Twitter Thread by Antonia



Antonia
@Flaminhaystack

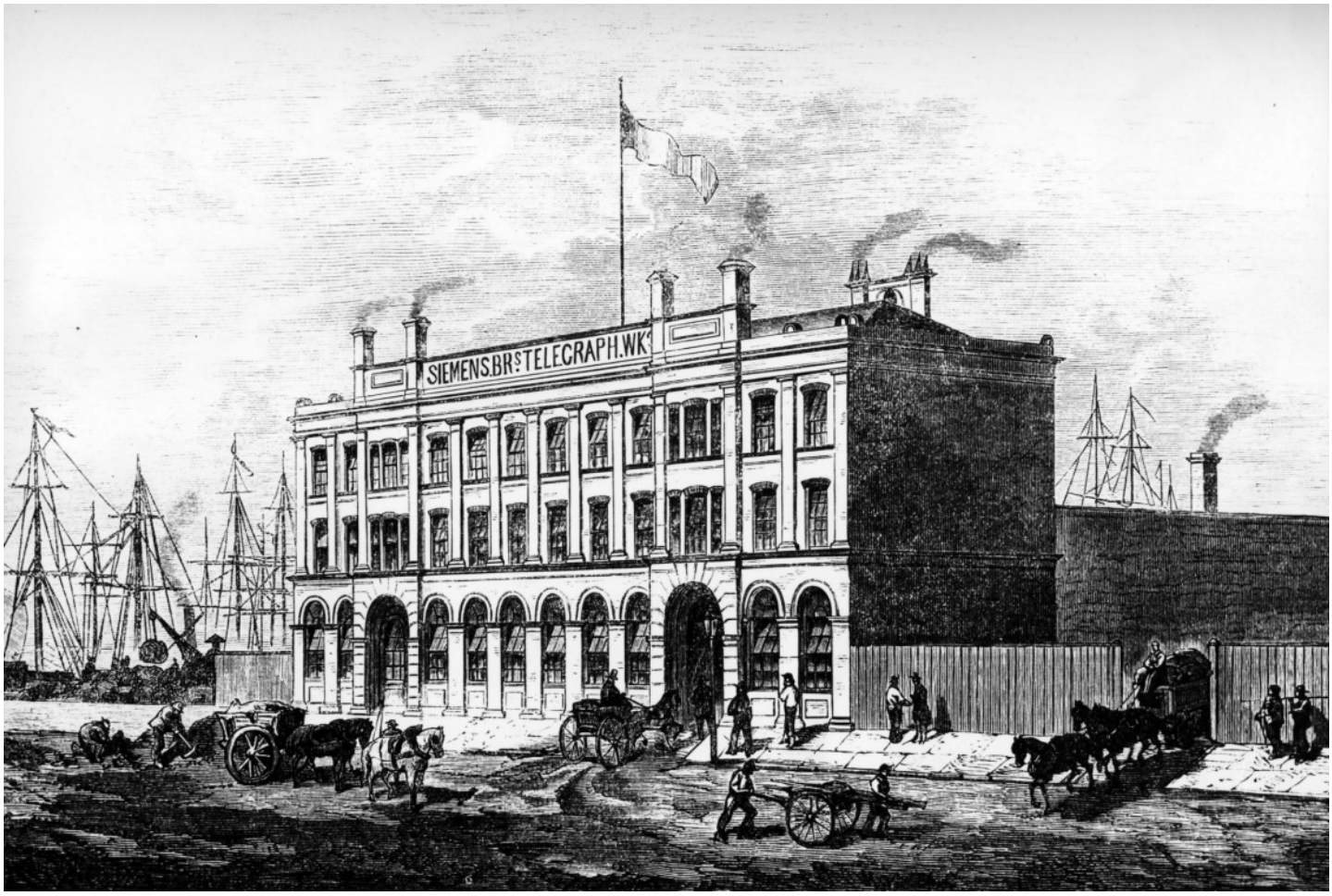
***THREAD ***
Long before Apple & Google, there were the Siemens brothers

