

## MILLING IN WESTERN CANADA.

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IN last month's issue of the DOMINION MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS I gave a brief sketch of milling in Winnipeg up to the date of the establishing of the first roller mills in the country. As previously noted the first roller milling in this western country was done in the year 1882, during which year McMillan's stone mill was changed to the roller process, with a capacity of 300 barrels, and Ogilvie's 1,000 barrel mill was also completed and put in operation. Two years later the Hudson Bay Co.'s mill at Winnipeg was changed to the roller process, with a capacity of 200 barrels per day. These city mills have already been fully described.

The largest and most important mill in the West, and also the oldest roller mill, outside of Winnipeg, is the fine mill of the Portage Milling Company, located at the prosperous and rising town of Portage la Prairie, fifty-six miles west of Winnipeg. The mill is known by the name of the Assiniboine mill, and is operated by a joint stock company, of which H. M. Campbell is president, B. S. Thompson secretary, and J. McLenaghan manager. This mill was erected with the best machinery and in a substantial manner at the start, and has accordingly been able to work to the best advantage. The mill has been kept running steadily, and a large trade has been done. Last season it was found necessary to increase the capacity of the mill, for which the building afforded ample room, and now about 300 barrels per day can be turned out. The flour is largely shipped direct to Montreal. The company also has a branch warehouse at Winnipeg for the sale of its goods. One great advantage with milling at Portage la Prairie is the fact that the bulk of the wheat required for grinding can be purchased at the mill door. The famous Portage Plains, now known all over Canada, form a wheat-growing region second to none in the world. Here wheat fairly luxuriates in the rich prairie soil, with its deep black loam. The Ontario farmers who visited Manitoba last season were loud in their praise of this region. One of them could hardly find words to express to the writer his wonder on seeing two teams of heavy horses attached to a binder get stuck fast in cutting a swath only half the width of the knife. This was on a Portage Plains farm. But to return to our subject, as intimated most of the wheat ground at this mill is purchased from farmers at the mill door. In connection with the mill is an elevator, with a capacity of 115,000 bushels. There is a second mill at Portage, which is worked partially on the roller principle. This is the Marquette mill, operated by G. W. Bourne. The town also boasts of the Pioneer oatmeal mill, owned and operated by Johnson & Barclay, both old mill men. Mr. Johnson founded the roller flour mill at Fort Qu'Appelle, which he sold out to engage in the present enterprise. Mr. Barclay lately operated one of the oldest flour mills of Western Manitoba, located at Birtle. As it was, of course, a stone mill, it had to be abandoned when the railway arrived at Birtle. He then went into partnership with Mr. Johnson in the Pioneer oatmeal mill at Portage la Prairie. As in the case of the flour mills, the oats are purchased at the mill door. The manufactures of the mill are standard, granulated and rolled oatmeal and rolled oats, pot and pearl barley. The trade of the firm extends to the Pacific coast of British Columbia to the west, and occasional shipments of oatmeal are made to Eastern Canada. An elevator was erected in connection with this mill last season. In addition to these mills, Portage la Prairie has two grain shipping elevators of 50,000 bushels capacity each, owned respectively by the Ogilvie Company and the Farmers' Elevator Company. In season a number of grain dealers are in the market, and considerable quantities of grain are shipped out, in addition to what is ground at home. This will show the importance of the place as a grain market.

Going westward from Portage la Prairie on the main line of the C. P. R., the next milling point is the busy little town of Carberry, 105 miles west of Winnipeg. Unlike Portage, which is one of the oldest settled districts of Manitoba, this is a new town, and has grown up since 1882. It is one of the leading grain markets of the west nevertheless, and a recent return shows that up to the time of writing \$81,000 bushels of grain (wheat, oats and barley,) have been marketed from the crop of 1887. There is a roller mill here of about 150 barrels capacity, operated by the Manitoba Milling and Brewing Company, a limited liability joint stock concern, of which W. L. Boyle is president, and R. T. Rokely manager. There are also several grain elevators and grain shippers.

