

New St. Marys Cement plant uses dry process

ST. MARYS — The new St. Marys Cement Co. plant has adopted the dry look. Unlike its predecessor, the \$45 million plant, which officially opens Tuesday, uses a dry process to manufacture powdered Portland cement, one of four ingredients used to mix concrete.

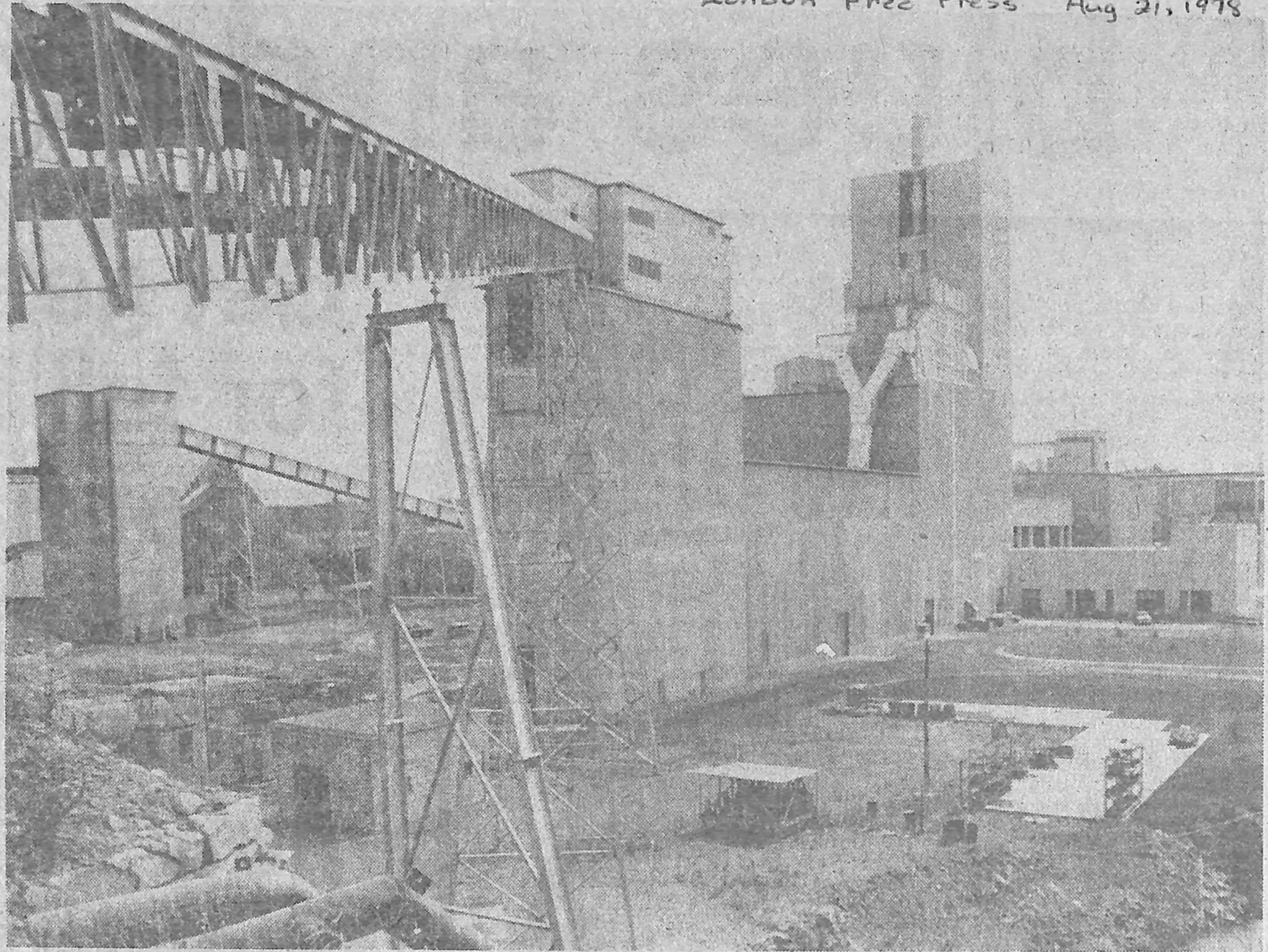
Assistant plant manager George Ball said the switch from a wet to dry process — dispensing with the use of water during the initial stages of production — is purely economical.

Al Harley, director of marketing services for the company, said 35 per cent of

the cost of producing cement is in energy. With the dry process a liquid "slurry" is eliminated and fuel bills are cut in half.

At the same time, he said, more cement can be produced with the same amount of energy as before.

London Free Press Aug 21, 1978



The new \$45 million St. Marys Cement Co. plant officially opens Tuesday. The plant, located on a 1,400-acre site,

will produce about 650,000 metric tons of dry powdered cement per year.

Raw materials of limestone and clay, blended in two-to-one proportions, go through three basic stages before becoming the fine, greyish powder — grinding and blending, heating in a large kiln at temperatures reaching 1,500 degrees Celsius to form round, hardened balls of "clinker" and a final round of grinding and blending, including adding gypsum.

The plant, employing 195 persons, will churn out 650,000 metric tons of cement annually — about 2,000 tons a day.

Harley estimated the quarries on the 1,400-acre site in the southwest section of the town contain enough clay and limestone to supply the plant for at least another 100 years.

The cement is delivered throughout Ontario to companies such as ready-mix operators which combine it with sand, stone and water to make concrete.

Construction of the plant began in 1974 and operations began in January this year.

But Harley said official opening ceremonies, including tours for employees, customers, suppliers and representatives of government, to be staged over three days this week were delayed until all the bugs in the \$10 million kiln were removed.

The old plant, opened in 1912, will be kept on standby for emergency use, Ball said.

Anniversary At Brown's Corners ^{Sept. 6}₁₉₇₈

Mr. and Mrs. George Heron and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Heron, visited on Thursday night, with Mrs. Victor Woods on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Mrs Woods Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Mesdames Margaret Arthur, Evelyn Arthur, Marjorie Martin, and Marion Harris, were guests at the Kintore W.I. meeting, last Thursday night. This was a most enjoyable meeting and we are grateful for the very kind invitation to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. John McKay and family and Mrs. Charlotte McKay attended the wedding of Leslie Middleton and Blake Cook of Elliott Lake, recently. The bride's mother is the former Betty McKay of this community. Terri McKay was a bridesmaid for the occasion.