

THE CAMBRIAN ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED

The Cambrian Engineering Co Ltd was established in 1925 and operated from rented premises in Water Lane until 1938, when the move was made to the present Carrington Street site.

At first, the company manufactured mainly milking machine components and hardware fittings and from this it has grown into what could well be the most versatile manufacturing engineering company in New Zealand. The activities currently undertaken at Cambrian include:

- Foundry pattern making.
- Casting of a range of metals including aluminium, gunmetal, bronzes, grey iron, ni-resist, ni-hard, mild steel, stainless steel and heat-resisting steels.
- Smallscale aluminium gravity die casting
- Automatic turning of components from bar-stock, forgings and castings.
- Repetition turning, milling, drilling, soldering and welding.
- Polishing and electroplating in a variety of finishes including copper, tin, nickel, chromium and zinc — as well as anodising aluminium and electropolishing stainless steel.

Standard lines marketed under the Cambrian name in distinctive green packets and cartons, include garden spray pumps, hose fittings, foot and check valves, milking machine parts, polythene pipe fittings and window fittings. Although these are the lines for which the company is best known to the public, they comprise only a very small percentage of total output. By far the bulk of the factory's output is made up of castings and machined components produced for other manufacturers and engineers' merchants. For example, components for the electrical, pneumatics, welding and motor industries.

The Cambrian Engineering Co Ltd has always regarded staff stability as a matter of great importance. At the present time, out of a staff of approximately 100, two have been with the company for over 50 years, five for over 40 years and at least 10 for over 20 years.



The factory covers 5,120 square metres on a section of approximately two hectares. When the first buildings were erected on this site in 1938, they were completely surrounded by farmland — apart from the two old houses with red roofs. In 1974 the company won the first award for the Best Commercial Frontage in the city.