

HISTORICAL OUTLINE - BRAKE SHOE COMPANY



1902---Incorporated on January 27, 1902 with W. D. Sargent as its first president.

1903---O. H. Cutler was elected president, succeeding Mr. Sargent.

Purchased McPherson Frog & Switch Company of Niagara Falls and consolidated it with the Ramapo Iron Works at Hillburn.

Acquired half-interest in Standard Brake Shoe Company.

1906---Organized the Canadian Ramapo Iron Works as a wholly owned subsidiary.

Commenced manufacturing manganese steel at Chicago Heights plant.

1908---F. W. Sargent constructed a full size Brake Shoe testing machine at Mahwah.

1910---Acquired control of the Edgar Allen American Manganese Steel Company.

Acquired Featherstone Foundry & Machine Company.

1911---Acquired Columbia Brake Shoe Company.

1913---Organized the Southern Wheel Company as a subsidiary of the ABS&F Co.

1915---Organized Dominion Brake Shoe Company, Ltd.

1916---Purchased the American Malleable Company which became a subsidiary of the ABS&F Co.

Organized Manganese Steel Rail Company.

Reincorporated the company under the laws of Delaware. (Formerly a New Jersey corporation.)

W. G. Pearce was elected president, succeeding Mr. Cutler who became chairman of the board of directors.

Company had 22 plants in operation, including those of its domestic subsidiaries.

1917---Acquired business and assets of Vulcan Brake Shoe & Equipment Company.

Acquired plants and assets of United States Brake Shoe Company.

1918---Organized the American Brake Shoe & Foundry Company of California to handle brake shoes and miscellaneous castings on the West Coast.

1919---Organized the Southern Foundry & Machine Company with one plant at Chattanooga. This leased to an outside group.

J. B. Terbell was elected president, succeeding Mr. Pearce who became chairman of the executive committee.

1920---Organized American Forge Company under control of ABS&F Co.

Acquired plant and equipment of Colorado Brake Shoe & Foundry Company.

- 1922---Ramapo Ajax Corporation was organized with our company a controlling factor.
- 1923---Acquired National Car Wheel Company which became part of Southern Wheel Co.
Acquired minority interest in Southern Manganese Steel Company.
- 1924---Acquired Pittsburgh Brake Shoe Company.
Acquired Pennsylvania Castings & Machine Works.
Acquired Elliot Frog & Switch Company which became a part of Ramapo Ajax Corp.
- 1926---Formed American Brake Materials Corp. to manufacture American Brakeblok brake lining.
- 1927---Ramapo Ajax Corp. acquired controlling interest in the Magnetic Signal Co.
- 1928---Formed the Racor Pacific Frog & Switch Company.
Acquired controlling interest in National Bearing Metals Corp. of St. Louis.
- 1929---W. B. Given, Jr. was elected president of the company. Mr. Terbell served as board chairman until his death in 1931.
- 1930---Dissolved the Southern Manganese Steel Company.
- 1932---Ramapo Ajax Corp. acquired controlling interest in the Manganese Steel Rail Co.
- 1933---Organized a Research Dept. with headquarters at AMSCO Chicago Heights plant.
- 1934---Constructed Sargent Research Laboratory at Mahwah. Installed improved brake shoe testing machine.
- 1936---Dissolved American Malleables Company.
" Southern Foundry & Machine Company.
" Manganese Steel Rail Company.
Southern Wheel became a Division of the company.
Constructed the Metallurgical Research Laboratory at Mahwah.
Set-up Fadil in Paris, France, as a distributing corporation.
- 1937---Dissolved Ramapo Ajax Corp.
Ramapo Ajax became a Division of the company.
Formed American Manganese Steel Division of the company.
Formed American Brakeblok Division of the company.
Formed American Forge Division of the company.
- 1938---Dissolved the American Brake Shoe & Foundry Company of California.
Formed the Pacific Coast Division of the company.
- 1939---Acquired Kellogg Manufacturing Company of Rochester, N. Y.
Formed the Kellogg Division of the company.
Formed Brake Shoe & Castings Division of the company.
Company had 47 plants in operation excluding 3 plants of its foreign subsidiaries and 8 plants of the National Bearing Corp.
- 1940---Acquired Great Lakes Forge Company of Chicago. This became part of Amforge Division for manufacture of drop forgings.
- 1941---Dissolved Pacific Coast Division, merging it with BS&C Division.

1943---Acquired Crown Spray Gun Mfg. of Los Angeles, which became part of Kellogg Division.

Acquired Electro-Alloys Corp. of Elyria, Ohio, as a subsidiary for production of high nickel chromium alloys.

Changed the name of the company to American Brake Shoe Company.

1944---Formed the National Bearing Division of the company.

Formed the Electro-Alloys Division of the company.

Completed construction of the Experimental Foundry at the Research Center, Mahwah, N. J.

1945---Commenced extensive plant replacement program.

1946---Acquired Joliette Steel, Ltd., at Joliette, Quebec, Canada, which became a subsidiary for manufacture of manganese castings in Canada.

Acquired Progressive Foundry Works, Inc., at Rochester, N. Y.

Formed Engineered Castings Division from Progressive Foundry Works.

1947---Completed plant replacement program.

New plants at: Meadville, Pa.

Niles, Ohio

Elyria, Ohio

Meadow Lands, Pa.

Winchester, Va.

Lindsay, Ont., Canada

Chemical Research Laboratory, Mahwah, N. J.

1948---Acquired Morden Frog & Crossing Works at Chicago, Ill. This became a part of Ramapo Ajax Division.

1949---Acquired former million dollar government plant at Buffalo, N. Y., which was integrated into Ramapo Division. Ramapo closed its old plants at Hillburn, N. Y., and Niagara Falls, N. Y.