

THE DOMINION MECHANICAL & MILLING NEWS

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THE "VELOCITY" MIDLINGS PURIFIER.

MIDLINGS purifiers are so universally used, and the necessity for their use so well understood and appreciated by all intelligent and progressive millers, that any remarks on this point are needless. There have been many different methods adopted for the purification of middlings, but all seem finally to settle on what is generally known as the vibratory sieve and upward air current through the sieve, as being the most controllable and efficient for the purpose of purifying middlings. While the Velocity purifier illustrated on this page does not embody any new principle in purification, it is remarkable as being one of the highest attainments of the machinists' skill. The production of a machine containing so many points of excellence both in appearance and adaptability to the delicate work for which it is designed, requires many years of practical experiment and gradual improvement. The manufacturers of the Velocity purifier claim to have overcome the many defects found in the earlier machines. Among other points of excellence in the new Velocity may be mentioned the vibratory feed board, which is positive and even in the distribution of the stock; the adjustable eccentric boxes, which can be adjusted to take up wear while the machine is in motion; the adjustable sieve hangers and light but rigid shaker frame; also self-cleaning regulating air valves and chambers, which cannot become clogged by accumulations of dust; an aspirating air current through the middlings as they fall onto the sieve from the feed board, and on tailings which are too coarse and pass over the end of the sieve; a new and positive cloth cleaner, one that does not wear the cloth, as it acts on the percussion principle. There are two conveyors under the sieve, both in the same horizontal plane, and the arrangement of valves is such that any portion of the material separated by the sieve can be directed into either conveyor and discharged at either end of the machine as desired. All the shafts are carefully turned, the pulleys balanced, and the journal bearings large and fitted with the best anti-friction metal. The details of construction have been carefully looked after, and there seems nothing wanting to make this one of the standard machines in the milling trade. The manufacturers are Messrs. Wm. & J. G. Greey, of No. 2 Church St., Toronto, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

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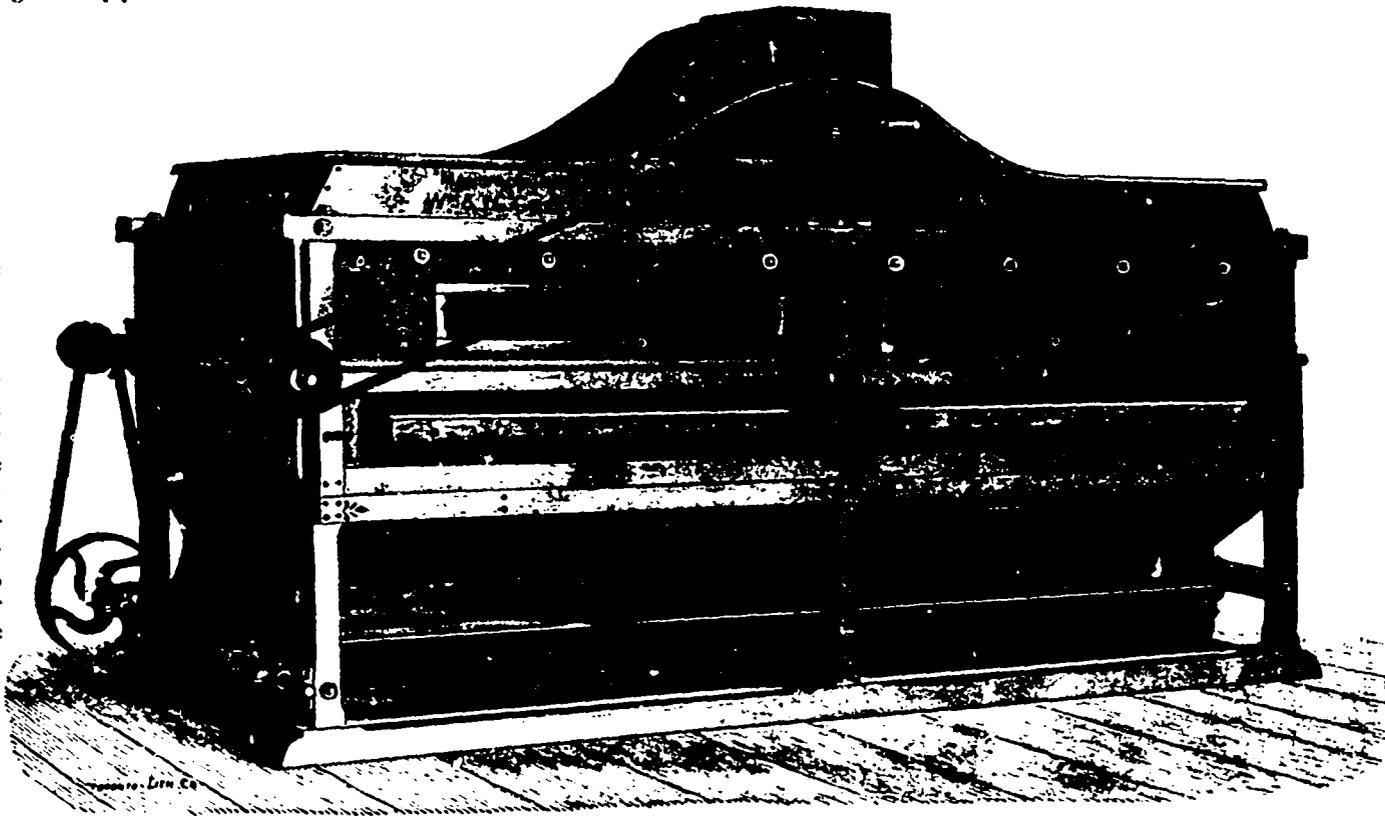
FORT QU'APPELLE MILL.

