



**BUSINESS SERIES 2a**

# Manufacturing

Of the many manufacturing companies established in Dunedin from the early 1880s, quite a few became leaders in their field. Some of these firms eventually followed the population growth to the North Island. Others adapted their operations by establishing new plants or branches in strategic areas around the country. Some manufacturers continued solely at their southern plants, relying on lower wage rates in the south to offset the cost of transport to the major markets in the north, but when national awards became the pattern from the 1960s, they could no longer compete and a number of them closed.

The Hocken Collections include significant holdings of manufacturing company records, and Bulletins 53 and 54 will provide a starting point for anyone wishing to research particular subject headings. This Bulletin, No. 53, concentrates on the heavier industries and such generalised industries as Tanning, Paper manufacture and Printing; and No. 54 will deal more with the manufacturing of consumer goods.

## CONSTRUCTION

An interesting archive on the records of **William McLellan Ltd**, a major Dunedin construction firm in the period 1910–1966, contains job costings for 1911–44, debtors' ledgers for 1929–36, wages books and time records for 1940–43, and a quantity of surveying records for 1912–23. More importantly, there are also more than 400 plans of alterations to buildings, as well as new buildings, private homes and other structures, many of the plans having been drawn by leading Dunedin architects.

The Hocken also holds some accounting and daybooks for the Milton builder and hardware merchant, **Arthur Littlejohn & Son**, 1910–43.

**Fulton Hogan Ltd**, which commenced business in Dunedin in 1933, grew to become one of Otago's largest businesses before the head office of the company transferred to Christchurch at the end



*Cossens & Black's yard, Dunedin, c.1900, with new iron pipes for Central Otago gold sluicing prominent [c/n E953/42A]*

of 2001. The company specialised in roading and construction, quarries and aggregates, and now not only operates nationwide, but also in Australia and the Pacific Islands. No archives of this company are held at the Hocken, but researchers can consult A.R.Tyrrell's *The Fulton Hogan Story 1933–1993*, which was published by the company in 1992.

### ENGINEERING

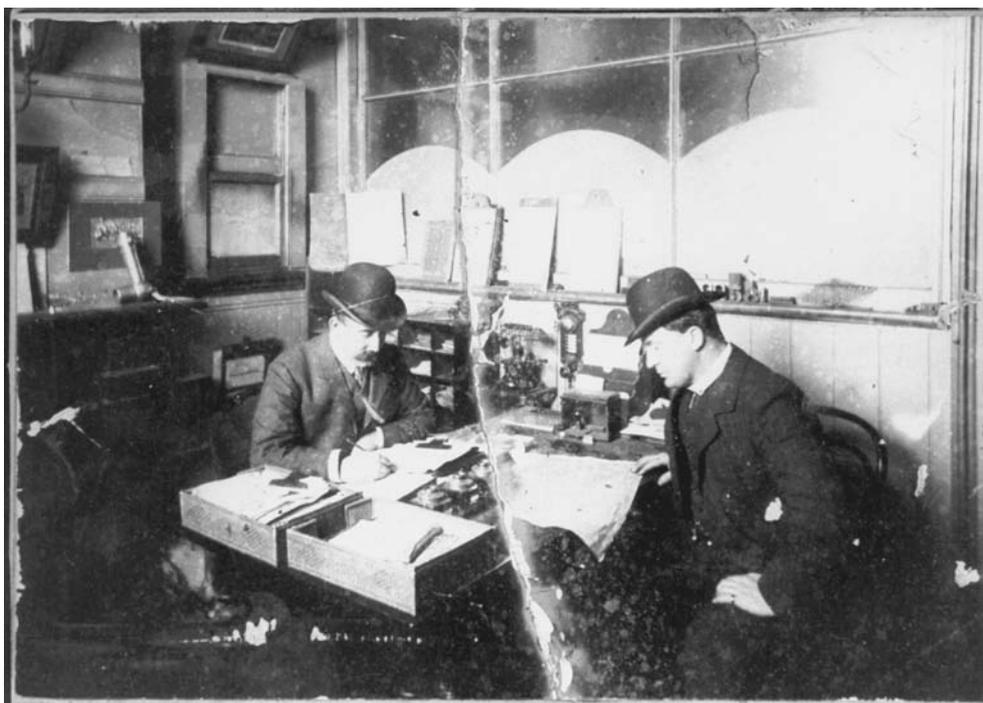
Companies involved in engineering were still dealing in iron when William Wilson and David Mason established the **Otago Foundry** in 1860. John McGregor and Thomas Gillies acquired the foundry in 1894, and **John McGregor & Company** became an important engineering works, providing special expertise with shipping repairs and gold-dredging equipment, as well as dealing with a multitude of engineering jobs around Otago and Southland. It became a limited liability company in 1911. The company also built several vessels, including the Otago Harbour ferries *Waikana* and *Waireka*, and in 1912, the lake steamer *Earnslaw*. Although few financial records of this company are held in the Hocken Collections, the Invoice, Indent and Fitting Shop order books give a rich insight into the multitude of engineering jobs the company undertook. The archive includes photographs of, and the actual contract for building the *Earnslaw*. The company ceased trading in 1988. Although few records exist of the Otago Foundry, a 27-page booklet produced by Margaret Hunter in 1965 tells

