Victor

1979

Victor

The first fifty years

Victor Products (Wallsend) Ltd., P.O. Box, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 6PP.

The start

It was the year the R101, the world's biggest airship, was launched. The first airmail from India arrived at Croydon. Ramsay MacDonald formed a government. The Prince of Wales toured Northern coal-mining districts. And unemployment was around the two million mark.

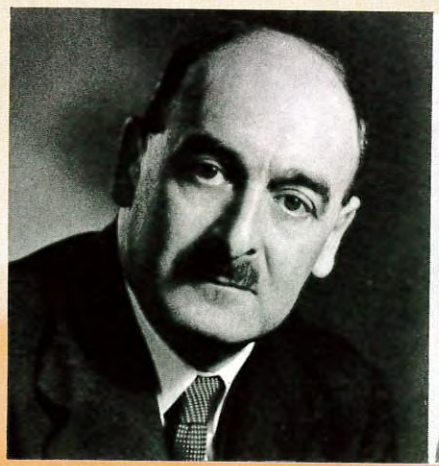
1929. A year when the forming of a new company, Charles Crofton and Co. (Engineers) Limited, must have passed unnoticed. There was no way of knowing that one day it would develop into a Company that would achieve everlasting recognition for introducing a new standard of safety into mine lighting; and under a different name would be acknowledged leaders in lighting, drilling and cable connecting equipment throughout the world.

The two prime movers were Harold B. Crofton and Reginald W. Mann. They were men who had served their engineering apprenticeships and gained subsequent experience in different ways.

Harold Crofton, local to the North-East, had worked as a design engineer and later ran an agency business begun by his father, Charles, for such items as mining pumps, haulage winding engines, brake linings, wire ropes and the like. Reg Mann, Birmingham born, had been a mining electrical engineer and held a senior position with a company selling mining equipment: On the 26th July 1929, the new company was floated with £1,500 out of an authorised capital of 2500 £1 shares.

The object: to design, develop and market electric rotary drills and ancillary equipment as well as flameproof plugs and sockets for use in coal mines.

In the first nine months the total turnover was £1,736. Profit: £108.



REGINALD W. MANN

HAROLD B. CROFTON

Progress

One of the first Victor Coal Drills issued to Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries, October 19. 1933.

A staff of five. An office rented from British Engines Limited in Glasshouse Street, St. Peters, Newcastle upon Tyne. Some small orders for general engineering work performed by British Engines.

It was still only a beginning.

But new patents were taken out early in 1931 as the result of design work, research and development behind the scenes on rotary electric drills for use on coal and stone.

The drills were tested and launched on the market.

A new name had been introduced to mining. 'Victor'.

Meantime workings in mines were undergoing change. Conveyors, coal cutters, and other machinery were being introduced. Charles Crofton & Co. immediatley directed its skills towards the design, development and sale of plugs and sockets, 30amp and 100amp, linked with even closer association with the coal mining industry.

Still only about three years old the company was making history. For the first time, a British company was successfully marketing mining equipment in face of the competition from foreign firms.

It was now that the Ardeloy drilling bit, of which Victor subsequently sold millions, leapt into prominence. This followed a series of experiments and tests linked with the company's recently designed drilling bit stamping.

Until this time, drilling bits used had been mainly the 'Widia', tungsten tipped and manufactured by Krupps of Germany.

Success was now in sight. The financial year 1934-35 ended. Turnover: £40,514 Profit: £3,333.

Opposite

The first Flameproof Certificate issued in 1932 to the company.

General views showing 'Lilly' Controller, 'Victor' Plugs and Sockets, Conveyor Rollers, Flameproof Lighting Fittings, Coal Cutter Picks, Drilling Bits, Rods and Grinding Machines.

THIS CERTIFIES

that the FLAME-PROOF ENCLOSURE of a

30 Ampere "Victor" Plug and Socket Connector,

for voltages up to 650 volts, with electrical

interlock for remote control circuit,

DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED DRAWINGS 74, 76, 77 and 78, dated 1st April, 15th April, 26th April and 3rd May, 1932, respectively, and SUBMITTED BY CHARLES CROFTON AND COMPANY (ENGINEERS) LIMITED, of WHITLEY BAY,

has been tested at the Mines Department Testing Station, Buxton,

and that

WITH RESPECT TO INFLAMMABLE ATMOSPHERES CONTAINING FIREDAMP (METHANE)

IT COMPLIES WITH THE DEFINITION OF FLAME-PROOF ENCLOSURE IN BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION No. 229-1929, under the conditions described in the Test Report which has been supplied to Charles Crofton and Company (Engineers) Limited.

H.M. Electrical Inspector of Mines.

On behalf of the Secretary for Mines.

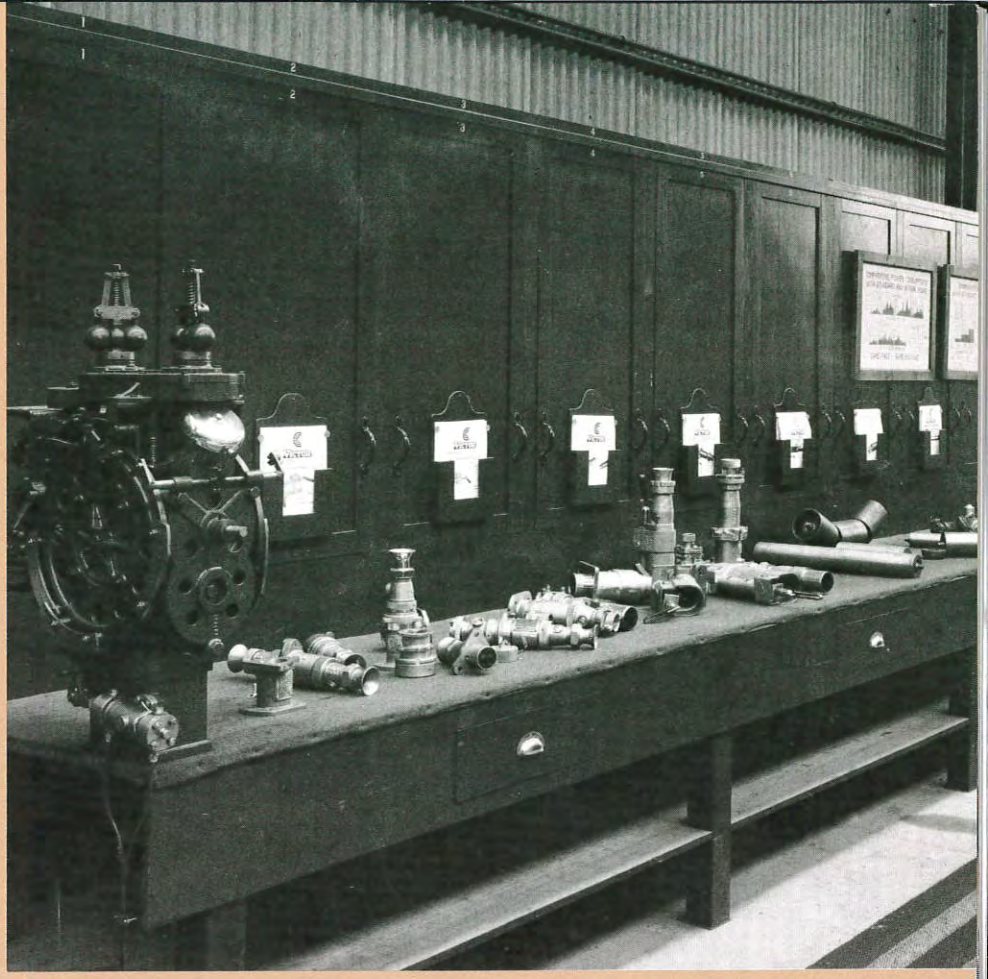
DEFINITION OF FLAME-PROOF ENCLOSURE (INCLUDING EXPLOSION-PROOF) FOR ELECTRICAL APPARATUS.
Part I. of British Standard Specification No. 229-1929: Flame-proof Enclosures for Electrical Apparatus.

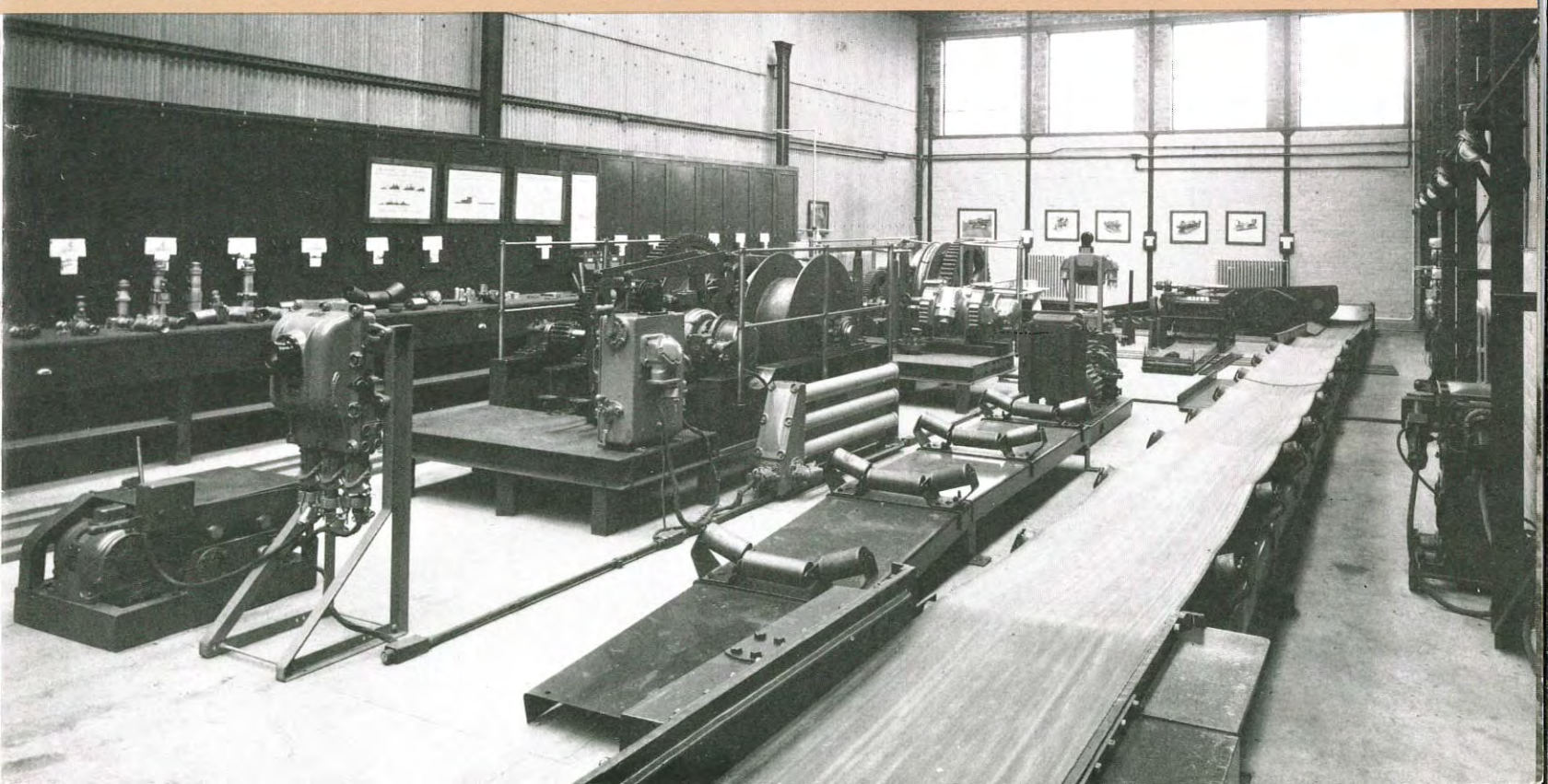
A Flame-proof Enclosure (including explosion-proof, for electrical apparatus is one which will withstand, without injury, any explosion that may occur in practice within it under the conditions of operation within the rating of the apparatus enclosed by it (and recognized overloads, if any, associated therewith), and will prevent the transmission of flame such as will ignite any inflammable mixture which may be present in the surrounding atmosphere.

