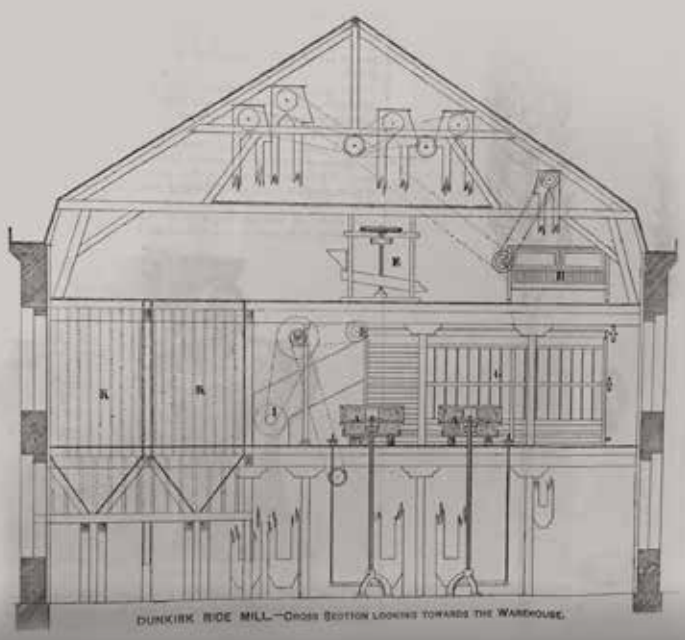
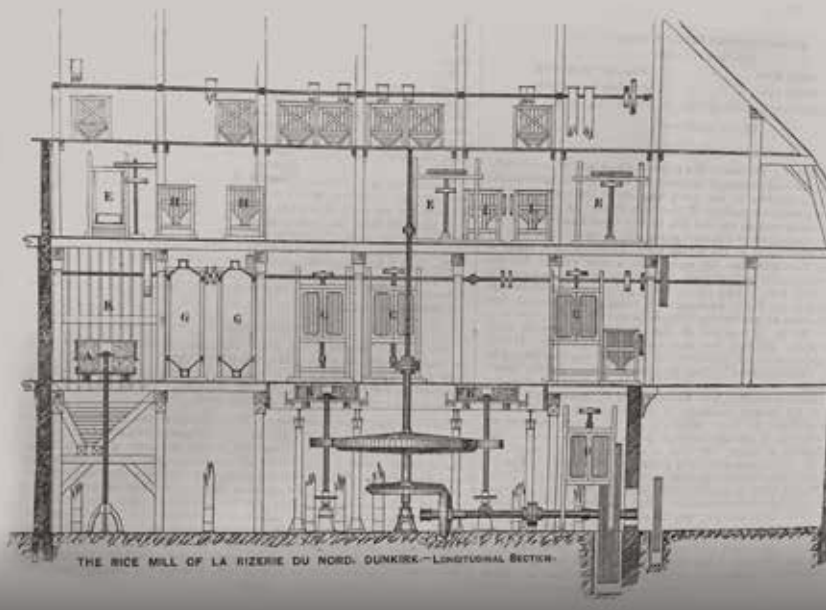




Rice Milling in France; La Rizerie Du Nord, Dunkirk

Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive

by Mildred Cookson, The Mills Archive, UK

Taken from The MILLER May 1891

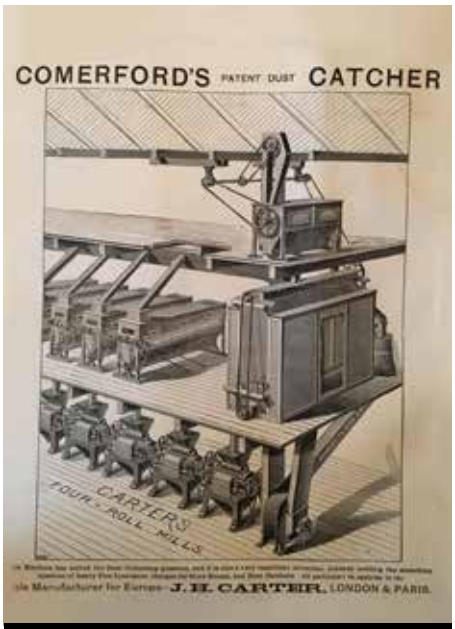
In May 1891, at the time an article in "The Miller" was written, the French Government had relaxed the import duties on rice entering the country in its rough state, but still maintained the duty on cleaned rice and rice flour. This amounted to eight francs per 100 kilos, imported directly from countries out of Europe, and a levy of 11 francs 60 centimes per 100 kilos on those European countries not having treaties with France. This gave an impetus to the French rice milling industry and provided an immediate opportunity for milling engineers who quickly undertook measures to satisfy the market.

The mill of La Rizerie Du Nord had just been completed by the well-known milling engineers, Jules Sloan & Co, 3 Rue du Louvre, Paris. The stipulated capacity of the mill was for an output of 25,000 kilos per 10 hours, but the mill soon reached 40,000 kilos. The article in The Miller included three diagrams of the mill: A cross-section looking towards the warehouse; a longitudinal section and a cross-section looking towards the engine room. The key provides an indication of the equipment and its arrangement.

