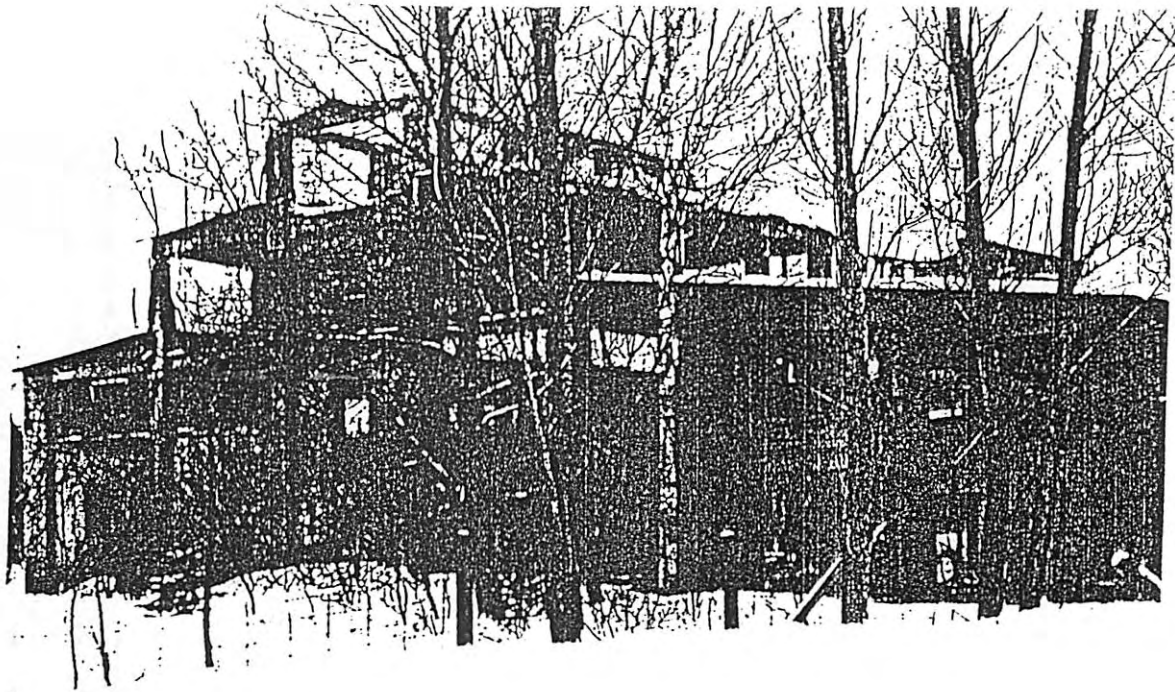
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60. Johnny Johnson
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65. Mr Tyler
66. Standard Chemical Company Ltd. shareholders report 1946.
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Piled  
WOOD IN  
YARD  
↓



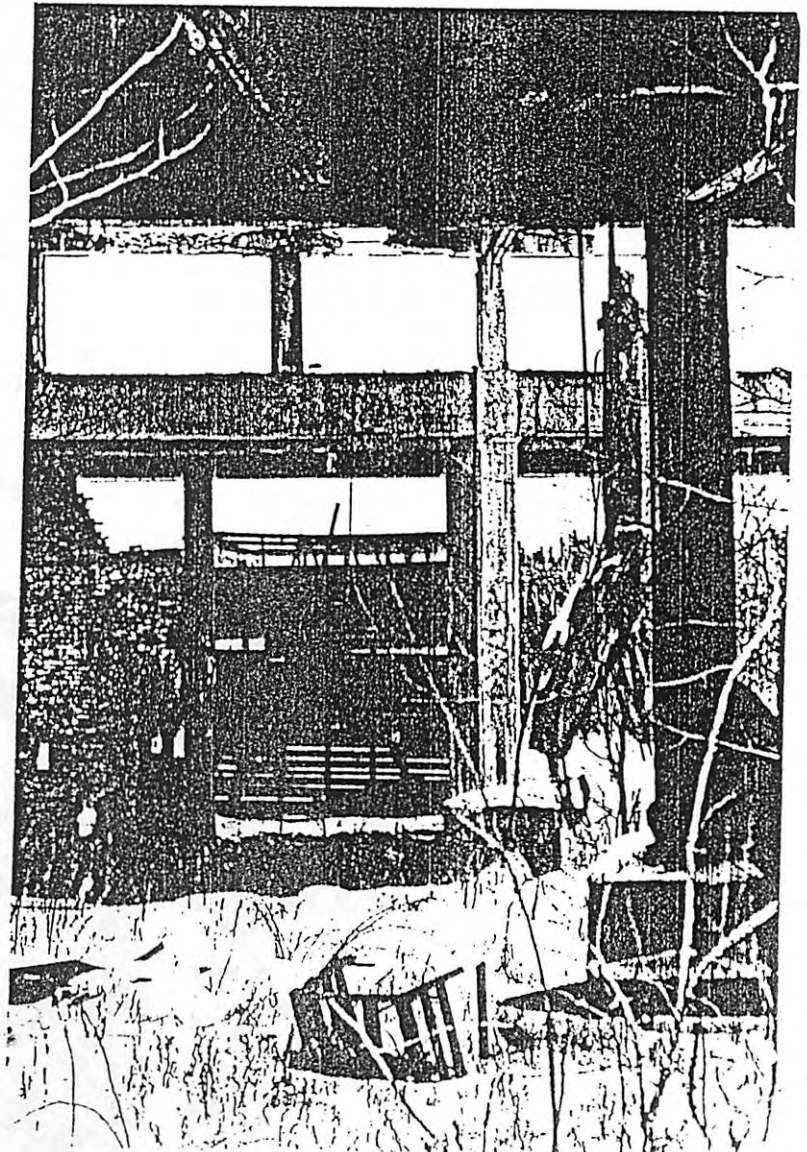
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REF. 42



OVEN HOUSE WHERE  
CHARRING & ACETATE BOILING  
OCCURRED.