CERTIFICATE No. FLP. 49.

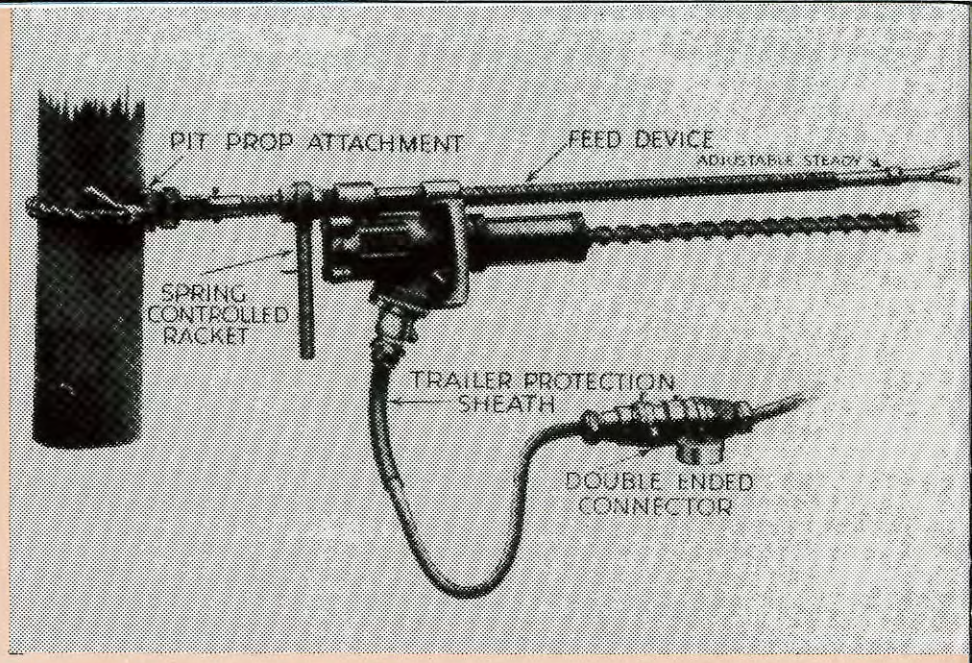
H.S. 5230/32.

19th May, 1932.





Consolidation



Victor electric stone drill showing assembly of pressure feed device.

Now six years old the company was reasonably established as a reliable source of efficient and up-to-date equipment.

To end dependence upon subcontracting product manufacture, the move was made to the company's present site in October 1935, after negotiations with the Wallsend and Hebburn Coal Company. The small office block in use at the time can still be recognised among the many extensions that have since been made.

The product range now included coal and stone rotary drills, 30amp and 100amp plugs and sockets, drilling bits, conveyors, gate end boxes and electric and belt-driven wheel grinders.

The first in-house production to be undertaken was the assembly of plugs and sockets and conveyor rollers. Early in 1936 the first machine tool was bought, a Capstan lathe, for a little over £100. By the end of the year, £2,000 had been spent on plant.

Production within the company was gradually increased and as the result of a loan of £25,000 for a period of 5 years from the Nuffield Trust, more space was acquired, more works buildings were erected and more plant and equipment were installed. Then, as since, the works buildings were erected mainly by the company's own labour.

It is on record, incidentally, that Lord Nuffield himself said that Croftons was one of the very few companies to repay him!

By the end of 1937 turnover had risen to around £90,000 and the work force to 56. All this time, Reg Mann had been mainly occupied with another company, Metropolitan Vickers, selling their mining equipment in the North East area. Now he resigned that position, joined Croftons on a permanent basis on 1st January 1938, and the management workload was reorganised. Mr. Crofton became responsible for the running of the factory and Mr. Mann for design, engineering, sales and all commercial affairs. Within a year the workforce was doubled to 127 and a further extension to the factory was completed.

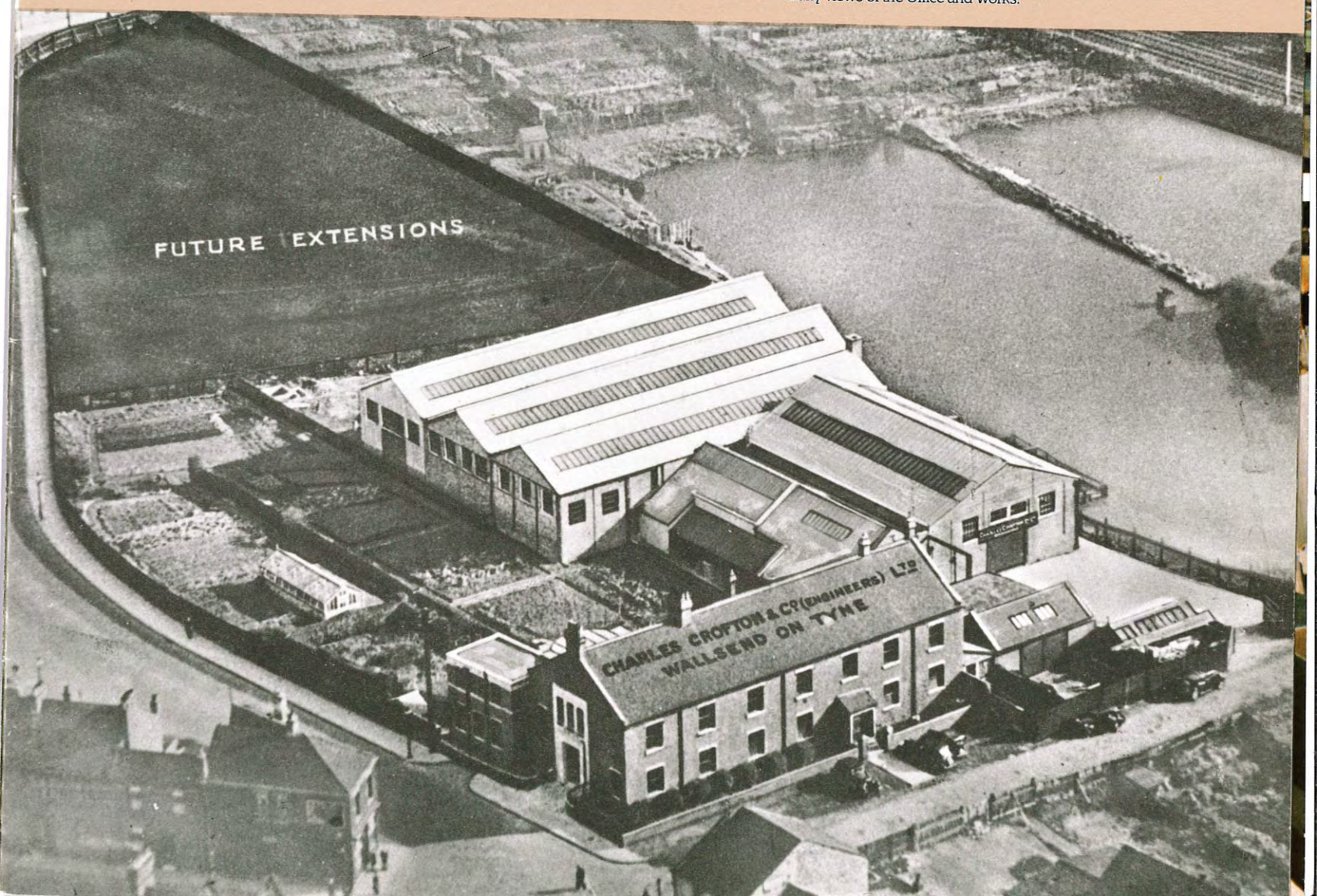
Systematic methods were introduced into works production, stock control, costing, accounting and commercial matters, and still colour the company's procedure today. Insistence on adherence to these methods proved a great help to progress.

In spite of management pre-occupation with building, equiping and reorganisation, annual turnover neared the £100,000 mark.

The share capital of the company was still £2,500 authorised, £1,500 issued, mainly to the two founders.

In April 1938 the authorised capital was increased to £25,000 and a bonus issue of £1 shares was made to the shareholders in the order of nine new shares for every one share held, bringing the issued capital to £15,000.

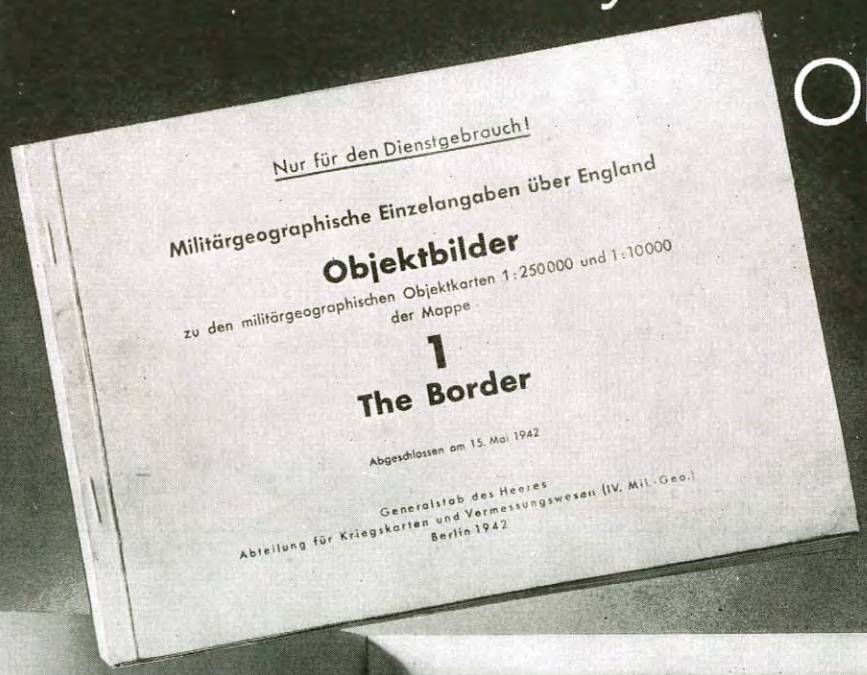
Early views of the Office and Works.