*The Story of William Wilson*. McGregor had early links with another Dunedin partnership established by **Wilkinson and Callon** in 1880. From 1896 to 1905, the two businesses occupied the same premises. The Wilkinson Callon archives in the Hocken mainly involve accounting records, some photographs, a few pages on the history of the company, a minute book for 1910–1964 and more recent annual reports, 1980–2000. Specialising in steel castings, Wilkinson Callon was sold to Bradford Kendall, of Newcastle, NSW, in 1964 and still operates in Dunedin under the name of Bradken Pty Ltd.

Another significant archive held by the Hocken is that of the engineering, plumbing, ventilating & heating, sheet-metal and electrical firm, **A. & T. Burt Ltd**, which began operations in Dunedin in 1862 and subsequently expanded all over New Zealand, opening branches at Wellington (1893), Christchurch (1897), Invercargill (1903), Auckland (1904), Timaru (1908), Wanganui (1947) and Hastings (1954). The archives include newspaper clippings and photographs, catalogues, legal documents, accounting records and wages books, directors' minutes for 1897–1952, and annual reports for 1934, 1936–63 and 1965–70. In addition there are some 550 drawings of specialist projects undertaken by the company. Included among the archives is a 48-page illustrated booklet covering the history of the company from 1862 to 1912, and a subsequent booklet (including an interleaved chronology) issued by the company in 1962 for its



Men at work at Wilson & Wilson, cycle engineers in St Andrew St, Dunedin [c/n E1760/21]



Mr W. A. Burt's private office at A. & T. Burt's premises c.1900 — in the days before managerial opulence reached New Zealand! [c/n E3762/14]

centennial. In 1972, B.W. Jackson wrote an essay on A. & T. Burt entitled *Growth and Development of a New Zealand Company*.

**Cossens & Black Ltd**, which later entered the motor trade in 1916 as the agent for Dodge motors, was initially established in Dunedin as an engineering firm in 1874, the original partners being Thomas Cossens and Alexander Black. The substantial archive contains minute books for 1899–1939, cash books for 1874–1979, wages books 1885–1970, journals 1892–1971, ledgers 1874–1967, daybooks 1939–1962, letter books 1901–08, correspondence 1947–67, IRD returns 1937–61, and stock books, sales analyses etc, as well as information listing more than 300 jobs undertaken by the company. See also the *Articles of Association* (1899).

The archives of **Farra Dunedin Engineering Ltd** (established in 1863) mainly contain accounting records, though store books exist for 1886–1982. The Otago Iron Rolling Mills, which commenced business in 1887, acquired Farra Bros in 1949, followed by A.L. & C. Currie in 1956, and Newberry Walker in 1957; but the Otago Iron Rolling Mills itself closed in 1953. In 1969, Farra Bros & Currie Newberry Walker amalgamated with Dunedin Engineering & Steel Company Ltd (est. 1868), but the companies continued to operate separately for many years. The company now trades as Farra Engineering.

The archive of the engineering firm **J. & W. Faulkner Ltd** mainly comprises 150 engineering drawings, although a 1914 catalogue of iron and brass bedsteads

made by the company is held in the Wilkinson Callon archives. Faulkners were specialists in the manufacture of wrought-iron gates, fire escapes, railings, bedsteads and the like. After being taken over by Sharland & Co., J. & W. Faulkner eventually closed in September 1987.

The Hocken also holds a small archive of papers from Wilson & Wilson, engineers at 97 St Andrews St, including a few correspondence files from 1936–1940s, details of accounts outstanding, machinery orders and employee references.