REF. 42

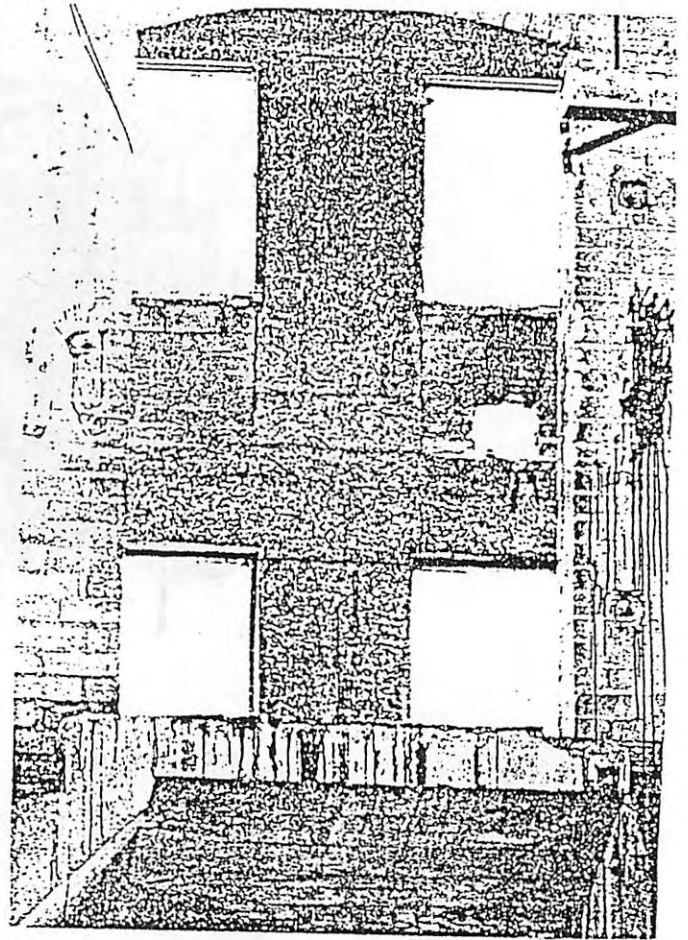


WHERE CHARRING  
OVENS  
ONCE WERE.

SUNKEN FLOOR  
IS WHERE THE  
STOCKS WERE.



