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Flour from Canad̀d̀s Far North West.
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## Flour from Canadå Far North West



HE flour in the accompanying little barrel is made from wheat grown in the I'eace River country. The Hudson's

Company's mill in which this flour was made is the: northernmost mill on the continent. It is at Vermilion in the Peace River region. 700 miles due north of the United States boundary, 400 mile south of the Arctu Circle and 650 miles west from riudson's Bay. The mill, whicı was built in 1902 and begann grinding in the fall of thit year, has a capacity of 35 barrels per day of twenty-four hours; it supplies flour to the northern posts of the Hudsonis: Bay Company which dot the basins of the Peace and Mackenzie Rivers. There is another fle or mili in the same neighborhood belonging to the Roman Catholic Church. It is worthy of note that wheat grown in the Peace River region took the first prize al the World's Pail in
(hucago in 189 ) : still more remarkable is the fact that at the Centemial F xposition an Philadelphia in 1876 Red Fyte wheat, grown in the same far end of the earth, as it was at that time regarded, was stown and received a special first prize. Fully twenty years ago several small stone mills were grinding wheat within in distance of 100 miles from Fort Vermilion, and more than two score years ano Roman Catholic and Anglican missionaries mithat country were growing fine vegetables and some grain. At the Exxhbition in Fidmonton a couple of months ako. Mr. H. F'. Lawrence showed a splendid collecton of westables from his farr. at Fort Vermilion, including pumpkins and cucumbers which hact ripened on the vines ; and Mr. H. Brick. M.P.P'. of Peace River Crossing, cut his wheat this year ten days before wheat hundreds of miles to the southward was cut. Fort Vermilion is more than 1.800 miles northwest of Wimmipes ${ }^{*}$ On its journey from the mill the accompanying sample of Peace Rwer flour travelled frst sonse 300 miles in a Hudsons Bay stern-wheel steancer down the Peace River to Lake Athabaska and across to the mouth of the Athabaska River, thence by the Athabaska Kiver to Athabaska Landing, nearly 400 miles, in a York boat. It was then brought by pack train 100 miles to Edmonton, and from E.dınonton it travelled 1.032 miles to Winnipeg. From Fort Vermilion to Minneapolis is 2.280 miles; to Chicago 2.690 miles : to St. Louis 2,864 miles : to Philadelph:a 3,512 miles, to New York 3.603 miles.


 neater than X.irwov the Free Preew fornd al impowitie to ver herm. tess than hift gears ago $1 t$ was bethered that the wemem bomentan of Oho, which is less than one lousth of the dislance actoss the contuent trom the Attantic coast, marhed the limit of the wheat-producme new of Nowh America. "the Wheat Mant," by John H. Khipparl, was puldished in 1859 . in

 sixty days. Klippory wi the Secrelary of the Ohio State Board of A sprenthre und a member of many learner' cereties. He was an authority on the subject of wheat historok is still regarded as in n...ily respects authontative. He declared that the tide of pejpmlation then moving wes'ward "must soon return eastward to the wheat-producing resion." But those indomitable conguerors of the coll whom he so conlidents expected ware tre turning to the boreters of Ohio, not ont: urneyed or beyond the Masissiplou, but thes sons and grandsons have for years been weding acrosis the meternational boundary and have pressed on as far into Western ('alada from th: Boundary as their fathers journeyed from Ohio to Minnesola: and still the wheat sprangs up in their wahe as it spratig up in the wahe of therr fathers. I hey are mingling with the surdy sons of here uen from Eastern Canadi, who were the pioners of Manitoba, and with the shorsms young blood from the cider Provinces that is going into farther Wes'ern Canada. Ho:nemakerss from the old lands overseas, too, are pouring into the prairies and valleys of Canada's far North West. Yesterday a wilderness, to-dar the abode of the pioneer, to-morrow a
waving field of grain! Such is the Epic of the Ilough, which under the wide-arching heavens is being written across the viost expanse of fertile soll that stretches awdy west. ward from the valley of the Red Riser across the continent to the foothills of the Rockies: and northward to the valley of t'e Peace River.