A pioneer in the manufacture of coal ranges, Henry Shacklock set up business in 1871, and the limited liability company of **H.E. Shacklock Ltd** was formed in 1900. Although the company's Orion coal ranges had held a dominant position in the market as long as coal remained the main source of energy, Shacklocks struggled with the new technology as electric ranges began to take over. In 1955 Fisher & Paykel Ltd of Auckland acquired the company. Since then, Fisher & Paykel has consolidated its position as New Zealand's leading supplier of home appliances and has retained links with the Shacklock base in Dunedin by building an extensive manufacturing plant at Mosgiel.

The Hocken Collections hold a limited archive of H.E. Shacklock records, including minute books and accounting records for the period 1900–1941, along with some catalogues, photographs and details of patents. A centennial history, written by John Angus and entitled *The Ironmasters—The First Hundred Years of H.E. Shacklock Ltd*, was published in 1973.

[R.F.Wyber's 1970 thesis for a Master of Arts degree at Otago, entitled 'Engineering in the Sixties, a decade of expansion and progress: a geographical case study of the manufacturing, engineering and metal working industry of Dunedin during the decade 1960–1970', highlights the transport difficulties faced by Dunedin industries so far from their main markets, but the study covers the issue in general terms, without much reference to individual companies. The 237pp thesis is held in the Central Library.]

### FERTILISER

In 1881 the New Zealand Government offered a bonus for three years to any company that would manufacture 50 tons of sulphuric acid per year. Before this, the acid was brought from Australia as deck cargo and when the weather was severe it was the first commodity jettisoned. As a result there were often shortages. The Dunedin firm of **Kempthorne Prosser & Co's N.Z. Drug Company**, took up the challenge and was the first in the country to mix sulphuric acid and bone dust to make super phosphate. The plant at Burnside was the first in New Zealand. Guano (the accumulated droppings of sea birds) had from 1867 been brought in sailing ships from the Pacific Islands and it was also used with the acid. Kempthorne also developed the second super-phosphate plant at Westfield, Auckland, in 1887, and those at Hornby, near Christchurch, in 1922 and Wanganui in 1926.

Hocken holds a significant Kempthorne Prosser archive (8.1 lineal metres), embracing the minute books for 1873–1902, 1904–1979; annual reports for 1882–87, 1893, 1897–1991; early letter books, newspaper clippings, photographs, catalogues of products prescriptions and recipes, salaries and wages books, account books, and information on associated companies. Thomas Kempthorne and Evan Prosser first went into business in 1863 as chemists and suppliers of medicines, and the first company was registered in 1878. A 24-page history published by the company in 1954 provides a snapshot of the company's first 75 years (1879–1954).

As a result of the monopoly held by Kempthorne Prosser, a rival manufacturer of fertiliser was established in 1929 at Ravensbourne, on the Otago Harbour. This was the **Dominion Fertiliser Co. Ltd**, which opened on 28 January 1931. Phosphate rock from the Pacific Islands of Ocean and Nauru was landed at a jetty built out from the works, and small wagons delivered the raw material to the processing plant. Dominion later purchased the Burnside plant of Kempthorne Prosser which in turn then took a shareholding and eventually control of the smaller company. The Hocken holds a complete set of board minutes and annual reports for Dominion Fertiliser

for 1929–1977. The Ravensbourne plant is the only one in New Zealand where raw material for fertiliser production is delivered directly from ship to works by belt conveyor.

By the mid-1970s, the farmers of New Zealand felt it was time to take control of the fertiliser industry, establishing a new company called the **Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd**, centred round the shareholder base of Dominion Fertiliser. By enlisting the aid of Brierley Investments and Producer Board funds it mounted a takeover of Kempthorne Prosser, and KP, in trying to protect its position, formed an alliance with the NZ Farmers Fertiliser Co. Ltd, of Auckland. In one of the country's longest takeover battles, marked by thrust and counter-thrust, the farmers were eventually successful and, as they were essentially interested only in the fertiliser business, all the medical and drug company interests of Kempthornes were steadily sold off. Considering that when the takeover began in 1977, KP had total assets of \$32 million and a gross turnover of \$40 million, against the Dominion Fertiliser's assets of \$11 million and annual sales of \$9 million, it was truly a David-and-Goliath result. Although the Kempthorne Prosser board minutes have many references to the takeover, it is more easily followed in Bryan James's substantial account in *The Gumboot Takeover—The Story of the Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative* (1979). Ravensdown today is the biggest fertiliser manufacturer in New Zealand. To gain an understanding of the benefits of the Pacific Island phosphate deposits to the New Zealand fertiliser industry, consult [Sir] Albert Ellis's three books, *Ocean Island and Nauru* (1935), *Adventuring in Coral Seas* (1936) and *Mid Pacific Outposts* (1946); and also *Three Islands* (1971) by Maslyn Williams, and *The Phosphateers* (1985) by Maslyn Williams and Barrie Macdonald.