REF 4



Acetate was once dried above the distillery

REF 5

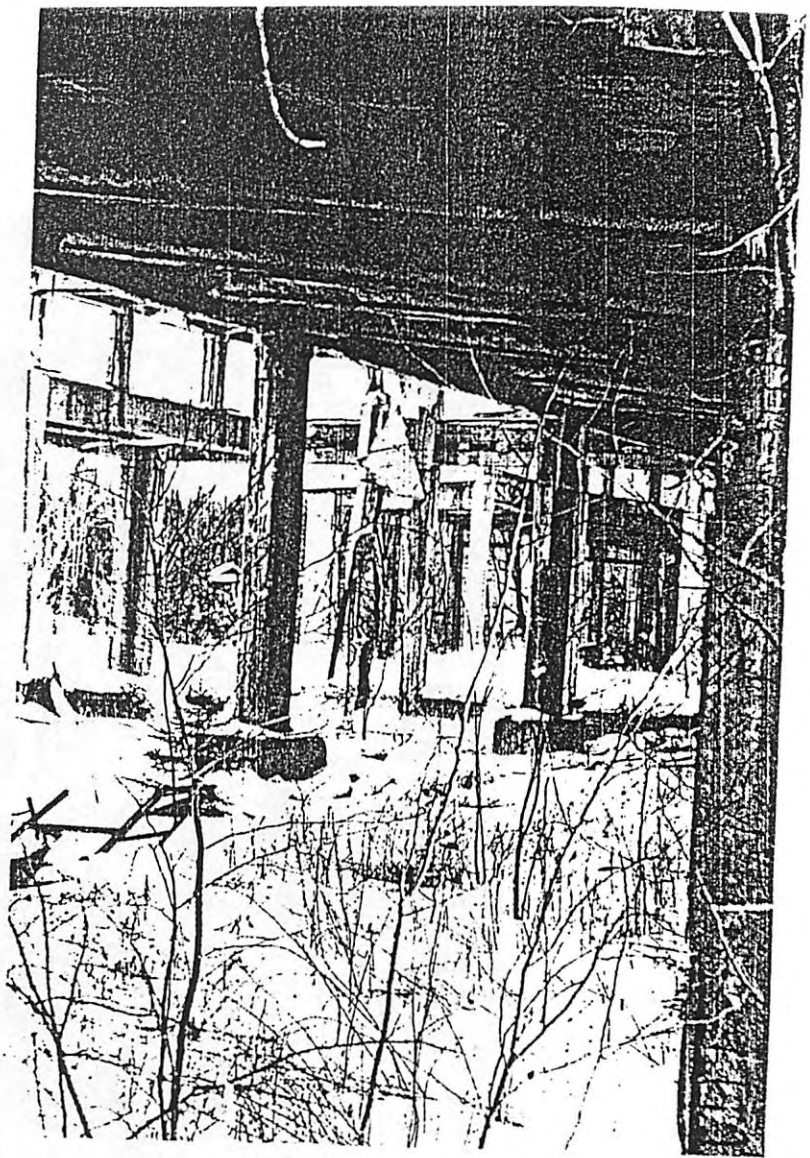
MR. TYLER

JOHNNY JOHNSON

MR. JOHNSON  
WORKED IN  
ACETATE



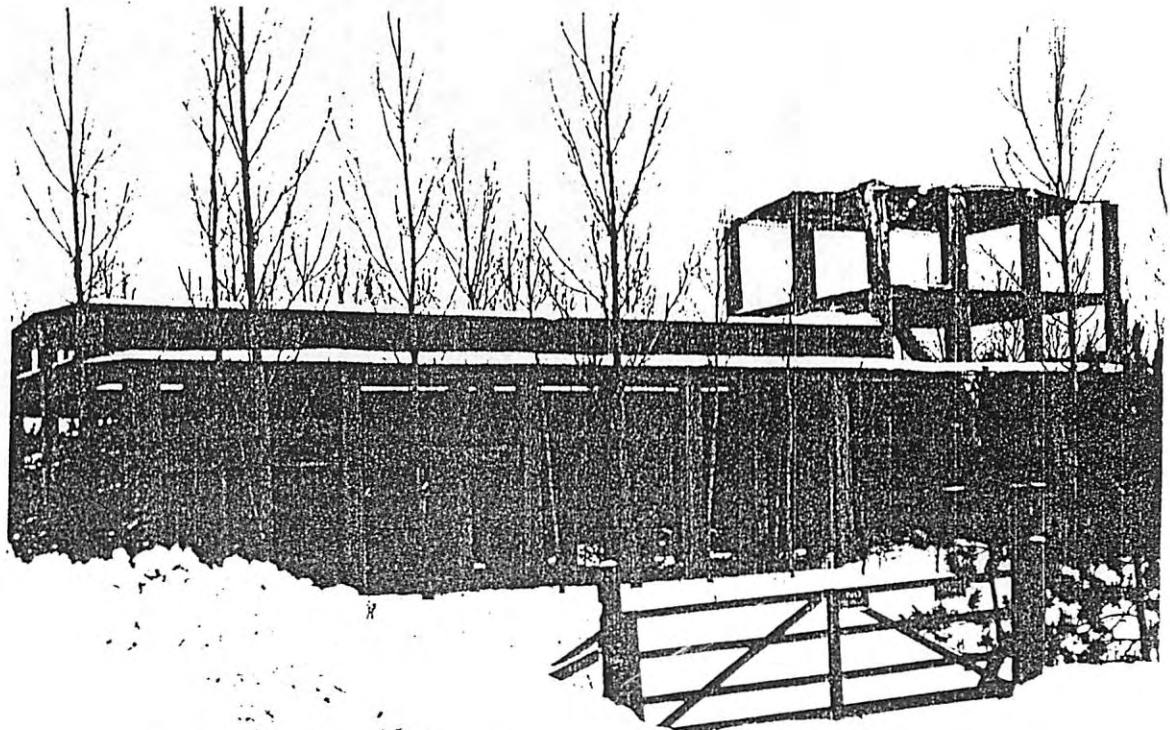
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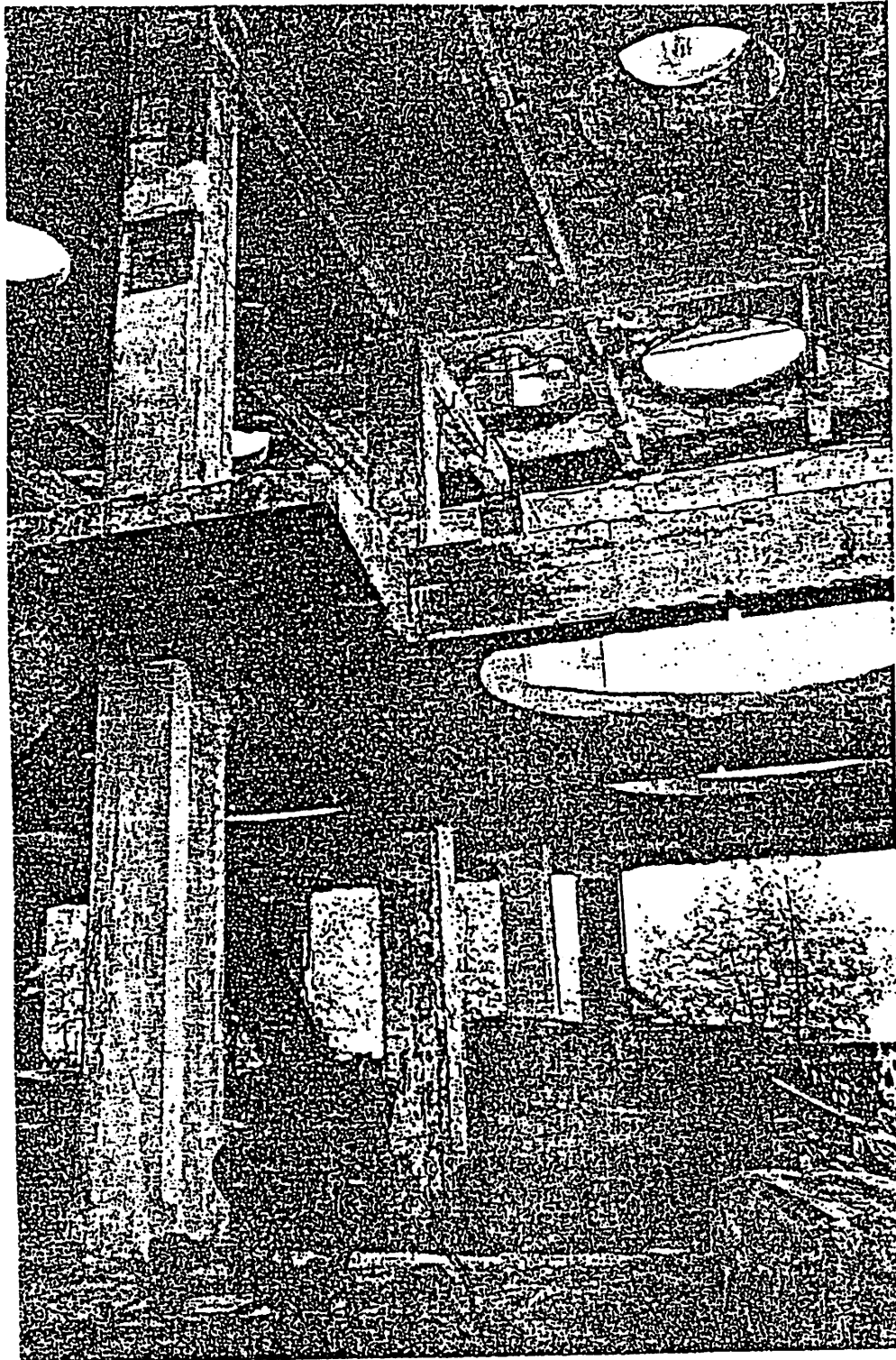
INTERIOR  
OF  
MAIN  
CHARING  
PLANT