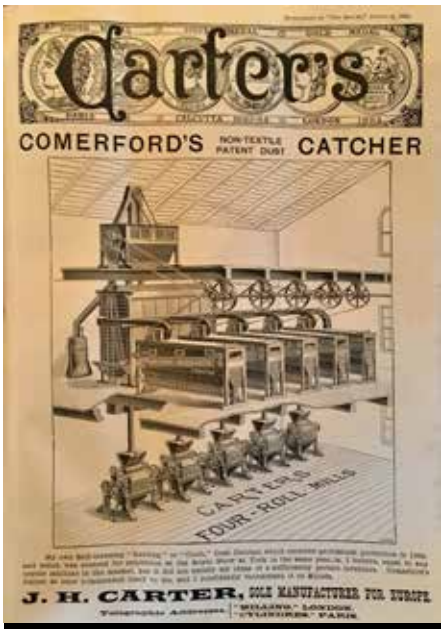
The system of ventilation at this mill was unique. Two 4ft diameter fans, blew directly into the Comerford's patent dust collectors, which were fitted with special cylinders for catching the husks, whilst the flour was collected in the usual manner. The motive power for the mill was supplied by a Pollett and Wigzell 225 hp engine with steam supplied from Sloan's multi-tubular type boiler.

The rice in its rough state first passed through a magnetic separator before a separator for removing any loose busks. It was then moved to two pair of stones for breaking the shells. After leaving the millstones it passed on to two separators of special design, with very strong aspiration and air valves, designed to effectively remove all the loose parts. The fairly clean rice was passed on to millstones for polishing before it went for further treatment by vertical brushes. This operation was repeated a second and third time which cleaned the rice to a "nearly perfect state". It now only remained to give the rice a finishing polish, which was affected by a machine of similar type to the brush, but which was lined with sheepskin.

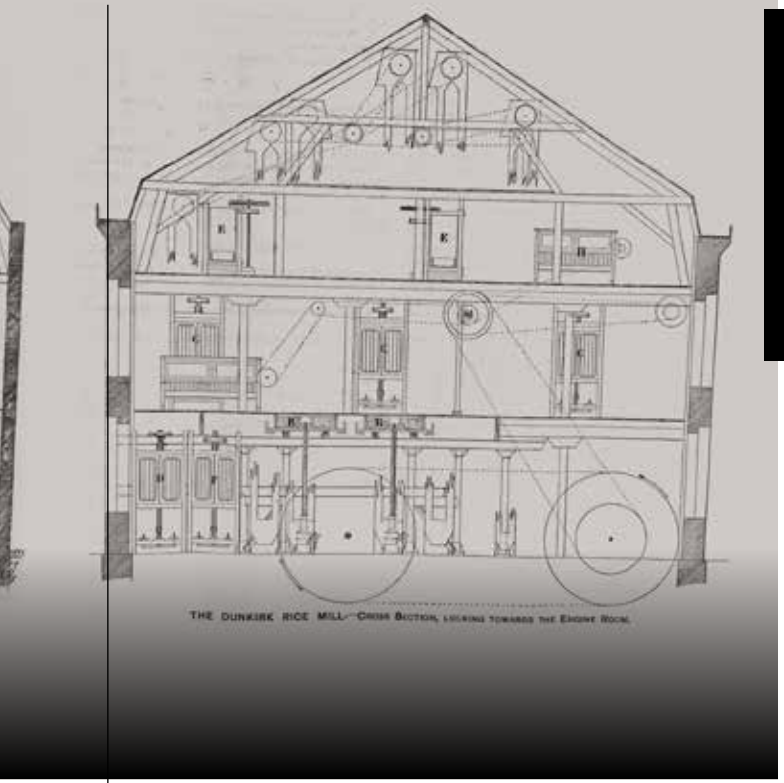
After leaving this machine the rice was classed into as many sizes as was required by the markets, the largest rice being given



Above: Later advert emphasising the fire insurance benefits of Comerford dust collection



Above: 1886 Supplement to The Miller sponsored by Carter's



Images Left
Left: Cross-section looking towards the warehouse
Middle: Longitudinal section
Right: Cross-section looking towards the engine room

Key to the illustrations

AA - Represent the shelling stones
BB - The polishing stones and CC the brushes
D - The position of a machine lined with sheepskin
F - A machine lined with felt
GG - Are Comerford dust collectors
HH - The reels, KK the bins and LL flour reels

one more glaze, and that completed the process. The byproducts then came in for their share of attention, and were treated so that the various flours, black and white were then sacked off.

The entire plant on the Hollandais system proved to be a grand success, reflecting credit on the owners as well as the engineers. The whole of the buildings were lit throughout by electricity supplied by the same firm of engineers, and the installation consisted of one arc lamp and 50 incandescent lamps. The owners the time of the report were in course of erecting a second rice mill at Marseilles.

