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CHARACTER SKETCH.

MR. M. McLAUGHLIN.

PRESIDENT DOMINION MILLERS' ASSOCIATION.

"I shall be glad to learn of noble men."

—Shakespeare.

THOUGH everyone may not admit it, all are, unconsciously, if not knowingly, influenced by personal appearances and the manner of those with whom they come in contact in life. It was the late premier of the Dominion, Sir John A. Macdonald, who was wont to refer jocosely at times to his "winning ways" as the passport to much of his success as a politician and a man.

No one who knows Mr. M. McLaughlin, the new president of the newly incorporated Dominion Millers' Association, would for a moment suppose that he ties his faith to the Chesterfield doctrine, that "manners make the man." Yet who has not been attracted by the quiet, unostentatious, but hearty bonhomie of this representative miller, who couples with a pleasant manner a physical presence that marks him at once as a leader in any body of men.

It can without simulation be said that President McLaughlin is every inch a man a manly man. How thoroughly this opinion is held by those who know him best is indicated in the action of the Millers' Association at its recent meeting in determinedly, and with united spontaneity, making him president of the Dominion Millers' Association, despite his own protests against assuming the position.

What does Mr. McLaughlin know of milling that he should be made the executive head of an organization composed of the most efficient and progressive millers one will find in any country? He is the son of one of the oldest living Canadian millers, who, sixty-five years ago, owned one of the first mills in Cardwell county, near Mono Mills, in our own favored province, and where, in 1847, the subject of this sketch was born. From his boyhood up Mr. McLaughlin has been engaged in milling. He knows its early history and the difficulties that beset the miller in those pioneer days. He has watched its progress since and few men have a better knowledge of the best conditions under which milling can be carried on to-day than Mr. McLaughlin.

In 1877, in company with Mr. Moore, the Royal Dominion Mills, Toronto, were purchased. It is an article of Mr. McLaughlin's business creed that to be successful in milling the miller must keep up with the march of milling improvements. He has put his belief into practice by making the Royal Dominion Mills one of the best equipped and most perfectly furnished mills in the Dominion. It may be remembered that in the CANADIAN MILLER of July, 1891, a history of the inception and growth of the Royal Dominion Mills, with illustrations, was published.

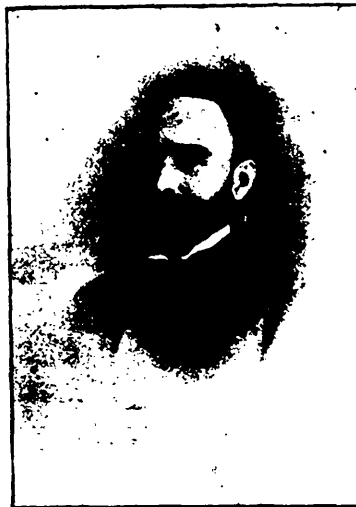
Whatever can be done to advance the interests of milling has always had Mr. McLaughlin's support. He starts at home by giving the closest attention to his own business affairs, and making that business an unquestioned success. But he does not stop here. It may be necessary to the existence of the species human that there be variety of kind. The "house on the brae," whose characters are so delightfully portrayed by J. M. Barrie in his "Window in Thrums," may provide outlook broad enough for some people, and Tammas, Hendry, Christy, and even Jess or Tibbie, are not unbeautiful characters. But these are not a people who have built up a great country like Scotland.

Perhaps the miller variety would not be perfect, even in the close of the nineteenth century, without ye ancient dusty, who still clings to his millstones of yore and who is seldom to be seen a dozen yards from his own

milldam. We respect our venerable friend, but a broader mental view is needed to secure the changes in milling that have been an evolution of recent years. Not would there be a Dominion Millers' Association with its splendid record of reforms accomplished, which has made life better worth living for every miller, were its members dependent upon the labors of ye ancient dusty.

Mr. McLaughlin takes a broad view of milling, and has never spared himself in any effort having for its object the up-building of the milling industry. He has traveled much in America and Europe and drunk of the liberalizing influences that come of meeting with others and learning what others know of life in general, and milling in particular. This information he has ever been ready to impart to others, and not, selfish-like, tie it in a napkin and' closet it away.