By GEORGE B. ELLIOTT.

Having expressed a desire to see the interior of Messrs. Ackford, Joiner & Reekard's mill in the Valley of the Qu'Appelle, I was at once invited into the establishment by the foreman, Mr. Tucker, an intelligent Englishman and a practical miller, who for a long time

pursued his craft in Mitchell, Ontario. The mill was built about three years ago by Mr. David Johnston, who has laid many similar loads upon mother earth in the Canadian North-west.

The building is not an imposing structure, though it possesses the snug and tidy appearance so noticeable in western mills. Its coat of dark red is in strong contrast to the snowy whiteness within, while the large white letters with which it is labeled give it a sort of commercial aspect which is in strong contrast to the diminutive letters to be seen on the stores and business houses along the street. Mr. Tucker at once proceeds to prescribe for my curiosity. The mill comprises three runs of stones, and it was run on the old principle until last March, when the roller process was introduced. On the



GREEY'S NEW "VELOCITY" MIDLINGS PURIFIER.

first floor are four double sets of rollers and a packer. On the second floor are scalpors, cockle machines and grain bins. On the third floor are two of Greey's middlings purifiers, and centrifugal reels—mysterious, and if it were not for their sloury coating, handsome looking contrivances, suggesting to my companion the ability of the inventor. All this elaborate machinery runs up to the third storey. In the basement to which we afterwards descended are the engine and the shafting, which gives pulse to the machinery which sets it going, and motion is also imparted to the smutter and brushing machine (the latter the kera V machine that would have delighted the elegant Colonel Starbottle, who was a whale on flushes.) All this is driven by the same power which runs the mill, the capacity of it being 75 barrels per day, and Major McGibbon, of the Indian Department, who is an old Montreal flour merchant, pronounces the quality equal to the best furnished the Department by Winnipeg mills. I notice that the engine is by Corbet & Sons, of Owen Sound, a forty horse power one, and Mr. Tucker says "it is a little daisy." He remarks, "We have the best gristing trade in the North-west Territories. We draw from a circle of 80 miles—we draw south from Broodnew, from the York Colony, Touchwood Hills, and all the country as far as the lake." The cockle machine does its work with great efficiency. The centrifugal reel handles the coarse stock and disposes of it in a fashion which makes the onlooker ask "How is it?" such is the perfection with which its work is done. Mr. Tucker says last summer they ran on an average of eighteen hours a day, and it was almost impossible for

them to keep up with the demand. To hear him explaining in detail all the economy of the mill, and pointing out how nothing was wasted except, perhaps, the fine powder which was floating in the atmosphere of the room, and which, like the dust of ages, had deposited itself all over the room; to note the ease with which he pulled that, stored this, and drew back the other; to follow him in his explanations as to how the work of converting wheat into flour was doubtless not as difficult as to watch the process itself, but there are so many evolutions, convolutions and revolutions, so many ascensions and descensions, such wonderful manipulations, that one can only account for the perfection the art of making flour has reached on the principle of gradual evolution from the mills which are said to grind slow and hard, to the

mimitable and wonderful roller process. I followed Mr. Tucker in his explanations and at the same time endeavored to keep a nautical eye on the machinery, while also attempting to enter in my note book Mr. Tucker's explanation. Like the young man with the venomial theorem, I thought I had the whole process at my finger's ends, but I am mistaken. I know something about a cracker, and have a hazy recollection of a smutter and a belter, but there is in my mind no logical connection between these great inventions. I know there are long

boxes or elevators which are mysteriously at work kicking up a tremendous dust and making a great fuss, but their logical relations to the stones below and the bolts above are to my mind as hazy as the atmosphere which they have rendered hazy by their constant puffing. "As neat and as compact a mill as I ever worked in," remarks Mr. Tucker, and then I am invited into the snug little office, the flour is brushed off or in, and Miller Tucker, who is something of a reader, produces the latest *Punch*, not the permit of that description, but the journal itself, and from the intricacies of the roller process to the eccentricities of Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Tucker turns with the ease of a man who does not allow the news of the day to go ahead of him. Even if he is a dusty miller, he is not a rusty one.

According to the *Orillia Packet*, lumbermen agree that the shanties will yield a very good average cut this spring as the result of the winter's work, notwithstanding the unusual severity and continuance of bad weather.

The saw mill owners at Keewatin, believing that they were paying more taxes than they should, got up a petition to the Government, asking that Keewatin be declared a separate municipality. The Rat Portage people objected strongly to the withdrawal of the mill men from the municipality, and a deputation was sent to Toronto to look after the interests of the council. The matter has been compromised by the Rat Portage council agreeing to exempt logs and lumber from taxation; remit one-half of taxes on mill buildings, plant, etc., except school rates; and exempt all mill property from any debenture by-laws which may in future be passed by the majority of the people in the western part of the municipality. The arrangement will apply to all mill property in the township of Rat Portage.