CEMENT COMPANIES

UNIVERSAL ATLAS CEMENT CO.

The first plant of the Universal Atlas Cement Co. was located in Lehigh County immediately north of the first operations of the Coplay Cement Manufacturing Co. The company was first named the Keystone Portland Cement Co. In 1890 it was changed to the Atlas Cement Co. and much later to the present name. The quarry and mill were small. Here it is claimed were installed the first rotary kilns in the Lehigh District. The hillside quarry had a face about 100 feet high.

The first production was in 1889. The mill was closed in 1907, although kept in order for many years thereafter to fulfill the terms of an unusual lease. There is little prospect of the plant ever being operated again, as the property is too restricted for such operations as are now economical.

HERCULES CEMENT CO.

A cement company that has passed out of existence was located directly north of the Atlas property along the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The original developments on this site date back to 1872 when a company was organized under the name of the Lehigh Hydraulic Cement Works. "It consisted of three run of millstone, and ample power to grind three hundred barrels of cement a day. The kilns are four in number, and of the No. 12 pattern, described in Gen. Q. A. Gilmore's work on cement. The quarry is adjacent to the works, and the cement made was a light yellow one, closely resembling in color and quality that made by the Old Lehigh and Allen Works" (Prime, 1878). The mill burned down in 1874.

The Lehigh Valley Portland Cement Co. organized in 1880 and erected two kilns and a mill. It operated for about a year. Reorganized about 1884 under the name of the Hercules Cement Co. and equipped to produce both natural and portland cement, production from this small operation seems to have been resumed in 1885. A bad fire about 1897 closed the plant and it was not rebuilt. The property now belongs to the Whitehall Cement Manufacturing Co. According to best available information it seems that rotary kilns never were installed. No production figures have been obtained.

GIANT PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

The holdings of the Giant Portland Cement Co., the second company in the county to make portland cement, are south and southwest of Egypt. The parent concern was organized for the manufacture of natural cement only. Later both natural and portland cement were manufactured; eventually the sole production was portland cement.

The original plant was known as Egypt Mills, located immediately southeast of Egypt, where a large quarry was worked and a line of natural cement kilns erected. The first cement was made in 1884. Portland cement was never made here, but natural cement was produced long after the company began the manufacture of portland cement at other points.

In 1884 the American Improved Cements Co. was organized. It later took over the Egypt Mills plant. This company was succeeded