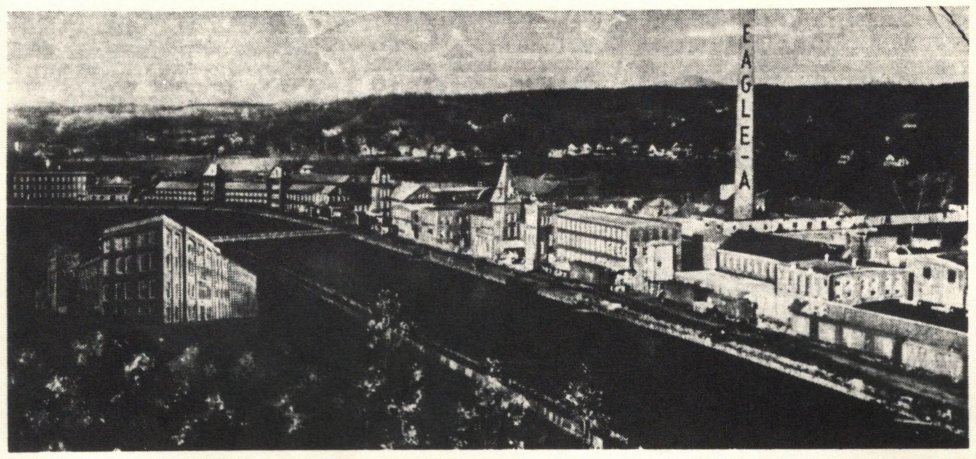
A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF A.W.P. AT HOLYOKE

WE DID OUR BEST — Mill Manager C. A. "Buster" Cordwell, and Vice President and Treasurer Hugh Jordan, discuss Sulphite Mill operations on night of shutdown. Jordan is a past manager of the Sulphite Division. Heavy cuts in operating costs were instituted by both, but could not avert final shutdown.



THE EAGLE-A MILLS AT HOLYOKE — This view was taken from the top of a water tank across the canal from American Writing Paper Division's mills at Holyoke, Mass. The mill in the insert is the Linden Mill, located on Jackson Street in downtown Holyoke. It produces technical and engineering papers. In rear, left to right beyond the canal, is the Crocker Mill (bonds, ledgers and cover stock), Albion Mill (paper converting and finishing mill) with its two towers, Mt. Tom (check base stock), then the General Office building, Nonotuck (with tower) where papetries and vellum papers are made, Gill Mill (matchboards from a cylinder machine).

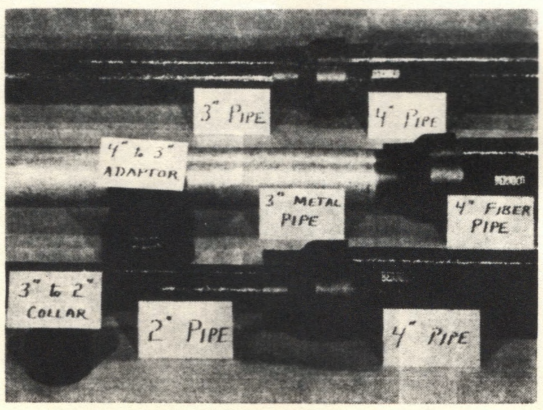
SULPHITE DIVISION'S FINAL NIGHT — Gathered at the Burgess Mill last Friday night when the stock was "run out" were (left to right) Manager of Special Services Roland E. Fickett, Sulphite Division Vice President J. J. McDonald, Mill Manager C. A. Cordwell and General Superintendent Fred Hayes. No smiles are on the faces of these men, sulphite pulp operations have been their life work at Brown Company.

Railway Safety Record Broken

The Berlin Mills Railway, which had gone 834 consecutive days or more than 27 months without a lost-time accident, had its record broken March 21st. when a veteran employee slipped while climbing down from a box car.

According to brakeman Joe Jeffrey, who has 38 years of Company seniority and 29 years with the Railway, the slip caused his chest to strike sharply against the side of the ladder, causing contusions and bruises which were painful enough to force him, finally, to report the accident and take a few days off from work until the injuries were healed.

With the Railway's span of 2 years and 3 months without an accident broken, the departments which are now leading in the safety standings are Once—over 400 days without an accident, Cascade Maintenance Department—with 193 days, and the Wood Handling Department—with 181 days of accident free operations.



NEW ADAPTOR — The photo shows how a length of 4" fiber pipe (at right) may be joined to a similar piece of 3" fiber pipe (top left), or when threaded, to a section of 3" metal conduit or pipe (center left), or by using a special collar, directly to a length of 2" fiber pipe (bottom left). The new adaptor is unique to the fiber pipe industry, another new Bermico product for better service to customers.

New Bermico Distributor Visits Berlin

Nineteen sales representatives of Robinson Clay Products Company of Akron, Ohio, headed by the firm's vice president and general sales manager, visited Berlin on February 4-5 to hold a general sales meeting and at the same time, to become acquainted with Brown Company and its fiber pipe operations.

