

Table Linens

We have extra good value in Table Linens. We have a good 3/4 bleached Linen 53 inches wide for 25c, and 72 inches for 40c, and a fine bleached at 55c, an extra good one for 80c.

C. L. GRANT.

Durham Review.

Prints

Take time by the forelock and buy your prints and shirtings and get them made up now when you have time, for later on you will be too busy to sew. We have some patterns Crumm's Prints, and good value in shirtings.

C. L. GRANT.

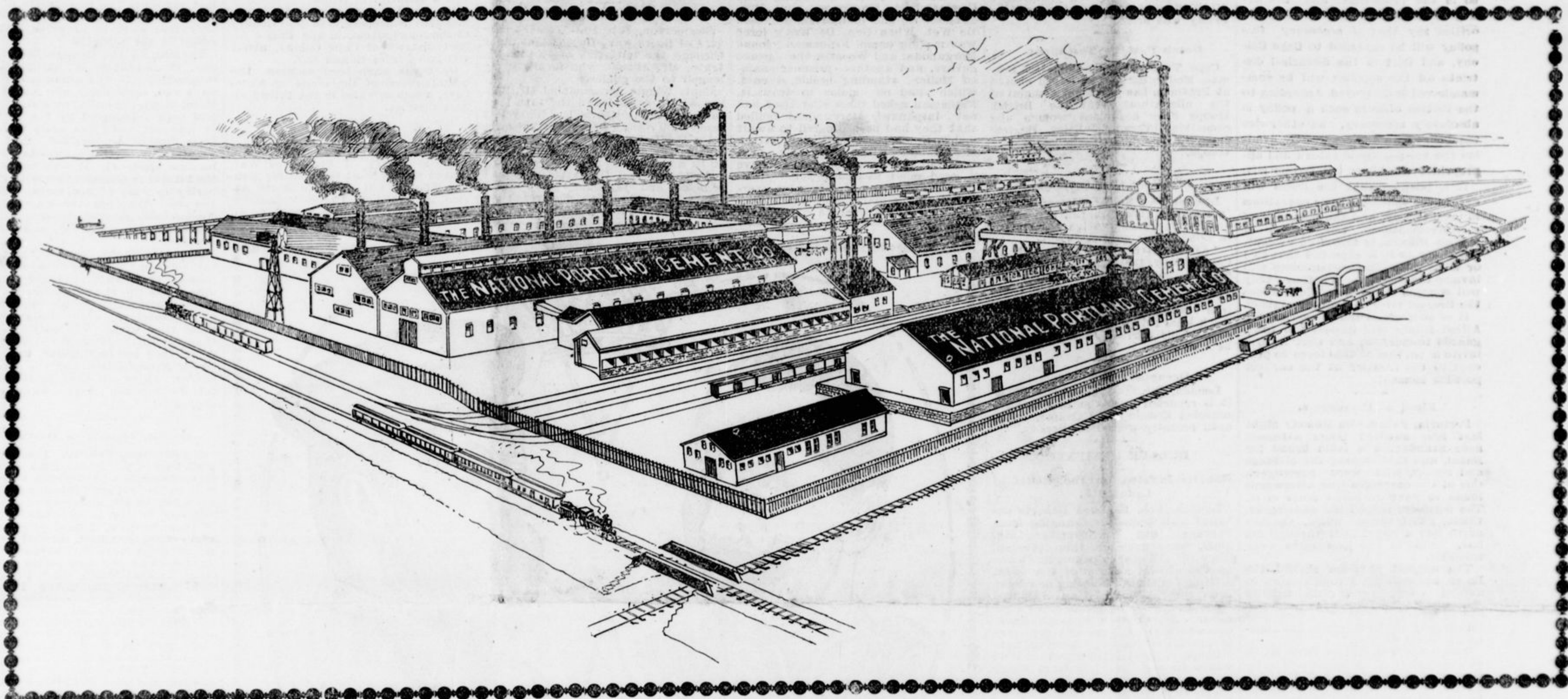
VOL. XXIII. NO. 7

DURHAM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1901.

WHOLE NO. 1195

OUTPUT 1,000 BARRELS PER DAY.

The Greatest Cement Mill In Canada.



THE NATIONAL PORTLAND CEMENT CO., Limited

To be Established in the Town of Durham.

Steps Taken to Develop the Marl Beds of Durham and Vicinity.

It is with more than usual satisfaction we are enabled this week to present to our readers a cut of the great Peninsular Portland Cement Co.'s Works near Jackson, Mich., a practical duplicate of which is to be established in Durham at an early date. The steps leading to this consummation form an interesting story and this week seems fitting to tell it. For years it has been known that our lakes and river banks showed a curious white material that was neither clay, sand nor gravel. Boys have delighted in "sticking" poles down long distances, observing on being brought up that at bottom there was a shell-like formation, but the interest was a passing one, no one ever dreaming that this depth of material was a commodity ultimately to be of great commercial value.

The founding of a few cement plants on a comparatively small scale some years ago, drew attention to the matter, but it was not till Mr. Neil McKechnie of this town gave some time, thought and interest to our marl beds that public attention was directed to our deposits and it speaks volumes for the perseverance of our townsman, that in the face of incredulity, and sometimes of derision he kept up his efforts.

At considerable expense, and at a great deal of trouble he explored the deposits round town, secured samples of the marl and submitted them to the Ontario government analyst, and with a view to the formation of a company got options on lands considered worth having. His enthusiasm became infectious at last, and a local company was formed, a charter secured, and the work of taking subscriptions begun. This was a hard and thankless task and might or might not have succeeded. However, over \$20,000 of the \$150,000 aimed at was secured when a sudden halt was made to consider propositions from a wealthy and experienced company introduced through Mr. R. H. McWilliams, of Owen Sound.

