



The roller floor

Hanover Street Mills: Re-Planning a Famous Irish Mill

Another example of Plansifters Dealing with Soft Wheat

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Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive

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An article in *Milling* (18 June 1938) described only the second roller mill to be established in Ireland by that date. The buildings, in Hanover Street, Dublin, originally housed an oil crushing plant before being converted to a flour mill. The managing director was Mr. William Brown. His grandfather, a miller at Moniaive in Dumfries, together with his father and uncle, William and Walter came to Ireland and started the Hanover Street business.

These men were ahead of their time, installing porcelain rolls and purifiers before these machines were used to any extent in England. One of the rewards of this enterprise, and one that the article claimed casted an interesting light on their Scottish acumen, was the fact that they were able to buy Lancashire

millers' offals to re-mill and purify, recovering a profitable percentage of good quality saleable flour. The lesson that good equipment is the finest investment was never lost sight of.

By 1885 the Hanover Street Mills were fully equipped with roller mills and a Mr Hastings Brown of Crewe had just completed three years roller mill experience in the USA. He returned home and worked out a flow chart to suit the mills. The plant required was bought from Messrs Thomas Robinson & Son Ltd of Rochdale, Lancashire, and installed by Mr. Hastings Brown, who was brother of the director of the mill at that time, William Brown.

He had joined the firm in 1888 after spending seven years gaining practical experience of roller milling and joined Robinson's staff as their technical expert.

The Hanover Street mill was the first to install the Robinson patent dryer and conditioner, type JOM. Most of their wheat was brought in direct from the farms and dried on the JOM.

As the mill was not situated on the dockside the wheat was transported by bulk wagons from their storage at the docks. The screen room did not come within the recent reconstruction scheme but was very efficient and wheat reached the first break rolls in a perfect milling condition.

The object of the re-modelling of the mill was the complete revision of the purification and dressing systems. The new dressing machinery included two No 1a size sextuple JSm type plansifters with detachable clothing frames and three No 1 size LQm type purifiers. All the dressing done on the plansifters with the exception of the last break, its accompanying redresser and the three tail-end reductions.

The new system supplanted rotary graders on the break stocks and performed very fine



The mill building in 1938

work compared to the older machines which had disadvantages compared to the new plansifters. Each of the plansifters was thirteen sieves deep, and this efficiency combined with economy of space simplified the arrangement of the mill with sixteen centrifugal beings reduced to just six.

It also increased the capacity from seven sacks per hour to ten. It was noted that the two 3-inch belts driving the plansifters represented a big saving in power consumption compared to the previous arrangement which drove ten machines, each with its full complement of drives and bearings. The pleasing look of the line of purifiers, their high speed, and self-cleaning metal trunking assured the owners of a better floor layout.

Examination of the flours by means of the Pekar test showed a pleasing colour from first to last. The patent flours were of high quality, and the brands were: "Erin's Best", a blended baker's flour: "Progress", a strong baker's flour: "Brown's Best", a household flour and "Dainty", a self-rising flour. Two classes of bran were also produced, fine and broad, the latter being rolled on an existing pair of rolls.

Coming from the fourth break scalper, these products were exceptionally well finished and dusted.

The author commented that this sort of reconstruction did credit to the firm, coming from a long line of millers. It was also another example of an effective Robinson remodel. The extra production of flour in Ireland was followed by the stimulation given to the milling industry by legislation and had then reached the point where competition was increasingly intense. Only a mill efficiently equipped would hope to be successful and it appeared that Messrs. Brown had put themselves in just the right position.