What the Germans thought of Victor Products

Objektbilder!

The reproductions are actual photographs from a page of a German bombing manual, found on an occupied air-field in Belgium. Evidently Victor Products were priority.


Nur für den Dienstgebrauch!

Militärgeographische Einzelangaben über England

Objektbilder

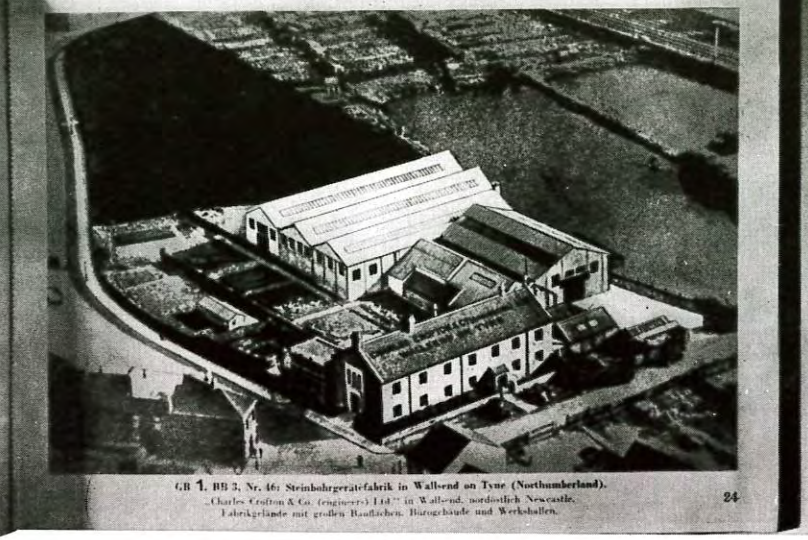
zu den militärgeographischen Objektkarten 1:250000 und 1:10000 der Mappe

1

The Border

Abgeschlossen am 15. Mai 1942

Generalstab des Heeres
Abteilung für Kriegskarten und Vermessungswesen (IV. Mil.-Geo.)
Berlin 1942


GB 1. BB 3, Nr. 46: Steinbohrgerätefabrik in Wallsend on Tyne (Northumberland).
„Charles Crofton & Co. (engineers) Ltd." in Wallsend, nordöstlich Newcastle.
Fabrikgelände mit großen Bauflächen, Bürogebäude und Werkshallen.

24

TRANSLATION

"Private information Military objective North-East coast. Book No. A1–1942."

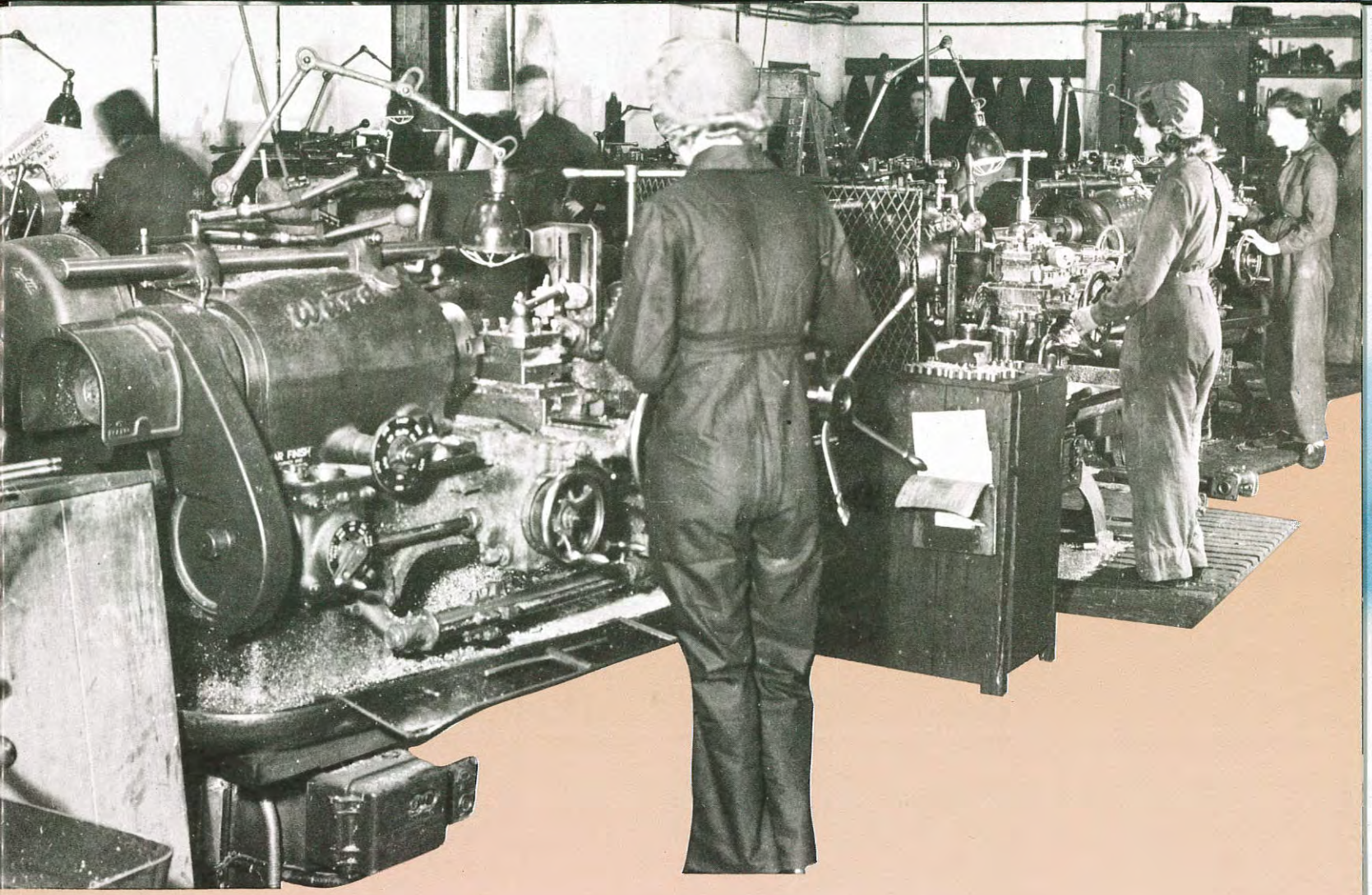
"Charles Crofton & Co. Ltd., manufacturers of Stone Drilling equipment, up to date Machinery, large Offices."

MISSED!

. . . Like German drills they were just not good enough. The nearest bomb dropped 200 yards wide.

VICTOR PRODUCTS
(WALLSEND) LTD.,
WALLSEND-ON-TYNE
TELEPHONE: WALLSEND 63271-2-3
TELEGRAMS: "VICTOR" WALLSEND

These reproductions are of photographs from a page of a German bombing manual, found in an airfield in Belgium. The nearest bomb dropped missed by 200 yards.



The war years

The second world war affected just about every organisation and individual. Croftons was considerably occupied on government contracts concerning petrol pumps for Wellington bombers, tank tracks, shell discs, valves for battleships, glider release devices and other components.

This accounted for over 60% of factory production, seriously impeding normal work. Quite apart from the needs of the war effort the deviation was necessary to the company, for although much of the mining equipment range was on the 'essential' list, normal production was restricted by the control of materials supplied.

Mr. Crofton took up an appointment as a consultant to the Ministry of Supply and this left him little time to concentrate his efforts on the company. In April 1944, at the age of 50, he retired and his shares were taken up by Mr. Mann and others including a number of senior employees.

This retirement, linked with preparations for competing in the post war home and export markets, resulted in the company changing its name.

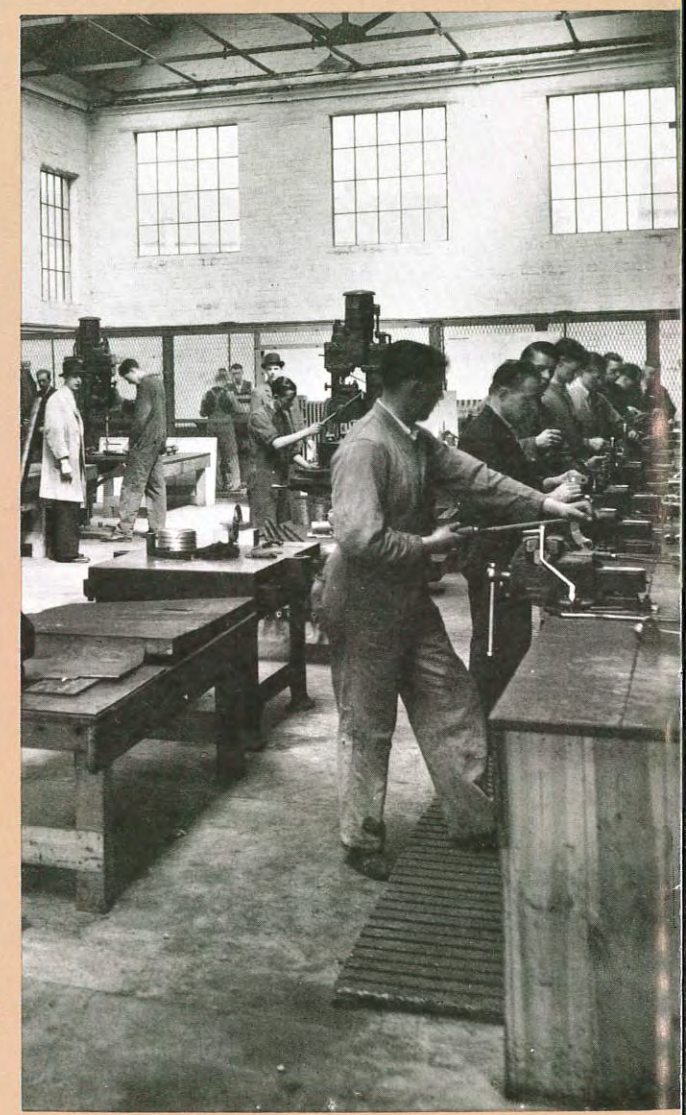
On the 5th July 1944, it was reborn under the title Victor Products (Wallsend) Ltd.