ORE wonderful, as it is more rapid, than the chapters that have gone before, is this latest chapter in the history of the adrance of wheat-growing. which is the history of man's advance from primilive conditions. W Whrat is flour, flomr is bread, and bread is the daily food which mann has been
and ars ans the manstay of his existence. Since the dawn of history wheat laught to pray for as the mainstay of his existence. Since the dawn of history wheat bread and civilization hase gone hand in land. The emergence of mankind from sarasery oceurred when the lirst miller, regardless of anything save the pangs of hunger. plucked a pronitive wheal berry from the stalk and, using his teeth fer mill stones, ground grist for a customer who would rot be demed his stomach. Thence onwarel, taught forethonght by dire experience, man planted and reaped his slender erop by the most privition implements, and ground his poor stock of wheat in a rude mortar with a rock

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HIF: history of the wheat plant would ceen in a bried summary extend as far beyond the limits of thas hette book is the whent plant itself has extended beyond the hanits assigned to 11 ont this contiment hadi a century ago. Its orism has no esimt date. Botanically it belongs to the grass family, and is, in fact, a mordified form of strass. Our cultivated wheat has arisen trom wild ancestors in Southern Europe and :Ssia. The Egyptians grew wheat on the banks of the Nile elosely related to the what grown in Wentern Camada, " $A$ "ran of wheat was found in a pyramid of which the date of construction is 3300 B.C. Ihe Egyptians are believed to have derived their wheat from Mesopotamia. Crains of wheat have frequenty been found in ancient ligyptian sarcophast, and creryone has heard the stories of their having been planted and hasing secrmmated. No such story hats ever been serified: and all scientike experiments with "mummy wheat" hatic bailed to secure its germination. In ancient tigypt and Mesopotimia belore they obtained metal to make sickles only enot h whent was raised to provide a small portion of the propple with bread, which was therefore an article of luxury. The Fsyptian loares described by Herodotus were baked with leaven, and were corcular and flat in shape, like crum-

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pets or muffins. Ihey also made bread in the shape of modern rolls, sprinkled on the top with seeds. When the Israelites felt the pangs of hunger in the wilderness and longed for "the fleshpots of Egypt" they protested loudly to Moses, " We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt, the barley, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic." It is evident from their list of grievances that they had not been accustomed to wheaten bread as a part of their regular food while they served as bondsmen in the land of the Nile; and further proof that bread was then an article of luxury is found in the part that it played in the religious ceremonies prescribed by the Mosaic law. HE Chinese, who seem to have a more or less valid patent on almost everything in modern use, modestly claim that wheat was grown in China some 2.700 years before the beginning of the Christian era. In the ruins of pre-historic dwellings in Switzerland three kinds of wheat have been found. In Hungarv and in Lombardy wheat has also been found in pre-historic remains. It was cultivated in the stone age when man used flint implements, at a time when the mammoth and the rhinoceros flourished in Europe. Undoubtedly it has undergone many changes during the time it has been cultivated by man, but the fact that it claims a record of more than 4,600 years of faithful service to mankind is the best evidence of its sterling character and value as food.


RIMEVAL man reduced wheat to flour by means of a handstone for thousands of years; this was the only form of milling in use. The grain was placed in a hollow stone and pounded into meal by means of a stone crusher. Aborigines in all countries used this simple process of millng. The first grinding mill was the saddle stone. This marked the initial step in the development of milling processes. It has been used throughout the world. The Grecks and Romans knew it. and it is still in use. The upper surface of the stone was made concave; in this hollow the grain was rabhed and ground by means of another stone. This was worked backward and forward, not rolled. Large numbers of these ancient saddle stones have been discovered and baar witness to the use to which they were put. the millers of Babylon, Nineveh, Assyria and Egypt used this process. I wo limestone statuettes from tombs on the Nile near the pyramids of Saggarat show womell enyaged in grinding with the saddle stone. Both of these are of date about 220) B.(. Six hundred years later, when loseph hecome Pharaoh's administrator of grain supplies, the chief baker was imprisoned and subsequently hanged for producing bad flour. His grinding was done on the saddle stone. On this side of the Atlantic the ahoriginal inrabitants were saddle stone millers, as their relics attest, and it is a remarkahle fact tha! their saddle stones were greatly super or in shape and finish to any European saddle stone that has come down to the present day.