[The Central Library holds a useful Master's thesis, 'Fertilizers in New Zealand' (1929) by L.W. McCaskill; and an Honours thesis by John S.Dennison, 'The History of the Chemical Industry in Otago up to 1914' (1948), which summarises the growth of Kempthorne Prosser in that period, is held in the Hocken.]

### LIME & CEMENT

One company, **Milburn Lime & Cement Co. Ltd**, dominated lime and cement production in Otago and Southland, and the Hocken Collections hold a very extensive archive of the company's records. The company changed its name to New Zealand Cement Holdings Ltd in 1964 (the head office moving from Dunedin to Christchurch in 1974), to Milburn New Zealand Ltd in 1987, and finally to Holcim New Zealand Ltd in 2001. The company's first cement

plant was established at Pelichet Bay, but operations later moved to Burnside, and, since 1964, all cement production has been undertaken at the company's Westport works. Lime production was mainly centred at Milburn. Along the way the company absorbed the Burnside Hydraulic Lime & Cement Co. Ltd in 1910, the Ewing Phosphate Co. Ltd at Clarendon in 1918, took a 50% holding in McDonald's Lime at Kakanui in 1957, purchased Taylor's Lime Co. Ltd at Weston in 1961, and the Southland Cement Co. Ltd (formerly Clifden Lime Co.) in 1968.

The records in Hocken include directors' minute books from 1888 to 1963, annual reports from 1891 to 1998 (missing 1892, 1894, 1957), accounting records, shareholder registers, newspaper clippings and photographs, early letter-books and many other documents relating to associated concerns and specific projects, among them 1977–81 plans to build a cement plant at Oamaru. The company issued several small booklets in earlier years, and in 1995 Ron Tyrrell and John Stewart collaborated in a short book entitled the *Milburn Lime Quarries, 1860s–1995*, but the main coverage of the firm's history is to be found in *Spanning the Centuries. The Story of Milburn NZ Ltd*, a 407-page book written by Harry Morton, Carol Johnston and Barbara Chinn, and published by the company in 2002.

### PAPER

The main paper-millers in southern New Zealand were **New Zealand Paper Mills Ltd** established in 1905 through a merger of the Mataura Falls Paper Mill

(founded in 1876) coming together with two other mills — Otago Paper Mills at Woodhaugh, Dunedin, and Riverhead Paper Mills at Riverhead, Auckland. The original Mataura mill had been acquired by the Dunedin-based printing partnership of Coulls Culling & Co. in 1884.

The Hocken Collections hold a significant archive of N.Z. Paper Mills records from 1905 until its eventual takeover by N.Z. Forest Products. It includes the directors' minute books for 1905–1955, a broken run of annual reports (1921–43, 46–47, 50–57, 60, 62–63, 65–59), balance sheets 1905–55, correspondence 1913–46, cashbooks 1884–1961, journals 1931–61, ledgers 1921–62, stock records 1905–62, wages and employee records 1935–58, production records 1934–63, share records 1917–1969, newspaper clippings 1919–57, and sundry other papers. John Angus wrote a 211-page history, *Papermaking Pioneers: a history of NZ Paper Mills and its predecessors, 1876–1976*, published by the company in 1976. N.Z. Forest Products developed an association with N.Z. Paper Mills in 1943, and eventually took over the company in 1976. The Mataura mill closed in August 2000.

### PRINTING

**Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd** was a major printing company in Dunedin from 1922 to 1971, having had its origins in Coull Bros, 1872; Coulls & Culling, 1873; Coulls, Culling & Company, 1873–1902; Coulls, Culling & Co. Ltd, 1902–22, before becoming Coull Somerville Wilkie Ltd. It merged with Whitcombe & Tombs in 1971 to become



*Ledgers being bound in the Evening Star Co's binding department, c.1902 [c/n E3683/35]*

Whitcoulls. The Hocken archive comprises wages books for 1892–99, trade catalogues between 1924 & 1952, balance sheets & annual reports 1942–55 & 1957, photographs, publicity, advertising and marketing material. It also contains the shareholder records of Coulls Culling, 1903–22. The company issued a very brief historical brochure in 1948; and in 1971, an explanatory pamphlet on its forthcoming merger with Whitcombes. In 1922, when CSW was established, a separate stationery company was formed as Williamson Jeffrey Ltd. This company subsequently developed branches at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, becoming the largest wholly-owned New Zealand wholesale stationery business in the country. The Dunedin head office moved to Christchurch in 1975 and Williamson Jeffrey also eventually became part of Whitcoulls. In 1984, the former managing director, H.A.Saunders, wrote a brief history entitled *A Stationery & Paper Story—the History of Williamson Jeffrey Ltd*, and the booklet also helps to fill out aspects of the history of CSW and its directors.

