

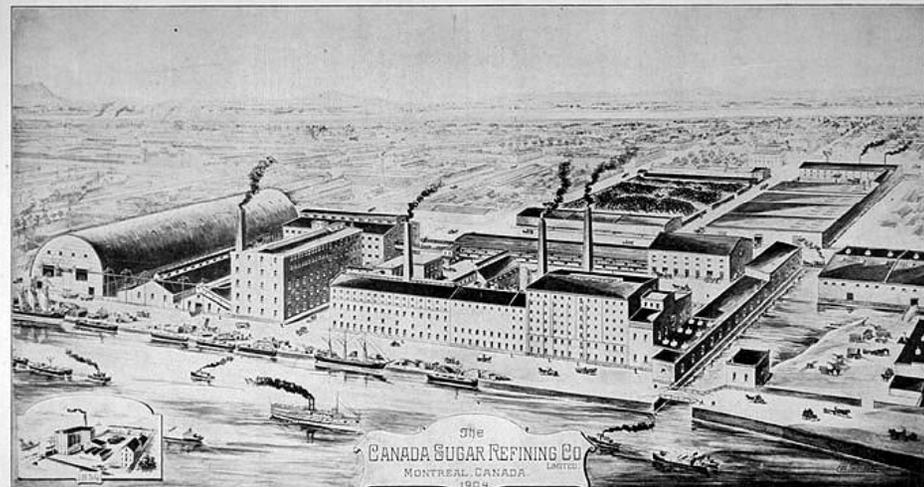
A Short History of My Neighbourhood

Part 10

Manufacturing

The Canada Sugar Refinery Co.

- John Redpath, a stonemason from Scotland, worked on the Canal that opened in 1825.
- In 1854, he founded a refinery and erected five storey building.
- This industrial complex would soon grow to cover several city blocks.



The accompanying cut shows the plant and refinery of the Canada Sugar Refining Company, one of the great industrial concerns of the Dominion. The immense premises are located on the banks of the Lachine Canal, close to the city of Montreal, and cover twelve acres of ground. The vacuum process of refining is used, and all the machinery and equipment of the very latest and improved character. The capacity is 2,000 barrels a day, and the excellent quality of the product is well known all over the country. The annual output amounts in money to \$4,500,000 and necessitates the employment of about 600 men. This business was established in 1854 by the late Mr. John Redpath. In 1879 it was converted into a joint stock company, with a capital of \$1,000,000. Hon. Sir George A. Drummond is the President and Managing Director; Mr. R. B. Angus, Vice-President, and Mr. F. W. Parker, Secretary.

Courtesy of the Redpath Sugar Museum

The refinery would stay in business at the Point till 1980.

Working at the Sugar Refinery



Courtesy of the Redpath Sugar Museum

- The boats enabled receiving raw materials and shipping manufactured goods.
- Along the canal, manufacturers set up factories.
- More and more were built and more and more workers were employed.
- Some were immigrants and others came from the country.

The Northern Electric Co.



From McGill University Web Site

- The construction of this huge building began in 1913.
- Wire and telephones systems were made there during its lifetime.
- At its height, there were as many as 8,000 workers.
- A railway went across St. Patrick St., directly into the factory.
- Bell Canada bought the company in 1954, and Northern Electric closed in 1975.

Today, small businesses have found a home in the building.

Belding Corticelli



- Belding Paul Co., the first silk mill in Canada, set up shop near the canal in 1884.
- It would later merge with Corticelli from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- Silk ribbon was made there and later, nylon stockings.
- The workforce was made up mostly of women.
- After closing in 1982, the factory was converted into condos.

Canadian Bag

- Canadian Bag's factory was built in 1913-14.
- Jute and cotton bags were made there for the other industries along the canal.
- There were 75-80 employees there, among whom many women.
- In 1949, the factory closed and then housed a chemical warehouse.
- The City of Montréal bought it in 1985 and turned it into apartments in 1989.

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Houses for the Workers

In the 19th century, the workers had to live near their workplace.

There were no cars or busses when the first factories were built.

In the first houses, there was no running water.

A "back house", in the back yard, was used as a toilet.



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