The war saw two other major innovations. The company became one of the first to

A four wheel grinder for dressing drill bits to profile after welding.

A section of the Stenographers Department.

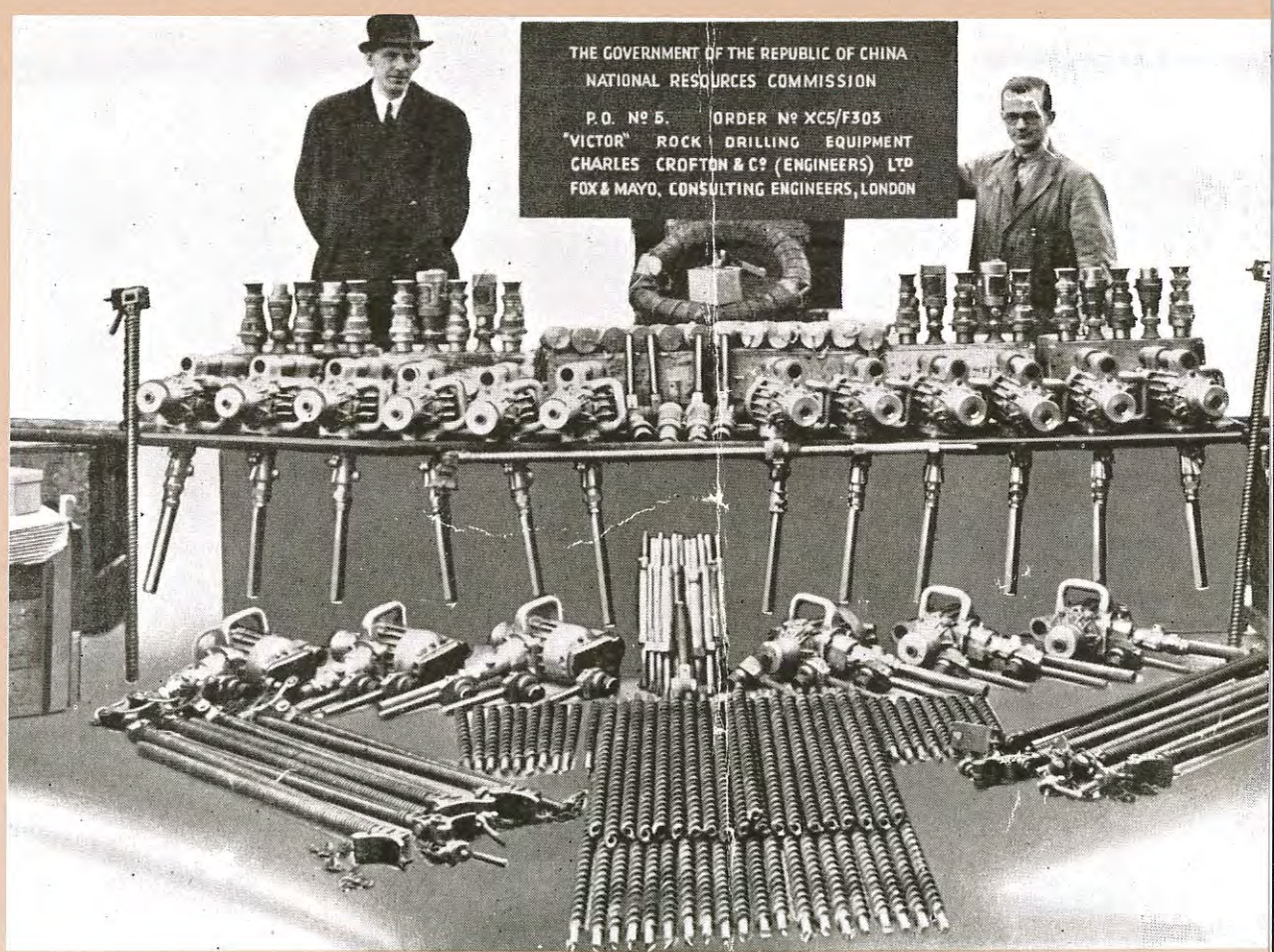
General view of Fitting Shop.



institute a Works Committee, almost certainly the first in the North East. The forerunner of all the consultative and employee participation schemes, the closer association that resulted between management and staff has been of immense value over the past 35 years.

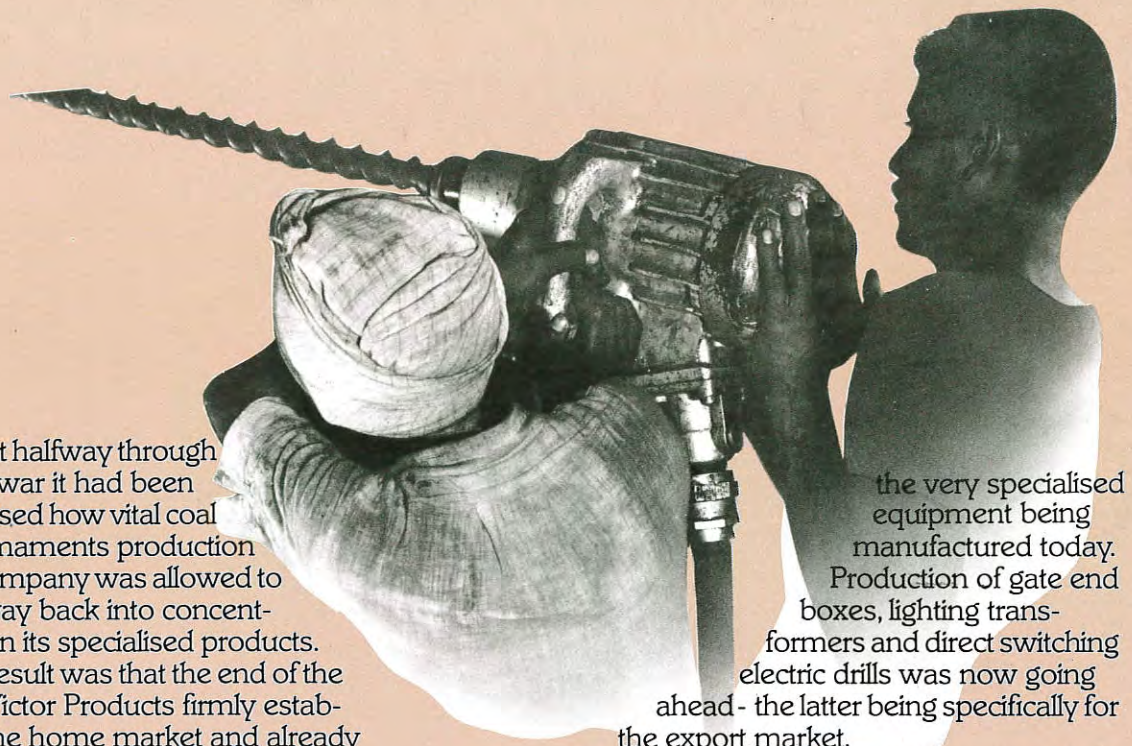
Also first in the area was the Suggestion Scheme through which employees put forward ideas to improve products, increase productivity or in any way help towards greater efficiency. To date over £23,000 have been paid out in awards.

The Factory Planning Locations board in the Production Department.



A typical batch of Victor Electric Drills of standard frequency, with their associated equipment.

Towards a new future.



About halfway through the war it had been realised how vital coal was to armaments production and the company was allowed to work its way back into concentration upon its specialised products.

The result was that the end of the war saw Victor Products firmly established in the home market and already making tentative moves into exporting.

A representative was appointed in London to maintain contact with export houses, and agencies were set up in countries throughout the world. The orders in these years made headlines:
1945. One hundred 50 cycle drilling sets for India.
1946. Similar equipment for Czechoslovakia, worth £75,000.
1949. From Poland, drilling machines worth £166,000.

In each case the orders were the largest ever obtained from abroad for coal mining drilling equipment.

Following the nationalisation of the British coal mining industry the company recognised the need to expand its activities into new markets, both at home and overseas. An electric hammer drill was produced for the building industry - self cleaning air cocks, aridifiers and water traps for compressed air systems. The most significant development, however, was the production of a comprehensive range of flameproof, weatherproof lighting equipment for use by the oil and petrochemical industry. This initial range has of course been subsequently redesigned and expanded and today is responsible for 30% of the company's business.

A great deal of research was done in connection with coal face lighting systems and this has subsequently provided the foundation of the very specialised equipment being manufactured today. Production of gate end boxes, lighting transformers and direct switching electric drills was now going ahead - the latter being specifically for the export market.

A plastics department and gear cutting shop were set up to reduce further dependence upon outside work. All of these activities resulted in further increases in staff and workforce.

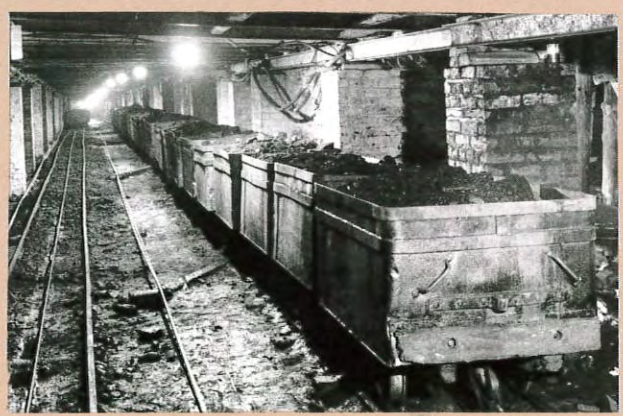
In 1947 the authorised capital increased from £25,000 to £35,000. The following year employees were encouraged to purchase shares at 10% less than the prevailing market price. With the company obtaining a Stock Exchange quotation in 1972 this arrangement could no longer apply.

Subsequently however, employees have been encouraged to purchase shares at market price, with the assistance of the Company Secretary. In addition a number of employees purchase Victor shares on the open market. So that at the time of the half century celebrations some 150 of our employees and ex-employees are shareholders.

By the end of 1950, factory and office space had grown from the original 8,240sq.ft. to some 50,800sq.ft. The company had its own foundry, machine shop, assembly shop, tool room, diecasting shop, process department, test and inspection department, pattern making and electricians shops as well as a spacious research and development area. The labour force was 375.
Annual turnover was in the region of £500,000.

Victor Products had become a well established company, trading in many parts of the world.

View of works looking west showing Turret and Capstan Lathes.



Roadway using Victor incandescent. Lighting.

Contracts Department.

Foundry.

The fifties

1950 - Christmas Bonus Scheme introduced.

1950 - Pension Fund, non-contributory, introduced. Company contributions to date: £955,512. Market value of investments now £2,865,375.

1950 - Sales offices opened throughout the country and sales force enlarged.

