



THIS IS HOW THE CARBON PLANT LOOKED ON AUGUST 1, 1913

The Badin Carbon Plant

(Continued from page 3)

they never got that far. "Lo," as Lil' Bulla says in her history of Badin, "the sound of cannon interrupted the sound of Ed's cussing"—or something like that. So the Frenchmen went back to fight and get shot without ever usin' the Usine. Some folks say they should have been shot for putting in some of the equipment that they did; and other folks say that they probably preferred being shot to staying here to try and operate. And so posterity will never know just how the plant would have operated under French management, they will have to guess.

We do know that they intended to use calcined coke and tar instead of pitch in making their electrode. The tar was to be stored in three large tanks located just north of the Carbon Plant Coal Storage. One of these tanks was given to "Jersey" for tar storage, on the condition that he get t'hell out of the Carbon Plant with his Pot Lining Department; but, say, we seem to be getting ahead of our story a bit. Another is used for Oil Storage, being placed north of the Spur leading to 50-C, adjacent to the petite chateau and kennels of Monsieur Ed Bid-dix. The other tank was cut in two, and the Electrical Department did something with the halves. Like everything else that they acquire, the fragments of that tank have disappeared.

The tar was to have been removed from the tanks and heated in huge ket-

tles long since removed to make way for our present butt pulverizing room. The Coke Storage was in 50-C, and the Calciner also. This Calciner was built in ten sections, with four retort tubes per section, to operate with producer gas. The coke was to be crushed in a Sturtevant "Coffee Mill," and elevated to a bin over the Calciners. It was to be drawn from the bin, weighed and dumped into the calciners. After calcining, it dropped on a flight conveyor, carried to an elevator which in turn fed it to another flight conveyor hung on the bottom chords of the roof trusses. This conveyor dumped the red hot coke on a cooling floor, which would have been great stuff—for the fire department. The coke was to go from the cooling pile to another Sturtevant Mill, through a Lehigh-Fuller Pulverizer, and then elevated to a screw conveyor which distributed it to the overhead dustbin. The calcined coke was to be drawn from the bin, properly proportioned with the hot tar in a weigh car, and dropped into small Werner Pfeiderer Mixers for preliminary mix. It was then to be transferred to Chilean Mills (Chilean Mills is a polite name for blank-dashed pan grinders), and kneaded to a frazzle before going to the crushers. The electrodes were to be molded, and not extruded, so they only had the one type of press; and I'll say they were some mean presses. Turret type, like our Elmes, but sixteen hundred ton against the Elmes two hundred and fifty. Squeeze? Well, say Sally, B. S. wouldn't

be nuthin' alongside of that old French Press.

From the presses the electrode went to the baking furnaces, located where ours are. They were producer gas fired, ring furnaces, but designed differently from ours. There was no cleaning department, so Mr. Chrisco would have been out of luck, as the saying is. He says though that he has always understood the French were good housekeepers. In dashing over the above outline, several items have been omitted, such as the Casey Hedges Boilers, Dean Pump, Accumulator, some jolly little hand poked Gas Producers—which also date from the upper Silurian epoch before this "Lo, the sound of cannon" business above noted.

The present or carboniferous era dates from the Fall of 1915, when the Tallassee Power Company took over the French holdings, and Mr. S. E. Broadwell came down to make a Carbon Plant out of the old Usine d'Electrode. This he partially accomplished by calling it "The Carbon Plant," and numbering the different sections of the building 50-A, 50-B, and 50-C. He then stepped inside and took a long look around, after which he dashed to the Telegraph Office and wired for the late Mr. G. F. Murphy, of the Pittsburgh Office, and a French Grammar for Beginners.

Most of the Chapter on Carbon Plants was torn out of the Grammar, and so it was decided to lay off of the old French or European Plan, and go to it on the