REF 3

DISTILLING  
PLANT

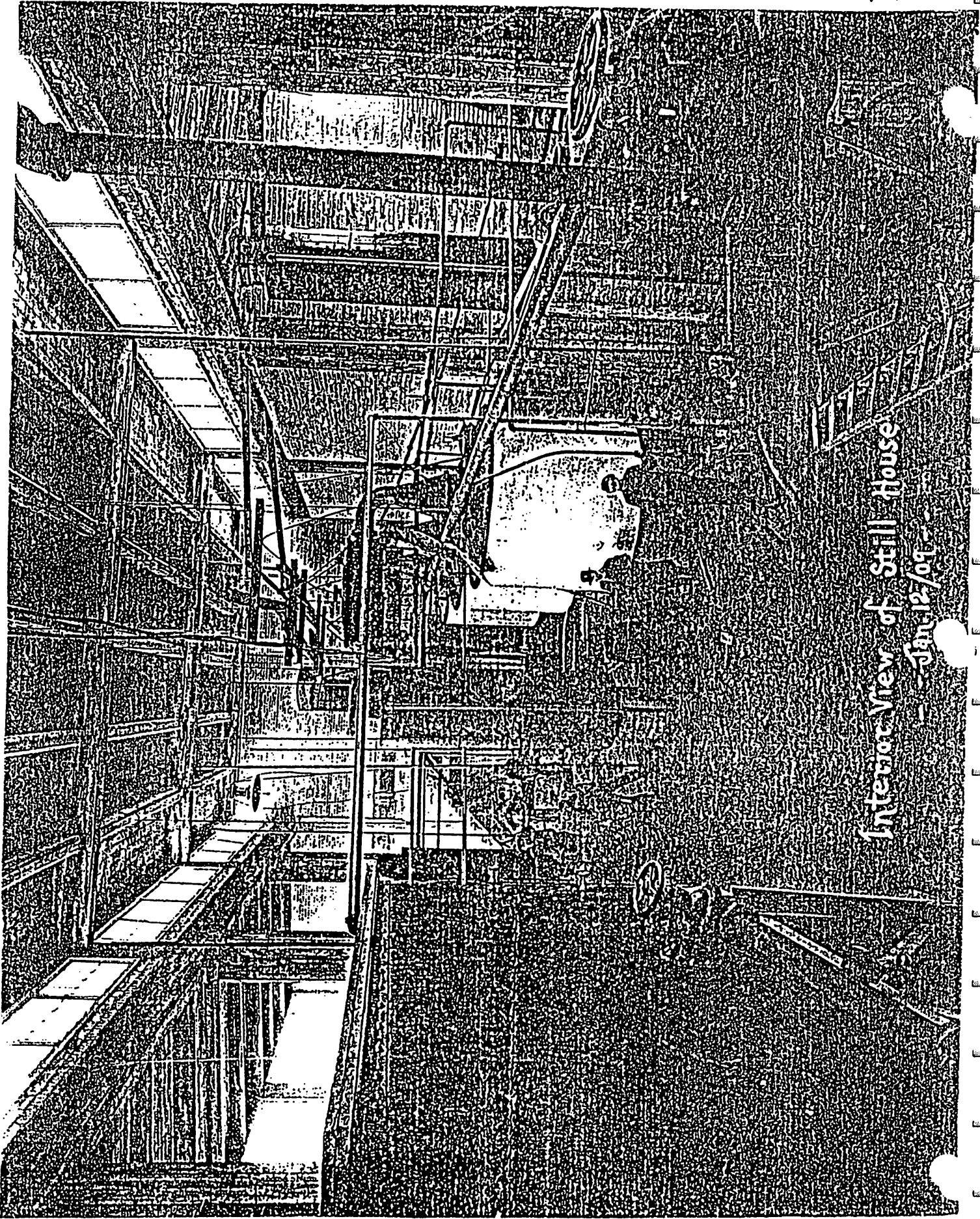


Ref 6



Distilling equipment once filled openings in the concrete floors





Interior View of Still House

Jan 12/09



WOOD PRODUCTS CO. LTD. -  
Construction Staff 1908-9

W.A. Ghriholm      J. Rettie      J. Gain  
 Accountant      millwright      chief Carpenter  
 Jas. Montgomery      W.B. Swanton  
 Wks. Supt      Yard Boss

**DONALD ONT.**  
 W. Hinchey      T.R. Hannah      T. Snell.  
 chief Pipe Fitter      Postmaster      Gimp Foreman  
 W.H. Olliver C.E.      Storekeeper      J.M. Wilson  
 Gen. Mgr & Chief Engineer      AM. cap. Secy. C.E.  
 Endin

216  
 &

FRJ J

UC

DONALD

I found a poem on "Donald" published in the Minden Echo sometime in 1909 which might be of interest. My sisters and I well remember our Dad, Gordon Austin, reciting most of it to us. I personally recall most of the persons that Welford mentions, Swanton, Jack Snell, and Montgomery. Oliver was Col. Oliver of the Queen's Own Rifles and a one time Mayor of Toronto. He was a partner of Col. Richard A. Donald of the 48th Highlanders of Canada who was connected with the Woods Product Company. Jack Golden and Jack Cain were hunting pals of my dad.

Everybody in the area knew Dinny Gall, the train conductor, and Clarence Sedwick his brakeman. Italian woodsmen were at the time cutting on Koshlong Lake. Apparently they shot some partridge and also a loon which they tried to eat. The local game warden hauled them in to Haliburton where the local Justice of the Peace fined them nine dollars, a goodly sum for those days.