Throughout the 1950's new products included vandalproof lighting, flameproof-weatherproof lighting fittings and junction boxes for the oil and petrochemical industries, miniature fluorescent fittings and flameproof steel coal drills.

By the end of 1950 factory and office space extended to 50,000sq.ft.

1953 - Shell moulding process introduced into the foundry for component casting.

Long service award scheme began 1954. Acknowledges 25 years' service. To date 163 awards have been made.

11th May 1955 - Victor Products became a public company.

1958 - Authorised share capital increased in stages to £500,000.

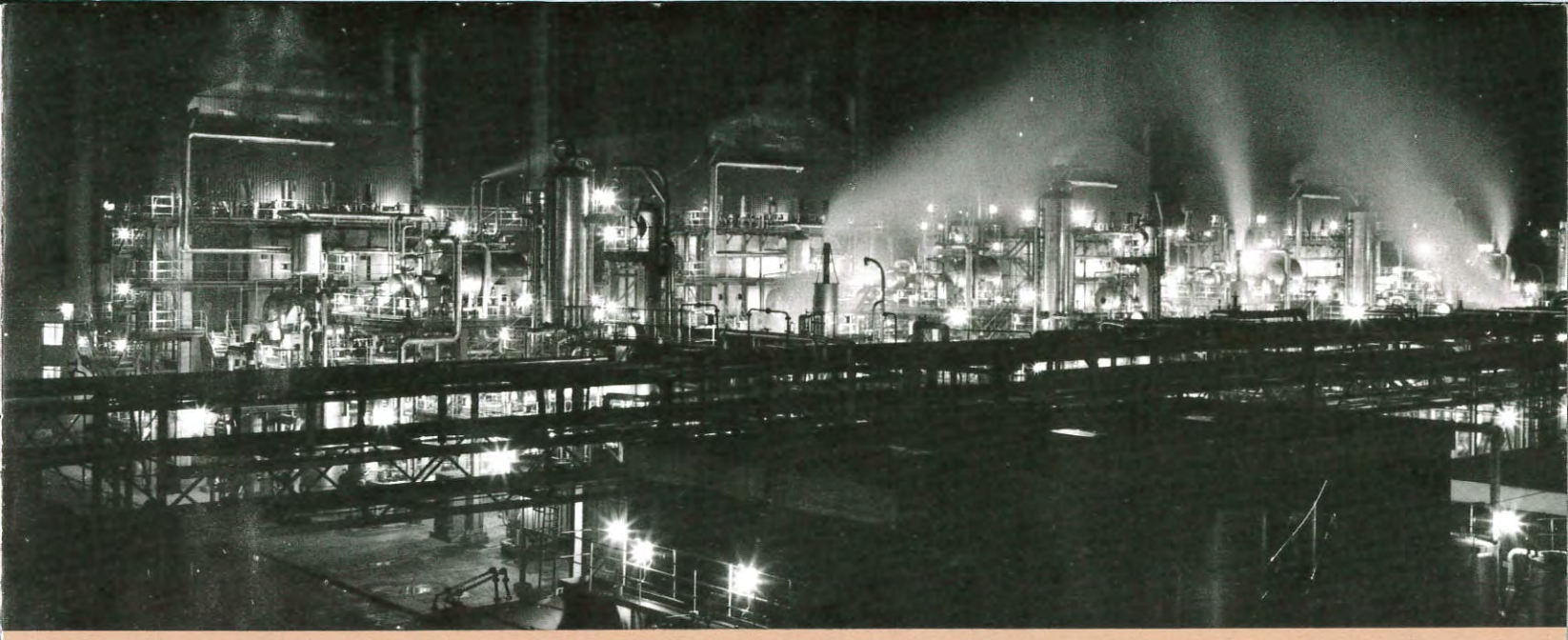
1958 - The Company's export market extended to 86 countries.

1958 - Company payroll exceeded 450.

1958 - Company turnover passed the £1 million mark.

1958 - Chairman and co-founder, Reg Mann, awarded O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to industry in the North East.

Reg Mann shows the O.B.E. to his wife after he had received it from H.M. the Queen at the Investiture at the Palace.

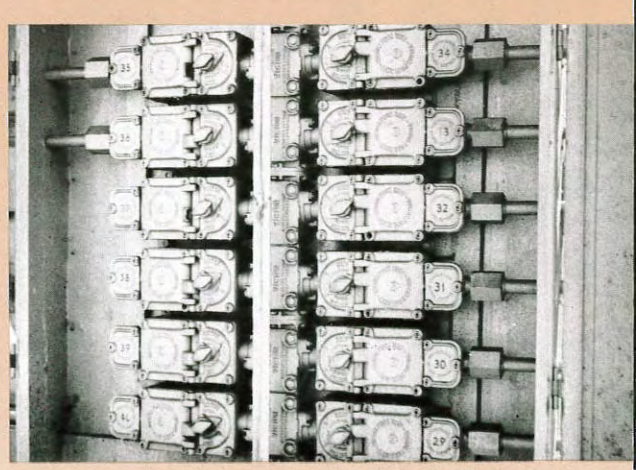


A night view of the East Midlands Gas Board installation at Ambergate, Derbyshire, illuminated by all types of Victor Division 2. Weatherproof Dust-tight lighting fittings.

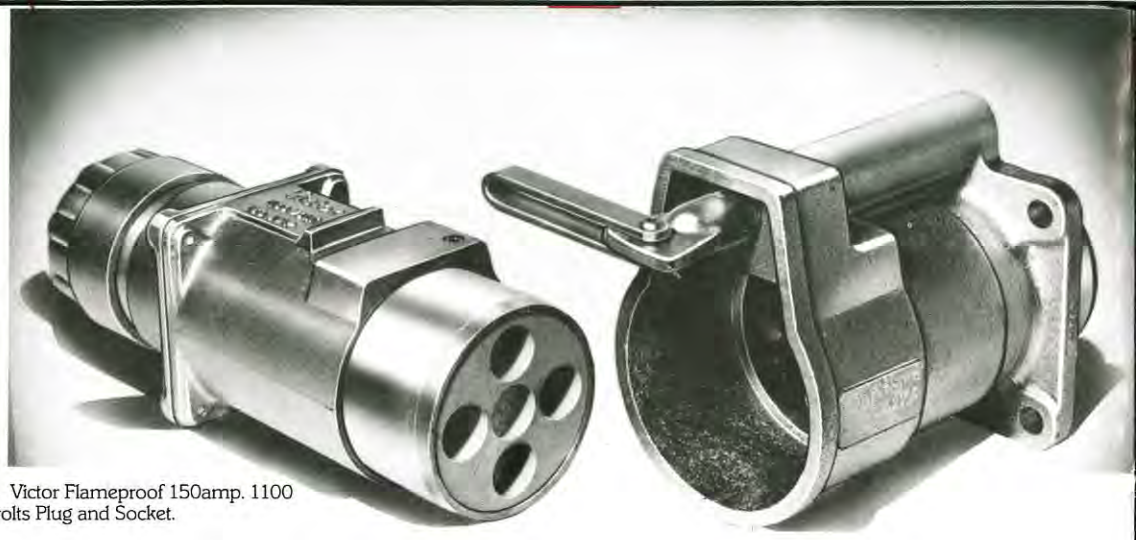
Shell moulding process.

Nottingham Ring Road Subway, lit by Victor 2ft. 20watt recessed fluorescent fittings.

Typical Victor Distribution Board.



The sixties



Victor Flameproof 150amp. 1100 volts Plug and Socket.

For five years the turnover stayed near the £1 million figure, taking a decade to reach £1.5 million.

Recessions in the mining trade during these years led to stocks of equipment being cut by the NCB. The company was even forced to make some of its employees redundant.

In spite of this, many successes were achieved with other products and with exports.

One order from China for 3000 sets of drilling equipment was worth over £200,000.

Victor entered the petrol pump lighting market and in 1962 an order for lights and electrical control gear, worth £31,000, was received from Italy. Victor became the main supplier of lighting for petrol pumps in the U.K. Another order was for fluorescent lighting fittings in Rumania, worth £25,000.

It was in 1961 that arrangements were finalised with Intercommerce, a government sponsored organisation in Yugoslavia, assuring sales in that country. Under the agreement, products were assembled in Yugoslavia from Victor components, the trade being in addition to firm orders shipped to the country direct.

In 1964 Jardine Henderson Ltd., a well known Indian company, embarked upon a programme of local manufacture of mining machinery, leading to the formation of Jardine Victor Ltd., a company of which one third of the equity is owned by Victor Products.

Valuable progress was also being made at home.

At Westoe Colliery, South Shields, the first full lighting system of a mechanised face was installed. Victor fittings were also extensively used for roadway illumination.

Since then the company has supplied a number of complete face lighting installations, running into thousands of fittings.

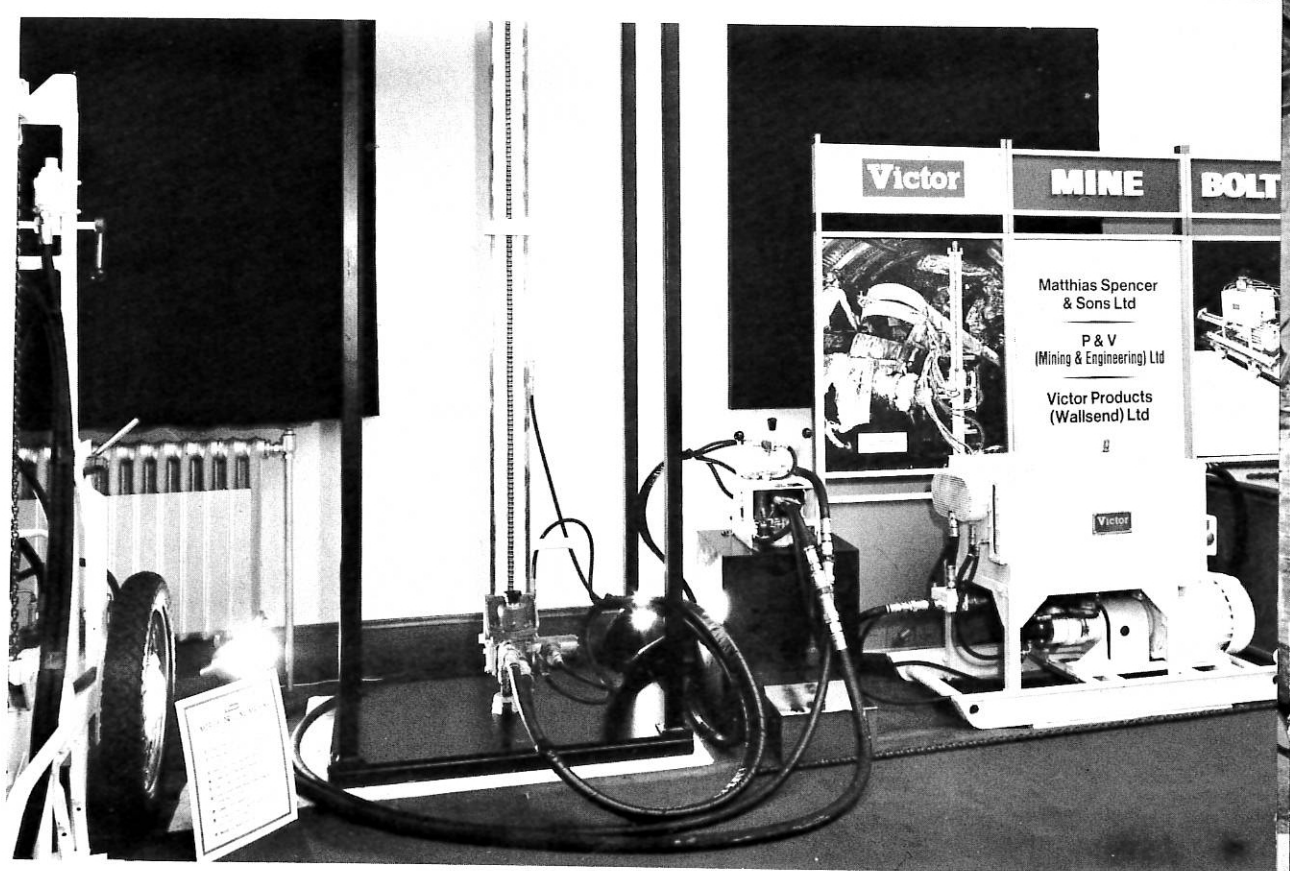
It was in this period that considerable progress was made in the development of lighting equipment for semi hazardous locations and the range was extended by the successful introduction of weatherproof and vapourproof fittings. Garage pit lighting, floodlighting and chemical vessel lighting were also introduced.