Engineering geniuses from Berlin who, in 1863 moved to London & launched one of the most innovative factories in the world

A miniature Silicone Valley in Charlton

Changing the world

One invention at a time

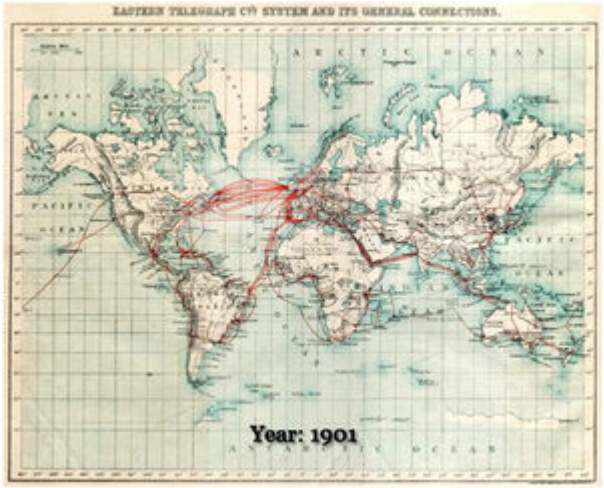


In 1874 this factory produced thousands of miles of cable.

Using their own cable laying ship, the CS Faraday, they connected the world by laying transatlantic cables

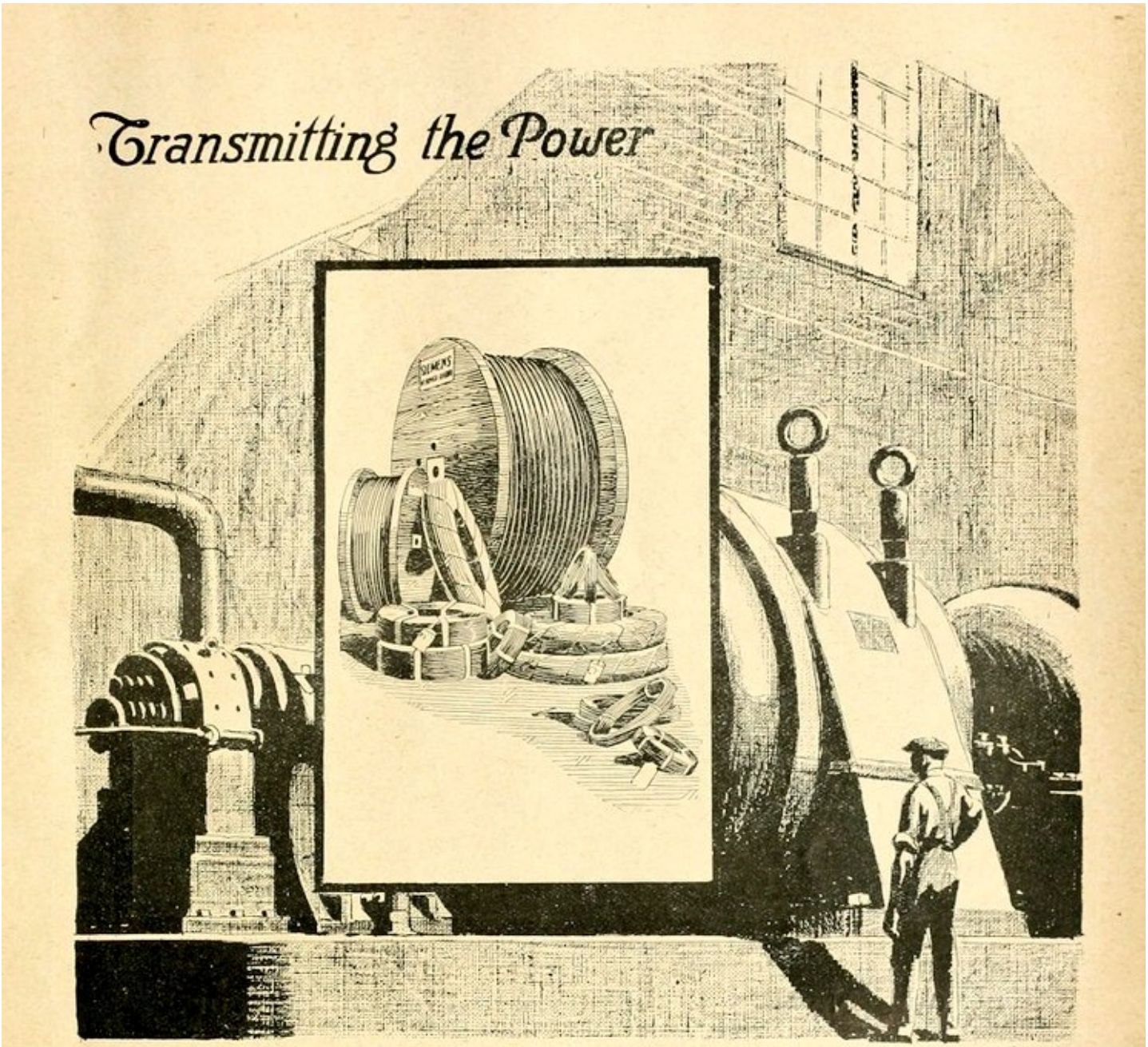
On her maiden voyage, the CS Faraday braves storms and icebergs in order to connect Ireland with New Hampshire.

