

# NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER

A discussion of North American pintype insulators would not be complete without exploring their production and use in Mexico and Canada. Both countries had numerous glassworks which produced insulators; however, both Mexico and Canada also imported pintypes which were manufactured in the United States.

There is also evidence that some of the glasshouses of our neighbors to the north and south copied mold styles similar to those being used on telegraph, telephone, and electric power applications in the United States. Each country, however, also produced insulator styles which were unique to its own country's mold manufacturing.

## CANADIAN INSULATORS

In Canada, there has been very little research on which glass plant produced specific styles of insulators. The limited research instead has focused on authenticating what household glass plate patterns or kerosene lamps were made and by whom. Even when insulator shards were found, no knowledgeable insulator collector was consulted, so there remains much speculation as to insulators and their manufacture. What can be stated absolutely is that numerous glass plants advertised that insulators would be or were being produced as part of their production line, and it is reasonable to assume that they did in fact produce insulators as advertised.

The following is a list of Canadian companies which indicated that insulators would be part of their production:

**The Canada Glass Works** (Foster Brothers) in St. Johns, Quebec, from 1854 to 1860. (See Glass Insulators....The Beginnings -- Early Glass Factories in Canada chapter)

**The British American Glass Works** in Como, Quebec, from 1857 to 1860.

**The Canada Glass Company (Ltd.)** in Hudson, Quebec, from 1864 to 1877. (See Glass Insulators....The Beginnings -- Early Glass Factories in Canada chapter)

**The Hamilton Glass Works (Co.)** in Hamilton, Ontario, from 1864 to 1898. (See Glass Insulators....The Beginnings -- Early Glass Factories in Canada chapter)

**St. Johns Glass Company** in St. Johns, Quebec, from 1875 to 1877.

**The Excelsior Glass Company** in St. Johns, Quebec from 1879 to 1880 and in Montreal, Quebec, from 1880 to 1883.

**Nova Scotia Glass** in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, from 1881 to 1890.

**The North American Glass Company** in Montreal, Quebec, from 1883 to 1890.

**Lamont Glass Company** in Trenton, Nova Scotia, from 1890 to 1897.

**The Diamond Glass Company** and the **Diamond Flint Glass Companies (Ltd.)** in Montreal, Quebec, from 1890 to 1913.

**Sydenham Glass Company** in Wallaceburg, Ontario, from 1894 to 1913.

**The Ontario Glass Company (Ltd.)** in Kingsville, Ontario, from 1899 to 1901.

**Crystal Glass Company (Ltd.)** in Sapperton, British Columbia, from 1906 to 1908.

**Dominion Glass Company** in Wallaceburg, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec, from 1913 to 1967.

It is clear that many companies were involved in the production of insulators from the mid-1850's until 1967. In that period of time, numerous mold varieties were bound to evolve. This was especially true of the CD 143, a style unique to Canadian usage. The CD 143 styles, while all having the same basic design criteria, come in many variants.

In Canada, the only insulators that have positively been authenticated and attributed to a specific manufacturer are the styles that can be identified by manufacturer name or symbol embossed on the insulator. The earliest embossed insulator was an early threadless style (CD 740) which was manufactured by the Canada Glass Works of St. Johns, Canada East. They were embossed on the base of the insulator and read: "FOSTER BROTHERS.ST.JOHN C.E. 1858". (It should be noted that the "N" in the word "JOHN" is embossed backwards.) (See Glass Insulators....The

Beginnings -- Early Glass Factories in Canada chapter). The earliest examples of the rural telephone style were made by the Diamond Glass Company and were embossed with their trademark.

**DIAMOND GLASS COMPANY  
&  
DIAMOND FLINT GLASS  
COMPANY, LIMITED  
Montreal, Quebec**

The history of this glass-manufacturing concern begins with William and David Yuile who had been associated with the Canada Glass Works of St. Johns, Canada East. In 1879 the Yuile brothers formed Excelsior Glass Company in St. Johns, moving the company to Montreal, Quebec, in 1880. In 1883 a reorganization of the company took place and the Yuile brothers founded the North American Glass Company, which operated in Montreal until 1890.

