Flour Made in Acton Finds Ready Market in Canada

Usually the first industry in any Canadian community in the pioneer days was the flour and grist mill. Many of these landmarks of early days have been destroyed by fire. Many have become inoperative. Acton seems to have a tendency for holding its industries.

Today Acton Flour Mills has modern equipment, has in recent years added elevators and storage capacity. It operates at capacity with 10 employees. Flour produced in Acton finds a ready market across Canada. Almost 100% Ontario winter wheat is used in the process of making flour.

Early Beginnings

According to history, Acton had its beginning about 1829. We imagine that shortly after the water was dammed up to make Fairy Lake and water to drive the millstones. Just when the present mill was erected is largely conjecture, but it is reasonable to assume its history goes back well over a hundred years. Water power is used no more in the modern mill which D. H. Lindsay has operated in Acton for the past 40 years.

During the past ten years several changes have taken place at the mill in Acton with a tendency to improve equipment and conditions in order to cope with modern milling.

Operating prior to 1950 with four large elevators for storage, Mr. Lindsay had a 6,000 bushel capacity elevator added at the site and the following year four more elevators with a capacity each of 5,000 bushels were installed.

For modern convenience a weigh scale was included in the additions in 1957 and in 1958 a truck hoist to speed up unloading operations was installed.

Diesel Runs Chopper

A 60 H.P. diesel motor runs the huge chopper and the balance of the operation by electric power.

At any time of the day or night lights are burning in the building as machines are kept running on a 24 hour basis from Monday through Saturday. Five trucks are used daily in transporting materials and finished product to and from ready markets.

Old Yet New

Old, yet new, Acton Flour Mills operates today, turning out more and better flour than at any time in its long history. It has to be good to meet today's exacting requirements.

Rooted in America Since 1857 Church Attracts New Immigrants

The last decade has seen the establishment of the Christian Reformed church here. Instituted in May, 1953, under the able direction of the Rev. G. Andre, home missionary for the Christian Reformed Church in Canada, this congregation has grown in size and also spiritually.

In less than seven years the congregation has grown from some 20 families to 69 families with 145 communicant members and 214 members by baptism, totalling 359 souls.

During the first period of its history, the congregation met in the parish hall and later in the Y.M.C.A. This courtesy was much appreciated. In 1956 the church basement on highway seven was erected on which the congregation hopes to build a superstructure before too long.

In 1955 the church received its first regular pastor in the Rev. Ralph Groeneboer, who served this church till December, 1958, and then left for Vancouver, B.C., after having declined many calls to other Christian Reformed churches.

Mr. Groeneboer was succeeded by the Rev. J. Nutma who, after graduating from Calvin College and Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich., had become declared candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed church in September, 1959.

Rooted In America

Although the congregation, by and large, consists of recent immigrants, it IS a Canadian church like the Presbyterian and the United Church of Canada. The Christian Reformed church is not rooted in the Netherlands but in America. As early as 1857 it was instituted in Michigan. This institution was due to the fact that many people had migrated from Europe to the New World. Soon this church was spread all over the United States and since 1905 has congregations in Canada also.

One of the first activities in the new world was the establishment of a college which since 1920 is associated with the accredited colleges in the U.S.A. An educated ministry is one of the prerequisites of a flourishing church life and as early as 1876 a seminary was established which grants its students a B.D. degree.

The Christian Reformed church as a denomination carries out a large mission program, having missionaries at work in New Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria, Ceylon, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Formosa, Australia and New Zealand. Each of the congregations in Canada and the U.S.A. is contributing to this mission program.

Besides this the denomination has a radio broadcast, "The Back to God Hour" with the Rev. Peter Eldersveld as minister. This broadcast can be heard in Acton every Sunday at 8.30 a.m. on CFRB 1014.

One important thing to be mentioned yet is the fact that the Christian Reformed church is a confessional church, believing that the entire Bible is the infallibly inspired word of God. The church holds to the Nicene, Athanasian and Apostolic creeds, and besides that to the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dordt.

Town Trucker Progresses Adds Modern Equipment

A desire to own his own business after driving trucks for many years for someone else prompted Jack Ridley to start his own trucking business in 1946 in Acton.

Since that time many changes have taken place and the business has jumped ahead by leaps and bounds as the owner keeps progress foremost in mind.

In the space of 14 years Mr. Ridley has increased his units from one to the 11 being used today. Holding a PCV license, class F.S. and F., allows the company to haul livestock, road construction materials, building materials such as cement blocks and bricks and do general hauling in the district.

Livestock is hauled from the Acton and Georgetown area to and from the Toronto and Kitchener livestock markets. For the past nine years a number of the company trucks have been engaged each winter by the Department of highways and equipped with units for sanding the roads in the area.

