



The BAKELITE/Union Carbide World 1909-1940

As Reported by the BB Site Tabloid, "The Trefoil"

with the few hot mold parts, permitted the plant to operate for about 18 months. In the late winter of 1922, the company went into liquidation and ceased operation until May 1922.

Change and Disaster - At that time the late Harry Corey interested Dr. L.V. Redman in the affairs of the company which was reorganized under the title, "The Electroplax Company of Canada, Limited". In this setup, Mr. Corey was President and General Manager, Mr. Davidson was Manager of Sales and Mr. Rathbun was Factory Manager. In July 1922, Mr. Davidson joined the organization as Chemist. In addition to the production of cold and a very small amount of hot molding compound, August 1922 witnessed the first real attempt to produce laminated products on a commercial scale. The impregnated paper was imported from Formica and pressed in Toronto. The finished product left much to be desired. On November 13, 1922, the plant was completely wiped out by fire and in the eight months following, during which there was no production, unfilled orders were taken care of by the Cutler-Hammer (Milwaukee) plant.

A New Start - February 1923 marked the reorganization of the company as "Electroplax Limited" under the Bakelite Company. Mr. Davidson became General Manager and Mr. Campbell, Factory Manager. The new plant was located at 163 Dufferin Street, Toronto in a disused wartime aeroplane plant. The only production at first in this new company was cold mold compounds and parts. Instead of C-H compounds, however, a compound based on a formula of Mr. V.H. Turkington, was produced. The manufacture of this class of goods persisted until 1929. Later in 1923, hot mold presses were set up and a general custom molding shop in hot and cold mold was established. In August of that year, John Buchan was transferred from the Chicago plant to take charge of the molding operations. During the latter part of this year and into 1924, Clarence Nash of the Bloomfield plant, was located at Toronto. In 1924, the laminating department was started under the guidance of Harry P. Mills.

Expansion At Last - In 1925 it was found necessary to secure extra space and the north half of the building at 163 Dufferin Street was leased. The added floor space was utilized to take care of the expansion in the laminating department and the installation of a hot mold plastic department. The installation of this department and the commencement of manufacture of plastic under the able tutelage of Mr. Frank P. Brock was the end of this type of building development. From then on, development consisted chiefly of expansion or curtailment of existing processes. In 1928 Mr. Buchan took over the supervision of the laminating production and fabricating in place of Mr. Mills who had been sent to Europe. The cessation of cold mold production in 1929 was followed in 1931 by that of hot molding. Laminating fabrication continued to 1935 as did the tool shop for custom production molding tools.

Shrinking markets due to the depression, coupled with the effect of trade wars in the United States, have militated against any spectacular advance in the affairs of the Canadian Company. With the return of some hope for increased prosperity, however, the business outlook has