

NSM / T.J. Walker (NSM)
Comp. a. P. Sinclair Ltd.

NSM
Brown
30k-1

Imperial Tobacco Limited/Limitée



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June 29, 1977

Dr. S. J. Green
Westminster House
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London SW1P 3JE
England

S.L.G.
4 July 1977
ACK
FILE

Dear Jim:

We were asked by T.J. Walker to write you an account of a visit to Ajax plant by Jim Scott and Les Rome of Imperial Tobacco (Ardeer) Ltd. I had lunch with them and Cort Brown, and stayed while they presented a slide illustrated tour of the Ardeer plant. I then had to leave and Cort and Jim Sinclair carried on for the balance of the afternoon. Cort's report is attached. This letter contains additional impressions.

- 1) We can't really say why they came. Apart from showing mild interest in one or two control gadgets in Ajax, most of the time was spent telling us about Ardeer. They did a good job of communicating the engineering excellence of Ardeer and the pains taken to control quality.
- 2) It seems that once having registered an NSM with Hunter it is necessary to ensure that production NSM is essentially the same material as used when getting Hunter approval. They are finding difficulty in getting a supplier of EMC having the same molecular structure as a replacement for the supply from ICI.

*did a pulp
contact L
Principles / Principles
for control quality?*

*According to
Dr. Clarence Day
we buy from
Hercules
Trent.*

Every batch of NSM is analyzed for conformity to specifications. As an example, determination of

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some 17 metals is routine. It sounds as though once having approval for a specific formulation it will be difficult to improve it by changing the formulation.

- 3) If the NSM plant actually runs as it was portrayed it is indeed well engineered. A fresh engineering team took over from the stage of development reached at Claverham. Some features are:
 - a) Use of computers to compare batch weights with standards. Duplicate batch weighing systems intercompare with one another and with standard.
 - b) Feedback control of basis weight and moisture content of sheet.
 - c) Rotating roller control of casting thickness. Speed of rotation rather than distance of roll from steel band controls film thickness. Coarse particles catching on doctor blade not a problem as with system used for PCL.
 - d) Finished sheet slicer/dicer.
 - e) High belt speed without tracking problems.
- 4) Jim Horler is in charge of a reconstituted tobacco sheet project. We had previously heard about this in the context of "keeping options open," but this time it was pointed out that Imperial needs a waste recovery process, even with NSM. (To refresh your memory I attach a copy of my letter of October 9, 1975. We turned down Horler's visit request at that time.)
- 5) We have often talked about a hybrid sheet, meaning the addition of fillers to PRT. Another way to look at it is to think of a hybrid substitute-reconstituted tobacco sheet. This, I think, would get one clearly into casting rather than paper making technology. The process of sheet-making in an aqueous medium seems to lower biological activity.

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What would such a hybrid be like, perhaps with the tobacco portion pre-extracted with a more effective solvent than water?

- 6) Both men were visibly surprised when I asked if Canadian Industries Ltd. was still Canadian representative for NSM, and said they knew of no such arrangement.
- 7) The reference in Imperial's letter of May 10 (S.E. Arnold) to Imasco having "approached ICI for design/patent details on part of our plant" is to an inquiry from our engineering department as to whether a patented sheet "slicer/dicer" is commercially available.
- 8) We were invited to visit the Ardeer plant anytime.
- 9) Scott and Rome came to Montreal on their way to visit Tembec Forest Products Inc., who supply them with dissolving pulp.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Bob

R. M. Gibb

enc.

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