

THE DOMINION MECHANICAL & MILLING NEWS

DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO THE INTERESTS OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF

Flour Mills, Saw Mills, Planing Mills and Iron-Working Establishments.

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TILSONBURG.

THIS flourishing incorporated town is situated in the County of Oxford, on Big Otter Creek, 15 miles north of Lake Erie. The Canada Southern division of the Michigan Central Railroad and the Loop Line division of the Grand Trunk, pass through the town. It also is the terminus of the B. N. & P. B. division of the Grand Trunk, a short line connecting Tilsonburg, via Brantford, with the main line at Harrisburg. Located in the midst of the finest wheat and oat growing section of Ontario, in a country which the late Hon. George Brown fitly described as the "Garden of Canada," having unsurpassed facilities for the transportation of her products, with an abundance of water power supplied by the "Big Otter," it is not surprising that Tilsonburg has rapidly grown, until to-day it has a reputation in Western Ontario for enterprise and go-ahead-iveness possessed by few towns of far greater population.

The site for the town was selected by George W. Tillson, a native of New York State, who purchased large tracts of wild lands lying contiguous to the river, and who gave the name to the town. Early associated with his father in many enterprises was his son, E. D. Tillson, the owner and proprietor of the three mills, cuts of which appear in this paper. This gentleman, shortly after the decease of his father, erected an oatmeal mill, placing within the structure the best and latest improved machinery then obtainable for the manufacture of oatmeal, and but a few years elapsed ere Tillson's oatmeal became widely and favorably known throughout Canada, more especially in the Lower Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where the productions from this mill were the standard. For 12 years, or until the old mill was burned two years ago last June, the full capacity of this mill, running night and day, was not sufficient to fill the orders for the Lower Provinces alone. Such was the demand for Tilsonburg oatmeals. Two years ago last June the old mill, together with the large brick-cased elevator adjoining, with a large quantity of grain stored therein, was burned, entailing a heavy loss, but hardly had the flames been extinguished ere gangs of men were at work clearing away the debris and preparing for the new structure, which was begun at once and hurried to completion as rapidly as possible, under the personal supervision of Mr. Thomas Wallace, of Chicago, an architect and millwright of continental ability.

The fine building which now adorns the site of the

old one was erected, and within it was placed improved machinery for the making of fine oatmeal like which had never before been used in Canada. It can readily be understood that the most important part of the process of manufacturing oatmeal consists in the proper drying of the oats. Herein lies the great secret, and it is just here that Mr. Tillson's mill is said to be far in advance

The power used to drive the oatmeal mill is obtained from two Little Giant water wheels, while as an auxiliary, an engine of 65 h. p. located in the basement guarantees no stoppage for want of water.

Four years ago Mr. Tillson erected a flouring mill of 200 barrels capacity, letting the contract for the machinery to Messrs. Goldie & McCulloch, of Galt, and the flour from this mill under the names "Rival," "Leader," "White Dove," and "Tillson's Mills," is pushing its way in the lower provinces as a first-class and reliable production.

Mr. Tillson also manufactures split peas and pot barley, the peas being sold mostly for export to the West Indies.