Systems and methods of coal mining were changing and with more powerful equipment being installed the requirement was for higher voltage operation. The company met this challenge by designing a comprehensive range of 1100 volt plug and socket equipment. From a drilling viewpoint the introduction of powered roof supports underground led to an increasing use of hydraulics. The Victor response was the development of hydraulic drilling equipment for uses varying from roofbolting to methane drainage.

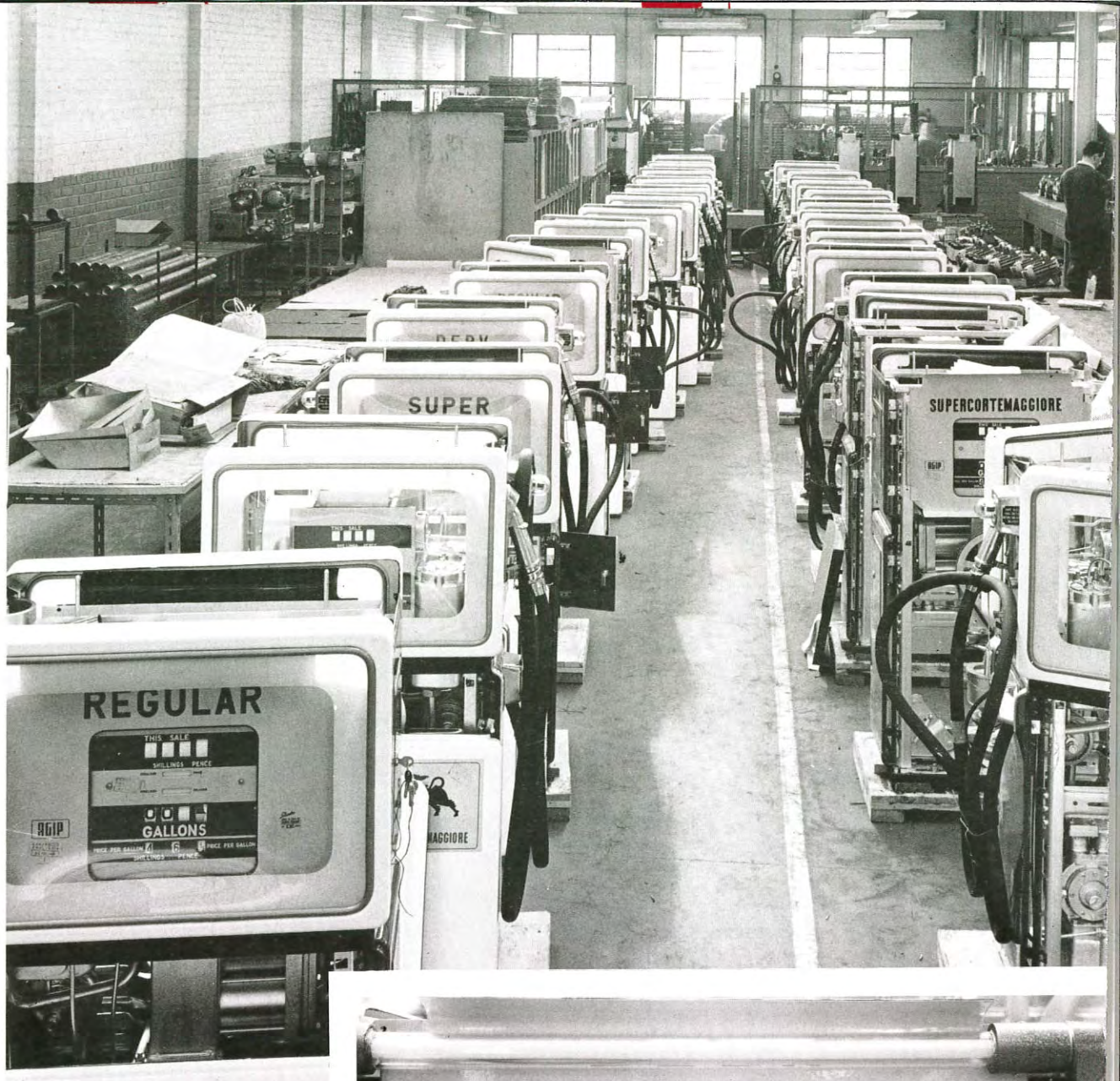
Our employees have always been outward looking and over the years many have served on external bodies, often occupying key positions in such organisations.

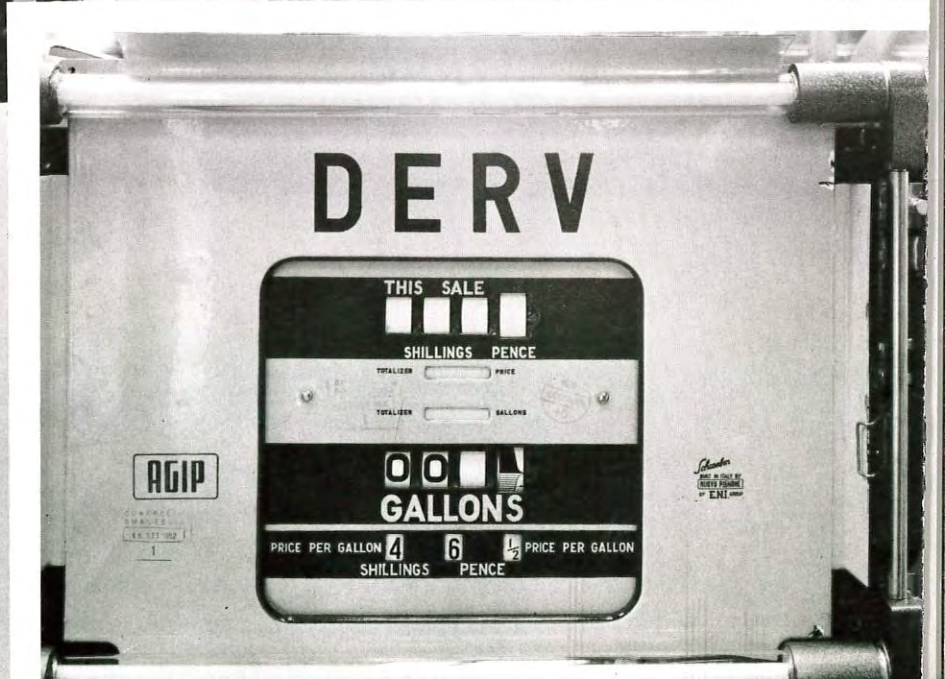
Meantime more land adjoining the works had been purchased. The works buildings were extended and by the end of 1970 occupied some 125,000sq.ft.

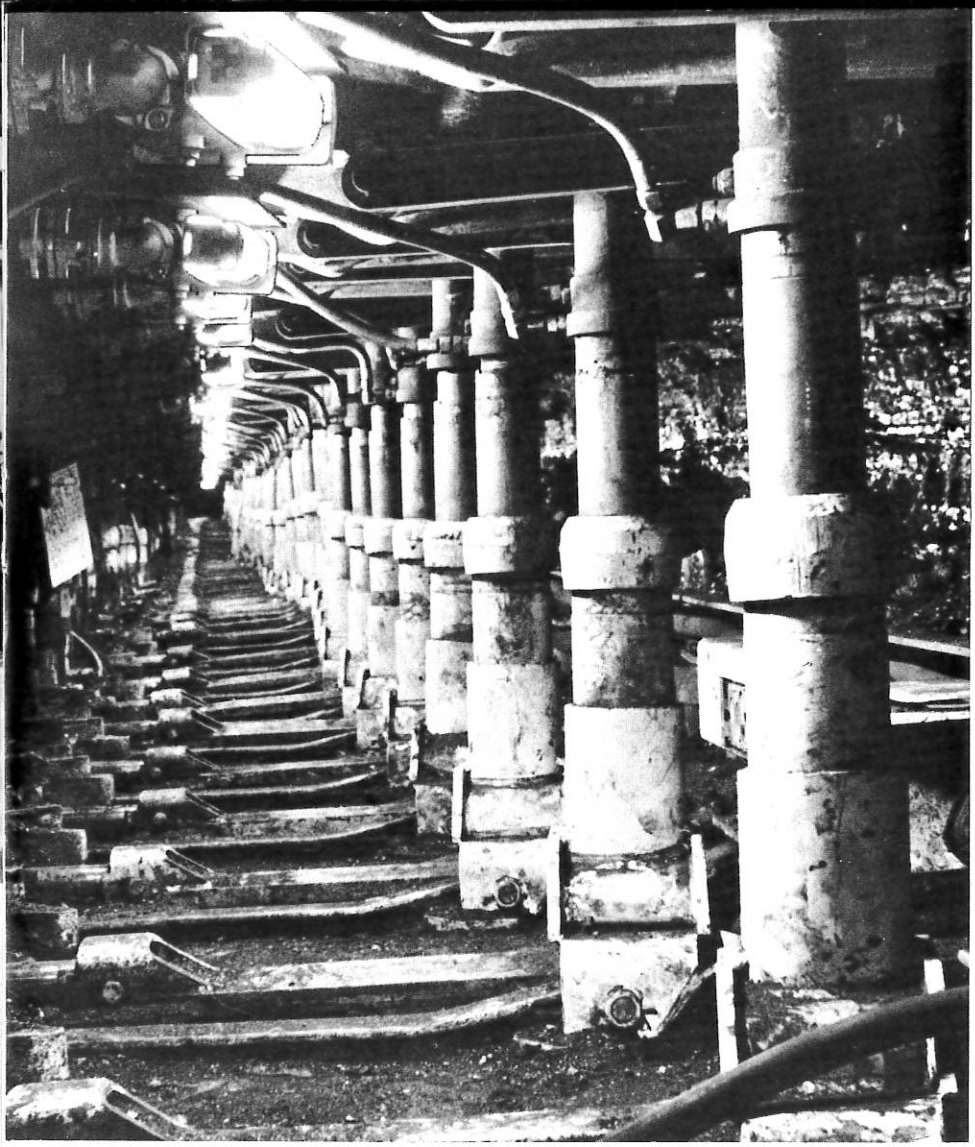
Taesung Lumber Methanol Plant - Korea. All the lighting fittings used on the plant were supplied by Victor.