Also present at the meetings were Bermico sales representatives and other Brown Company representatives, who described the Company, its history, products and present operations, and the manufacture and sale of bituminous fiber pipe.

Robinson Clay Products Company is a large distributor of building materials. Its operations are centered at Akron, Ohio, but the firm has warehouses at various locations between Boston, Mass., and Indianapolis, Ind., and as far south as North Carolina.

Purpose of the Berlin meetings was to become completely familiar with bituminous fiber pipe, which Robinson plans to handle as part of its building material line.

Representing Brown Company were Robert Cross, general sales manager of the Bermico Division, Russell Doucet, plant manager, Bob Thayer and E. W. Lovering, senior research chemist for Bermico, who demonstrated tests to show the strength of Bermico pipe. H. J. Kepple and Gene Doyle, both of the Bermico sales division, also attended the meeting.

Other meetings of the group were held at the Berlin Community Club. A tour of the Bermico mill was also scheduled as part of the agenda.

SULPHITE FOREMEN RETIRE — Maintenance personnel got together at Burgess for probably the last retirement picture ever taken in that mill. This was the occasion of the retirement of Arthur Roberge, a 49-year man, and Thorvalde Arneson, with 43 years of service. Front row, l. to r., George Tardiff, Manager of Maintenance H. J. Blakney, Mr. Arneson, Mr. Roberge, Maintenance Engineer Ed Chodoski. Second row, Fred Riley, Wilfred W. Roy, Jim Cooney, Jeff Bergeron, Chief Construction Engineer Paul Anderson, Ray Albert, Jim Eadie, Laurier Renaud. Back row, Pat Coffin, Gerry Laperle, Andrew Peters, Archie Martin, Rene Gagnon, Louis Gallant and Angus Morrison.

Thorvald Arneson, machine shop foreman, and Arthur Roberge, tinsmith foreman, both of the Burgess Mill, terminated their working careers with Brown Co. on March 30th. and will retire effective June 1st.

Roberge and Arneson are both natives of Berlin and attended local schools.

Roberge has been employed continuously by the Company since October 1, 1913 with one temporary leave of absence for military duty during World War I. He became a tinsmith in 1919, and has headed the department as its foreman since December 1946.

Arneson was first hired in 1915, worked for the Company for 3 years, then left for a 4-year period, returning in October 1922 as a machinist. He became foreman of the machine shop in February 1952.

Recollections Of Burgess

Herb Spear, retired former manager of the Burgess Sulphite Mill, has many interesting recollections of his work at that mill since he was hired as a chemical engineering graduate of M.I.T. in 1907.

One of the first was his recollection of the strike which took place in 1906, when the men employed at Burgess rebelled against their two-shift work day.

"They worked 11 and 13," Herb stated. "That meant that one shift was 11 hours long, and the other was 13 hours long."

The strike lasted at least 3 weeks if not longer and ended when the Burgess Sulphite Fiber Company management decided to go on a 3-shift, 8-hour basis.

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"We sold anywhere from 20 to 25 cars of wet press pulp to American Writing Paper Company each week. This was about 25% of our total production at Burgess. They used it for fine bond papers, mixed with rag. When we started making bond paper at Riverside, I understood that was the reason why we lost the AWP business."

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The hour and a half lunch period at the Company was in effect as long ago as 1907 and it was to give office people a chance to go home to lunch. They had to walk, as there was no surface transportation such as automobiles at that time.

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Herb Spear said he had a 7-day work week, in the Technical Department. His hours were from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with an hour and a half off for lunch. Six days were spent in the lab. On Sunday he had to gauge the screen plates. Then the Company paid for a telephone for him so he could be called at night and on Sunday. Production men worked 8 hours.

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During the period between about 1915 and 1925, Brown Company's sulphite pulp produced at Burgess was the world's standard for this type of pulp. Other pulps had to come up to it, in terms of quality.

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Hardwood sulphite pulp for cellophane was first made on January 14, 1930. Alpha pulp was produced starting in 1924 and the Company started to supply Eastman Kodak in 1927. In 1941, the Company made pulp for nitrocellulose which was then nitrated by Hercules Power Company.

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"No. 16 digester blew apart on August 12, 1930 about 3:00 p.m. A strap gave way and it blew out the wall on the west wall of the digester house. We thought that acid penetrated the brick lining of the digester wall, but no one knows for sure what the cause of the explosion was . . . . . I hate to admit it, but at the time, I was playing golf at Gorham with W. R. Brown. We got back to Berlin in a hurry!"

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"The secret of the high quality of pulp made at the Burgess Mill was exact following of the charts made up to guide all operators. They had to keep track of everything they did, and everything was checked carefully. It took a large crew just to do this—perhaps too large a group. Any deviation from the charts had to be explained."

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"Our employees took a tremendous pride in their work and the product which they made. This was one of the secrets of the success of the Company and the outstanding quality of its products."

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"I was very happy at the Burgess Mill. We had a good product and a good crew. We were always working on something new. We tried all sorts of things to improve our production."

