

A Large Milling Industry.

The industry which leads all others in Western Canada is that of flour milling. In view of the fact that wheat is the principal production of the soil of Manitoba this is not surprising. Here the famous hard wheat can be obtained in its purity, and close to the base of supplies. The Lake of the Woods Milling Company, established in 1886, is the largest concern engaged exclusively in the grinding of western wheats. The first mill of this company was established at Keewatin, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, east of Winnipeg. This point was selected on account of its splendid water power, while it is also a convenient point for milling, being on the direct line between the great wheat fields and the eastern consuming markets.

Talking with officials of the company, a representative of *The Commercial* was given a few interesting points concerning the business. The Keewatin mill, under its present management, is now working on its sixth crop. It is the largest mill in Canada, the capacity being 2,000 barrels. The mill has been kept right up to the times, and all modern milling improvements are adopted as fast as their value is proved. Two additional 60 inch water wheels are now being put in, made by Kennedy of Owen Sound, Ontario, and with these in place the minimum power at lowest head will be 1,300 horse power. No trouble with ice has ever been experienced, and the flow of water is abundant. In fact, the only trouble is too much water. The Lake of the Woods, which supplies the water, is subject to some variation, and is supposed to reach its highest point in periods of four to five years. Owing to a narrow passage in the Winnipeg river, below the mill, the water rises in the river when the outflow from the lake is very heavy, and backing up, reduces the drop of tail water. The water power is the difference in level between the Lake of the Woods and the Winnipeg river, and in high water it has been found that the river rises two feet to one foot of a rise in the lake. In this way the maximum head of water at the mill, which is 21 feet, has been reduced in extreme high water to 17 feet. This has occurred once in five years.

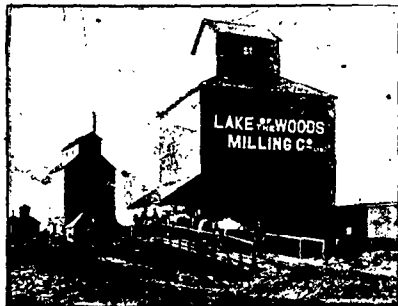
There are two large elevators in connection with the mill at Keewatin, with an aggregate capacity of 700,000 bushels. The receiving elevator is capable of taking in and cleaning 40 cars in a day of ten hours. A cooper shop for the manufacture of flour barrels is also conducted in connection with the Keewatin mill. Flour is put

up in barrels for the maritime province trade, where barrels are preferred to any other style of package. This is the only mill in the west putting up flour in barrels.

In order to increase its facilities and meet the growing demand for its manufactures, the company decided upon a second mill, and Portage la Prairie, 65 miles west of Winnipeg, along the main line of the Canadian Pacific, was selected as the location for the mill. The business of the Portage Milling Company (including a flour mill at Portage la Prairie and elevators, was purchased. The mill building was doubled in size and the machinery replaced with the most modern milling plant obtainable, making practically a new mill throughout, except a portion of the old building. This mill was completed and put in operation in August last. The Portage mill is a

greater than that of any other company in the west. A cut of one of the company's country buying elevators is shown herewith. The cut shows the elevator at Carberry, and is a type of the other receiving elevators of the company as grain buying points. One of the two flour-mills at Keewatin and the Portage mill may be seen on another page in this number.

The principal business office of the company is in the new Board of Trade building at Montreal, where Robt. Meighen, president, and W. A. Hastings, manager, make their headquarters. The company has a large storehouse on the railway connections at Montreal, and a large stock of flour is carried there, so that the eastern trade can be quickly supplied from stock in store there. Geo. Hastings, general-superintendent of plant, buildings and manufacturing, makes his headquarters



compound condensing steam plant, with a capacity of 800 barrels of flour per day. An elevator in connection with the mill has a capacity of 175,000 bushels. The mill is first class in every respect, and produces the same brands of flour as the Keewatin mill.

In addition to the two mills and elevators connected therewith, the company has a large number of smaller elevators at various points throughout the country, erected for the purpose of buying and receiving wheat from farmers. The company has these receiving elevators at almost every point of an importance in the wheat districts. These elevators vary from 20,000 to 35,000 bushels capacity each, and have all been established since 1889. The company's elevator capacity, including the larger elevators in connection with the mills, and the smaller receiving elevators, is now

at Keewatin. The grain buying department is in charge of S. A. McQueen who makes his headquarters at Winnipeg. In connection with the Winnipeg office there is a warehouse for supplying the company's city business here. A McQueen represents the company in Vancouver British Columbia.

The trade of the company extends from ocean to ocean, a large business being done in the eastern and maritime provinces and west through to the Pacific coast. The western trade from Winnipeg to the Pacific is supplied from the mill at Portage la Prairie. The company has done some export trade across the Atlantic, and also across the Pacific Ocean to China and Japan, but its export business has been limited, owing to the fact that the domestic demand has taken about all the flour the mills are capable of