

Champion Started Its WNC Operations 51 Years Ago

Fifty-one years ago work began on the construction of a new industry that was to bring to Haywood County and the surrounding region a new and brightening era of economic progress. In 1906, Peter G. Thompson, then president of the Champion Coated Paper Company, disdaining the opinions of many, and envisioning the potentialities of the South as a source of pulpwood, looked to this area for the site of a mill to supply pulp to his paper mill in Ohio.

In Canton he found the happy combination of timber supply, intelligent labor, adequate water, availability of essential processing materials and ready access to markets. Construction of the Canton mill required two years and production began in 1908.

As the pioneer mill of the South's pulp and paper industry, Champion Paper and Fibre Company's Carolina Division at Canton became the world's first mill to make white pulp from chestnut wood, the first to produce commercial quantities of high quality white pulp from Southern pine, and the first to manufacture bleached hardwood pulp by the sulphate process. The Canton mill began manufacturing paper in 1922.

Today as Haywood County's largest industry, the industrial giant that is the Carolina Division has nine machines including four paper machines, three paperboard machines and two pulp drying machines. Two of the paper machines are among the world's largest for the manufacture of white papers.

Daily production is 475 tons of paper, 225 tons of paperboard, 625 tons of pine pulp and 300 tons of hardwood pulp. In addition, by-products produced and sold each day include 80 tons of caustic soda which is supplied to the state's textile industry, 30

tons of tall oil and 1,500 gallons of turpentine.

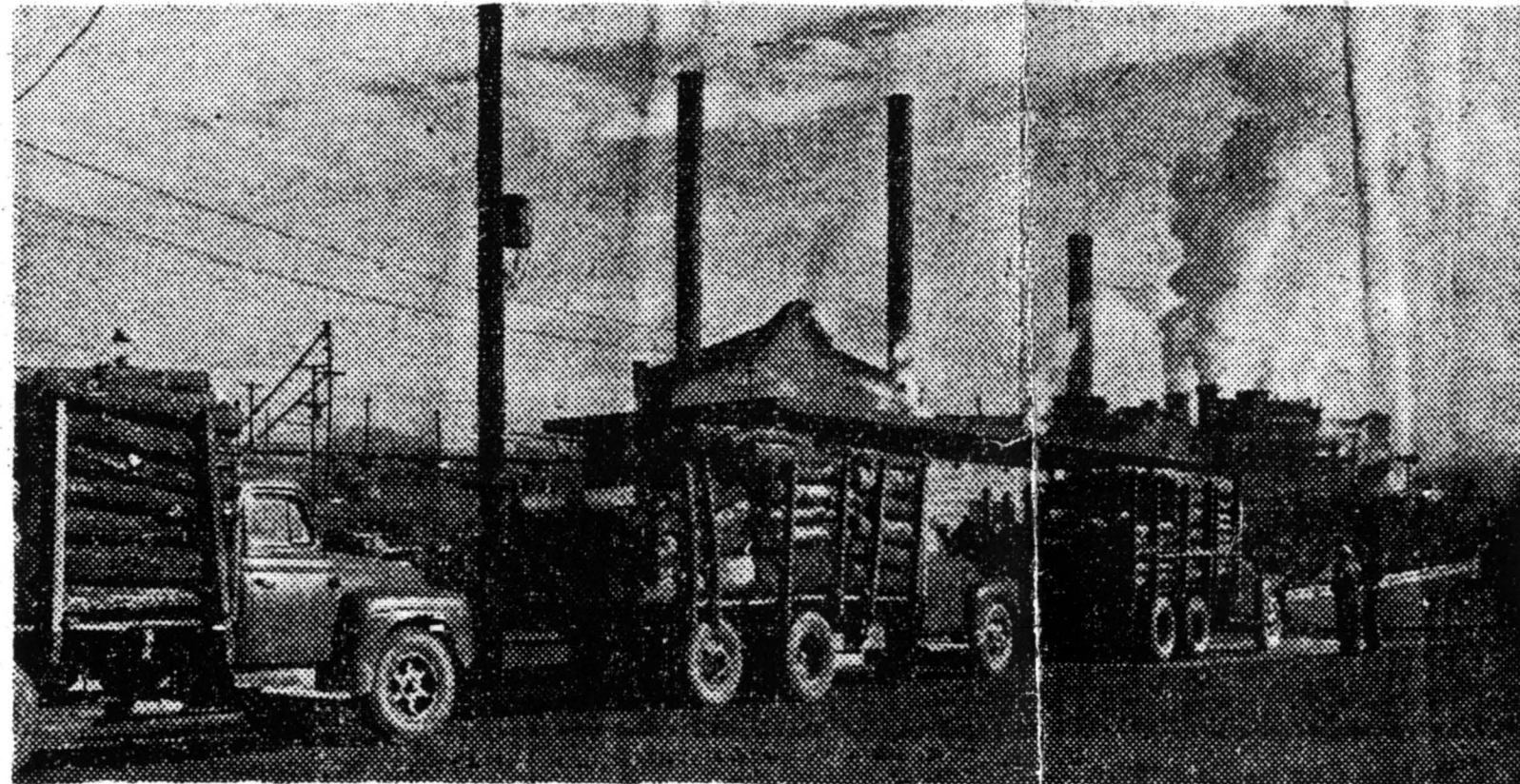
In maintaining this production the mill makes use each day of 1700 cords of pine and hardwood pulpwood, 18 rail cars of coal, 150 tons of salt, 110 tons of salt cake, approximately 40 million gallons of water, 70 tons of lime and more than 76 tons of other chemicals such as alum, rosin, clay and starch.