She went on to lay eight transatlantic cables which is more than any other ship before or since



Michael Faraday was a close friend of the brothers. He'd discovered the principles of electro magnetism in 1830, but it was the Siemens Brothers who allowed for electricity to become economically feasible

Made in Charlton, high voltage cables helped electricity spread like fire



SIEMENS

CABLES & WIRES

MANUFACTURED BY

SIEMENS BROTHERS & Co LTD

General Offices & Works

WOOLWICH, LONDON, S.E.18.

Telegrams: Siemens, Woolwich. Telephone: City, 6400, (7 lines).

In 1881 in Godalming, Surrey, the first electric street lighting was switched on.

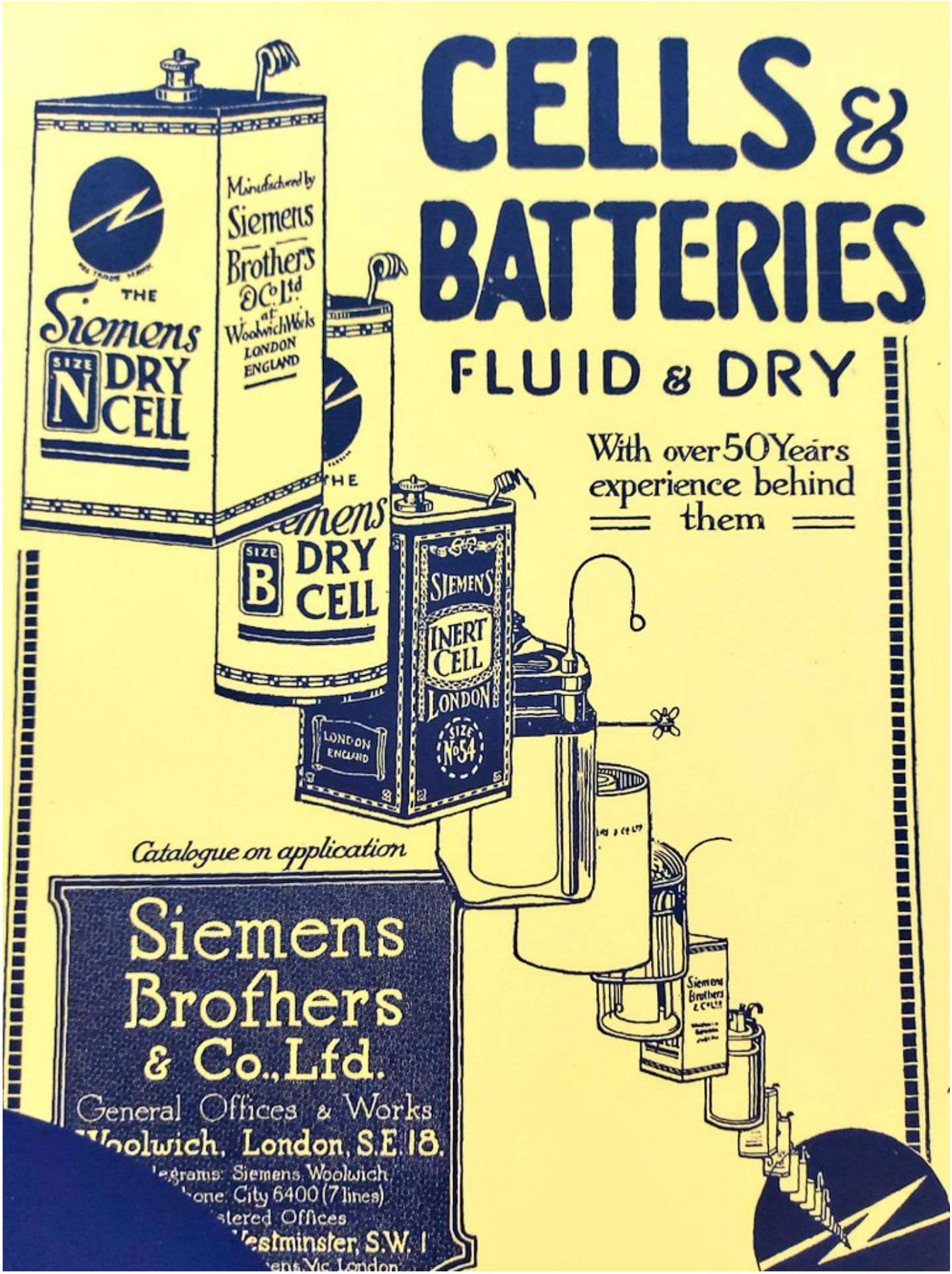
The factory in Charlton manufactured the arc lamps that soon lit factories, public buildings, streets and city squares.

Factory workers produced half a million bulbs every single month



Early devices requires batteries. They weren't made in China but right here in this factory in Charlton.

Siemens Brothers batteries were also used for radios and in cars



In 1930, the Siemens Brothers developed the iPhone of its day.

The Neophone

Sleek, good looks

Improved microphone and receiver so you could move the handset around freely

And it came in any colour, as long as that colour was black



During 1944, the Siemens brothers developed a top secret cable called the HAIS cable. This carried an oil pipeline across the English Channel to support the Allied invasion of Normandy.

The project was known as Operation PLUTO (Pipe Lines Under The Ocean)