N some countries the mortar was the contemporary, and ultimately the successor. of the saddle stone. The mortar was portable, and its great distinction was in heing fashioned bott inside and outside. The quern, an Italian mention of at least two thousand years ago, was the next step in the progress of milling. It was the first complete grinding machine in which the parts were mechanically combined, and succeeded loose stones. The quern introduced a circular motion, the upper stone revolsing upon the lower. The saddle stone was a thrusting machine, the quern a revolving mill. This was the machine in use at the dawn of the ('hristian exa. The familiar quotation: " liwo women shall be yrinding at the mill: the one shall bee tiken and the other shall be left," was translated in Wyckliff's Bible carly in he fourteenth century: "liweine wymmen schulen ben gryndynge in o querne. oon sethat be talen and the tother lefte." An earty but important improvement in the quem was the groosing of the grinding face of the stone. The edes of the grooves pertormed the grinding as:d the: hollows corvesed the meal to the rim of the stone: this was the rude initiatio: of the right principle of methodical furrowing, not fully deseloped until the era of water mills. The quern was the original British flour-mill. A little more than a century ago it was used in parts of the United Kingdom. It is still in common use in Chira and Japan. Mr. Richard Bennet in his History of Milling describes one he found in daily use at a secluded cottage near Drontheim, in Norwa. in 1897. This quaint mill stood upon a table three feet high, a loose circular casing enclosing the slones. and the flour dropping through a hole into a draves.
$\cdots$


RIGINALLY the woman was the umsersal miller, and supphed the power which drove the hand stone and the saddle stone herself. Then slaves, and latar criminals, did the drudgery and grinding. The mills in operation in Pompeii, when it was destroyed in $78 \mathrm{~A} . \mathrm{D}$., as shown bs remains discovered in its ruins, were slave-propelled. The cattle mills and slave mills were originally similar; the ass was ordinarily used for mill-driving, and for many years in Rome the human animals and their hrute companions performed the flour-milling for the Elernal ("ily. After the abolition of slavery in the fourth century, cattle mills were generally adopted. Tread-mills, worked by convicts, were in use in Fiurope as carly as 1,57 and are still in use in some countries the sole survivors of the old Roman slave mills. The slave and cattle mill preceded the water mill. First the Creeks and then the Romans used water as power for grain grinding. 'The carliest allusions to the water mill, the world's frst power mill, occur in writings from 85 to $65 \mathrm{~B} . \mathrm{C}^{\prime}$. The windmill came into existence much later than the water mill. A windmill tower of the Crusader period still exists in Syria. The year 1200 seems to be about the date that windmills were introduced into England. In 178t the Centlemen's Mayazine announced that "a new discovery is now carrying into execution near Blachfriar's Pridue a method of grinding corn by means of a fre-engine, which communicates a power of working thirty-six pair of stones. This promises great profits, if the inventor call carry it into effect at a moderate expense." The engine was constructe Boulton © W'alt. I hus the steam-mill at last entered the milling field.

PECULfAR fact in connection with the development of milling is that to-day every type of mill known in the history of flour-making can still be found in active and practical operation in some quarter of the glabe, so that the course of the various processes may be clearly traced by using actual modern examples. Some fndian tribes on this continent crush grain in pre-historic fashion; the saddle stone method, such as was used in the time of Abraham, is still doing duty in parts of Africa; in the Transvaal the pestle and mortar may be seen in common use; the quern may still be found in use in certain parts of Europe and Asia; the slave mill was but the prototype of the treadmill; mills driven by cattle are not unknown to-day: water mills, tide mills and windmills are still making flour in this era of giant roller mills. From the beginning down to the present day, the story of milling processes may be read by the curious in the devices and machines still in use and still doing the actual work of making flour for human food.


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Win


THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S FLOUR MILL AT FORT VERMILION
The northernmost mill on the comtinent. It grinds flour from wheat grown in the Peace River region, to supply the
Company"s far northern posts, and the settlers in the basins of the Peace and Mackenzie Rivers.





HI: manufacture of flour, as it is understood in its largest sense to-day, is really a new industry both on this continent and in Europe; for it has been created since the introduction of new process milling, which alone made the operation of large four mills possible, and this occurred only some thirty years ago. The saddle stone process was that of the individual or household miller; the advent of the quern and its improvements marked the beginning of manorial or village milling. With the mill stone came the grist mill, grinding for a larger district and exacting a toll from the farmers who hrought grain to it, latterly developing in a moderate way into the merchant mill in some favorably located spo: Fissentially. the mill stone era was the grist mill period. This was swept away almost entirely except in the more isolated rural districts, by what is called the "revolution in milling." which first bought the purifier into use and soon after substituted chilled iron rollers for lise long used mill stones, it eby enormously increasing the output of the plants, creating the modern 'arige , bill, with its traffic extending to remote markets at home. and abroad, and relegating the grist mill to complete obscurity and disuse. With the change came the present race of merchant millers, as distinctly different from the typical grist miller of the mill sione period as he was from the quern miller or as the last named was from the slave miller of Roman days. So recent was the dawn of the new milling era that millers who saw it are still in their prime. the develonment of milling processes, especially in America, was so slow ats to be almost i:rerrepthbe. The trade was petting ready for a radieal and astoundrin thange. sich as few industries have eler known. This reform was to sweep eserything before it in its stern and unexpected onslaught, to merwhelm all opposition, ruin those who stubbornly clung to old ways, to enrich those who were alert and progressive, break down all barriers, divert established trade chamnels, open up new fields for grain growing, utilize opportunities which had long lain dormant, eflect a complete change in the industrial map of the North American continent, build railroads, create new routes to the old markets, immensely cheapen the bread of the Old as well as the New World, drive out of commission in Britain and Anericia thousands of time-honored, old-fashioned milis unable to compete in the new order of things, and bring into being flour m:Ils of a capacity such as the world never dreamed of."

