AN

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

M-81

THE GOVERNMENT ORDER COVERING

THE CAN INDUSTRY
PREFACE

When various representatives of an industry are gathered together in an annual meeting, that would appear to be the proper time for taking a backward glance, expressing appreciation of the present, and perhaps considering what the coming months are to bring.

With that thought in mind, M-81 seemed the logical subject to be brought up at this time. Not only during 1949, but for a number of years past, it has caused much work and worry, many headaches, and untold frustrations among can makers. Now it is ended, (1949's gift to the Can Manufacturing Industry) and today the question is "What next?"

Any serious reminiscence regarding the restrictions of M-81, and its virtues (if any) would be painful, so it was deemed advisable to let M-81 tell the story in its own egotistical and inimitable manner. From such a pen the story could contain some humor, in the form of visual presentations, which would otherwise have been impossible had it been written by any Can Manufacturer, or member of the staff of Can Manufacturers Institute, Inc.

But, lest we detract from the telling, let us introduce an old acquaintance: "M-81"
THE DAY I CAME INTO BEING

FEBRUARY II, 1942

CONFUSION AND EXCITEMENT REIGNED, BUT NO TRUMPETS HERALDED MY BIRTH.

I IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO TEAR THE CAN INDUSTRY APART.

THE PERMISSIBLE CANS I DIVIDED INTO 3 GROUPS:
PRIMARY PRODUCT CANS
SECONDARY " "
SPECIAL " "
THE "NON-ESSENTIAL" CANS I PUT RIGHT OUT, IN COMPANY WITH THE SMALL SIZED CANS.
BY THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR I WAS GOING STRONG.
I DICTATED PACKING QUOTAS, CAN SIZES, EVEN THE KIND OF PLATE OUT OF WHICH CANS COULD BE MADE. IN FACT, THE LOWLY TIN CAN WAS KICKED AROUND QUITE A LOT.

1943 WAS THE BIG YEAR!
I WAS COMPLETELY OVERHAULED SEVEN TIMES, INTERPRETED, DIRECTED, ETC. AND I RULED THE INDUSTRY WITH A STRONG ARM, KEEPING ALL THE CANS IN LINE.

THE CAN MANUFACTURERS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING EARLY IN 1944. FREQUENT MEETINGS WERE HELD THEREAFTER TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS OF HELPING THE INDUSTRY REDUCE TIN AND STEEL CONSUMPTION. MY THANKS GO TO THIS COMMITTEE AND THE MEN WHO WORKED WITH THEM.
THE LIGHTER WEIGHT COATINGS CAUSED A LOT OF SHIVERING, BUT THE CANS GAVE AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE. FOR INSTANCE:

JUST LOOK AT THE BEER CAN
THE ONLY CANS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN COUNTED.)

YEAR     CANS MADE     TIN CONSUMED
1941     1,438,024,000    1,926 TONS
1948(PRE) 2,896,649,000 ONLY 958 "

WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THERE WAS LESS THAN 1/4 AS MUCH TIN IN A 1948 BEER CAN AS IN A 1941 BEER CAN - A SAVING OF ABOUT 2,900 TONS OF TIN ON THIS ITEM ALONE, IN 1948.

AS THE WAR CAME TO AN END
I RELAXED, AND LOOSENEO MY GRIP ON METAL CANS.

BLACK PLATE WAS FREED FIRST
THEN CAME MANY "FORBIDDEN" CANS.

SOME "DEBUT" DATES:
LUBRICATING OIL     MAR. 1, 1946
ANIMAL FOOD         DEC. 28, 1946
BEER FOR CIVILIANS   DEC. 28, 1946
TOBACCO             JUN. 2, 1949
I really was a big success, for instance:

Can manufacturers consumed in 1946
3% less steel than in 1941
46.6% " tin " " "

Estimated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#2 Cans</th>
<th>Tons of Tin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produced</td>
<td>Consumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>24.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>24.1 &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of #2 can which might have been produced, based on steel consumption.

Additional statistics page 8

My life seemed short, but it really was longer than most of my contemporaries. I was one of the first to arrive, and one of the last to leave.

But, like all brilliant careers, I came to an end.
DURING MY BRIEF (?) TRYING CAREER, WHICH, LASTED ONLY

7 YEARS
9 MONTHS, AND
21 DAYS

I WAS COMPLETELY OVERHAULED 25 TIMES AND AMASSED
22 AMENDMENTS
7 INTERPRETATIONS
10 DIRECTIONS, AND MANY, MANY MISCELLANEOUS RELEASES
ALSO, APPEALS, APPEALS, AND MORE APPEALS

PROBABLY AS GOOD A RECORD AS ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ORDER PILED UP.
OLD, TIRED & UNMOURNED

I WAS REVOKED

HAPPY ENDING

MOTION PICTURE RIGHTS RESERVED

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STEEL AND TIN CONSUMPTION BY

THE METAL CAN INDUSTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During the year:</th>
<th>Steel (Short Tons)</th>
<th>Tin* (Long Tons)</th>
<th>Of Total Consumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>2,192,000</td>
<td>32,502</td>
<td>98.4% 1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>2,845,000</td>
<td>41,082</td>
<td>98.4% 1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>2,759,600</td>
<td>21,942</td>
<td>99.1  .9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>2,956,000</td>
<td>25,680</td>
<td>99.0  1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: Figures estimated. Includes tin in plate and in solder.

By estimating the number of #2 cans which might have been produced from the amount of steel consumed, (using as a basis 88#/ plate and 2.6 base boxes per thousand cans) then dividing the total tin consumption by the number of such cans, the following figures were obtained:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Theoretical number of #2 cans produced</th>
<th>Tin Consumed Per 1 million #2 cans</th>
<th>Tin Consumed Per 1,000 #2 cans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>19.2 Billion</td>
<td>1.69 Tons</td>
<td>3.8 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>24.9 &quot;</td>
<td>1.65 &quot;</td>
<td>3.7 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>24.1 &quot;</td>
<td>.91 &quot;</td>
<td>2.0 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>25.8 &quot;</td>
<td>1.00 &quot;</td>
<td>2.2 &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steel consumption (used as a basis) remained the same: 114.4 tons per million #2 cans, or 228.8 lbs. per thousand #2 cans.

Tin Consumed by the Can Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>For every ton of steel used (or)</th>
<th>For every 1,000 tons of steel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Plate</td>
<td>In solder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the years 1946 and 1947 the tin savings effected by conservation methods adopted by the can industry amounted to over 18,000 tons of tin per year.

This figure was arrived at by the following method:

The 1946 output of cans was 1 1/4 times that of 1940.
1 1/4 times the 1940 tin consumption would be 40,628 tons, whereas, the tin used in can manufacturing during 1946 was only 21,942 tons - a difference of 18,686 tons.
WHAT'S IN THE CARDS FOR THE FUTURE?