In 1900, the North American Glass Company was reorganized once again and the Diamond Glass Company was formed. Offices were located at DeMontigny and Parthenais Streets in Montreal. Three years later, in 1903, the Diamond Glass Company underwent a name change and became known as "The Diamond Flint Glass Company, Limited" of Montreal with a second branch in Toronto, Ontario. (Figure 1.) The company was simply referred to

as "Diamond Glass" until it became part of the Dominion Glass Company conglomerate in 1913.

William and David Yuile are often referred to as the "fathers of the glass industry" in Canada, for during the years they spent in business, they bought eight different glassworks. These included Burlington Glass Company, Lamont Glass Company, Hamilton Glass Works, Nova Scotia Glass Works, North American Glass Company, Foster Glass Works, Dominion Glass Company (not to be confused with the later Dominion conglomerate), and Toronto Glass Company.

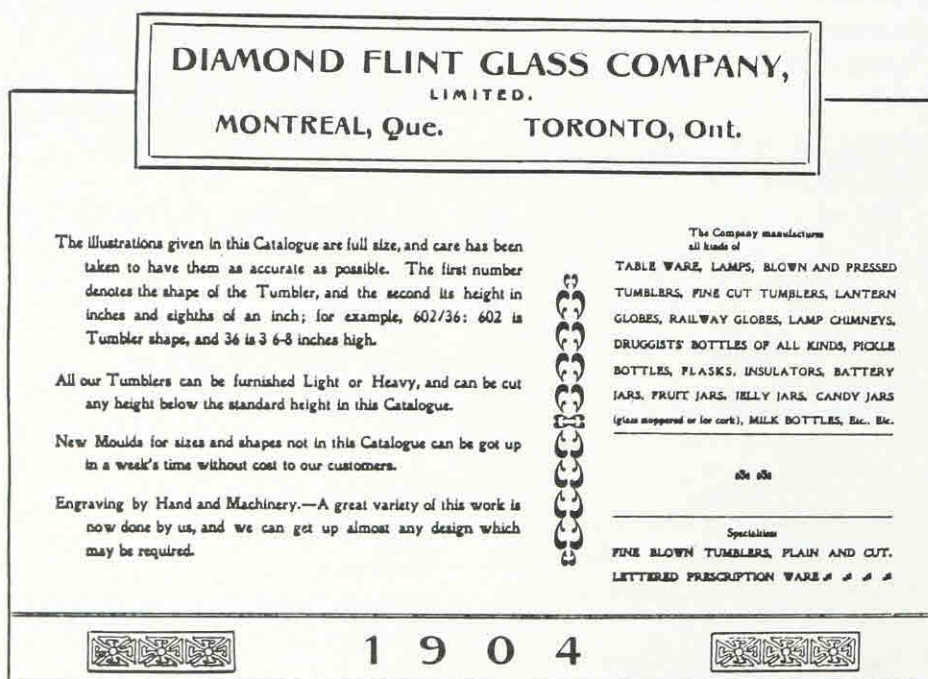
The Diamond Flint Glass Company marked their insulators with an embossed "Diamond" on the front skirt. (Figure 2.) Some of the units, CD's 102 and 112.4, have a short, vertical bar about 3/8" in length embossed above the diamond. And other units have only a bar with no diamond marking. These are the CD 102 and CD 112.5 styles.

The following is a list of CD styles manufactured by Diamond Flint Glass Company:

- CD 102
- 106
- 108
- 112.4
- 112.5
- 115
- 121
- 152
- 154
- 164
- 190/191



(Figure 2.) Company logo of an embossed "Diamond" is usually found embossed on only the front skirt. This is the earliest embossing used by Diamond.



(Figure 1.) A 1904 Diamond Flint Glass Company catalog indicating the manufactured wares. (Courtesy of Morgan Davis)

Research by Canadian collectors indicates that the single "Diamond" embossing as well as the "Bar over a Diamond" embossing were probably used by Diamond Glass prior to the 1913 takeover by the Dominion Glass Company. CD 102 Diamond-embossed units continued to be manufactured following the Dominion takeover. However, the molds were not as crude, the insulators were well made, and usually a second "Diamond" was embossed on the rear skirt. (Figure 3.)

