

[Page 48 - C.M. \(Clem\) Anson and Steel](#)

ISSUE : [Issue 28](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1981/6/1

of 27%--and that makes a good coke. So it was a question that coal was here, iron ore was nearby--okay, we can make steel here. And they did. (So it was a good place to put a plant.) Yes. And later on, the export situation developed where we could ship the steel right from here. We used to ship steamer load and steamer load, chartered ships, 10- and 12-thousand-ton vessels, fully loaded with Sydney's semi-finished steel, to England--before the Second World War and into the war. It stopped when the British steel industry was in poor shape and their government stopped the importation of steel pretty well. And freight rates in Canada. We had to compete with plants in central Canada--we had to sell up there at the same price that they charged up there. Nobody would give us more, just because we had to pay to transport the steel a thousand miles to them. We just had to accept whatever price was available up there. So all that meant was per ton of steel produced, we got a little less money than people producing steel in Ontario. They were closer to the market than we were. Of course, we had no market up there. That is to say, we had no assured market in the '20s and early '30s. In fact, it was not until DOWCO was formed that we established subsidiary companies in that area up there--Quebec and Ontario. We established there because that's where most of the Canadian finished steel was consumed. In order to assure ourselves of the market, we had to establish those subsidiaries. (Like at Contrecoeur, near Montreal?) Well, that was the last, I'm speaking of long before Contrecoeur, The first one was bought in the late '20s, I think it was--the Peck Rolling Mills in Montreal, They bought billets from somebody and rolled them down into bars of various shapes for the consuming market. That was the first mill we bought. And in the early '30s we bought in Windsor, Ontario, The U. S. Steel Corporation had established the beginnings of a steel plant in Windsor, intending to have a Canadian subsidiary making steel, producing various things and selling them in the Canadian market. But they never carried through with that. They built the blast furnace--perhaps had it about 3/4s built-- when they quit on it. They had established a rolling mill up there. And they had established or bought a steel-fabricating company--Canadian Bridge, it was called-- and we bought up what was left of their interest there. So that we could ship our steel from Sydney all the way to Windsor, convert it into finished products and sell

Home of Gaelic College Summer School 2, 3 & 5 Week Courses: Scottish Highland Dancing Bagpipe Music Gaelic Language The Great Hall of the Clans & Giant MacAskill Museum The Annual Gaelic Mod Held During First Full Week in August The Gaelic College, st. Anns. n. s. (48) P.O. Box 9, Baddeck, N. S.