Continuing on westward on the main line of the C. P. R., the next milling point is the prosperous city of Brandon, the second largest place in Manitoba, and the largest primary grain market in Canada. Brandon has

already taken in from the crop of 1887 considerably over 1,000,000 bushels of wheat alone, and a considerable quantity will yet be marketed. Brandon has one milling establishment, operated by Alexander, Kelly & Co. The mill was established almost with the commencement of the town, in 1882. It was first established on the stone process, but has since been changed to a complete and improved roller process. The capacity of the mill is 150 barrels daily. A large export trade is done, principally to Montreal, in addition to local business. The mill is kept going steadily, and has done a very successful business. Oatmeal is also manufactured at this mill, for which there is a capacity of about 200 sacks in a full day of 24 hours. There is an elevator in connection with the mill, with a capacity of about 35,000 bushels. Here also all the wheat required can be purchased at the mill door, and Brandon wheat is well known for its quality. There are four shipping elevators at Brandon in addition to the mill elevator, with a capacity of from 35,000 to 40,000 bushels each; also one smaller elevator of about 17,000 bushels capacity, and several flat warehouses. The following figures will show the growth of Brandon as a grain market: The year 1882 was the first year which there was a grain market at the place, when about 250,000 bushels of wheat were delivered. In 1883 the quantity of wheat marketed by farmers reached 450,000 bushels. In 1884 about 560,000 bushels were marketed, and in 1885 the amount had reached 900,000 bushels. In 1886 there was some falling off on account of the drought, and the figures from the crop of the year fell to about the same amount as in 1884. The wheat crop of 1887 has not yet been fully delivered, but when in will pull up pretty well toward 1,500,000 bushels. At one time during the present grain season there were seventeen buyers on the market, which will convey some idea of the importance of this place as a farmers' grain market.

The fourth station westward from Brandon, still on the main line of the C. P. R., is the little town of Oak Lake. This is a grain market of considerable importance. Here a 100 barrel roller mill was erected in 1885 by D. Moore & Son. Some time ago the mill was purchased by Leitch Bros., general merchants, of Oak Lake, who took hold and pushed the business vigorously. Late last fall the mill was destroyed by fire, but the elevator was saved. Messrs. Leitch decided to continue the milling business in Manitoba, and after investigating several districts, they decided to rebuild at Oak Lake again. The mill is now in course of construction, and will be ready for operation in the fall. It will be given increased capacity over the burned mill, and erected on the most improved plan. The capacity will be about 200 barrels. Messrs. Leitch have leased the new mill at Moosomin, which they are operating with the object of supplying their customers until their new mill is ready.

The next station west of Oak Lake is also a milling point. This is the town of Virden, situated 180 miles west of Winnipeg. Here a roller mill was erected in 1885, and is now operated by Hoster, Craig & Co. The mill has a capacity of about 150 barrels daily. The proprietors contemplate erecting an elevator this season. The mill was supplied with \$2,000 worth of new machinery last fall. Flour is shipped westward to British Columbia and eastward to Montreal. Virden is a grain market of considerable importance. The estimated receipts from the crop of 1887 amount to about 600,000 bushels of wheat alone. Virden is the last milling station on the main line of the C. P. R., within the Province of Manitoba. The next station westward where a roller flour mill is located is the prosperous town of Moosomin, in the territory of Assiniboia. This mill was commenced in the summer of 1886, but the project hung fire for a considerable time owing to certain financial and legal difficulties. Work, however, was resumed and the mill was completed last fall by T. Fletcher. The mill has a capacity of 150 barrels, and was built by E. P. Allis & Co., of Milwaukee, Wis. There is a small elevator in connection. Shortly after being completed, the mill was leased to Leitch Bros., of Oak Lake. Moosomin is the most important farmers' market in the Territory, and it is estimated that wheat deliveries from the crop of 1887 will amount to 300,000 bushels. There are two grain elevators of about 35,000 bushels capacity each.

The next point westward which boasts a roller flour mill is Wolseley. This mill was established by W. D. Cook and G. E. Cole, and is now operated by the firm of Cook & Cole. The mill has a capacity of about 125 barrels, and was completed in the summer of 1887. A 20,000 bushel elevator has also been erected. Messrs. Cook & Cole are practical millers, who have views of their own. The mill was built under their supervision, and the machinery was selected from several manufacturers, according to their views of the various branches of milling machinery. Wheat growing in this district

has not yet attained the magnitude which it has through Manitoba, but the quality of the grain marketed this season was very high.

