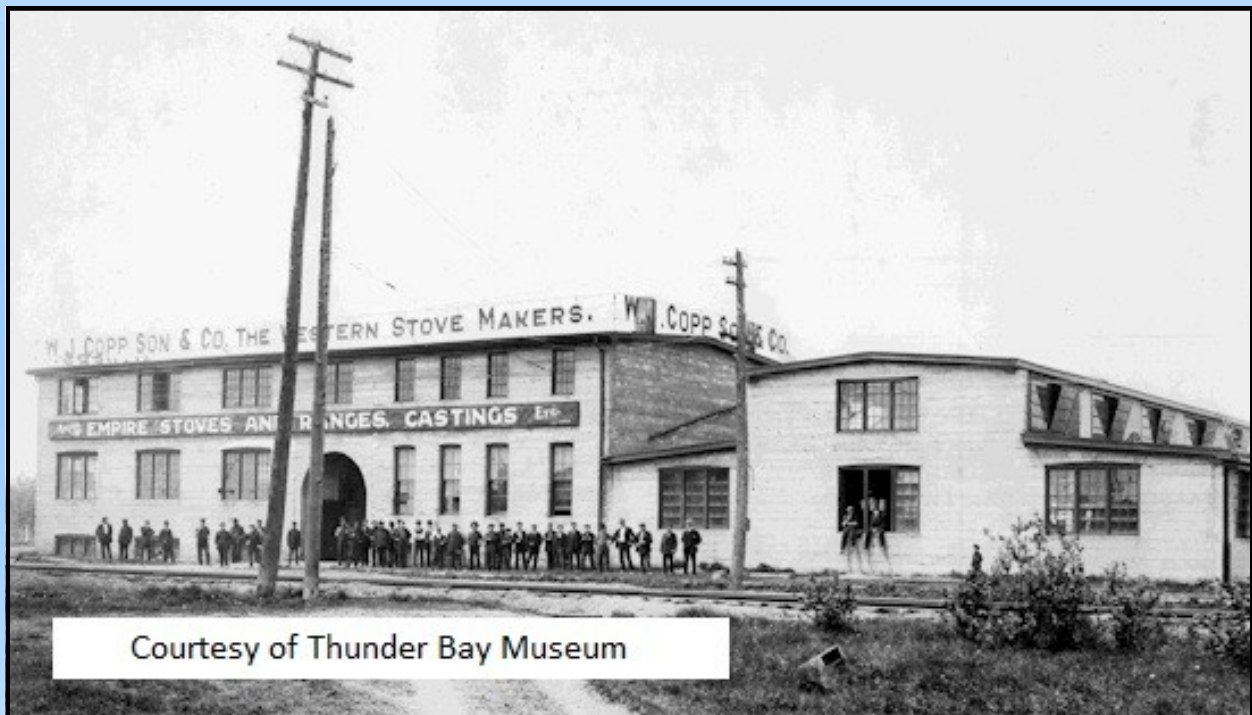


## Copp Stove Company Ltd.

The Copp Stove Company Ltd. was one of the key industries located in the twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William and played a vital role in the Great War. Located at the corner of Empire and Syndicate Avenue in Fort William, the business began as the Copp Stove Foundry in 1902 by W.J. Copp and his son Harold Copp. The plant was operated by the Cops until 1912, four years after W.J. Copp passed away, when Harold Copp's health forced him into retirement. The company was then purchased by a group which renamed the company The Copp Stove Co. Limited.



Courtesy of Thunder Bay Museum

In 1915, the Copp Stove Co. secured a large government contract to produce munitions, and by November of that year the company had completed its first order. The following year, it was reported that the company employed 150 men to manufacture approximately 1000 4.5 high explosive Howitzer shells per week. These employees were divided into 2 shifts working day and night to manufacture munitions in preparation for shipment to Montreal where they would be exported overseas.

# COPP COMPANY IS MAKING THOUSAND SHELLS PER WEEK

Interview With J. A. Kilpatrick  
During His Business Visit  
To the City

J. A. Kilpatrick, director of the Copp Stove company, who had been in the city for the past few days, leaves tonight on his return to Toronto. The Times-Journal had a few minutes' talk with the gentleman in the rotunda of the Avenue hotel this afternoon.

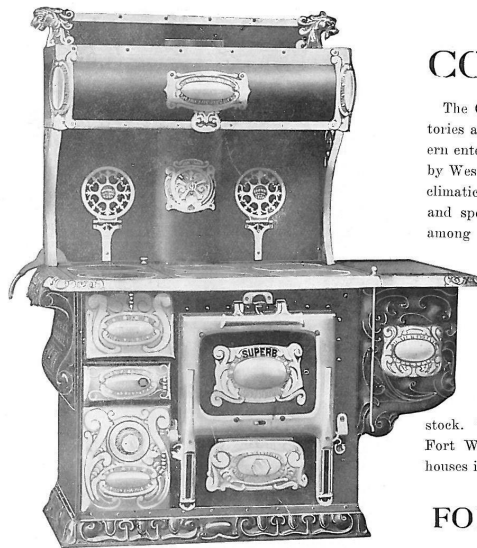
One of the first questions asked Mr. Kilpatrick was the plans, present and future, of the company during the coming summer. "As you know," said Mr. Kilpatrick, "our plant is engaged in the manufacture of war munitions and at present are very busy. We have work enough ahead to keep the plant running full blast until at least the first of July. Some 150 men are employed and we are turning out about 1,000 4.5 high explosive shells every week."

Mr. Kilpatrick would not venture an answer to the question if there would be future contracts when the present one is completed, but his smile told volumes. He said that at the present time about 150,000 workmen are engaged in making this war material. These men would be making an average of \$3 per day, which would mean an outlay in wages for one day of \$450,000, amounting in one year of work days to over \$20,000,000 paid out in solid cash, as wages to those engaged in the business. According to Mr. Kilpatrick, there are some 10 or 12 plants making munitions at Fort William to the coast.

Port Arthur News Chronicle March 15, 1916

Unfortunately the company would be dealt a fatal blow in May of 1917 as a result of fire. On May 24, 1917 the Fort William Daily Times Journal declared that the fire left nothing in its wake but a 'tangled mess of iron and machinery, as a result of one the most spectacular fires that has ever been witnessed in Fort William since the destruction by fire of the old wooden elevator 'B'". The company would not survive the destruction caused by the fire and its production of munitions ceased.

Fort William Industrial and Commercial Review, 1913



## THE COPP STOVE CO.

The Copp Stove Company, whose head office and factories are located in Fort William, is essentially a Western enterprise. Not only are the goods made in the West by Western workmen, but they are also made to meet the climatic and fuel conditions of the West. Large fireboxes and special grates adapted to wood and soft coal are among the features which have made the Copp stove a prime favorite with Westerners. However, the foregoing does not commence to summarize the advantages of this famous product. The quality of materials and workmanship is of the very highest; all of the latest ideas in fuel economy are found embodied in the Copp stoves. Copp stoves have been on the market since 1848, when they were made in Woodstock. The plant was moved to Hamilton in 1864, and to Fort William in 1902. The company also has branch houses in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Vancouver, B. C.

FORT WILLIAM, Ontario

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