

No. 9 of a Series

**PACKARD
ELECTRIC
COMPANY
LIMITED**

NIAGARA DISTRICT'S POST-WAR PROSPECTS

THE PACKARD EXCELS IN SERVICE

Transformer and Meter Specialists, Packard Electric Company Work 44-Hour Week, Have Numerous Employee Benefits.

Perhaps it is only a natural consequence that in a city which can trace its industrial growth to the development of electric power at its doorstep that one of the best known Canadian producers of electrical equipment and one of the oldest industries in St. Catharines should be the Packard Electric Company Limited.

It's a far cry from a revolutionary lighting gadget, a black carbon filament lamp, Packard-made, to a vast 80-ton transformer, Packard-built, which is today one of the chief links in the municipal power system at Vancouver, B.C., but that contrast is typical of the progress and expansion of the Packard firm.

In 1894 the Packard Electric Company was founded and began operations in a solid, stone building which for years has been one of the landmarks in St. Catharines overlooking the old Welland Canal at the junction of Geneva and Bond streets. While the original plant is still in use, manufacturing has expanded into additions and a second plant, occupied in 1927 on Welland avenue. The company today uses in St. Catharines 85,000 square feet of floor space compared to approximately 25,000 square feet in 1894.

While natural and artificial gas continued to be used for lighting until about 25 years ago, hydro electric power came into general use late in the last century and it was in that period that the Packard Electric Company was formed. It is the second oldest manufacturer of electrical equipment in Canada, and it is a tribute to the quality of Packard workmanship, which has continued until the present day that many of the transformers built a half-century ago are still performing a valuable service.

Fifty-two years ago, in addition to transformers, the company also produced electric lamp bulbs, made with carbon filament. However, the production of lamps was discontinued a few years later and a new undertaking, the manufacture of

domestic and power watt hour meters, which record the consumption of electricity, was introduced. With the exception of war years, the company has devoted its operations exclusively to the manufacture of meters, transformers, and relays, the latter introduced after Great War I. Similar to the good service record established by Packard transformers, Packard meters built 40 years ago are still providing accurate, dependable service. Incidentally, practically every meter installed at a St. Catharines home, office or factory bears the familiar Packard trademark.

During the first war most of the transformer and meter work was discontinued and replaced by direct war work, primarily primers and fuses. In the second war, Packard employees performed a 100 per cent war job, but because of the new emphasis on manufacturing output for the war effort about 75 per cent of the company's output went into transformers, both power and furnace transformers for the operation of electric furnaces in war production plants. In addition, Packard products such as air intakes and delicate relay instruments were manufactured for use on aircraft.

For the past 30 years the St. Catharines firm has specialized in furn-

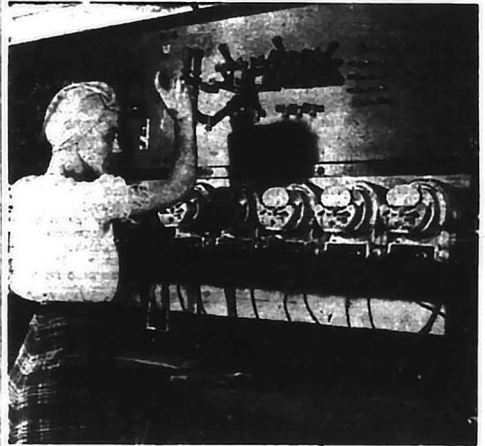
ce transformers for electric furnace operation, and some of Canada's largest electric furnace plants are completely equipped with Packard transformers. In fact, the company's reputation gained international recognition and many furnace plants in foreign countries are equipped with Packard transformers.

This recognition of quality workmanship has continued and it is gratifying that Packard is almost daily receiving requests for equipment from markets abroad but because of the extensive orders from home markets, export markets cannot be supplied at this time.

In the manufacture of transformers Packard has been the leader in many improvements that have been greatly appreciated by transformer users in Canada. For example, years ago pole type transformers were set in heavy, cumbersome cast iron tanks. The Packard developed a sheet steel tank, reducing the weight and eliminating all oil leaks that developed in cast iron tanks. In a few years, other Canadian firms adopted the sheet steel tank, and it is now in universal use.

The company has been a leader in many other improvements in the electrical industry, and these accomplishments were assisted by a sound policy of mutual co-operation with Packard employees. Very few companies have had a more stabilized employment record than Packard. Today there are about 350 employees, and present plant extensions will bring the number up to approximately 400.

The company was one of the first in this district to introduce the 44 hour week. There is a group insurance plan providing life, sickness and accident insurance and hospitalization for employees and their dependents towards which the com-



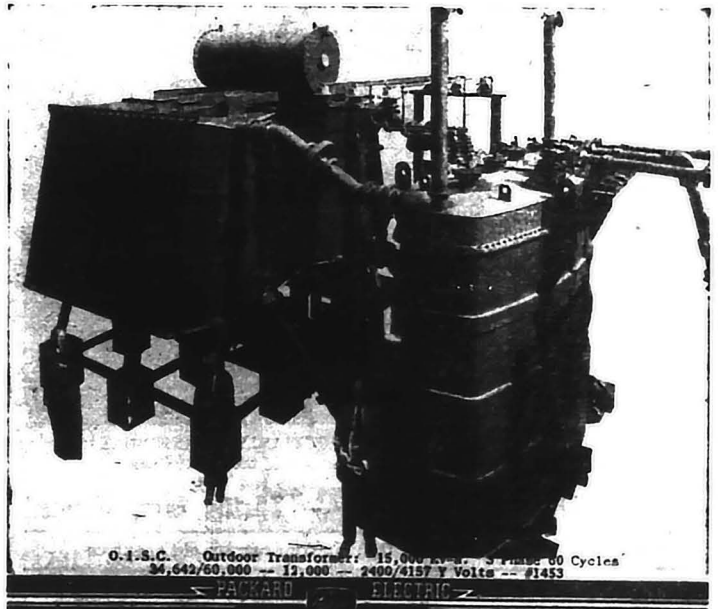
Watt hour meters, for recording electric power consumption, are urgently needed for new buildings and replacements across Canada. This shows a meter testing panel.

pany makes a substantial regular contribution. There is also provided a pension plan for all employees with seven or more years' service, the cost of which is shared by the company and the employees. For older employees with long service, an additional amount is provided entirely by the company. Indicative of the continuity and stabilization of employment, the majority of execu-

tive and supervisory staff have an average of 30 years of Packard employment, while in many instances there are employees averaging 43 years' service. It is this faithfulness, loyalty, and good workmanship that has enabled the Packard Electric Company, owned by Canadian capital, to maintain its place at the forefront of the Canadian electrical industry.



A delicate operation in transformer building is the winding of coils as demonstrated by this skilled Packard worker.



O-I.B.C. Outdoor Transformer: 15,000 KVA, 3 Phase 60 Cycles
36,642/60,000 -- 17,000 -- 2400/4157 V Volts -- #1453
PACKARD ELECTRIC

One of the largest transformers built at Packard Electric, this 80-ton three phase 60-cycle transformer is an import-

ant link in the Vancouver, B.C., municipal power system.

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