

MILLING IN WESTERN CANADA.

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In the last issue of this journal a brief description of a number of the roller flour mills of Manitoba and the Territories was given under the above heading. The list then given included only the mills along the main line of the C. P. R., from Winnipeg westward, and these were found to number fourteen flour mills and three oatmeal mills. This by no means concludes the list. There are a number of mills on the branch railways in Manitoba, and also several at points off the railways. On the Manitoba & Northwestern railway the first roller mill point reached, going north from Portage la Prairie, is the pretty little town of Minnedosa, on the crossing of the Little Saskatchewan River. The mill has 100 barrels capacity, and is operated by Jas. Jermyn. The mill is new, having only been completed last summer. Minnedosa is one of the oldest points in this part of Manitoba, and formerly a stone mill was located here. There are two elevators of about 40,000 bushels capacity each. West of Minnedosa, on the same railway, the next milling point is Shoal Lake, a new town which has come into existence since the construction of the railway, a couple of years ago. The mill here was commenced in the summer of 1886, but was not completed until the following season. The mill has a capacity of about 100 barrels, and is operated by the Shoal Lake Milling Company. There is an elevator in connection. Shoal Lake is becoming quite an important grain market, and at least one elevator will be erected there this season. Westward still on the same railway there is another mill, at Millwood, the crossing of the Assiniboine River. This is a new mill only completed last fall, and is operated by Mitchell & Bucknall. It has a capacity of about 100 barrels. This concludes the number of mills at present in operation on the Manitoba & Northwestern Railway. North of Millwood, and about ten miles beyond the Russell branch of this railway, there is a roller mill, at a point known as Asessipi, operated by the Asessipi Milling Co. This mill has been in operation for a couple of years, notwithstanding the distance from the railway, and flour has also been shipped eastward from the mill. The last named two mills are run by water power.

At Rapid City, the terminus of the Saskatchewan and Western Railway, a fine mill has been erected. This mill was completed and put in operation about a year ago, and it is one of the best mills in the province. The Little Saskatchewan River furnishes it with an excellent water power. The mill has already 250 barrels capacity, and is operated by McCulloch & Co. There are other water powers near Rapid City which could be utilized for milling. The town will be connected with Brandon, 25 miles distant, by the Northwest Central Railway, now under construction, and it promises to become quite a grain centre, being surrounded by a fine agricultural country. Rapid City was an important point previous to the construction of the C. P. R., and two stone grist mills were built in the vicinity, owing to the water power available. These mills have, of course, been superseded by the roller mills.

At Stonewall, the terminus of the Stonewall branch of the C. P. R., which connects the place with Winnipeg, a roller mill was established something over a year ago by Rutherford and Co., with a capacity of about 75 barrels. A stone mill, which previous to the days of roller milling, did quite a business in shipping flour to Winnipeg, was formerly located there, and has been transposed into the roller mill. About seven miles north of Stonewall, at Balmoral, another stone mill has been changed into the roller process, with a capacity of about 75 barrels, operated by Geo. Buckpitt. Being without railway service the mill is run mainly for local use.

At Morden, one of the principal towns on the Pembina branch of the C. P. R., there is a roller mill, operated by J. H. Fraser & Co., which has been established for a few years. It has a capacity of 100 barrels. Morden is a good grain town. There is also a smaller mill at Crystal City, on the same railway, operated by Cochrane & Manson. On the Manitoba Southern railway, a new mill has just been completed at Holland by the Holland Milling Company, at a cost of about \$8,000. It has a capacity of 75 barrels.