A remarkable achievement

The **HAIS CABLE**

PETROL

UNDERWATER PIPE LINE



THE development of the HAIS Cable was carried out at our Woolwich Works, and we are proud to have taken a prominent lead in this outstanding British engineering achievement as part of our contribution to the war effort.

Our long and world-wide experience in the design, manufacture and laying of all types of underwater electric cables enabled us to develop in an extraordinarily short time this unusual type of cable.

The same engineers who designed this cable will be pleased to advise you on your cable engineering problems.

SIEMENS BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED

WOOLWICH · LONDON · S.E.18

TELEPHONE : WOOLWICH 2020

The PLUTO pipelines were linked to pump stations on the English coast and were all disguised in inconspicuous buildings to hide the true nature.

Pluto cottage at Dungeness was built to look like a house & the one at Sandown was disguised as Brown's ice cream shop.



Instead of attracting holidaymakers escaping to the sea air and children clamouring for a sweet treats, these buildings housed unique machinery that pumped an estimated 172 million gallons of fuel underwater to Allied forces in France during the Second World War as part of Operation PLUTO

After the war, the company went through a number of mergers and was finally acquired by the General Electric Company.

Im 1968 the factory in Charlton closed down

Beyond the decaying concrete, broken buildings & shattered glass are so many stories waiting to be revealed again