We had a visitor last week from the Red Cross in Toronto, a girl named Moon who is a grand niece of Thomas S. Moon, Warden of Haliburton County in 1894 and Reeve of Dysart from 1892 to 1894.

Sincerely,  
Ken. G. Austin,  
Dryden.

The last place on earth, well this is it,  
Where we worked on the plant built by our friend Pitt,  
We'll be tickled to death to draw the curtain  
On the job five miles from Haliburton.  
Hear the yarns we'll sping when we get back  
Of the life we lived out there in a shack.  
The girls would smile could they be looking,  
To see us fellows tackle the cooking,  
Apple pie, roast beef and sometimes hard-tack  
Were the things we ate in the dear old shack.  
And at close of day when our work was done,  
One felt rather lonesome and looked for fun.  
We hiked to his roost and for lack o'siller  
Played poker for matches with Fritze Miller.  
There's Jack and George with Hulbig and Hick,  
At the mention of home get looking so sick,  
That to me and my chum t'would be no surprise  
To find them one day with tears in their eyes  
While Harry, that's Herbert, now frets every hour  
Anxious for his concrete at the top of the tower.  
For the weather's unsettled, yet if it turns rough  
Our Harry will prove that he has the right stuff,  
And inspite of men's jeers and inspite of men's  
laughter  
That tank will go up tight enough to hold water.  
The boarders this weather enjoy the scenery  
As they chase for their grub across to the beanery,  
Where they get plum duff which is mostly dough.  
Chucked at them by the cook whose name is Joe.  
The tables when set are a sight to be seen  
With everything on them so neat and clean,  
And the boys crowd in with a regular rush  
For your appetite's good out here in the bush.  
Poor Teddy, he got a nasty fall ---  
Thirty feet straight down the oven house wall,  
Hard thoughts for that scaffold in his heart does  
rankle  
As he sits there nursing his bad sprained ankle  
T'was a real bad day as accidents go,  
For another poor devil lost his big toe,  
And then to make the number three,  
With a nail in his foot, Tom came limping to me.  
There are some deer left but the only reason,  
Is that fifteen days constitutes the season,  
They hunt them by foot and they hunt them by  
boat,  
Dave Smith saw a buck but he thought it a goat.  
An Italian here should not carry a cartridge,  
It cost him nine dollars to shoot a partridge.  
Another good lesson which we all learnt  
Don't camp near Dave or you may get burnt.  
Twixt Fisher and Hunter around the shack fire  
Tis hard to decide who's the biggest liar.  
To see a chap move in an awful hurry  
When the dinner gong rings, watch Waterbury.  
But joking aside, the boys are toilers  
And worked might hard to change the boilers  
Then felt nearly as made as the old wet hen  
When they had to change them back again,  
For the one they changed must have taken the  
hump  
And it would not even work the pump.



Standard Chemical Company  
Acquires Dalglish Chemical  
Companies

Another step in the program of expansion for Standard Chemical Company Limited was announced on August 15, 1945 with the acquisition by this company of all the capital stock of the Dalglish (Ontario) Chemical Companies, Dalglish (Ontario) Limited and Dalglish (Quebec) Limited. The Dalglish enterprise will continue to operate under the direction of W. K. Dalglish, who built the organization to its present place of prominence in the Canadian chemical industry, and F. W. Lynd will continue as General Manager of the Ontario company and Joseph E. Green as General Manager of the Quebec company.

Dalglish plants at Toronto and Montreal manufacture the nationally advertised product "Javex," the sale of which has been steadily increasing. The plants also manufacture or distribute a line of chemicals that will fit in with and diversify the range manufactured or distributed by Standard Chemical Company, such as bleach, soaps and other special supplies for the laundry, dry cleaning, dairy and other industries. Dalglish products are distributed coast to coast and further development of the business is planned by Standard Chemical Company.

Ref. 14

INDUSTRIAL CANADA

46:115  
SEPT  
1945

Elected President of  
Standard Chemical ✓



Commander K. S. MacLachlan, Montreal has been elected president and appointed general manager of Standard Chemical Co., Ltd., succeeding E. P. Taylor, who becomes chairman of the board. Prior to a furlough duty with the Royal Canadian Navy, Commander MacLachlan served as Deputy Minister of National Defense for Canada and was president and general manager of Fraser Companies, Ltd., and Restigouche Co., Ltd.

CHEMICAL  
INDUSTRY

56:478  
MARCH  
1945

INDUSTRIAL  
CANADA

47:115  
NOV. '46

Standard Chemical Company  
Building New Plant

Standard Chemical Co., Limited, Toronto, are erecting a plant at Longford, Ont., for the manufacture of carboxy methyl cellulose in several modifications to meet specific trade requirements, and expect to be in production in October, 1946.

Carboxy methyl cellulose is one of the new cellulose derivatives to find acceptance in the chemical industry.

An extensive programme of research has been carried on for over a year, and the Company has had a representative in Europe for several months, studying production methods and industrial applications.

INDUSTRIAL  
CANADA

120  
MARCH  
1947

Chlorine-Caustic Soda Industry To Be Established at Sarnia  
In accordance with their policy of expansion and development, Standard Chemical Co., Limited, Toronto, announce their intention of establishing a chlorine-caustic soda industry at Sarnia, Ont.

The annual capacity of the initial installation will be 18,000 tons of liquid chlorine and 20,000 tons of caustic soda. It is estimated that the output from this unit will fully take care of the shortages of supply in both commodities which have been experienced in Canada during the past year, but the design of the plant provides for economic expansion when the demand justifies such a development.

In the new plant, facilities are being provided to produce all the normal grades and package sizes of both chlorine and caustic soda so that the requirements of consumers from the largest to the smallest may be adequately taken care of.

In the development of this project Standard Chemical received the fullest co-operation from the Dominion Government-owned Polymer Corporation Plant at Sarnia.