At Souris, or Plum Creek as it is sometimes called, south of Brandon, there is also a good mill, operated by McCulloch & Herriott. The location is some distance from the railways, Brandon being the nearest point, over 15 miles distant. The location was chosen on account of the water power furnished by the Souris River. The mill does quite a shipping trade, notwithstanding the haul to the railways. This gives a full list of the mills now in operation in Manitoba, exclusive of those previously noted as located on the C. P. R. main line. There are also quite a number of stone mills at points

all over the province, some of which are still in operation, though used mainly for local gristing purposes. In addition to the mills named, there are several projected and some in course of construction. At McGregor, on the C. P. R. main line, west of Portage la Prairie, there is a roller mill of about 100 barrels capacity, now well under construction, and which will be completed within a few weeks. The building is up and a considerable portion of the machinery in place. Whitelaw mill builder, of Woodstock, Ont., is building this mill. Then there is the large 1000 barrel mill at Keewatin, which will be completed within a short time. This mill, though located in Ontario just outside of the eastern boundary of Manitoba, properly belongs to and may be included in the list of the Manitoba mills. Several other mills are projected, and some will doubtless be built this season.

Outside of Manitoba, in the Territories there are also some roller mills not included in the list of those on the main line of the C. P. R. The first is the 100 barrel mill located at Fort Qu'Appelle, about 20 miles north of the railway, and operated by Joyner & Elkington. Some flour has been shipped from this mill eastward by rail, but the haul to the railway is too great to render it profitable. The mill, however, has a good local business. Another roller mill is located at Cannington, distant from the railway about 40 miles, the nearest point being Moosomin, on the main line of the C. P. R. These two mills are in the Territory of Assiniboia. Away north, at Prince Albert, in the Territory of Saskatchewan, there also a good roller mill, operated for some time back and owned by the Hudson Bay Company. There are also several grist mills at points in the Territories, especially in the settlement along the North Saskatchewan River, as far as Edmonton, Alberta. Before the construction of the C. P. R., the Saskatchewan River was the great highway, and consequently the early settlements were formed along that river. In the far northwestern portion of the Territory, at Macleod, Alberta, a mill will probably be erected this season, considerable stock having already been subscribed in a local company for this purpose. Among the projected mills in Manitoba, are one at Birtle and one at Neepawa, both prosperous towns on the Manitoba & Northwestern railway. Joint stock companies have been formed at each of these places, with good prospects of the mills being established at once.

In British Columbia there is yet but one roller mill, that of the Columbia Milling Company. The mill is located at Enderby, an inland district east of the Selkirk range of mountains. The nearest railway point to the mill is Sicamous, on the C. P. R., reached by steamers from the mill. Wheat of the best quality can be grown in the valleys of that portion of British Columbia. The mill grinds for local use, and also ships flour to the coast towns, where it competes with Manitoba flour.

This will conclude our letter on "Milling in Western Canada," and will show to what proportions the milling industry, which was inaugurated in Winnipeg in the fall of 1882, has already grown. To recapitulate, we find that there are now thirty-one roller flour mills in Western Canada, (that is, the country west of Lake Superior), including the three mills, one each at Oak Lake, McGregor and Keewatin, now well toward completion. Of these, twenty-two are located within the Province of Manitoba; seven in the Territory of Assiniboia; one in Saskatchewan Territory, and one in British Columbia. This great development which the milling industry has undergone within the short space of about five years, certainly argues well for the future, and at once places flour milling at the head of the manufacturing industries of Western Canada.

A BAND MILL'S WORK.

HERE'S a straw in favor of the band mill. R. L. McCormick, the secretary and manager of the North Wisconsin Lumber Company, of Hayward, is responsible for it. In 1886 their mill was without a band saw. The logs put through their mills scaled 29,805,000 of about five to a thousand. The lumber scale was 32,220,000 feet, or an over-run of 2,445,000 feet. During the past season the logs cut in their mill scaled 29,065,000 feet, and the logs ran about six to the thousand. The board measurement of the product of these was 35,300,000, but in 1887 about 6,000,000 less shingles were made than in 1886. Mr. McCormick estimates these as equivalent to a million feet of lumber. This million in any event no more than offsets the excess of raw material used in 1886 over that used in 1887, and on that theory Mr. McCormick has practically 3,050,000 feet more of lumber, which he credits to the use of the band mill. He estimates the class of lumber got by the band mill to be worth \$15 a thousand, and at that rate there is the nice little item of \$45,750 to the credit of the introduction of the band saw. That is what he got for

what might have been sawdust. Mr. McCormick figures it a little differently. The over-run in 1886 was 2,445,000 feet. The over-run in 1887 with the band mill was 6,245,000 feet, board measure. Deducting a million for the reduction in the amount of shingles cut and we have 5,235,000, or an excess during 1887 over that of 1886 of 2,790,000 feet. If Mr. McCormick's estimate that this lumber is worth \$15 a thousand is correct, there is the nice little item of \$42,850 to the credit of the band mill and profit.