Victor Exhibition Stand of the time.


SUPER
SUPERCORTEMAGGIORE
REGULAR
THIS SALE
SHILLINGS PENCE
AGIP
GALLONS
PRICE PER GALLON 4 6 1/2 PRICE PER GALLON
SHILLINGS PENCE


DERV
THIS SALE
SHILLINGS PENCE
TOTALIZER
PRICE
TOTALIZER
GALLONS
AGIP
GALLONS
PRICE PER GALLON 4 6 1/2 PRICE PER GALLON
SHILLINGS PENCE

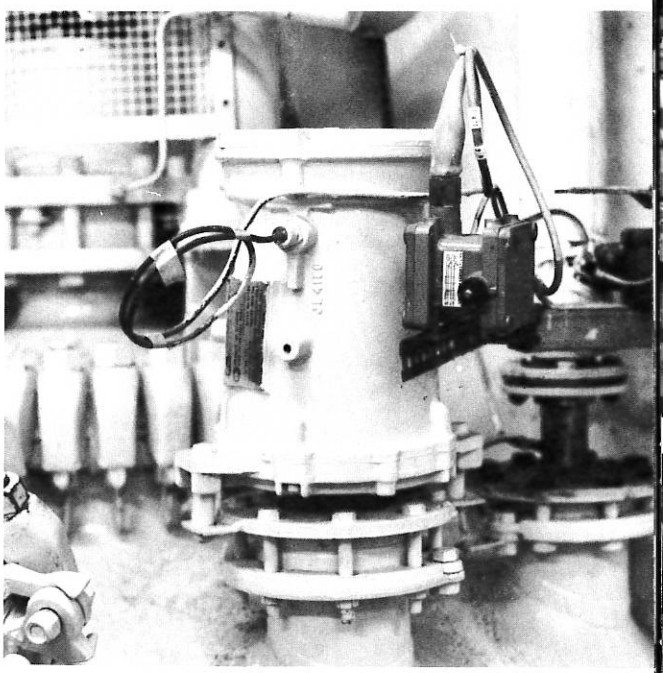


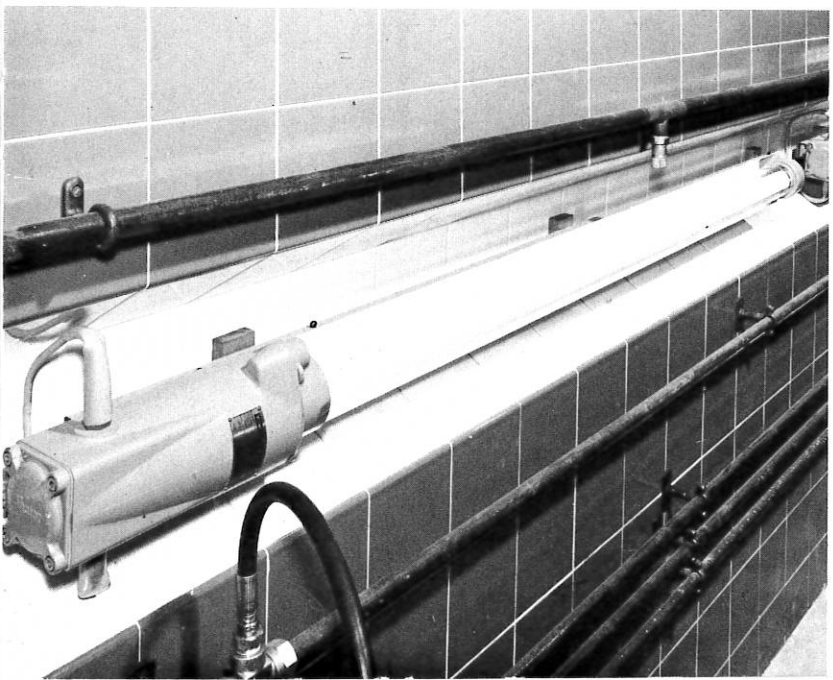
Victor Flameproof Coal Face Lighting System with fluorescent lamps installed in Havannah Drift Colliery NCB Northumberland Area.

Chemical Vessel Lighting System.

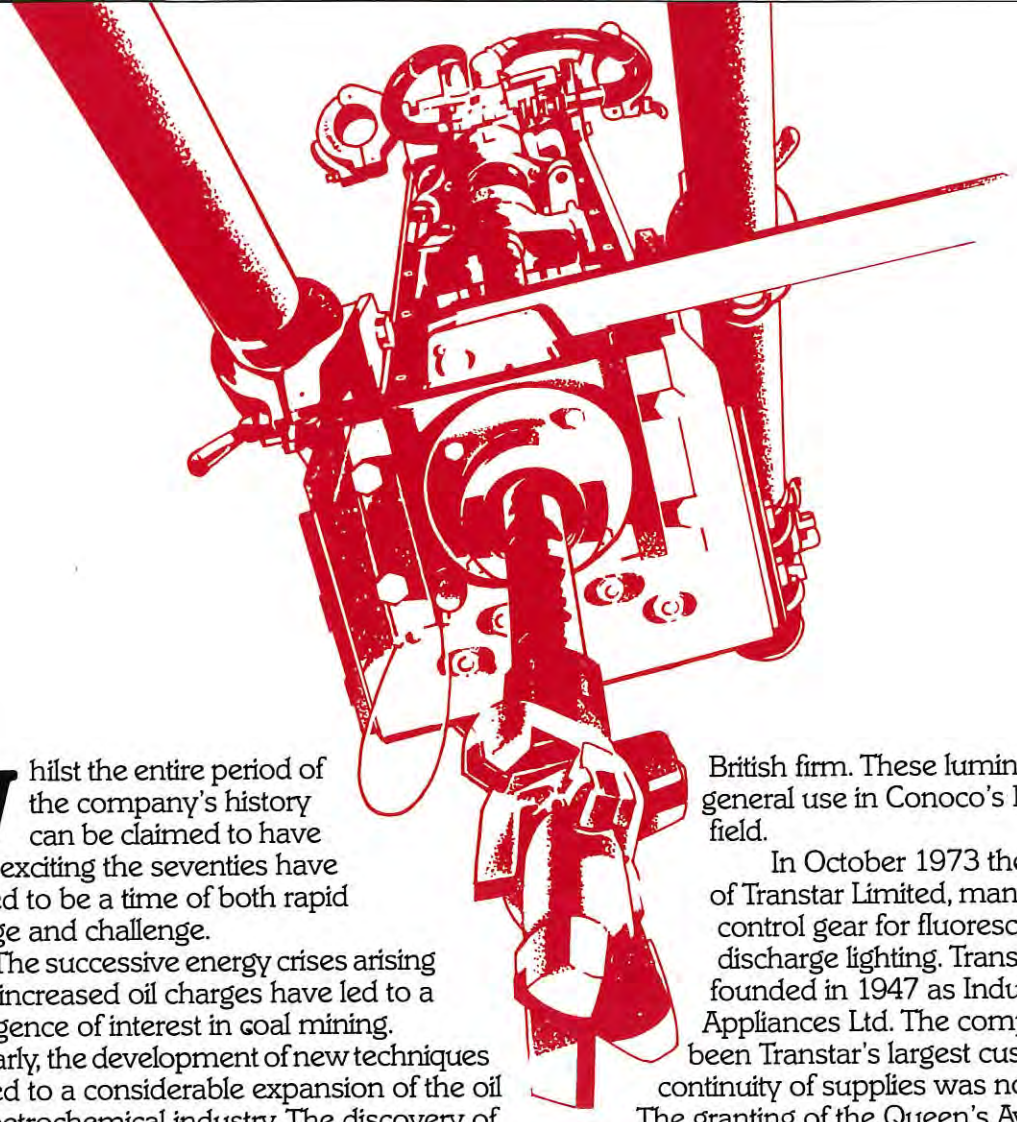
Garage Pit installation at the main workshops of the City Engineers Department, Birmingham District Council. Lit by Victor Viscount Flameproof and Weatherproof luminaires.

Jardine Victor Ltd.





Towards the Anniversary



Whilst the entire period of the company's history can be claimed to have been exciting the seventies have proved to be a time of both rapid change and challenge.

The successive energy crises arising from increased oil charges have led to a resurgence of interest in coal mining. Similarly, the development of new techniques has led to a considerable expansion of the oil and petrochemical industry. The discovery of oil in the North Sea has led to the formation of a completely new activity in this country associated with offshore developments.

Such expansion of energy-orientated industry has provided a considerable challenge to Victor Products. To date this challenge has been met by the development of new products, the introduction of new production machinery and, in more recent times, the expansion into new factory sites. Inflationary trends affecting the competitive position in overseas markets have had to be met and overcome.

There have been many milestones in this period - some of the highlights being:

In 1971 the extensive use of Victor hand-held drilling machines in the Tunisian phosphate mines.

In 1973 the development of the type 'e' increase safety fluorescent luminaire - the first fitting to meet the German VDE standard by a British firm. These luminaires are in general use in Conoco's Murchison field.

In October 1973 the acquisition of Transtar Limited, manufacturers of control gear for fluorescent and discharge lighting. Transtar was founded in 1947 as Inductive Appliances Ltd. The company had been Transtar's largest customer and continuity of supplies was now assured.

The granting of the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1976 for the design and development of an intrinsically safe coal face lighting system.

With space on the Wallsend site proving inadequate, the movement of manufacture and assembly of drilling equipment to a new 25,000 sq.ft. factory on the West Chirton Industrial Estate some 3 miles away, in June 1976.