At Indian Head station, 312 miles west of Winnipeg, and the second station west of Wolseley, is a roller flour mill of about 100 barrels capacity, together with an elevator. These were built some few years ago by the Bell Farming Company, but owing to the financial difficulties of the company the mill has not been operated for a year or two back.

The next station westward is Qu'Appelle. Here is located the mill of McMillan & Co., of Winnipeg. Messrs. McMillan were doing a large trade with British Columbia from their Winnipeg mill, and on this account they conceived the idea of building a mill in the western portion of the wheat-growing country, which would be considerably closer than Winnipeg to their British Columbia market. Consequently they erected a mill at Qu'Appelle in 1885. It has a capacity of 300 barrels, and is one of the most complete and successful mills for its size, in the country. As yet, there has not been sufficient wheat grown in the district to keep the mill running, but the difficulty will be obviated in time. In the meantime, wheat is brought to some extent from points in Manitoba. The mill is kept busy supplying the British Columbia and local trade, and also Indian contracts at times.

The last and furthest western mill on the main line of the C. P. R. is located at Regina, 356 miles west of Winnipeg. It is owned and operated by the Regina Milling Company, composed of J. A. McCaul, M. McNicol and J. R. Reilly. The mill was erected in 1885, and has a capacity of 100 barrels daily. Wheat has been shipped from this mill eastward to Montreal, but at present there is not enough grown in the district to keep the mill going steadily without bringing grain from stations eastward. For the local and territorial trade, grain can be brought from points eastward and ground to advantage, but this cannot be done successfully when it is desired to ship the flour oack eastward again. This difficulty, however, will be quickly obviated by increasing settlement and extended cultivation.

So much for the roller flour mills on the main line of the C. P. R. west of Winnipeg. Mills in other parts of the country will be dealt with in a following issue of this journal.



Messrs. James Jones & Son, the well-known mill furnishers, of Thorold, Ont., have made some changes in their advertisement this month that millers would do well to note.

Mr. James Thurston, of Canington, Ont., has engaged Mr. E. P. Cave, Thistleton, to remodel his mill, and readjust his programme, in consequence of which the mill will be shut down for some time.

Messrs. Stahlshmidt & Co., manufacturers of office and school furniture, Preston, Ont., have appointed Messrs. F. A. Wheeler & Co., of New York, as their Australian agents, with headquarters at Sydney.

Messrs. Geo. Wright & Bro., of Wareham, Ont., are putting up a 3 storey building for a new roller mill. They will still retain their stone mill, so as to furnish either stone or roller flour. The contract for the supply of all machinery and millwright work complete is let to Mr. E. P. Cave, of Thistleton.

Messrs. Kennedy & Son, Son, Owen Sound, Ont., have been awarded the contract for building two duplex power pumps for the waterworks of Welland, Ont. One of these pumps will have a capacity to raise 1,500,000 gallons of water, and the other 750,000 gallons every twenty-four hours; the price being \$2,675 at Welland.

The new mill at Durham, Ont., for which the town recently granted a bonus of \$3,000 to Mr. Robert McGowan, of Priceville, Ont., is now in course of construction. The size of the building will be 32x52, and will consist of stone basement, 10 feet high, and 3 storeys 12 feet high, solid brick. The mill will have a capacity of 100 to 125 barrels per day. The contract for the furnishing of all machinery and supplies, and putting the same in operation, has been let to Mr. E. P. Cave, of Thistleton, Ont.

Barrie, Ont., has granted a bonus of \$7,000 to Henry Sewrey to assist him in establishing a stove foundry in connection with his present steam engine and mill works.

The *Canadian Gazette* says the Dominion Government has decided not to take part in the coming Paris Exhibition, but care is being taken to insure that every publicity is given in the Dominion to the opportunities afforded by the Exhibition for the display of Canadian products and manufactures.

Snider & Steckel, millers, Plattsville, Ont., have compromised at 30c. on the dollar. Snider & Wismer, millers, Dooa, Ont., are offering to compromise at 8c., and T. & A. B. Salder, millers, German Mills, Ont., are offering to compromise at 10c.