GROWTH OF THE CHICAGO PLANT

The Chicago plant has grown enormously from the original little Calumet Paint factory. Back in 1000 the Pullman Car Company offered to sell this plant to Sherwin-Williams. They felt that paint production was somewhat beyond them and they would be better off to depend upon a good paint manufacturer. So Sherwin-Williams bought this little plant, present building No. 10, built by the Pullman Company for manufacturing their railway paints. The equipment included 1 stone mill, 12 small iron mills for coach colors; also a slag crusher, a pulverizer, and 2 stone mills for making freight car paints. Mr. George A. Martin was employed in 1890 as superintendent. The factory staff was one dozen men.

PICTURE NO. 1
(Calumet Paint Co.)

The Chicago plant today occupies over 100 acres, 160 buildings, 1,300,000 square feet of floor space and employs about 2,500 people. It produces paints, varnishes, lacquers, synthetic resins, dry and dispersed colors, chemical products, turpentine, specialties, and tin cans. Many new and original products and manufacturing processes have been developed using the most modern equipment.

PICTURE NO. 2
(air plane photo)

In 1899 the old Calumet factory equipment was removed and replaced with 12 30-inch standard 3-H liquid paint mills, mixers, and thinning tanks. The chief products were CMP, floor enamel, roof paints.

PICTURE NO. 3

In 1903 office and warehouse buildings, now No. 13 and No. 15, were erected. The Chicago city office and warehouse were consolidated with the factory at Kensington. The Western Region office has since been moved to the city at 300 West Lake Street

PICTURE NO. 4

In 1903 the Dry Color and Insecticide Departments were installed, consolidating the manufacture of these products in Chicago, now buildings No. 110-111. In 1936 insecticide manufacture was all transferred to Round Brook. There have been many additions to the Dry Color Department including in 1929 the manufacture of dispersed colors. (Consult Mr. Doty for further data on dry color and dispersed color production and equipment, and include pictures of present facilities.

PICTURE NO. 5

A White Lead Department using the Dutch Process was established in 1910, buildings No. 200-220. A quick process plant corroding lead in cylinders was added in 1921. The old Dutch Process was discontinued in 1943. In 1949 because of the decline in white lead as a paint pigment, the manufacture of white lead was discontinued.

PICTURE NO. 6

This building No. 800 is now a new department for the manufacture of enamels. (Consult Mr. Oren for details of equipment, productive capacity, and photographs.)

PICTURE NO. 7

At the beginning of the war with Germany in 1914 it was no longer possible to procure intermediates for dry color manufacture from Germany. It was decided to manufacture such products for ourselves. The first attempt was to make beta naphthol. The work naturally fell to the Dry Color Department, but it was soon found that the problem was more complicated than could be handled by them, so a new Chemical Products Department was started. Dr. Hay, a Swiss who had some experience in manufacturing intermediates in Germany, was engaged also several chemists of many nationalities were employed. The chief products were beta naphthol, paranitraniline, M.N.P.T., and many others. Because it was impossible to procure any of these items from Germany every effort was made to get into production quickly. Speed was the key note. As the manufacture of M.N.P.T. started, one of the first batches exploded and destroyed the building. However, in a comparatively short time the processes were simplified and the Chemical Products plant began to operate quite smoothly. Dr. Van Otone and Wyatt Miller were the pioneers in developing this plant.

PICTURE NO. 8

Consult Mr. Banbury for details regarding dibutyl phthate and phthalic anhydride.

PICTURE NO. 9

The Tin Can Department was transferred from Cleveland to Chicago in 1920. The present annual capacity is _____. (Consult Mr. Day for further data regarding present capacity of the plant and for details in connection with manufacture of black iron and lithographed cans.)

PICTURE NO. 10 or
(better one and picture of lithograph equipment.)

Building No. 23 was erected in 1921 to provide additional equipment for the manufacture of high-quality enamels and other liquid paints. The equipment was 15 tandem mills, 4 Fuller mills, 30 mixers, and 30 thinning tanks. The daily capacity was 4,000 gallons. (Consult Mr. Oren for the up-to-date details on this department.)

PICTURE NO. 11

About 1920 heavy demand had developed for quick-drying finishes for automobiles. The oleoresinous type of finish then used was too slow and greatly retarded the production of automobiles. Nitrocellulose lacquers were developed and reduced finishing time to a few hours. D-M began lacquer manufacture in buildings No. 510-516 in 1922. Dr. Van Otone was in charge and Fred Lang and Cash Dedert were then employed. Many industrial product lacquers are now sold under the name OTTO. (Consult Mr. Lang and Mr. Dedert for further data.)

PICTURE NO. 12

The Allied Research Laboratory was established in 1935 on the top floor of building No. 53A to consolidate research and development of paint, enamel, and vehicle formulas for Sherwin-Williams and the Affiliated Companies. (Consult Dr. Van Loo for further data and particular mention of Weatherbird (WP.)

PICTURE NO. 13

In 1938 a synthetic resin varnish plant was installed for the manufacture of alkyd, phenolic, and similar varnishes which were rapidly replacing the old natural-resin varnishes. (Consult Mr. Schneider for possible additional data on the current large kettle equipment.)

PICTURES NO. 14 and 15

S-W was a leader in the development of water emulsion paints and in 1941 complete equipment was installed for the manufacture of Kem-Tone in building No. 18. Additional equipment for making Super Kem-Tone was added in this building in 1949. (Consult Mr. Cram for picture and details.)

PICTURE NO. 16

In 1941 a new warehouse building No. 26 was erected, floor space 215,000 square feet, 5 stories. It provided space for stock of the wide variety of products sold. The equipment is very modern. (Consult Mr. Collier for further data.)

PICTURES NO. 17 and 18

In 1942 an additional Chemical Products building No. 650 was erected to produce many items required for military use. This included many special chemicals for explosives, sulfa, and other drugs, and other special chemicals. (Consult Mr. Seabury for further data and pictures.)

PICTURE NO. 19

In 1946 a new power plant was erected to provide steam and compressed air beyond the electrical power procured from outside sources. Equipped with most modern boilers, air compressors, auxiliary machinery, coal and ash-handling devices. (Procure satisfactory picture showing at least one interior of the power house, probably the boiler room.)

PICTURES NO. 20 and 21

1950. The old Power Plant Building No. 90 is now devoted to modern varnish storage tanks.

PICTURE NO. 22

The Chicago staff need relaxation to off-set the strain of a busy day. Many activities serve this purpose. More important is summer baseball. Reproduce from "Baseball Opener" picture page 14, May, 1947 WORLD, or possibly you have a photograph in the Chicago files.

PICTURE NO. 23

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PICTURES for CHICAGO STORY

Picture No. 3	Being unable to locate this, I suggest you have a local printer do the best he can to duplicate the detail shown in the Chicago story in the enclosed May, 1947 WORLD.
Picture No. 6	Original not available. Duplicate from picture in WORLD of 1910 White Lead.
Picture No. 8	Unable to locate original 1914-18 Chemical Products Dept. picture. Duplicate as well as possible from WORLD picture.
Picture No. 9	Consult Mr. Newbury for pictures of current Chemical Products equipment.
Picture No. 15	Consult Mr. Schneider for current pictures of alkyd varnish kettles.
Picture No. 16	Consult Mr. Crum for possible picture showing current Kem-Tone and Super Kem-Tone equipment.