Mr. McWilliams came to Durham about Dec. 21st last and with a surprising amount of energy and business tact presented the claims of this company. So successful was he that the deal was practically completed in ten days and the new company became responsible for the developments. No small part of the credit of the rapid progress since is due to the skilful, kindly way in which McWilliams has brought them together.

This company was of no mushroom growth, nor was it seeking experience, for it got both in originating a vast cement enterprise near Jackson City, Mich., of a capacity exceeding anything yet attempted in Canada in that line, and by new methods and special machinery, all made from their own plans and specifications, they are prepared to cater on a gigantic scale to the growing demands for Portland Cement.

After some corresponding the new company asked and got the options already obtained by the local company, and allowing no holiday time to interfere with their purpose there came to town on New Year's eve the first contingent of the new company, and on New Year's Day, the first day of the century, and a cold one, struck out on a tour of exploration to ascertain the prospects for the establishment of the big industry here.

An examination of the water powers on our rivers was made, the deposits near town were visited, and the contingent left having formed a very favorable impression from their preliminary examination.

The delegation consisted of Mr W. F. Cowham, Managing Director of the great Michigan Company along with his chief Engineer, his Canadian Solicitor Mr. W. Finkerton of Toronto, Mr. P. W. Stanhope the Ontario General Manager of The McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, who is an old-time friend of Mr. Cowham, and Mr. McWilliams above named.

One result of their visit was the arrival of experts properly equipped to take systematic borings of all characters of Cement properties. They were accompanied and assisted by Mr. Wm. Calder, whose business tact has been freely given in these later stages. Samples were taken of these borings, and a record kept of depths, &c., in such a way that a perfect idea of the deposits could be formed. These have been submitted to expert analysts in the Co's employ, and their examination confirms that made by the Ontario analysts, viz.—that the marl is first class, containing about 98 per cent of carbonate of lime, (a very high proportion), and no sand nor other deteriorating mixtures.

Great activity was meanwhile being displayed in securing more options, purchasing valuable water powers, and so on, a greatly awakened local interest having taken place as a result of visits made by Messrs. Neil McKechnie, Wm. Calder, Charter Smith, Dr. Jamieson, John McKechnie, and Jas. A. Hunter to Cement city, Mich. where they saw the most modern and thoroughly equipped plant in the world which they had heard of, and like the Queen of Sheba were willing to admit "the half had never been told."

The works cover 8 or 10 acres, about 5 acres being actually under roof. The buildings are constructed of the most enduring material, steel and cement. They are absolutely fireproof, and in addition to what is seen above ground about as much more is found below. The machinery is of the newest design and the manufacture is also by the most modern methods. Workmen

and artists of the highest standing are employed, and the same plans and the same methods will be put in operation here in a few months. Some of the machinery has to be procured from Krupp, of Germany and all of it is high class. The cement plant to be established here will not be surpassed in the world, we are assured, for making a first-class, high grade Portland Cement.

Following up the work done, last Thursday, our town was honored by another visit from Messrs. Cowham, of Jackson city, Carman, of Stratford, Stanhope and Pinkerton, of Toronto, McWilliams, Owen Sound, together with Engineers in company with local men they examined sites available around town, for their enormous factory purposes and in the evening a hurried public meeting was called. The mayor took the chair, and Mr. Cowham, and Mr. Pinkerton candidly and plainly put before the large meeting of the ratepayers the steps already taken, the results of their test, their plans for the future, and the part they expected Durham to do. Mayor Calder, Dr. Jamieson, M. P. P., G. McKechnie, ex M. P. P., Messrs. John McKechnie, Wm. Laidlaw, Jas. A. Hunter and others all gave expression to the favorable impression they had formed of the men and the work after their visit to the Company's works in Michigan. Mr. Cowham assured the ratepayers that the raw material in the neighborhood was in almost inexhaustible quantities, sufficient anyway to furnish a possible output of 5000 barrels a day for 200 years!

The new company is capitalized at one million dollars, in ten thousand shares of one hundred dollars each, the charter has been secured, and President Cowham asked that Durham should carry out the previous arrangement made with the town viz., to subscribe for \$150,000 of the capital stock. It was decided to try this the next day. On Friday afternoon the stock books of the company were opened and the stock placed for sale on the market and in about four hours \$60,000 of the stock was sold, N. G. & J. McKechnie taking 250 shares, \$25,000 worth. We believe the whole amount asked for by Durham—\$150,000—will be sold in and around Durham in the next few days, so that parties desiring stock will have to apply soon to Messrs. Neil McKechnie, Mayor Calder, J. A. Hunter, Dr. Jamieson, or Gilbert McKechnie, who have taken charge of selling the stock for the town.

Such an industry as this means a great deal to the Grand Trunk Ry. On Friday, as a result of representations made to them, the G. T. R. was represented in town by their superintendent, engineers and surveyors, and along with the Cement company's officers and Engineers have gone over the ground, and the location of the site will be determined on at an early date as both Companies and the town council have the matter under consideration. The town gives a free site with no increase of present assessment. The Grand Trunk Railway with a characteristic courtesy that does them credit, have agreed to deliver 140 carloads of machinery at cost price, and have given rates for outward and inward haul which are eminently satisfactory.

This is the story we had to tell and we hope the rest of it will be eloquently told by the commencement of actual operations at an early date. The opinions formed by both parties in regard to each other seem to be of the highest, and we hope that mutual confidence will mark all future dealings, and that the National Portland Cement Co., located in Durham Ont., may become and remain a prosperous institution, a benefit to all parties concerned, and a credit to its originators and promoters.

The Durham Review,
E. Ramage, Publisher & Proprietor.

Local Matter on last Page and on Supplement,