

# Cap Tin Update

by Andy Martin

Once again the collecting community has been very generous in taking the time and effort to report previously unknown tins. We particularly appreciate the patience shown by Graham Living, who submitted his find to us just a bit too late to make the last update, and then had to wait several months for this article.

Don Blyth, the authority on Canadian cap tins, believes his **DOMINION** is Canada's number one tin. He estimates it dates from 1886-1890, and reports that the bottom label states "Manufactured for the Hamilton Powder Co. Montreal". The top has a bevel of about 1/8", which is the first lid I can recall with this feature. The beaver trade mark shown on this tin might seem a bit strange until you realize that the beaver is the national symbol of Canada. This dates back to the 1600's, when beaver pelts were a prized commodity, up to the present day, when the beaver's industrious nature symbolizes the hardworking nature of early Canadians.

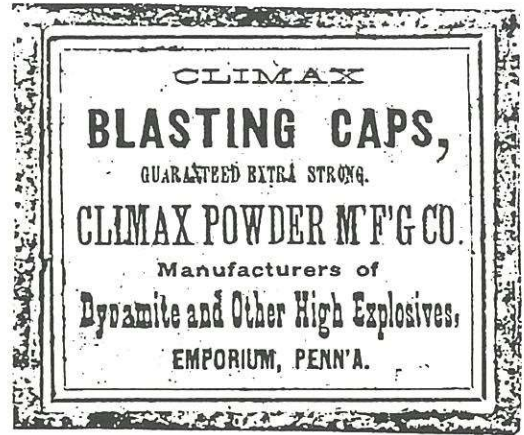
The **CLIMAX POWDER** tin turned up by Scott Altenbach is a variant of a known tin, the difference being "EMPORIUM" in place of "PITTSBURG" (sic). The Climax company was financed by Arthur Kirk & Sons Company of Pittsburgh, and their dynamite plant was located near Emporium Junction, PA. The bottom label on the Climax tin is the same as on the Arthur Kirk & Son tin shown in the April 1993 Eureka. Emporium was later to be the home of the Emporium Powder and Keystone National companies. Keystone was victimized by one of the largest dynamite explosions at an American Factory, in which 90,000 pounds of dynamite was involved and Emporium lost a good many windows.

Another **TROJAN POWDER No 7** tin has surface, not the surprisingly numerous square brown tin, but a quite different paper label version. Larry Click was quite helpful with this tin, and too enough Xeroxes of the round bottom that I was able to "unroll" the label for the illustration. The lid on this tin is flat with no embossing. My guess is that this is another of the many varieties of 25 and 10 cap paper label tins made by California Cap Company for various powder companies. Larry also reports a Hercules tin that is a No \* version of the previously known No 6 and No 7 versions.

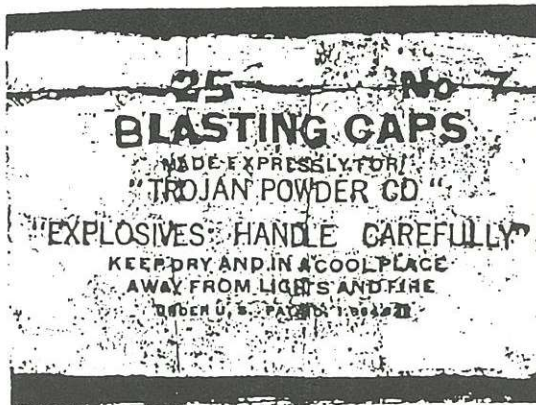
The nice **UNION EXPLOSIVES** tin sent in by Graham is similar to previously known Union tins. except the bottom two lines (UNION...and CLARKSBURG...) have been added. Notice the similarities between this and the **HALAFAX No. 8** reported by Bob Schroth. Both have a simple 1 line outline, the count and strength of caps on the top line, the explosives manufacturer on the second line from the bottom, and the city and state at the bottom. This same scheme is found on Illinois Powder, Burton Explosives No. 6, and Western tins. Based on this and a similarity in paint characteristics, we can probably safely state that tins and caps for all these companies were made by Western Cartridge Company out of East Alton Illinois. The addition of the bottom two lines on the Union tin matches similar design changes in the Illinois and Western tins.



DOMINION CARTRIDGE COMPANY  
 paper label, beveled top  
 black letters on red paper  
 Reported by Donald Blyth  
 Photo by Otto Witt



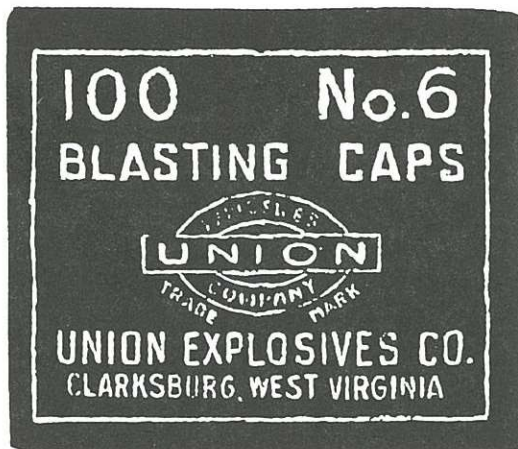
CLIMAX POWDER, EMPORIUM PENN'A  
 black letters on white paper  
 Reported by Scott Altenbach



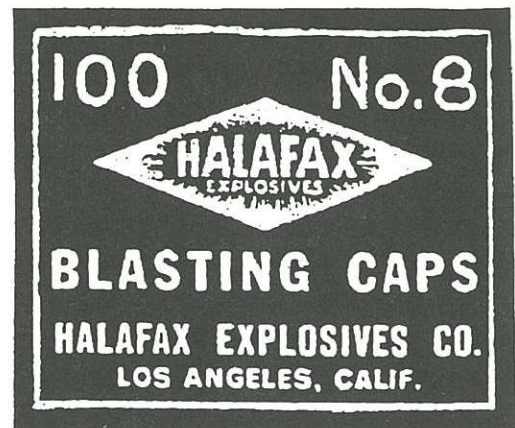
TROJAN, No 7, 25 CAPS, round, paper label  
 brown lettering on tan paper  
 Reported by Larry Click



HERCULES, No 8 KEEP DRY  
 painted green with white letters  
 Reported by Larry Click



UNION EXPLOSIVES, No. 8, CLARKSBURG  
 painted orange with gold letters  
 Reported by Graham Living



HALAFAX No. 8  
 painted dark blue with gold letters  
 Reported by Bob Schroth