Records of a smaller printing firm, **Budget Print Ltd**, are also held at Hocken, mainly accounting records with ledgers 1909–54, cashbooks 1911–82, journals 1904–84, and time & wages books 1934–59. Budget Print was established in 1904 and amalgamated with Dunedin Print Ltd in 1999.

Although the main activity of both the Evening Star and Otago Daily Times companies was the printing and publishing of newspapers, both firms had substantial commercial printing divisions. The archive of the **Otago Daily Times & Witness Newspapers Co. Ltd** lodged in the Hocken includes directors' minute books for 1878–1912 & 1952–65, general minute books 1878–1952, letter-books 1878–1902, wages records 1880–1961, ledgers 1885–92 & 1898–1970, journals 1911–75, cash books 1909–76, shareholder records 1866–1975, annual reports for 1869–72, 84–88, 1891 & 1898, balance sheets 1883–1950, and a wide range of other records including biographical material, clipping files and editorial scrapbooks 1961–81. The *Otago Daily Times Diamond Jubilee 1861–1921* was reprinted in book form in 1924, incorporating also J.T. Paul's *The Press of Otago & Southland*, and various booklets on advertising, type-faces, history etc appeared at various times.

The Hocken also holds records of the **Evening Star Co. Ltd** 1863–1979, before its absorption into Allied Press Ltd, by then the owners of the rival *Otago Daily Times*. The archive contains annual reports and balance sheets 1960–74, cash books 1879–1949, journals 1869–1903, wages books from 1878 to 1962,

extensive correspondence between 1903 and 1949, some photographs, and a raft of newspaper clipping files covering almost 1700 subject headings for the period 1959–78.

A former director of Coulls Somerville Wilkie, J.L.Gregory, assisted by the Hon.H.T.Paul and others, drafted a history of Otago printing, but he died in 1959 before it could be published. R.V.S.Perry endeavoured to complete the story in the 1960s. The Hocken holds copies of Gregory's early drafts and a photocopy of the unpublished *History of Otago Printing*, by J.L.Gregory and R.V.S.Perry. Although it covers the establishment of early newspapers and printers, it is more of a chronology than a definitive business history. Comments of those who reviewed the draft would suggest that users regard the information as a guide to further research.

### TANNING

Some records are held by the Hocken of the Sawyers Bay tannery of Glendermid Ltd, including stock books for raw materials 1939–47, journals 1928–56, and ledgers 1915–25. Other files cover laboratory experiments in the 1940s/50s and staff records 1881–1976, along with sundry other papers and technical publications on leather manufacturing. The company had its origins in 1864 in Australia, where Isaac Hallenstein took over a tannery when then traded as Isaac Hallenstein & Co. He brought in his brother, Michaelis, and an older family member, Moritz Michaelis. Grant P.Farquhar was the Dunedin agent for the tannery from 1862 to 1881. The Hallensteins and Farquhar then became partners in a new tannery established at Sawyers Bay, and renamed Glendermid Ltd in 1918. The Primary Producers Co-op Society took over the tannery in 1989 and closed it in 1994, but the Dunedin retail office of Glendermid continued on for several more years.

G.E.Hickin, the last managing director of Glendermid wrote a brief history in 1962 entitled *The Glendermid Story — The first 100 years...*, which includes a chronology and a list of company staff with their years of service. *The Michaelis Hallenstein Story 1864–1964*, a 14p booklet, published in Melbourne in 1964, is held in the Central Library Special Collections. Back in 1882, the Michaelis, Hallenstein & Farquhar partnership also produced an 8p leaflet *On the Cultivation of the Wattle or Mimosa in New Zealand*, the plant being an active component of the tanning process.

*Written by Ian Farquhar, edited by George Griffiths and designed by Gary Blackman in April 2006 for the Friends of the Hocken Collections, PO Box 6336, Dunedin.*