Live In Area

Eleven drivers are employed by Mr. Ridley and they all live within the Acton area. It became a limited company on June 30, 1959 and has been an agent for several cement block and brick companies. Four years ago the company expanded and a new garage was built on the property at the corner of Guelph and Agnes Streets.

Today the company has four dump trucks, three stake, one semi and three D.H.O. sanding trucks.

Baptists Appoint Full-time Pastor

After some years of student pastors for Acton Baptist church, the congregation has increased within the past decade to the point where a full-time pastor was warranted. The Rev. Gordon Holmes moved to Acton to minister here, a year and a half ago.

He followed a part-time minister here, the Rev. C. R. Gower, who left in 1950; students Stanley Woodcock from December, 1950 until March, 1951; Douglas Shuter from October, 1951 until May, 1952; Dwight Patterson from May, 1952 until September, 1953 and the Rev. Ray Costerus from September, 1953 until April, 1958. Starting as a student Mr. Costerus obtained his degree while here and was ordained in the church. He remained a year afterwards, followed by Mr. Holmes who moved here in October, 1958.

Membership Doubled

Church membership has nearly doubled in the past decade. In 1950 there were 35 members, now there are 62. Sunday school attendance 10 years ago averaged 21; in 1959 average attendance was 49 with 68 names on the roll.

In 1959 alone church membership increased 20 per cent.

Improvements during the past 10 years have been significant.

Volunteer Workers

With all the work possible done by volunteers and only most difficult by contractors, the congregation has seen the installation of a gas furnace, replacing the coal furnace, rewiring, new fixtures; new roof; completely renovated kitchen and the basement enlarged. It is hoped that the basement will be finished this year so Sunday school classes may be held there.

The diamond jubilee of the church building falls this month. The present church was built in 1899 and opened February, 1900.

In 1952 the parsonage on Bower Avenue was purchased.

Active groups in the church include the cradle roll, Mission Band, Explorers, Hi-Fellowship, Adult Fellowship and Mission Circle.

Amos Mason First President Of Rotary Club

The Rotary club was a thriving young group when the '50s began. Amos Mason was the first president in 1948.

Fun Fairs and peanut days have raised funds for crippled children. High school students have been sent to Ottawa by Rotary for a "citizenship tour" each year and the annual Easter Seal campaign has aided many crippled children.

ACTON FLOUR MILLS

ESTABLISHED 42 YEARS

MODERN EQUIPMENT
11 ELEVATORS
STORAGE CAPACITY
60,000 BUSHELS

CANADA WIDE MARKET
FOR FLOUR PRODUCTION
OF WESTERN AND
ONTARIO WHEAT

D. H. LINDSAY
PROPRIETOR

MILL STREET WEST — ACTON, ONTARIO

JACK RIDLEY
CARTAGE
LIMITED

- CONCRETE BLOCKS
- CINDER BLOCKS
- CLAY BRICK
- CONCRETE BRICK
- SAND
- STONE

- LIVESTOCK and FERTILIZER
- FARM SERVICE and SUPPLIES

PHONE 251
ACTON

PCV CLASS FS & F
FULLY INSURED

Leader in Field H. K. Porter Co. Builds New Plant

Acton's newest major industrial firm is the H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Ltd. Their plant was opened during this decade of development.

The completion of the plant in July of 1958 marked the second stage of expansion for this firm, a new entry to the Canadian industrial scene.

The 88,000 square foot building now serves as head office for Porter's Disston Division, Refractories Division and Thermoid Division. The major portion of the manufacturing area is devoted to the production of Disston products which are recognized the world over as leaders in their field.

Largest on Continent

Disston saws have been manufactured in Canada for over fifty years, and include saws for the professional carpenter, home craftsmen, circular woodcutting saws up to 100 inches in diameter, and stonecutting circular saws up to nine feet in diameter and weighing over one ton. Disston holds the distinction of having manufactured the largest stone cutting saw ever produced on the North American continent.

More recently Disston has entered the power tool field with two electric sabre saws, the "Dagger" for home work shop use, and the "Dauntless" for industrial use. Also two six and a half inch electric circular saws, the "Discus" and "Defender" are being distributed to the Canadian market.

Recent Addition

A recent addition to the Disston garden tool line is the Disston "Dragon" electric hedge and shrubbery trimmer which features a fixed, all position handle.

A complete modernization of production flow was possible with the move from Toronto. Additional equipment is being installed which will increase output of the present plant.

Toward the end of 1959, equipment was installed which would permit the production of refractory specialties in Canada, marking additional Porter expansion in the Canadian industrial scene.

With a total of 66 acres of property available on the northern limits of Acton, there is plenty of room for future Porter expansion.

