

## The Gloucester nabim Convention 1892, Part 2

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### Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive

**L**ast month I covered two of the mills seen during the 1892 nabim Conference as reported in the Miller (June 6, 1892). Here I describe two more of the ten or so local milling enterprises admired by visiting millers.

and one half of a roller mill fitted with 20 x 9 inches. The second break was done on a chilled iron roller with grooves 24 x 9 inches and the other fitted half fitted with rolls 20 x 9 inches; the third and fourth break on a double grooved chilled rolls of again 24 x 9 inches, while the fifth break used the same grooved rolls and also

#### Messrs Priday, Metford & Co City Mills

Gloucester Delegates saw this mill in full working order, fitted out with a roller plant of 15 sacks per hour. The mills were originally owned by the Hadley Brothers who set up their partnership there until moving on to City Mills in Thames Street London. One of the current partners at the Gloucester mill had served his apprenticeship with Mr Hadley.

The mill comprised two distinct parts: the mill proper of seven stories, and a wheat cleaning department - separated from the mill by a fire proof wall. The mill also had its own millwrighting and fitters shop

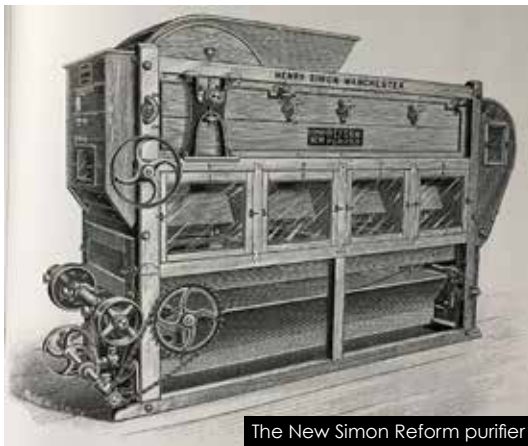
The Simon roller plant had been upgraded by the firm in 1890. The mill's ground floor housed three millstone hurstings, 21 elevator bottoms and the necessary shafting for driving the machinery on the floors above.

The first floor had 18 roller mills, seven of which were of the three high type, for reducing the wheat on the system of five breaks and 'flouring' the dust, middlings and semolina in eleven reductions. Possers for packing the flour occupied a separate part of the floor.

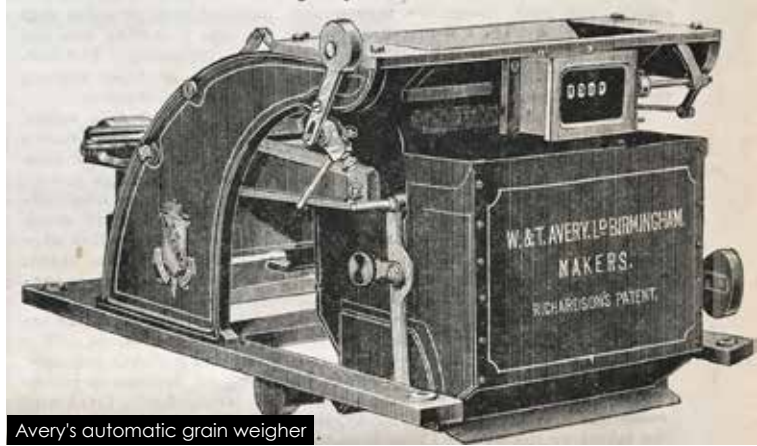
The breaking process was done on seven machines, the first break on a roller fitted with grooved chilled rolls 24 x 9 inches



Priday and Metford's Mills 1892



The New Simon Reform purifier



Avery's automatic grain weigher

used the half not used on the fourth.

The second floor had four double Reform purifiers, two sizing sieves, a rotary wheat grader with aspirator and two quadruple scalpers. The third floor had five Simon centrifugals, a small reel and two of Singleton's patent flour dressers.

The remainder of the dressing machines on the fourth floor consisted of seven centrifugals, flour dressing machines, two centrifugal scalpers for the fourth and fifth break, a Munden's centrifugal, a Gardner centrifugal, a gravity purifier, and a Stanier offal divider. A long silk reel was fixed on the top floor of the mill.

### **Messrs Kimmins, Drew & Co Roller Mills**

These mills were situated near the railway station at Dudbridge on the Stroud branch of the Midland Railway and formerly contained eight pairs of millstones. The roller plant was installed by Thomas Robinson & Sons of Rochdale and was capable of turning out 5 sacks per hour. It was driven, at one end of the mill

by a low breast shot water wheel and, near the centre of the mill, a steam engine housed in an outside building and connected with the main shaft by spur gearing.

The main shaft ran the length of the mill and drove the whole plant by means of a strong double leather belt 13 inches wide. Steam to drive the engines was from a pair of Lancashire boilers 24 feet long by 6 feet 6 inches. The substantial mill building was of stone, 90 feet high and 34 feet in width, with ground and five floors averaging 9 feet high.

Near the mill another large building for storing grain stood alongside the siding of the Midland Railway. At one end of this building was a fine suite of offices, which had been built around 1890. Wheat, after unloading from the railway wagons, entered the warehouse and was carried by a system of band conveyors and elevators to the top of the mill where it was distributed by a series of worm conveyors to the various large wheat bins situated immediately above the wheat cleaning machinery.

The mill had five breaks and reduced the semolina, middlings

etc in eight reductions placed in one line on the first floor. It employed one first break roller fitted with three grooved chilled iron rolls 9 x 15 inches, two double roller mills 9 x 30 inches for treating the second, third, fourth and fifth breaks.

There were two breaks on one machine, and three double roller mills, each fitted with smooth iron rolls 9 x 24 inches. In addition one double roll fitted with smooth rolls 9 x 18 inches dealt with eight reductions, two being performed on each roller mill. At one end of the floor was a brush machine for finishing the wheat. The flour and offals were packed on this floor, which also held four pairs of millstones for grist work.

The second floor had two Robinson of the latest Diamond <R> design purifiers and one of their new patent "Koh-i-nor" purifiers, placed in one line. There was also an auxiliary fan, a large cockle cylinder and a rotary wheat-grading machine for sizing the wheat before it entered the first break, and a Eureka smutter. A viaduct to the warehouse and the railway siding connected to this floor.

The third floor had four rotary scalpers, and dressers for the first, second third and fourth breaks, a scalping centrifugal for the fifth break three separating dickey sieves in one frame, a centrifugal for dusting the sharps, an Avery patent automatic grain weigher, a silk reel five sheets long for dusting the medium sized middlings, a dickey sieve and two "Ince" patent dust collectors.

The fourth floor had two dressing machines, a mixer, three centrifugals 2 and a half sheets by 27 inches, and four

The Avery flour weigher and packer



Gardner's Finishing Shop, Gloucester Engineering Works



centrifugals 2 sheets by 27 inches. These were fixed at right angles to the shafting and driven by quarter twist belts. Fifteen elevator heads were arranged almost in the centre of the mill.

The top floor was kept entirely for storage, the only machinery being a magnetic separator and two elevator heads, which with the worm conveyors, distributed the wheat to the various large bins.

The tour of the mills finished with a visit to the millwrighting engineering company of Mr. William Gardner. I described this strong local company with a national reach in Milling and Grain, December 2017.



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