Employment at the Carolina Division averages 2,900 persons and the payroll aggregates \$16 million yearly. The cost of wood—the prime raw material in pulp and paper manufacture—exceeds \$10 million yearly at the Canton mill.

Each day more than 135 rail cars, 15 to 20 trailer trucks, and approximately 260 wood trucks enter or leave the Carolina Division mill, bringing in raw materials and carrying out finished products. Champion's yearly freight bill at Canton exceeds \$6-1-2 million.

Champion's famed paper and paperboard in many grades leave the Carolina Division at the rate of 700 tons every day and are shipped to users throughout the United States and in many different parts of the world. In addition, the Canton mill supplies the Champion paper mill at Hamilton, Ohio, with 250 tons of bleached pulp every day.

Principal paper products of the Carolina Division of Champion include: envelope papers in a wide variety of colors which are used for business and personal correspondence and both light and heavy mailings; bond paper and writing paper which are produced in white and colors and are used for letterheads, envelopes, office forms and are suitable for fine printing, typing and pen and pencil writing; tablet paper used in school tablets, theme books, note books, and receipt books; offset papers used for fine black-



A MAJOR economic boost to landowners of Western North Carolina is derived from truck deliveries of pulpwood to the giant Champion Paper and Fibre Company mill at Canton. Incoming trucks are pictured being weighed. An average of 235 trucks unload approximately 800 cords of wood each day at the mill. Nearly a thousand different suppliers share in the \$2½ million income from this sale of trucked wood. An additional 2,000 families in Western North Carolina derive income through the trucking of wood to collection points for trans-shipment by rail to Champion's Carolina Division.

and-white and multi-color printing; mimeograph papers both white and in a variety of colors; and milk carton and food container paperboard manufactured to meet the rigid specifications of material to be converted into sanitary containers.

Rueben B. Robertson Sr., foremost western Carolina industrialist, business pioneer, benefactor, civic leader, and advocate of good human relations currently heads Champion Paper and Fibre Company in the dual capacities of President and Chairman of the Board. Robertson personally directed the activities of the Carolina Division from 1907 to 1935 and since that time served as Executive Vice President and President of the entire Company. He has been Chairman of the Board since 1950. He reassumed the duties of President in 1955

when Reuben B. Robertson, Jr., then President, took leave from the Company upon being named Deputy Secretary of Defense.

H. A. Helder heads the Carolina Division of Champion as General Manager and Vice President. Helder joined Champion in 1908 as a chemist. He has risen to his present leadership through the positions of superintendent of the extract department, chief chemist, technical director, assistant mill manager, and mill manager, and has been general manager since 1946. He was named a Vice President of the Company in 1952.

Other Champion corporation officials stationed at the Carolina Division include: Brandon P. Hodges, assistant secretary, who came to Champion from the position of North Carolina State Treasurer; W. Beekman Huger, assistant treasurer; and Walter J. Damtoft, assistant secretary and

well known forestry leader.

Assistant General Manager of the Carolina Division is A. M. Fairbrother, who has been associated with Champion for 24 years. The Champion Paper and Fibre Company is today among the leaders in the pulp and paper industry, and the company is looking ahead, planning ahead and acting to insure that it maintains this role of leadership.

Building for the future, the Carolina Division is now embarking on an expansion program which will increase daily production to 1100 tons of pulp and 1050 tons of paper and paperboard. The expansion, which is at present largely in the engineering stage, calls for the installation of one of the world's largest paper machines for the manufacture of white paper. The new machine will produce a continuous stream

of paper 220 inches wide at speeds up to 2,000 feet per minute. This machine is expected to be placed in operation in 1959. It will be one of the world's largest machines for the manufacture of white papers.

A two-story building with 124,000 square feet of floor space will be built to house the new machine and an attached four-story building with 50,000 square feet of floor space will be constructed to house the machine's stock preparation equipment. An addition of 43,000 square feet of floor space is planned in the finishing and shipping departments to provide for final processing of the output of the new machine.

Included in the expansion plans are a program of increased timberland acquisition and an improvement of pulp production facilities.

The economic and technical progress of Champion has been matched by its advancements in human relations. The activities of and accomplishments of the company in maintaining a high level in wages, in expanding employee benefits, in community development, and in forging a strong management—employee bond in the conduct of business—have all been hailed in the industrial world as pace setting.

Carolina Division Champion employees were introduced to an even greater scale of benefits and a newly enhanced degree of management-employee relations when in November, 1954 a profit-sharing plan was approved by the employees in all divisions of the company and became effective.

Among the outstanding phases of this plan are retirement income, free hospital and surgical and life insurance, and liberalized temporary and permanent disability benefits. A cooperative earnings bonus is paid in addition to regular earnings and is directly geared to production efficiency.