THE LATEST MILLING IMPROVEMENT IN PESTH.

FOR some weeks past rumours have been heard that a new milling process was shortly coming to the front which would effect an entire revolution in the present system of making flour. Advices to hand this week from Pesth give some details of this process, from which it will be seen that it is an old thing in a new disguise. For years past it has been assumed that if a perfect wheat decorticator could be devised, the manufacture of flour would be so simplified that the cost of manufacture would be largely reduced, and the percentage of white flour largely increased. This new process is, in short a combination of a decorticator and a new sifter dressing machine, on a rotary principle. In Pappenheim's *Austro-Hungarian Miller* we are informed that the effect of the improvement is a better coloured flour and more of it, and that high grinding, as practised in Hungary, will, by its means, be capable of being made entirely automatic. In the judgment of trustworthy and capable millers, therefore, the improvements in question will probably lead to a revolution in milling. With reference to the decorticator, we have already partly described the "Till" and "Wimmer" machines, with each of which Messrs. Ganz & Co., of Buda Pesth, have experimented, the result being the perfected machine in question. For "patent" reasons a detailed description is not given. The sifter dressing machine, which is the invention of Mr. Haggemacher, of Pesth, and which has already been patented in the U.K., is perhaps the greatest novelty. Mr. Pappenheim describes it as like a box, completely closed, and hung up on the ceiling; it contains two to three sieves, and has an ingenious arrangement for spreading the material over the sieves; the movement is described as being like that of a hand sieve. The result, we are told, is very rapid and clean sifting, so that no re-dressing is required; very little skill is required for the sieves, and there is consequently very little wear and tear. This is difficult to understand, for if a large quantity of any material is passed through a sieve, the smaller the silk surface the greater must be the comparative wear and tear. In mills where this system of dressing is used, the effect is curious, the floors being empty of machines, which are all, so to say, hung up on the ceiling. In connection with this dresser a new purifier, also Haggemacher's patent, is used. Such, then, is the latest reform in milling in Buda Pesth, where, although it has not yet made much progress, it is thought by capable men as likely to prove the system of the future. It is, however, not likely to revolutionise milling in the U.K., as now practised; the conditions are entirely different between the two countries. The choice of wheat is quite different, in the first place; and, in the second place, the Pesth millers mill primarily for the export trade; so that if they can produce more white flour, say, above No. 4 grade, and at a less cost of manufacture, they will be better able to compete with American flour in England, which, after all, is probably the only reform intended in this new system. The lower and darker qualities of flour always sell well locally in Hungary, but would be of no use to an English miller, whose requirements are that the low grade should be reduced in quantity, and the bakers', or "straight," flour increased in both quantity and quality, which the decorticator system is not likely to do. We believe that a leading English milling engineer has lately examined this new system, with a view of introducing it into the U.K., but it is not likely to be done.—*Millers' Gazette*.

One of the most valuable suggestions we have heard recently, says the *Northwestern Miller*, is that of a Wisconsin miller, who urges that head millers should have a regular vacation, at least once a year, a part of which should be devoted to an inspection of the best mills in the country. Their expenses while engaged in this work would of course be borne by their employers. We believe that money thus spent will yield larger and better returns than the laying out of an equal amount in any other direction. No head miller knows it all, and there are none who cannot receive as well as give valuable pointers. The mills of the country are very accessible and there are few head millers who are not willing to entertain visiting brethren and interest them with technical matters. This being the case, the general adoption of the policy of sending head millers out on tours of observation would be a wise move. We are willing to guarantee that millers will find it profitable and satisfactory in more ways than one.