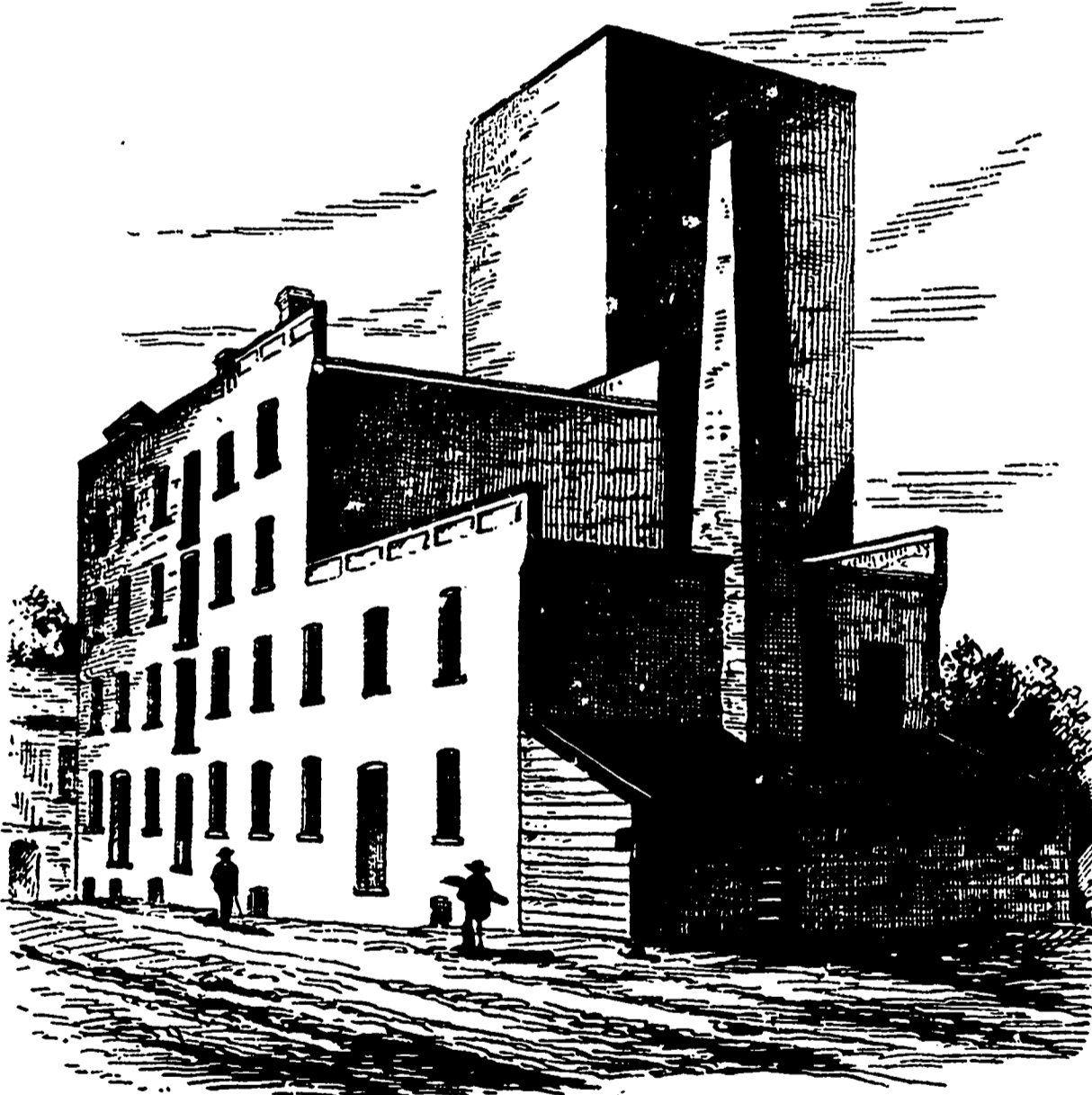
POINTS IN MILLING.

CLOSE observation in a number of mills will reveal the fact that most of the flouring establishments are badly arranged so far as motive power and manual labor are concerned. Especially is this true of the mills ranging from medium capacity downward, and of those built years ago and recently rebuilt or remodeled to modern processes of grinding. Too often the defective arrangement necessitates re-handling or causes gross loss of power through misapplication. Every miller must by this time understand the importance of the small "leaks," as competition has set him to the task of gaining or saving cents where he used to gain or save dollars and dimes.

Wherever it is possible to save labor or power, it is the mill-owner's first duty to save it. Without abating for an

instant his careful endeavors to secure the largest yield and the best quality possible, he should have an eye to the small economies, whose aggregate in a year generally makes a good showing.

More and more grain-cleaning machines are coming into existence. Not long ago I saw some wheat that was said to have been "cleaned" by a new machine that is to be brought out shortly. According to the description given me of this machine, it must be a novelty. The invention consists of a well from six to nine feet deep, built of a gritty stone imported from Scotland. In this well is an upright revolving brush of stiff bristles, filling the well nearly full and leaving a small space between the cylindrical brush and stone. Into this space the grain is fed from above and on its passage downward and through it is "cleaned" by the action of grain upon grain, of stone upon grain, and of revolving brush on grain. The specimens shown to me appeared to be roughly handled. It was a fine Pennsylvania



TILLSON'S OATMEAL MILL, TILSONBURG, ONT.

of any oatmeal mill in Canada. Situated in the basement of the mill are ten pan kilns, having a total capacity for drying 2,500 bushels of oats every twenty-four hours. Simply described, the kilns are huge boiler plate circular pans each placed over a furnace, the drying oats being constantly stirred by an automatic sweep. No smoke or fumes from the fire pass through the oats while being dried, consequently oatmeal made from pan dried oats has not that bitter taste discernible in oatmeal, the oats for which have been dried by the old process.

Upon the ground floor are placed six runs of hulling and two runs of meal stones; upon the second floor the purifiers, cutting machine, etc. The third floor contains the reels, smutters, &c., while in the 4th storey will be found cockle machines, separators, elevators and reels, seemingly without number. Adjoining the mill is a huge elevator, with a storage capacity for 100,000 bushels of grain. Taken all in all, this is a very complete establishment, and is turning out a very superior grade of oatmeals.