Natural Gas Serves Area

While natural gas was first transmitted through bamboo poles in China over 2,000 years ago, Acton has had natural gas pipe lines only since 1956 when over $1,000,000 was spent by the United Gas Ltd., the natural gas distributing company in this area, to lay a portion of that pipeline to service Acton and its neighbors, Georgetown and Milton.

Town-Wide Lines

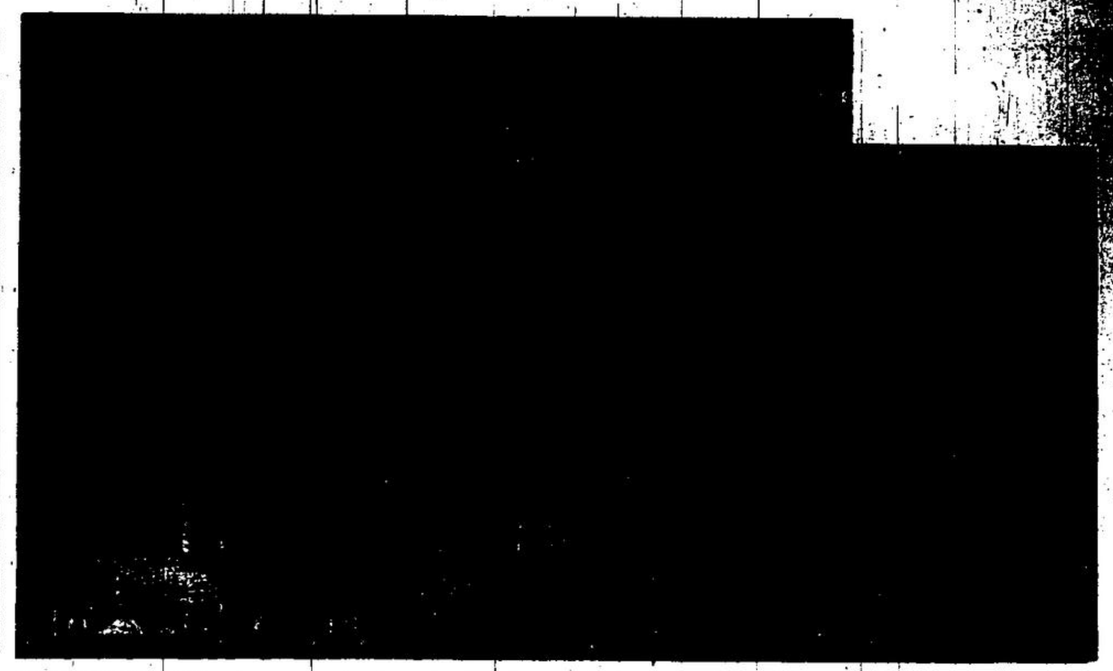
First indications of the arrival of natural gas through a town-wide network of underground lines, were applications for the distribution franchise.

Council discussions, Fuel Board hearings and other details concluded, the first installation work began in May of 1956. Distribution lines were installed on most streets and the commodity is now available for industry and commerce, as well as home use.

Assist In Expansion

United Gas Limited believes in the future of Acton. They expect to see their gas service not only keep pace with the industrial and domestic growth of Acton, but to be a constructive factor in the expansion and development of this area.

Because of its versatility, natural gas has over 25,000 different applications in industry, and has been put to work as a flexible, reliable processing tool. It is safe to say that gas plays an important part in the fabrication or production of almost every item used in the daily lives of the Canadian people.



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS, who protect the Acton area, are pictured above with some of their equipment. Shown front row, left to right, are Ted Allen, Bill Spielvogel, Bill Quennell, captain Bill Williams, captain Bern Van Fleet, captain Wayne Kelly, John Krapek, Harold Townsley and Doug McEachern. Second row Phil McCristall, Norm Price, Dorson Frizzell, chief Jack Newton, Wilf McEachern, Sam Tennant and J. H. Price. Back row Herb Dodds, Pat Waldie, Jack Pink, John Turkosz, Doug Mason, Alf Duby, Leo Synott and Harry Otterbein. Missing from picture are deputy-chief Mick Holmes, Don Van Fleet, Henry Bittorf and Wilfred Duval Jr.. Two of the brigade's trucks may be seen in the background.

Rx

A PRESCRIPTION FOR COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Good GAS service and plenty of it, 'round-the-clock and 'round-the-year, can be just what the doctor ordered to make your community grow.

It's a prescription your GAS company seeks to live up to, for the availability of GAS for industrial processing often is important in the location of new industry.

However, additional GAS supply and the underground mains and other facilities needed to deliver it to you can't be provided overnight.

That's why your privately-owned, tax-paying GAS company must risk investments in new manpower and overall expansion TODAY for your industrial, business and home needs of tomorrow. These investments make sure you'll always have the facilities available for your community's growth.

UNITED GAS LIMITED