In 1881-82 Mr. McLaughlin was honored with the presidency of the Toronto Corn Exchange. He was the first treasurer of the revived Dominion Millers' Association in 1889. When a strong directing hand was needed to fight the duty error Mr. McLaughlin was chosen chairman of the millers' delegation that kept up,



MR. M. McLAUGHLIN.

during the parliamentary session of 1889, a fusillade on this subject that ultimately resulted, to the boon of the miller, in a satisfactory adjustment of the duties on wheat and flour.

We can understand with what enthusiasm a man of this character takes hold of the new work now laid on his shoulders as president of the Millers' Association. Let us quote one brief sentence of an interview when asked his opinion of this association: "I look upon the Dominion Millers' Association, with its 230 members, as such a power for good to the trade that no miller, small or large, can afford to stay out."

For a considerable time, in the early years of the CANADIAN MILLER, Mr. McLaughlin was a regular contributor to these columns. Increased business and public duties have for some time compelled him to lay his pen aside; but we voice the wish of MILLER readers that at an early day these pages will again be favored with contributions from his pen.

A native Canadian, Mr. McLaughlin has always been one of its most loyal and enterprising sons. He is full of faith in the future of Canada and a firm believer in protection to home industries.

MUMMY WHEAT.

IN regard to the propagation of wheat said to have been found in the graves of mummies, recent investigations at the British Museum have established the fact that the seeds are all in the same condition that the mummy itself is in. A writer in Notes and Queries says that as it would be impossible to stretch out the arm of a mummy, because the whole of the muscle was entirely burned up by the slow action of the oxygen, and it was completely rigid, so also it was with the whole of those grains of wheat and flax and various other seeds that were preserved—they were in the same condition. They had been subject to the slow burning action of the oxygen, and the whole of their vitality had disappeared. The little embryo was killed and the whole of life was gone. With regard to what was grown as mummy wheat, it was only a form of corn that was still extensively cultivated on the southern shores of the Mediterranean and was easily obtained from Arabs and others who were always ready to impose upon travelers who brought it home as true mummy wheat.

WHEEL PIT OF A NORWEGIAN MILL.

NORWAY is still the land of primitive habits and primitive things, and travel there is refreshing to one who is overdosed with modern progress. Some time ago a traveler described in The Miller, of London, Eng., a primitive little mill which he ran across near the shore of the land end of the Nordfjord, near Faleide. "About one mile from Vossevangen," he says, "is a mill with three run of stones, and of course three turbines. They were grinding oats and barley, mixed, into fine meal, and sacking up in goatskin bags, which seemed to keep the meal crisp and sharp. The two millers were delighted with my surprise when, on climbing down a hole into the 'cog pit,' as we should call it, and receiving a shower bath of spray from the spinning motors, I discovered them for the first time. The miller soon found out our communion of interest, though unable to communicate in speech, and seemed greatly pleased to show me the place; in parting they declined the offered silver, preferring only the hand-shaking of friendship.

Now, as to description. The water is conveyed down a chute, usually a hollowed out tree, and sent with great force on the blades of the motor, turning it like a whiptop. On the wooden or stone spindle and water wheel shaft combined is hung the stone on the 'one-horn' system. The damsel is formed by three willow sticks fixed in a beam overhead; they receive the motion by dragging on the runner stone, and communicate the jog to the stone by a cross-piece. A trough and no 'hoops' completes the plant. The speed is regulated by the amount of water let on, and as the sizes of the stone vary in different mills, the miller regulates accordingly. Three feet in diameter is the common size, the dress in the stones ten threes in most cases. The mill is started and stopped by a sluice in the trough lifted up and down by means of a hand-pole reaching into the back of the mill. Here is glorious simplicity. No elevators to block, no dressing tackle, no bolting cloths or silks to burst, no ropes or straps to come off, no rollers to get hot or strip, or purifiers to attend, no smut tackle to waste the grist.

The writer states that the blades of the motor are fixed at an angle of 22½°.

A SURE WAY

THE best test a miller can give his flour is the bread-making test. "Boning flour down," "doughing" it, and "dipping" it is all right for certain purposes, but the plan is not regular in its results, and hence is not altogether reliable, but if flour breads and bakes in a desirable manner to the customers who purchase it, the whole business is settled at one blow.