The company has been successful in opening up the United States market for both drilling and face lighting equipment, the latter being approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1977.

Again arising from lack of production space, the acquisition of factory premises on the Chirton Industrial Estate enabled us to transfer our complete lighting activity to this 84,000 sq.ft. factory in June 1978.

This latter move was linked to the formation of divisions for the main product streams and we are confident that our new organisation is geared

Opposite

Victor Viscount Corrosion-resistant Flameproof and Weatherproof fluorescent luminaires in use on the Salvesen Offshore Drilling Ltd., Drill Ship 'Dalkeith.'

to meet the ever changing needs in the market place.

Success in Poland in 1978 where an order worth £300,000 was placed to provide lighting for a P.V.C. plant. From the same country hydraulic roofbolting drilling equipment, worth £150,000, was ordered.

A comprehensive British package of mining equipment in 1978 to the People's Republic of China included £650,000 worth of the company's range of mining products.

In June 1979 the formation of Victor Industrial Equipment (Proprietary) Limited, Transvaal, South Africa.

Authorised Capital is now £3,000,000 with £2,676,151 issued. The work force 900 strong. Turnover for the year ended April 1979 was £10,216,000 with pre tax profit of £1,588,887.

Aerial view of Head Office and Connector Division.

Mr. Norman Siddall C.B.E. Deputy Chairman of the NCB performing the opening ceremony of the Victor factory at Chirton.

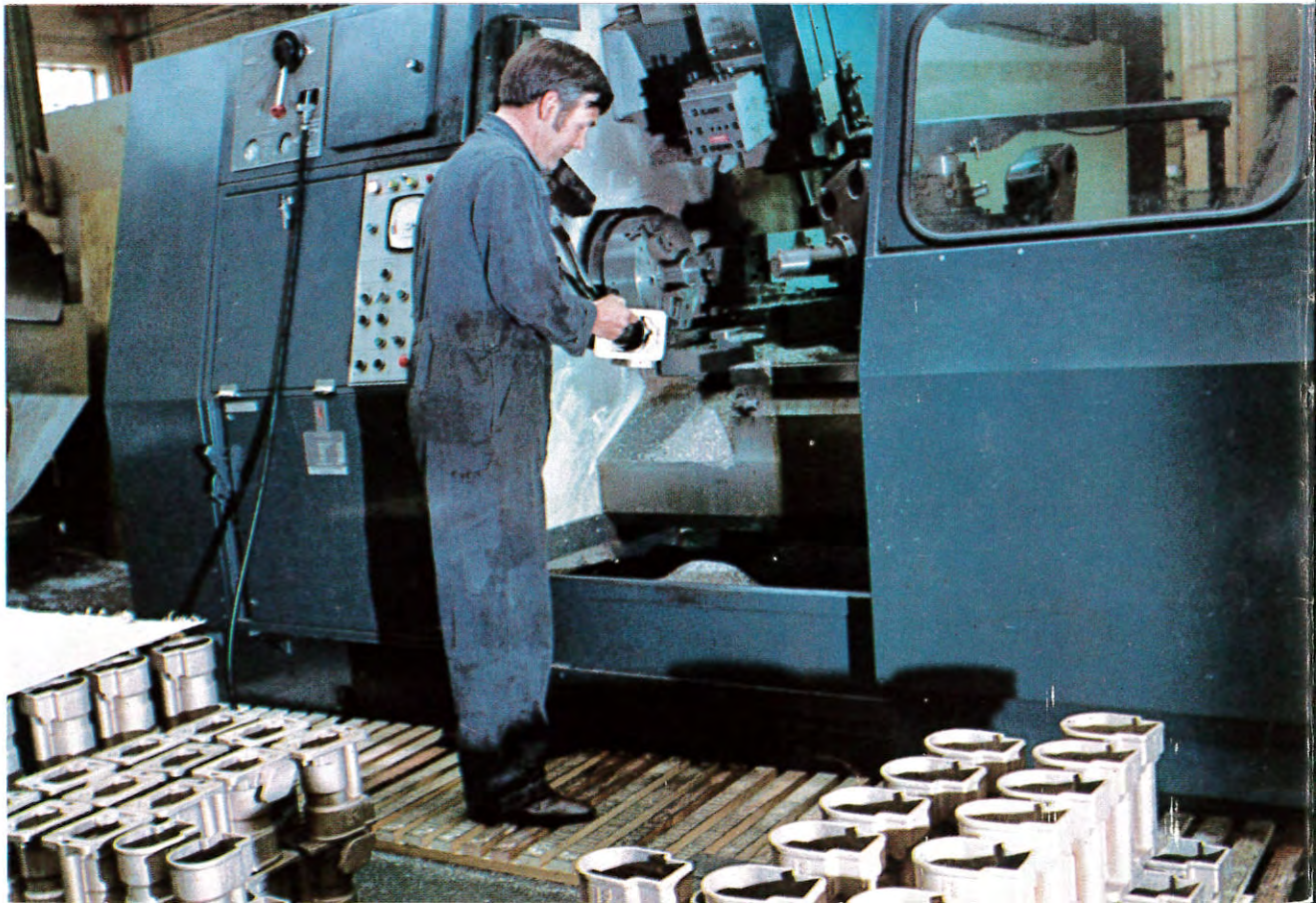
The Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear Sir James Steel presenting the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement to Mr. L. R. Mann, who received that award on behalf of the Company.

The Victor stand at the International Mining Exhibition, Dusseldorf, May 1976. The Company exhibited their range of hydraulic drilling and control equipment as well as coal face and roadway mining lighting systems.

Foundry: Core making machines.

Opposite

The Victor/Service Machines Intrinsically Safe Face Lighting System designed to meet the latest United States requirements, installed at Jones & Laughlin Steel, Vesta No. 5 Mine, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. This is the first Face Lighting System to receive a S.T.E. (Statement of Test and Evaluation) Certificate.



Drilling Division.

Connector Division:
'Batchturn' single spindle chucking automatic lathes.

Lighting Division: Circuit board assembly.

Transtar Limited (Control Gear Division) Lampglass cementing.

1929-1979

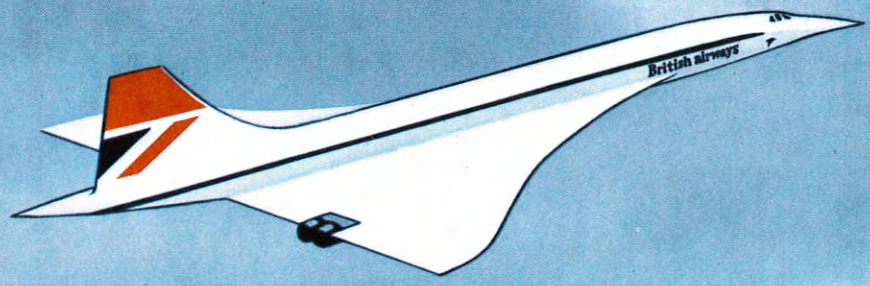
Directors:

H. B. Crofton	was appointed to the Board on 9th August 1929 and served in the capacities of Managing Director and Chairman until his retirement on 30th April 1944.
R. W. Mann O.B.E.	joined the Board on 9th August 1929 and became full time in January 1938 accepting responsibility for the design, engineering and commercial functions. He served the company as Managing Director and Chairman until 1st May 1972 when he was appointed our first President.
G. W. N. Harrison	was one of the company's original directors and served in a non-executive capacity from 9th August 1929, until 28th April 1932.
R. D. Wilson	was elected to the Board on 15th February 1937 serving in turn as Commercial Director and Deputy Managing Director until his retirement at the end of 1962.
H. L. Stafford	one of the partners of Mather, Dickson and Stafford, came to the Board in February 1937 in a non-executive capacity as legal advisor. He relinquished this position in June 1943.
A. Cameron	was Works Manager before his appointment as Works Director in May 1944. In January 1963 he became Managing Director, a position he held only for a few months due to his unfortunate death in May 1963.
R. C. Wiles	became Engineering Director in May 1944 and retained that appointment until his retirement in December 1958.
D. F. Stewart	spent some nine years in the Lancashire Area before coming to Head Office as Sales Manager and Director in January 1947. He retired in April 1969.
S. I. Gregory	joined our accounts office in 1937 was elected Company Secretary in November 1942 and a Director on 1st October 1959. He retired on 31st March 1978.
S. Turnbull	initially our Stock Controller, later Commercial Manager, was appointed Commercial Director on 1st October 1959 until his untimely death in June 1965.

L. R. Mann	our present Chairman and Managing Director, nephew of the co-founder, joined the Company in May 1955. He was elected to the Board in July 1962 and in turn was Engineering Director, Deputy Managing Director and Joint Managing Director. He became Managing Director in 1965.
C. Mason	joined the export sales organisation in September 1948 and has spent considerable time overseas. He served as Sales Manager then General Sales Manager and was appointed to the Board as Sales Director in May 1964.
S. W. Javens	joined in October 1948 and was Industrial Sales Manager before being appointed a Director in May 1964. He retired in April 1969.
A. W. A. Oliver	joined the export sales organisation in September 1948 and became Home Sales Manager in 1964. Appointed a Director in January 1966, he resigned in August 1972.
W. P. Winterton	came to the Company as Works Director in January 1967 and became Technical Director in May 1971, a position he still holds.
Sir William Reid C.B.E.	joined the Company as a Consultant in 1968 and was appointed Deputy Chairman in October 1969. He became Chairman in May 1972 and retired in July 1977.
A. Hindmarch	came to us as an apprentice in April 1940, later becoming Works Manager and eventually Works Director from May 1971 to October 1974. At that time he transferred to the subsidiary company and retired on health grounds at the end of December 1976.
S.M. Palmer	joined as Works Manager in August 1974 and was elected to the Board as Works Director in January 1976. In addition he was appointed Connector Divisional Manager in February 1978.
P. Henderson	came to us as Chief Accountant in September 1975 and was appointed Financial Director in January 1976, a position he still holds.
L. J. Clark C.B.E.	joined the Company in March 1977 and the following July was elected Chairman of the Board, a position that he held until his retirement at the end of June 1979.

1929-1979

Tomorrow-



A message from the Chairman

I hope that this record of our first 50 years has been of interest. To those, like me, who have worked in the company for even half of this time, it has conjured up all sorts of memories - but it is to the next 50 years, that we must turn our attention.

With a fine example to follow, and with our divisionalised structure settling into place, the foundations have been firmly laid for the next half century.

What the future will bring for the company, no one can say with certainty, but the present team has no intentions of falling below the standards of its predecessors and when the time comes it will make every effort to choose successors capable of not just carrying on the tradition of progress, but improving upon it so that our Centenary will be an outstanding event in the calendar of the year 2029.

L. R. MANN