HE introduction of the purifier in Minnesota in 1870 was to milling what the introduction of the reaper was to agriculture. No other one machine has accomplshed what it did for the world's bread-eaters. Aloout the time of its introduct on yood flour sold for $\$ 10$ or more a barrel. The arerage price lor flour in these days is about one-third of its average then. The purifier itself did not reduce the cost of making flour, but it enablid the miller to grind from the hitherto despised spring wheat, which inmediately commanded a price equal to that of
the best winter wheat tlour, This gave a great impetus to milling, increased the demand for spring wheat, rendered valuable the crops of Minnesota and Dikota and Western Canada, and led to the agricultral derelopinent of this vast section of the continent. Spring whed llour spaang into fator in America, and when introduced abroad, especiatly in the United Kinedom, won its way asainst all competition. In the end the demand for it caused British millers to re-model their mills and grind a mixture of homegrown wheat and wheat tron the northern patt of this continent. To E.dnund Le Croix, a native of France, belones all the honor and credit of introduciug and building the first purifier on this continent : the poor man received nothing else from the machine which nade untold m.llions for others and changed the industrial future of the nothwestem section of this contment. Itw was an educated fremehman, but unaccustomed to husiness ways, and lacked a knowtedge of the lindish language. Had he bern shrewder and more suspicious he wonld not have allowed the ruit of his worh to escatpe him, and he mieht have obtained some of the millions which went to others ats a result of his experiments. The history of the purifier is an unwritten industrial romance. Frayments of it have been told. but the entite story, ahounding in dramatic facts rivalling fiction, awaits the coming of a comprehending nordist to weave it into a tale of absorbing interest. It is a story of the steating of inventive ideas, of the securing of patents by those not rightiully entitled to them, of long and costly litigation, of the death of 1.0 Croix, broken-liearted and poor, and years afterwards of the death of the man who appropriated l.e Croix's insentions, and, after attaining immense wealth, cane to disatter N May 2nd, 1878, a fire in the "Washburn A" mill at Minneapolis caused an explosion of flour dust, which completely destroyed the most important of that great group of mills, with the loss of a number of lives. Dust collectors had not then been invented and the busy mills were filled with a fine dust, which, under certain circumstances became as inflammable and destructive as gun powder. [o this was due the catastrophe which temporarily checked the growth of the Minneapolis milling industry. The morning after the disaster the work of re-building the destroyed plants was begun. L'naware that another great change in mill methods was impending, and that the days of the old and tried mill stone were rumbered, the owners equipped the rebuilt mills with stones for grinding. Some time before this rollers had been introduced on this continent by Edward P. Allis \& Company, mill builders, whose mill engineer, Mr. William D. Gray, had planned and built sone of tha most important mills in the United States. At first these rollers were of marhle but later of porcelain imported from Zurich. At the time of the rebuilding of the Minneapolis mills the roller process, which soon succeeded the mill-stone, was considered altogether too experimental for practical use. Covernor Washburn during his foreign travels, had seen the rollers at work and from curiosity had ordered a few sets. These had arrived at Minneapolis, but were still unpacked. He contracted with Mr. Gray in 1878 for a small experimental rolter mill; this was the first complete roller mill in the United States, Chilled iron rollers soon succeeded those of porcelain; and this type of grinding machine then began to displace the mill-stone throughout the milling world.