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"When I first came to Berlin in 1907, this was a pretty tough town, believe me! I said to myself, 'You'd better watch out, kiddo.' There was a bar on every corner, and a fight in every one of them. A foreman had to be able to lick every man in his crew, and sometimes he had to prove it."

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"The troubles we had in recent years were not due to lack of knowing how to make pulp—they were due to the condition of the mill."

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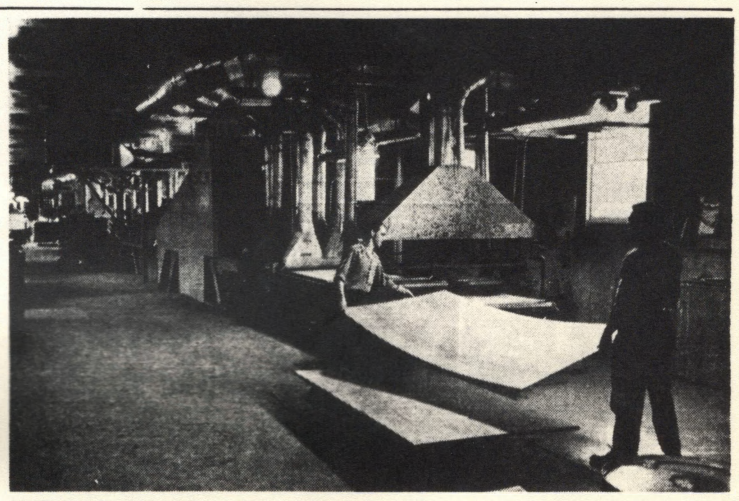
"We had what I consider to be the best quality control that the mill ever had. There was a crew of 6 or 8 people analyzing our reports from production, and keeping the foremen and manager of the mill right on the job to meet our standards. There was complete control of everything from the woodroom right down to the shipping department'.'



PREFINISHED PLYWOOD — North Stratford's latest product is prefinished hardwood plywood for interior panels in homes, offices and other places. Each 4'x8' sheet is first coated with a sealer which brings out the grain and color of the veneer. Infra red heat lamps dry the sealer. Then the same conveyer system takes the plywood panel through another piece of coating equipment which applies the special lacquer giving the sheet its clear glass-hard outer finish. Another battery of heat lamps dries this coating. Then a final conveyer paralleling the first one, but in the opposite direction, brings the finished sheets of plywood back to their starting point where two men pile them between oiled sheets of paper, and band the piles for shipment to the market place. North Stratford ships its entire output of prefinished plywood to U. S. Plywood, which markets the product under the trade name WELDWOOD.

New Addition To Mill At No. Stratford

The new "green end" room at the plywood mill at North Stratford is fast becoming a reality, and when completed in about 6 weeks, will give the mill the most efficient and modern set-up in the plywood industry.

The "green end" is the part of the veneer mill into which logs first enter after they have been steamed for 24 hours in large tanks of hot water outside the mill.

When a log enters the "green end", it is first cut to the exact length required for the lathes, with an electric powered chain saw which cuts off a small amount at each end.

Then a skilled employee with an ax cuts off any projections such as burls or other defects in the log, and often cuts into the log to remove other imperfections which might damage the blades of the veneer lathe. This is done in a matter of seconds.

From this point the log is rolled on steel rails to the debarking lathe, where bark is removed; then to the round-up lathe which shapes the log in the form of a rough cylinder.

After the log has passed through the round-up lathe, it goes to one of the two veneer lathes where it is peeled into a continuous sheet of hot steaming veneer. The veneer will be rolled up, like paper at the end of a paper machine, or it may be clipped into sheets directly as it comes from the lathe. Conveyers then take it into the dryer where almost all moisture is removed.

The new green room at North Stratford is a large concrete block addition to the mill and measures 80' x 170'. It was completed late last fall, and replaces one of the original parts of the mill.

Work on the green room was held up during the winter, because much of the new equipment could not be supplied by the manufacturer. It has now been delivered and installed, and in about 2 weeks, the switch-over will take place.

Now installed in the green room is one new veneer lathe. A second one will be moved from the old green room. Two new unreelers, two automatic clippers and two roll clippers have been installed. The old debarking lathe and old round-up lathe are being moved from the old room. And a new conveyer dryer is still to be installed.

As Vice President Allie Salls says, "This new layout will increase our yield and lower our costs still further. Less veneer will go into chips, and we will save every bit of the log even if the strip of veneer is only 12" or so wide."

CASCADE RETIREMENT — Gardner Webb, Promenade Street, Gorham, who has worked continuously in the Stock Preparation Department at the Cascade Mill since December 1919 when he was first employed, has retired with 43 years of service. Mr. Webb was born in Jefferson, educated in Whitefield schools, and served in the United States Army in 1918 before starting to work at the Company. He has been principally engaged in making sizing added to the stock before the paper is made. Left to right, Emile Gagne, Lucien Couture, Mr. Webb, Clarence Robinson, Leon Delaney and Albert Blanchette.