Construction will commence in 1947 and it is expected that the plant can

# Standard Chemical Company Limited

of

## ANNUAL STATEMENT

For Twelve Months Ending March 31st, 1945

### DIRECTORS

E. P. TAYLOR

*Chairman of the Board*

K. S. MACLACHLAN

L. M. WOOD

W. E. PHILLIPS

ROBERT FLEMING

ALLAN MILLER

THOMAS ARNOLD

HUGH MACKAY

### OFFICERS

K. S. MACLACHLAN

*President and Managing Director*

M. SEDGEWICK

A. F. COOPER

O. A. HUTTON

*Vice-President*

*Vice-President*

*Vice-President*

G. MILLWARD

J. E. WILSON

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

### BANKERS

The Royal Bank of Canada

### TRANSFER AGENT

Montreal Trust Company, Toronto and Montreal

### REGISTRAR

National Trust Company Limited, Toronto and Montreal

### AUDITORS

Price, Waterhouse & Co.

# Standard Chemical Company Limited

*And Subsidiary Companies*

34th Annual Report and Statement

Year Ended March 31st, 1945

ASCA

### To the Shareholders:

The Consolidated Balance Sheet of Standard Chemical Company Limited and its wholly owned subsidiaries at March 31st, 1945, the Consolidated Profit and Loss and Earned Surplus Statements for the year ended March 31st, 1945, together with the Report of the Company's Auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. are submitted herewith.

During the year your Company acquired all the outstanding share capital of Goderich Salt Company Limited and the accounts of that company since July 31st, 1944, the date of acquisition, have been consolidated with the accounts of the parent company and its other subsidiaries.

The net profit for the year after all charges but before provision for Income and Excess Profits' Taxes amounted to \$222,957.25. This included the profits of Goderich Salt Company Limited for the eight months during which the capital stock has been owned by your Company. A comparable figure which would include a full year's profits of Goderich Salt Company Limited would be approximately \$284,000.

The operation of your Company's wood distillation plants showed a loss for the year caused, for the most part, by restrictive price controls imposed by the Government as wartime measures. Accordingly representation was made to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for a subsidy on the year's operations which was granted in the amount of \$83,044.83. In addition that Board has authorized an increase in selling prices of charcoal to be effective from July 1st, 1945.

Consolidated net working capital as at March 31st, 1945, amounted to \$1,434,000.

Since March 31st, 1945, your Company has acquired all the outstanding shares of Schofield-Donald Limited. This Company, the business of which has been carried on for over twenty years, operates as wholesale importers and exporters of industrial chemicals.

Maritime Industries Limited, a new wholly owned subsidiary, has recently been organized under the laws of the Province of Nova Scotia. Plans have been made for the construction of a plant near Amherst, N.S., for the manufacture of high-grade salt for meat packing, fish packing, table, dairy, farm and other uses. Plans for the construction of the Company's plant, which are in the course of preparation, call for the construction of a plant capable of producing 120 tons of high-grade salt per day.

In June, 1945, issues of 10,000 5% Cumulative Redeemable Preferred shares and 71,115 Common shares were offered and sold to the public. The proceeds from these issues have been used, in part, to reimburse your Company for expenditures made in acquiring all the outstanding shares of Goderich Salt Company Limited and Schofield-Donald Limited. The balance will be used for developing, through Maritime Industries Limited, a salt business in the Maritimes.

Negotiations are under way with manufacturers of industrial chemicals in the United Kingdom and in the United States for the sale of their products throughout Canada on an agency basis.



The processes used in the Company's refinery are being carefully scrutinized and improvements are proposed to be made whenever material and equipment are available. Several projects for the manufacture of new materials not now manufactured in Canada are receiving consideration. Negotiations have revealed that suitable processes are available.

The management believes that there will be many profitable opportunities for expansion in the general field of chemicals and their manufacture. It is the intention of the management to carefully investigate the merits of each proposed project involving expansion in the Company's activities, and to take advantage of opportunities from time to time as favourable projects develop. New projects are under consideration which contemplate expansion in both merchandising and manufacturing activities.

Since the last annual meeting certain Directors tendered their resignations. The vacancies on the Board have been filled by the appointment of Messrs. E. P. Taylor, Chairman; K. S. MacLachlan, President and Managing Director; W. E. Phillips, Allan Miller, Thomas Arnold and Hugh Mackay.

It is with regret that your Directors announce the resignation in April, 1945, of Mr. J. L. Hoult, through ill health. During many years as Sales Manager, and for a period in 1939 as President, Mr. Hoult has given loyal and very valuable service to your Company.

The Directors and Officers wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the good services rendered by all employees of the Company.

(Signed)

E. P. TAYLOR,  
Chairman of the Board  
of Directors.

(Signed)

K. S. MACLACHLAN,  
President and  
Managing Director.

#### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF STANDARD CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of Standard Chemical Company Limited and subsidiary companies as of March 31 1945 and consolidated statements of profit and loss and earned surplus for the year then ended and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. These financial statements include the assets and liabilities as at March 31 1945 and the earnings of Goderich Salt Company Limited for the period of eight months from July 31 1944 (the date as of which all of the capital stock of that company was acquired by Standard Chemical Company Limited) to March 31 1945 as reported on by its auditors, Messrs. Glendinning, Jarrett, Gray & Roberts. In connection with our examination of the accounts of Standard Chemical Company Limited and its other subsidiaries we examined or tested accounting records and other supporting evidence but our examination of the detailed transactions was confined to limited tests thereof.

The special bank loan of \$1,000,000.00 is not included in the attached balance sheet as a current liability because a portion of the proceeds from a new issue of capital stock has been applied in paying off this loan.

On the above basis we report that the attached consolidated balance sheet and related consolidated statements of profit and loss and earned surplus are, in our opinion, properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the combined companies as of March 31 1945 and of the results from the operations for the year ending on that date (including the results of Goderich Salt Company Limited for the period of eight months from the date of its acquisition to March 31, 1945), according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of Standard Chemical Company Limited and subsidiaries examined by us and by the audited statement of Goderich Salt Company Limited.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.,  
Auditors.

July 5 1945.