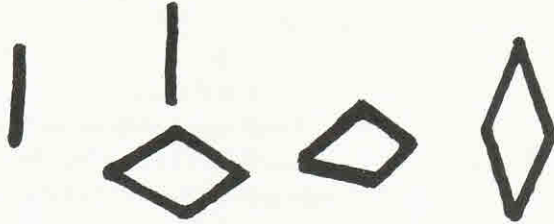


Figure 3. The "Bar" and "Bar/Diamond" embossings.

## DOMINION GLASS COMPANY, LIMITED

Dominion Glass and its numerous branch plants produced every conceivable glass product including mil-

lions of insulators in numerous styles. Certainly, the CD 154 skirt-embossed with "DOMINION 42" is the most widely known.

The most frequently used embossing pattern was the name "DOMINION" followed by a style number on the front skirt, and a "DIAMOND" embossed on the rear skirt. When a new trademark for the Dominion Glass Company was adopted in 1928, the letter "D" was placed in the center of the "DIAMOND" on the rear skirt embossing. Some units have been found with a letter "P" within a "DIAMOND", but it is thought that this marking is the result of an engraving error. (Figure 4.)

Dominion Glass Company manufactured the following styles:

CD	106
	108
	115
	122
	154
	155
	164



(Figure 4.) Embossing found on a CD 154 Dominion manufactured after the 1928 adoption of the "D within a Diamond".

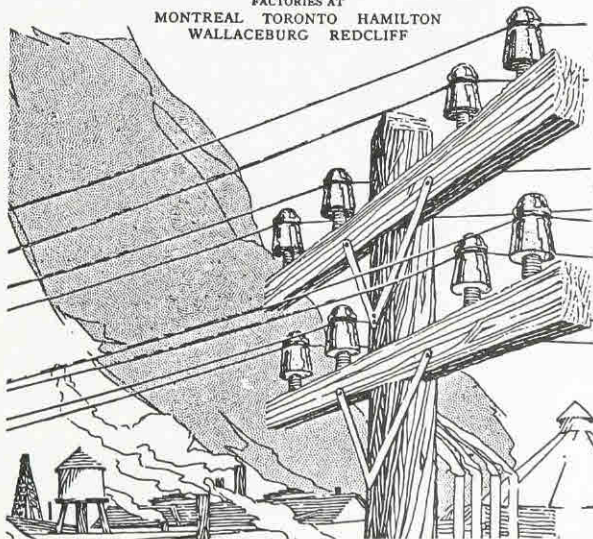
There is evidence that the Diamond Glass Company or its successor, Dominion Glass Company, also

DOMINION GLASS COMPANY  
LIMITED

## GLASS INSULATORS

HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL

FACTORIES AT  
MONTREAL TORONTO HAMILTON  
WALLACEBURG REDCLIFF



### INDUSTRIAL WARE

Industrial ware includes all the other nonbottle items, such as insulators, streetlamp globes, lantern globes, lenses for railroad and ship lights, battery jars, fuse cases, percolator tops, bird seed cups, castor cups, ashtrays and other miscellaneous items. The most interesting and collectible item from this list is the insulator.

Insulators were made to be used with three different types of line service: electricity, telephone and telegraph. The earliest insulators were simply notched pieces of wood nailed to a tree, which kept the wires off the ground. These were superseded by glass insulators and porcelain insulators. In more contemporary times, insulators have been made of rubber and also of plastic.

In Canada the story of the insulator began with the coming of the telegraph in 1846, just ten years after the first railroad, the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway, was completed. One of the earliest telegraph services was provided by the Montreal Telegraph Company, which was incorporated in 1847 and, for many years, was the outstanding service of its kind in Canada.

*Catalog cover showing glass insulators and a description of the industrial wares produced by Dominion Glass Company, Limited.*

*(Glass in Canada, Thomas B. King, 1987, p. 184)*

