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**Ottawa Industry in 46th Year**

Kansas skilled labor and natural resources have been proving their worth for the past forty-six years at Ottawa, where the Ottawa Manufacturing Co. now does a $2,000,000 yearly business in the construction and sale of power machinery. Owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Warner, the firm has grown from a small plant employing a handful of workers to a factory with 360,000 feet of floor space and a pay roll of nearly 300.

Warner founded the business with his father in 1903, after the elder Warner developed a machine for weaving wire fence. Shortly after incorporating in 1904, however, the infant industry branched out into the manufacture of small engines and power equipment. Today, Warner and his wife supervise manufacture and sale by direct mail of such varied implements as post-hole digger, powered weed and grass cutter, and a one-man self-propelled power saw.

Newest addition to the company’s constantly expanding line of products is a garden-size tractor, called the Ottawa Mule Team Tractor. Designed to fill the need for a tractor where conventionally sized equipment is impractical, the unique machine already is being sold around the world. Warner currently is filling an order received from a company in Argentina.

In the company’s steady growth from a one-room shop to the present two-block-long factory, Warner never has had to worry about finding skilled labor to operate the machine tools and other complex equipment needed in his manufacturing processes.

“Many of our employees come from right here in town,” the veteran manufacturer is quick to point out.

Despite Warner’s top-level position as co-owner of a corporation with a business that goes into seven figures, he still takes a personal and active interest in all phases of the plant operation. With his wife, who has helped manage the company’s books for a number of years, he works in his shirtsleeves at a simply-furnished office built in to the factory building.

“We operate direct from factory to consumer,” Warner explains, “That saves money for the purchaser of our equipment by eliminating the middle-man, and the lower prices attract buyers from almost every country.”

Like any other thriving industry, Warner’s factory requires plenty of power and heat for its manufacturing operations. All needs are easily met by Kansas electrical and gas companies serving the area, despite the large quantities of gas and electricity used in the spacious shops.

Typical of factory equipment requiring large supplies of gas is a tempering furnace used by the company for manufacture of buzz saw blades and similar products. The interior of the furnace is kept at a white-hot temperature of 1,550 degrees during tempering operations, requiring 1,000 cubic feet of gas an hour. With its quenching tank of hot brine, the furnace handles 100 buzz saw blades a day, many of which are subsequently installed in the company’s Ottawa Buzz Master, an ingenious self-propelled machine which can be used for clearing brush, felling trees, or sawing logs.

After 46 years as a Kansas manufacturer, Warner is more enthusiastic than ever about the state’s industrial potentialities. An ample supply of skilled labor, a central location for shipping his products over the world, and understanding state corporation laws all help explain a simple statement which Warner uses to express his satisfaction with Kansas industrial facilities.

“We like it here,” he says, and the hum of his busy factory provides background music to his words.