## Standard Chemical Company Limited And Subsidiary Companies

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

For the Year Ending March 31 1945

(Including the Results of Operations of a Subsidiary Company  
for Eight Months)

Earnings for the period ending March 31 1945 (including \$16,096.94 investment income) after operating expenses (including executive officers' remuneration of \$64,298.82 and legal fees of \$4,075.75), taxes, etc., but before providing for the undernoted items .....	\$281,459.84*
<b>DEDUCT:</b>	
Amount written off railway construction accounts, sawmill, etc., and charges in connection with reevaluation of miscellaneous equipment .....	\$ 16,727.49
Provision for depreciation of plants.....	41,775.10
	<u>58,502.59</u>
NET PROFIT before provision for income and excess profits taxes .....	\$222,957.25
<b>DEDUCT:</b>	
Provision for income and excess profits taxes.....	\$115,040.43
Less Refundable portion thereof.....	9,100.00
	<u>105,940.43</u>
NET PROFIT for the year, carried to Earned Surplus.....	<u>\$117,016.82</u>
* Including subsidy receivable—\$83,044.83	

### STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED EARNED SURPLUS

As at March 31 1945

Balance as at April 1 1944 (including refundable portion of excess profits taxes \$536.21) .....	\$196,936.33
<b>ADD:</b>	
Transfer of balance of fire insurance fund reserve..	\$140,697.74
Net profit for the year .....	117,016.82
	<u>257,714.56</u>
	\$454,650.89
<b>DEDUCT:</b>	
Provision for income and excess profits taxes relat- ing to prior years .....	\$104,938.89
Dividends paid during the year .....	37,777.00
	<u>142,715.89</u>
BALANCE AS AT MARCH 31 1945.....	<u>\$311,935.00</u>

# Standard Chemical Company, Limited



## ANNUAL STATEMENT

For Twelve Months Ending March 31st, 1946

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### DIRECTORS

E. P. TAYLOR  
*Chairman of the Board*

K. S. MACLACHLAN

I. M. WOOD

W. E. PHILLIPS

ROBERT FLEMING

ALLAN MILLER

THOMAS ARNOLD

HUGH MACKAY

---

### OFFICERS

K. S. MACLACHLAN  
*President and Managing Director*

J. E. WILSON  
*Vice-President and Treasurer*

W. N. HALL  
*Vice-President  
in Charge of Research and Development*

R. M. SEDGEWICK  
*Vice-President*

G. MILLWARD  
*Secretary*

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### BANKERS

The Royal Bank of Canada

### TRANSFER AGENT

Montreal Trust Company, Toronto and Montreal

### REGISTRAR

National Trust Company Limited, Toronto and Montreal

### AUDITORS

Price, Waterhouse & Co.

# Standard Chemical Company, Limited

*And Subsidiary Companies*

## 35th Annual Report and Statement

Year Ended March 31st, 1946

To the Shareholders:

The Consolidated Balance Sheet of Standard Chemical Company, Limited and its wholly owned subsidiaries as at March 31st, 1946, the Consolidated Profit and Loss and Earned Surplus statements for the year ended March 31st, 1946, together with the report of the Company's auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., are submitted herewith.

Having regard to the volume of inventories and price levels at which they are held, the reserve against future decline in inventory values was found to be \$125,000 in excess of requirements. This amount has therefore been transferred back to operations. After including this amount the net profit for the year after all charges, but before provision for income and excess profit taxes, amounted to \$501,832.68. This includes the profits of the Dalglish Companies for only the nine months since the date of acquisition.

Consolidated net working capital as at March 31st, 1946, amounted to \$1,811,643.71.

On April 1st, 1945, your Company acquired all the outstanding shares of Schofield-Donald, Limited. The sales of this Company which imports and deals in industrial chemicals are being co-ordinated with the sales of the Parent Company.

On June 30th, 1945, your Company acquired all the outstanding share capital of Dalglish (Ontario) Limited (now Dalglish Chemicals Limited) and Dalglish (Quebec) Limited. These Companies manufacture or deal in chemicals and supplies required by the laundry, dry-cleaning, and other industries. They manufacture and distribute "Javex," the well-known household bleach.

During the year investments in marketable securities of other companies in or associated with the chemical industry have been increased by \$2,171,875.05. These investments permit your Company to benefit by developments in sections of the Canadian chemical industry in which your Company is not actively operating.

In addition to the creation of 50,000 5% cumulative redeemable preferred shares and the issue of 10,000 such shares as referred to in the last Annual Report, the authorized number of common shares without nominal or par value was increased from 300,000 to 750,000 and of these 253,615 shares were sold during the year for cash, making a total of 450,000 common shares issued and outstanding on March 31st, 1946.

During the year arrangements were concluded for the Company to be the exclusive distributor in Canada of the products of United States Industrial Chemicals, Inc. This broadens out the coverage we now enjoy in the provision of chemicals to Canadian industry and good progress has been made in the development of sales.

The Wood Distillation plant at South River, Ontario, is being operated to capacity. The operations of similar plants at Donald, Ontario, and at Fassett, Quebec, have been discontinued owing to the abnormally high cost of raw material.

The Company's Wood Distillation plant at Longford, Ontario, has not been operated for some time. Part of the plant is being converted for the production of a new chemical product which has not yet been manufactured in Canada. It is expected that the conversion will be complete and the new process in operation before the end of the year.

Goderich Salt Company, Limited operated during the year at capacity.

The construction of the new salt plant of Maritime Industries Limited in Nova Scotia has been delayed but steady progress is now being made. It is expected that the plant will be completed and in operation by the end of the year.

The activities of the Dalglish Companies have been expanded to Western Canada and a plant is being installed in Vancouver for the production and distribution of Dalglish products in British Columbia.

The new warehouse at 200 Queen's Quay, Toronto, was occupied January, 1946, and the new office building at 195 Fleet Street East, Toronto, in March, 1946. Both moves have provided for more efficient and more economical operation.

The year has been one of adjustment, expansion and growth. The benefit of projects for expansion so far undertaken are only partially reflected in the results of operations for the year under review. Difficulties arising out of shortages and interruptions in the supply of raw materials, equipment and also commodities for resale have hampered operations. We are still faced with these difficulties.

