

THE HISTORY OF STEWARTS & LLOYDS

“The use of history is to give value to the present hour and
it's duty” R. W. Emerson

“Our chief interest in the past is as a guid to the future”
Dean W. R. Inge

1898 British owned company Lloyd & Lloyd opens two branches in South Africa, one in Cape Town and the other in Kimberley. A & J Stewart & Menzies in Britain have a presence in South Africa being represented by Brown & McKenzie.

1903 Seeing the need to consolidate their South African interests, the companies amalgamate to form Stewarts & Lloyds (South Africa) Limited and expand their branch network to include Bloemfontein, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Johannesburg.



Senior executives of Stewarts & Lloyds
(South Africa) Limited, 1903.

Stewarts & Lloyds

(South Africa) Ltd.

Tubes and Fittings.

Sole Agents

for the

ORANGE RIVER COLONY

Mangold Brothers,

ENGINEERS, Box 167, BLOEMFONTEIN.

Advertisement in “The
Friend”, 26th January 1903.

1910



An early trade show, about 1910.



This pre-1914 view of Johannesburg is of interest because it shows the manner in which the modern city was beginning to develop from a 'shanty town'

1914



The barque 'Osterbek' from which the last consignment of tubes to arrive by sailing vessel was landed at Durban on the 14th May 1910

1927

As the Company steadily progressed, it was decided to reconstruct the organisation into a South African Company. Thus, Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa Limited came into being with a share capital of £755,00. The Company carried on business at all the branches which had already been established in the leading cities and towns. It was also decided that the Head Office and Works should be situated at Vereeniging. Construction of the Tube Works at Vereeniging began, and after overcoming many obstacles, became the first seamless tube making plant in the Southern Hemisphere.

1939-45

The plant continued to grow and break records until, at the outbreak of the war, the Vereeniging Works was in a position to make a large and valuable contribution to the country's war efforts. The Vereeniging Works moved over to the manufacturing of shells, reshuffling a large portion of the skilled personnel and employing women to fill the gaps left by men answering the call for military service. In the course of shell making, some 6000 women workers passed through the Works.



The Durban store, used as an army pay office during the first World War.



The original Cape Town offices were on the first floor of this building (four corner windows, centre).



The Cape Town premises later on



General view of the shell machine shop, Vereeniging Works.



General view of the shell machine shop, Vereeniging Works.

1943 It was decided that the Vereeniging Works should embark on the manufacture of certain agricultural plant such as windmills, irrigation pumps, valves, etc, essential to farming, due to the reduction of imports and the subsequent difficulty to obtain such products. The self-contained factory was planned and brought into operation by November 1943, comprising a fully mechanised iron foundry, blacksmith's shop and ancillary departments.



Windmill shop of the Technical Development Department, opened in 1943.



Part of the Pumps and Valves Department – the blacksmith's shop.

1946 Resumption of peace-time production began, on a much larger scale than before in order to meet the vastly increased industrial and commercial demands. The Company supplied a wide range of products to the gold fields in Welkom and Odendaalsrus, as well as to the coal mines, diamond mines and farming industries.

1980s Dorbyl acquires the Stewarts & Lloyds group of companies some of which are sold off and the rest placed under the Dorbyl light and general banner. Stewarts & Lloyds trading remains a separate company in the Dorbyl stable.

1990s Robor industrial holdings, a Barloworld company enters into a joint venture with Dorbyl to run Stewarts & Lloyds Trading. Shortly thereafter RIH takes 100% control and renames the company Robor Stewarts & Lloyds.

2001 Barloworld state their intention to sell Robor Stewarts & Lloyds. Stockwell, a company of 15 years standing purchases Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Witbank, Rustenburg, Wadeville and Vereeniging branches to add to their current 10 nationwide branches. The Stewarts & Lloyds name is also purchased

TODAY The CEO's of Stewarts & Lloyds, started Stockwell in 1988 and subsequently, since 2001, the entire branch network proudly absorbed the name Stewarts & Lloyds. Besides the national footprint having grown to 32 outlets, the product portfolio has grown from the traditional Stewarts & Lloyds offering to include a wide spectrum of steel products and added value services.



Stockwell Pumps & Irrigation