

Toronto Star, March 5, 1902

## A FINE FACTORY IN A LARGE PARK

A Transformation Scene Completed on the Banks of the Don River.

### ALL PROMISES CARRIED OUT

By the Lever Brothers in the Completion of Their Sunlight Soap Works.

No greater transformation has been effected at any spot in Toronto than in the vicinity of the mouth of the Don. Various causes contributed for a number of years to give the whole locality a somewhat unsavory character, classic by name, but hardly so in its surroundings. "Down by the Don" came in time to be associated in one's mind with such unclassical adjuncts as cattle byers and glue factories. Let anyone who today only remembers that part of the city in its unlovely aspect of a few years ago suddenly find himself set down in Sunlight Park. Just south of the park a group of buildings would attract his attention, and excite no small degree of wonder and admiration.

The Sunlight Soap Works, erected near the Don by the Lever Brothers, Limited, are no ordinary built factory. They form an altogether artistically arranged group of buildings set in the midst of a picturesque site covering over 23 acres in extent. The whole of this large block of land has been purchased by the Lever Brothers, Limited and to-day is occupied by the largest soap factory in Canada.

At the time the negotiations were opened with the City Council, with the view to the Sunlight Soap Works being established in Toronto, plans showing an imposing front of buildings of strikingly beautiful architectural features were somewhat ostentatiously exhibited, and great promises were made as to what the company would do if once it became established in this city. There were many at the time who regarded all professions and promises made on behalf of the company as being made very much in the nature of a big bluff, made for the purpose of obtaining certain concessions and privileges.

“The Levers will never put up those buildings, nor carry out half their promises” said the doubters, who by their untimely croakings, had in times past driven promising industries from the city. Sunlight Park and the Sunlight Soap Works are to-day a visible and very substantial refutation of the misgivings and false alarms sounded by the sceptics of two or three years ago. The works and factories of the Lever Brothers in Toronto are on the same general scale of magnificence as the famous works in the town of Port Sunlight, England, where are situated the largest soap works not only in England but in all the world. At this factory alone over 3,000 people are employed. Besides the English works and the works here established in Toronto, the Lever Brothers have two extensive plants in the United States, one in Australia, one in Germany and one in Switzerland.

COOKING BY ELECTRICITY

The Sunlight Soap Works buildings on the banks of the Don include a large meeting hall and two spacious dining rooms for the convenience of the workpeople. A novel feature of the dining hall is the electrical equipment for cooking. Not only are these buildings and the whole of the works lighted and heated by the company’s own electrical plant, but all the cooking required to provide a large number of workpeople with a midday meal is done by electricity.

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This remarkable absence of unpleasant odors throughout the entire works is explained by the fact that Sunlight Soap is made of the purest vegetable oils and edible fats. Nothing whatever of an objectionable nature is allowed to enter into the composition of the various well known varieties of Sunlight soaps.

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## HOW IT IS MADE

Commencing from the top floor, with its immense tanks of 60 tons' capacity each, in which the soap is seething and boiling in a huge mass, we see long chutes descending to the floor below. Going down to the frame room, into which the soap flows, and is allowed to cool in solid blocks, weighing about fifteen hundred pounds, we see a machine fitted with a series of wires. These cut the huge blocks into slabs of seventy pounds each. Another machine cuts the slabs into the octagon bars. Still another machine carries these bars along until they emerge, stamped with the trademark, "Sunlight", and are carried along again between rows of girls, who put them up in cardboard cases. From here they go to the great shipping rooms, where the soap is packed in boxes.

Other parts of this great establishments include the printing department, where a modern press is at work turning out the printed material required in the business.

Still another department is the chemical laboratory, where all the ingredients used in the manufacture of Sunlight Soap are tested for their purity. For the benefit of the visitor, if desired, a bar of soap is taken to the obliging gentleman who presides over the department, and submitted to a series of careful and most interesting tests.

Such are some of the features of the City of Sunlight, now featured on the banks of the ever classic Don.