The advertisements in our Victorian milling journals provide a fascinating area to study. The 1886 Carter supplement extols the Comerford system, pointing out that new technology made it more perfect even than Carter's own textile-based system. Later the emphasis changed and, as in the second advertisement Carters state… "It is also a very important invention towards settling the absorbing question of heavy Fire Insurance charges for Stive Rooms and Dust Catchers."

The holdings at the Mills Archive mean that I can only provide geographical and historical snapshots. if you would like to know more please email me at mills@millsarchive.org

Mills Archive

ACCREDITED ARCHIVE SERVICE

Milling and Grain supports the aims and objectives of the Mills Archive Trust, based in Reading, England.

The history of milling - no matter where it has taken place - is being archived by the Trust.

For well over 100 years milling technology has been global with many magazines serving or having served our industry from flour and food to feed and oilseed processing and now to fish feeds.

A most recent contribution to the Trust's collection is a complete century of past edition of the now out-of-print 'North-Western Miller' from the United States.

We are proud to present here, front cover illustrations from this valued and long-serving publication as a visual reminder of the importance contribution past magazines provided to our industry.

Milling and Grain est:1891

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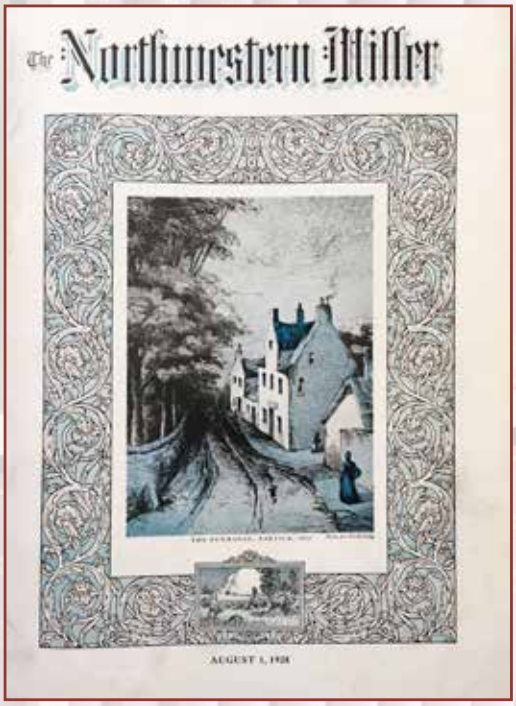

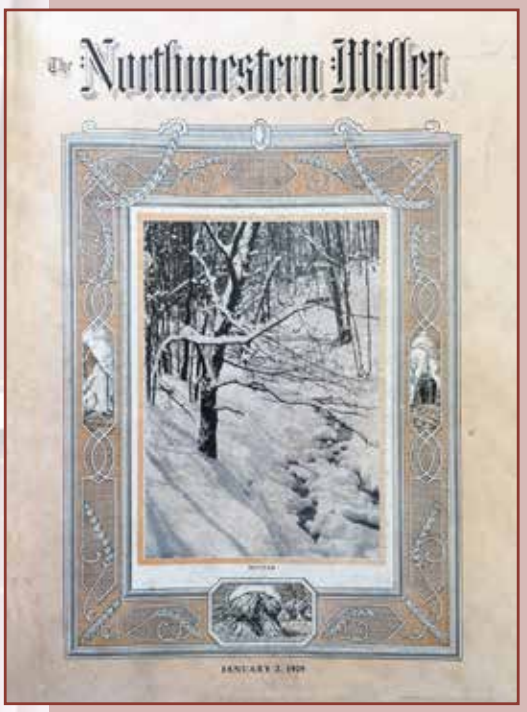

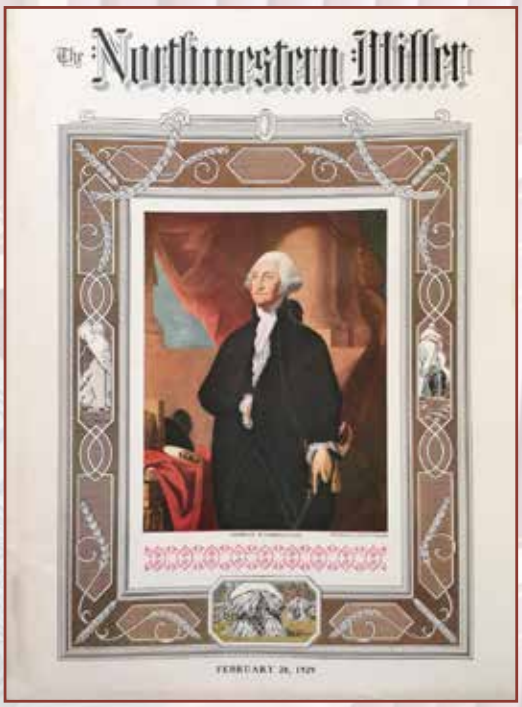

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