

The Gloucester nabim Convention 1892, Part 1

by Mildred Cookson, The Mills Archive, UK



Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive

As was usual, The Miller in 1892 described in detail the plans for the forthcoming conference of the National Association of British and Irish Millers (nabim).

An extensive article on June 6, provided a full list of those attending the convention from Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 June 2020.

Attendees included many well-known millers from around the country, as well as giving details of the seven mills, which they

would have the opportunity to visit.

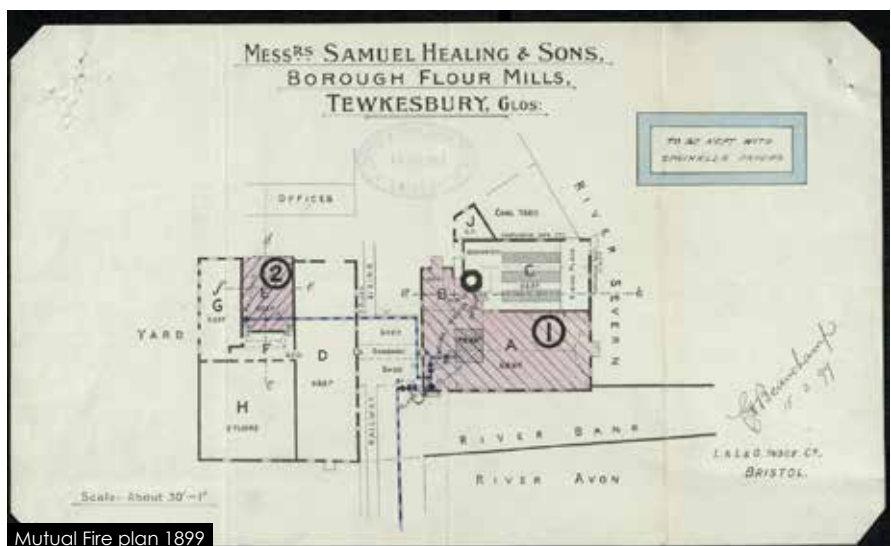
For this and future articles I have selected some of the more interesting to describe. The full list of mills included; Messrs Healing & Sons, Tewksbury; Messrs Kimmins & Drew (two mills) Dudbridge Stroud; Mr J Bennett Cam Mills, Dursley; Messrs JH Carpenter & Sons Cheltenham; Mr J Workman, Draycott, Cooley; Messrs Priday, Metford & Co City Mills, Gloucester and Messrs J Reynolds & Co Albert Mills Gloucester.

S Healing & Sons, Borough Flour Mills in Tewksbury

These mills were built in 1865, situated between two rivers



The Ince dust collector



Mutual Fire plan 1899



Healings Flour Mill 1892

at the junction of the River Severn and the River Avon. An illustration of the mill shows it to have been a fine looking mill. The Mills Archive catalogue has an attractive photograph from the same position some 70 years later. The mill had five floors and a capacity of 25 sacks per hour (3500 sacks per week).

Samuel Healing did away with the millstones and installed a roller plant in 1885 on the J Harrison Carter system. Following this, he added a new Victoria purification system, and in 1889 the fine silo, which is visible on the extreme left of the exterior illustrations.

The silo had brick dividing walls and was capable of holding 7500 quarters (qrs) of wheat. A quarter is ancient measure of weight and volume used in the 1215 Magna Carta for wine, ale and grain. At that time it referred to a quarter ton but over time it came to mean a quarter of a hundredweight (that is 28lbs).

The wheat was received at two points, one from barges at the



Albert Flour Mills 1986

end of the mill, with the other from railway trucks or carts close to the silos. In both cases it was raised by elevators to the top of the silo and discharged from a band conveyor right and left into the silos. Four bands were fixed under the silos, which delivered the wheat to one of the main elevators for turning into the bins again, or for passing it by another band into the mill.

The machinery here was capable of dealing with 200qrs an hour. The whole mill was protected from fire by "Grinnell" automatic sprinklers. The mill, brush rooms, smutter house and engine house together sported around 650 sprinkler heads. The water supply was connected to the town's main supply and a secondary supply from a large cast iron tank capable of hold 7500 gallons.

This had been erected on cast iron columns and wrought iron girders 15 feet above the apex of the roof. The tank was protected in the winter from freezing by a small steam pipe. The Archive



Samuel Healing



Albert Flour Mills 1892



Heavings Mill in 1960 (Mills Archive catalogue)

catalogue holds copies of the fire insurance plans of the mill dated 1899.

J Reynolds & Co, Albert Flour Mills Gloucester

The Albert Flour Mills were situated within the Dock estate. They were owned and worked by Thomas William Hibbard and James Bruton, trading as Messrs James Reynolds and Co. The mills as shown in the illustration were of considerable size, 100ft by 36ft and the ground covered by the warehouse was 80ft by 36ft.

Visitors were able to see two mills in operation, one a roller plant erected by Henry Simon which produced five sacks (280lbs of flour) per hour; the other, a roller plant arranged by James Reynolds & Co, which produced 15 sacks per hour. This made the total capacity of the mills 20 sacks per hour.

In the larger mill, Mr Reynolds had selected each machine best suited for its position and the breaking of the wheat was done on the five break system with a 30 inch roller surface per sack being utilised. For the reduction a 38 inch roller surface was employed. Several types of new machines were installed such as the Simon 32 inch smooth roller mill, Victoria purifiers, an Ince textile dust collector and a Pooley wheat scale.

Howes and Gelder types of machines were used in the wheat-cleaning department. In a separate building there was a conditioning plant, consisting of a Van Gelder's washer and whizzer and a Gibbs dryer and scourer. Lighting was provided by electricity, a 120-light dynamo supplied current for 110 lamps, 80 in the mill and 30 in the offices and warehouse. The installation was supplied and fitted by Messrs Christy Bros, of Chelmsford.

The motive power to drive the five sack plant came from a tandem compound engine by Spencer and Gillett, which was put in in 1890. This machine produced the 120 horse power that was needed for the plant. A light wrought iron footbridge, 70 feet long and shown in the illustration connected the mill to the warehouse. Goods could be loaded on water or rails from the door. Wheat was hoisted direct from the vessel; crafts registering 1000 tons could lie alongside the wharf.

I will cover further mills from this important milling convention in the next issue



Mills Archive
www.millsarchive.org



ACCREDITED
ARCHIVE SERVICE