HE substitution of rollers for mill-stones was the most radical change evet made in the science of milling. It is claimed by the Hungarian millers that the millers of this continent appropriated their methods and that to the millers of Budapest belongs the credit of having been the first to adopt the roller process of makng flour. It is not claimed by the millers of this cont: nent that the roller mill was invented by them, nor can they deny thet stone rollers were in use in Hungary before they were adopted on this side of the Atlantic. It is claimed. however, that the system in use on this continent was neither invented nor first used in Budapest. The Hungarian roller mill millers claim that the first roller-mill piont was installed in Budapest in 1874; that rollers were shipped by them to Minneapolis in 1878, to Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Russia three years earlier, and to France in 1876. But the Farrell Foundry of Ansonia, Conn., entered an order on September 21, 1874, for chilled iron rollers for George H. Christian and Company, of Minneapolis. However, in seeking the origin of the type of rollers now in universal use one must go back fifty years earlier. Unquestionably the inventor of the roller mill was Helfenburger, who in 1820 built and experimented with the first roller mill at Rohrschach, in Switzerland. This, however, was never developed hy him. Jakob Sulzberger, of Frauenfeld, Switzerland, invented the first successful system of grinding with rollers. His mill was built in 1832 and started in 1833. and was an immediate and complete success. The honor of the invention, as well as the practical adaptation of chilled-iron rollers for making flour, belongs unquestionably to Switrerland.

URINC the early eighties rollers rapidly succeeded the mill stones, in all the principal nills in C'anada and the United States, and soon becanse the standard for ne:w and modern mills the world over. The mill-stone had seired its a!lotted time, and was retired with high honors and plasant memores. It is row hopmessly obsolete, except in remote districts into which the latest milling inventions have not penctrated: these are few and far between in tha milling sections of this continent. Following the purifier and the roller came a train oi useful inventions, which were incorporated in the roller system of milling dust collectors, scourers, bolters, separators, sifters and other machines, After the radical changes incident to the retolution in milling, the progress of the trade has been in the direction of minor improvements and a close attention to economy in the cost of production, made necessary by the inost intense competition and the reduction of profits to a minimum: and on this continent the geographical direction of the growth of milling capacity. like the movement of the production of high quality wheat, is northwestward.


HE world's wheat crop tor the last three years hats been as follows: in 1904, 3.1 $\ddagger 7.627 .000$ bushels: in 190; 3.316.125,000 bushels; and in 1906, 3, $423,704,000$ bushels. In its international character as the world's food, wheat connes io a final reckoning in the markets of Creat Britain. Ihere the world's wheat crops pass in review. It is a great clearing house in which the balances of the wheat-growing countries are adjusted. Other countries are importers of wheat, some of them require large quantities regularly, some of them are intermittent bidders for a portion of the world's crop, but the L'nited Kingdom is a steady and ready purchaser of wheat and its products, a country of wheat-bread eaters, raising always much less than it consumes, and with characteristic resourcelulness ready at a mome:at's notice to pay in good red gold for what it needs. The main contributions to the totals of tie world's wheat crop fer 1904, 1905, and 1906, given above, have been as follows:

| United States <br> Canada <br> European Russia <br> Total for Europe. including Russia. <br> Asia <br> Africa. <br> Australia <br> South America, including Arkentina |
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F 131,614,000 bushels of wheat grown in anada in 1906, 94,201.984 bushels were grown west of the Great Lakes, on $5,063,800$ acres, out of the total area of $173,318,862$ acres in Western Canada, west of the Ked River, capable of producing wheat. 「aking the wheat areas on all the continents into view, we find that nature has arranged a wheat calendar whereby durng every month of the year somewhere on the earth's surface a crop of wheat is harvested, modern transportation systems supplying the connecting chain which keeps the world from growing hungry. [he world's harvest times are as follows:-In January, Australasia, Chile, and Argentina; in Febıuary and March, East India and Upper Egypt: in April, Lower Egypt, Asia Minor and Mexico; in May, Algeria, Central Asia, China, Japan and lexas; in June, ' $u$ urkey, Spain, Southern France, California, l'ennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Kausas, Utah, Missouri; in July, Roumania, AustriaHungary, Southern Russia, Germany, Switzerland, France, Southern England, Oregon, Nebraska, Southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Washington, Iowa. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New York, New England, Eastern Canada; in August. Holland, Belgium, Northern England, Denmark, Poland, Western Canada, the Dakntas; in September and October, Scotland, Sweden and Norway. Northern Russia; in November, Peru and South Africa; in December, Burmah and Argentina. Thus, the year $r$ rund. seed-time and harvest succeed each other, and somewhere the wheat is always coming into the market.


## adimipeg

## THE CAPITAL UF THE PROVINCE OF MANITUBA AND CUMMERCIAI

 METROPOLIS OF WESTERN CANADA

## LOCAL, MMALUTHMANTS



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## Kural delestern Canada

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