



AN OAKVILLE FIRST — This huge object leaving Oakville's Procor plant resembles part of

a space rocket but it is in fact the first factory-built pulp digester in Canada. Designed by Procor engineers and built here, the digester is shown ready for shipment to Domtar's new \$3.5 million pulp mill at Red Rock, Ont.

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came to Oakville in 1963 and erected a modern plant on the Third Line. Since then more than 600 tank cars have come from the busy plant including specialized cars to carry chlorine, nitrogen fertilizer solution, and even whiskey, as well as 33,500-gallon "Hot Dog" cars designed for transport of liquid propane and anhydrous ammonia.

Few residents of Oakville passing the Procor plant with a casual glance realize that this company owns the largest fleet of railway tank cars in Canada, more than 8,000, some of which are leased to Oakville's three petroleum refineries.

Oakville's growth as an industrial centre is nowhere more applicable than in Procor's history.

As part of a diversification policy Procor five years ago acquired Sparling Tank and Manufacturing Company Limited makers and erectors of plate metal, and this not only allowed Procor to broaden into the field of steel and non-ferrous fabricating but to integrate the supply of tanks for its leasing operation.

Procor In-Plant Training Plan Prepares For Technical Future

The Economic Council of Canada in a recent report urged government and private industry to hasten expansionary policy to provide 1,500,000 new jobs by 1970.

An Oakville industrial company, Procor Limited long ago embarked on its own program to achieve precisely what the council urges: creation of new jobs through learning to use Canadian manpower more effectively.

In the case of Procor, producers of railway tank cars and owners of the largest tank car fleet in Canada (leased to shippers of liquid products) the Oakville firm's foresighted policy is not only under way but expanding with marked success.

Procor Limited, in co-operation with the Oakville board of education inaugurated a blueprint reading course for its employees. This course was opened at Gordon Perdue High School early in January, and at that time A. J. Paul LaPrairie, manager of the manufacturing division of Procor announced:

MUST HAVE SKILLS

"The trend in industry today is to hire men with greater skills than those hired in the

past. These increased skills require basic technical training for the new entrants to the labor force and also required is continuous training of craftsmen and technicians now in industry. Those men must be helped to keep their skills abreast of advancing technology."

"We are very enthusiastic about our training programme," adds Mr. LaPrairie. "During the past four years we have been conducting courses in welding, with excellent results, now we want to train our men for jobs in the company that are harder to fill in the Oakville area, than welders. If this programme is successful, we will conduct more advanced courses in the future."

The blueprint course is conducted by members of the staff of Gordon Perdue High School.

Procor is paying for the school rental, teachers' and janitors' salaries, cost of materials and books required. The employees contribute their time.

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The sixty-six employees, divided into two groups attend ten sessions of three hours each, with each group attending on alternate Saturdays. Homework is not forgotten in that a mini-

mum of four hours per bi-weekly period will be required.

The benefits are two-fold. The company gains more trained craftsmen. The employees gain job and career security, important considerations in this year

of technological change.

Each employee who volunteered for the course was interviewed and given a brief aptitude test.

The subject matter for the course was chosen as a result

of meetings with Mr. LaPrairie and officials of the Gordon Perdue High School and the Oakville Board of Education.

"If industry is to help meet the objectives set out in the economic council report, they must act now rather than sit back and wait for someone to come and lead them by the hand," concludes Mr. LaPrairie.

This approach to the problem of educating workers for their own advancement in the industrial age and the age of automation, is typical of the company's steady progress since it

IMPRESSIVE RECORD

But behind the Procor story of expansion in Oakville lies an impressive background of tank car building, maintenance and leasing. Procor and its predecessor company, Products Tank Line of Canada Limited, have operated in Canada for more than 36 years.



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