Opportunities for expansion in the general field of chemicals and their manufacture are still available. It is the intention of the Management to continue the careful investigation of the merits of a number of projects involving further expansion and to take advantage of opportunities from time to time as favourable projects develop.

Mr. A. F. Cooper, who for many years was Vice-President in charge of Logging and Lumber operations, retired on March 31st, 1946, after completing thirty-five years continuous service with the Company. The Directors and Officers wish to express their sincere appreciation of the loyal and valuable service rendered by Mr. Cooper.

The organization of the Executive Office of your Company has been rearranged in harmony with the new policy of expansion and growth which has been adopted. A Research and Development Division has been organized and Mr. W. N. Hall, B.A.Sc., has been appointed Vice-President in charge of this activity. Mr. J. E. Wilson, B.Comm., C.A., has been appointed Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Directors and Officers of the Company acknowledge with sincere appreciation the valuable service performed by the officials and employees of your Group of Companies who have worked to achieve the results reported herein.

(Signed)

E. P. TAYLOR,

*Chairman of the Board  
of Directors.*

and

(Signed)

K. S. MACLACHLAN,

*President and  
Managing Director.*

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### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF STANDARD CHEMICAL COMPANY LIMITED

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of Standard Chemical Company Limited and subsidiary companies as at March 31 1946 and the consolidated statements of profit and loss and earned surplus for the year then ended, in the case of Standard Chemical Company Limited and two of the subsidiary companies, and for the period of nine months from date of acquisition in the case of three other subsidiary companies, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In connection therewith we examined or tested the accounting records and other supporting evidence but our examination of the detailed transactions was confined to limited tests.

In our opinion, the attached consolidated balance sheet and related consolidated statements of profit and loss and earned surplus are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the combined companies as at March 31 1946 and of the results from operations for the period then ended, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the companies.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & Co.,  
*Chartered Accountants.*

May 21 1946.

# Standard Chemn

And Subsidiaries

## Consolidated Balance Sheet

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash on hand and in banks .....	\$ 776,454.64	
Dominion of Canada bonds at cost plus accrued interest (Market value — \$108,445.65) .....	107,905.65	
Accounts receivable, less reserves .....	833,483.44	
Inventories of raw materials and supplies, goods in process and finished products, determined from the records in the case of cordwood, fuel and containers (including containers in customers' hands) and by physical inspection of other stocks, valued at the lower of cost or market, as certified to by responsible officials .....	887,063.01	
Prepaid expenses .....	71,801.04	
		<u>\$2,676,707.78</u>

REFUNDABLE PORTION OF EXCESS PROFITS TAX ..... 112,500.76

#### INVESTMENTS:

Shares in other companies, at cost (value based on quoted market prices \$3,060,000.00) .....	\$2,607,559.08	
Sundry investments, less amounts written off .....	35,818.64	
		<u>2,643,377.72</u>

DEFERRED CHARGES TO OPERATIONS ..... 63,822.56

#### FIXED ASSETS:

Land, timber limits, salt leases, buildings, plant and equip- ment, at or below cost .....	\$1,733,048.22	
Less Reserve for depreciation .....	939,719.01	
		<u>793,329.21</u>

#### GOODWILL ARISING IN CONSOLIDATION:

Excess of cost of shares in subsidiary companies acquired, over the net book value of such shares at dates of acqui- sition .....		905,192.05
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#### APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

E. P. TAYLOR, Director.

K. S. MACLACHLAN, Director.

\$7,194,930.08

Submitted with our report to the Board of Directors

# Limited

March 31, 1946

## LIABILITIES

### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities .....	\$ 661,672.32	
Taxes payable and accrued .....	190,891.75	
Dividend on preferred shares payable June 1, 1946 .....	12,500.00	
		\$ 865,064.07

SPECIAL BANK LOAN — Due October 1, 1947, secured by pledge of the capital stock of a subsidiary company and other securities .....		1,000,000.00
RESERVE AGAINST FUTURE DECLINE IN INVENTORY VALUES.....		175,000.00
GENERAL RESERVE .....		75,172.26

### CAPITAL STOCK AND SURPLUS:

Capital Stock:		
5% cumulative redeemable preferred shares —		
Authorized — 50,000 shares of a par value of \$100.00 each .....		\$5,000,000.00
Issued during the year for cash and outstanding —		
10,000 shares .....		\$1,000,000.00
Common shares —		
Authorized — 750,000 shares without nominal or par value.		
Issued and outstanding — 450,000 shares:		
As at March 31, 1945, 196,385 shares..	\$1,351,549.95	
Issued during the year for cash (in- cluding 32,500 shares taken up under option) — 253,615 shares....	2,239,528.00	3,591,077.95
		<u>\$4,591,077.95</u>

### NOTE

By Supplementary Letters Patent dated June 18, 1945, the authorized capital of the company was increased by the creation of 50,000 5% cumulative redeemable preferred shares of a par value of \$100.00 each.

By Supplementary Letters Patent dated February 13, 1946, the authorized number of common shares without nominal or par value was increased from 300,000 to 750,000 shares.

Earned Surplus, as per statement attached .....	488,615.80	5,079,693.75
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### CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS:

Contractual obligations of the company and its subsidiaries for capital expenditures amounting to approximately \$400,000.00 were outstanding at March 31, 1946, in addition to which further capital expenditures of approximately \$600,000.00 are contemplated.

\$7,194,930.08

rs d d May 21, 1946.

SE & CO.

Auditors.

# Standard Chemical Company, Limited



## ANNUAL STATEMENT

For Twelve Months Ending March 31st, 1946

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### DIRECTORS

E. P. TAYLOR

*Chairman of the Board*

K. S. MACLACHLAN

L. M. WOOD

W. E. PHILLIPS

ROBERT FLEMING

ALLAN MILLER

THOMAS ARNOLD

HUGH MACKAY

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W. N. HALL

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