

THE Northwestern Miller

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In Corn Pone Land = *By Marian V. Dorsey* = Part I.

[Illustrated by George E. Graves.]



DORSET MILL IN FULL SAIL.

HERE, in one of the remotest byways of Maryland, the windmill is the most interesting survival of old-time industries and methods of providing for material needs before the unromantic buzz-saw superseded it and the spinning wheel, seeking to drive them, like the stage coach and the poor Indian, into the traditional past.

But the queer, quaint old Dorset windmills have not finished their day of usefulness and refuse to be jostled out of the way by the bustling steam mill. One must infer from the number of them in Dorset that there was no Don Quixote among our Cavalier settlers, charging down our roads with lance at rest to demolish these four-armed giants. Moreover, one is inclined to believe that, should there arise a Dorchester Knight of the Woeful Countenance, who vowed deadly vengeance on these aerial foes of his fancy, his visage would be transformed to the smiling rotundity of Sancho Panza's if the miller's daughter were politic enough to appease his wrath with a hot corn "pone" such as the Easternshore woman alone evolves from the meal bin and the egg basket. This golden bread ought, indeed, to be like the royal honey with which the bees nourish one of their own kind into a more regal sovereignty. It is worthy to foster genius to fruition; for in the making of the meal the strong north wind, the balmy south wind, the nipping east wind and the spicy west wind lend their aid; while the sunlight, and the music of the whirling stones contribute some potent charm, though all the eaters of the bread are not, alas! aware of it.

On the contrary the typical old Dorset miller seems to view life from his exalt-

ed perch with a pessimistic orb of vision, though there stretches before him a smiling landscape set in an emerald framing of pine woods; the windings of the gleaming river showing here and there in sheltered coves, the picturesque local craft sailing against the odds of their homely names of "bug-eye" and "pungy."

To be able, from this high vantage ground, to look through the mill's cyclopean eye out upon a peaceful world that knows nothing of man's inhumanity to man—out upon the fertile fields, the singing laborers, the loaded harvest wains—and deliver himself of such Ibsen-like philosophy as "'Pears like nothin' good don't never happen,'" is to put the hearer of it at his wits' end to reconcile himself to his belief in the influence of environment.

In the proximity of these old mills the city-worn man, weary with the din and traffic of the mart, feels a new atmosphere enveloping him—an atmosphere which appeals not only to his physical consciousness by the balminess of its breezes, the blueness of its skies and the aromatic fragrance of its pines, but by every sub-conscious faculty of his aesthetic perceptions it is inerrantly proclaimed to him that he has indeed "come unto that land where it is always afternoon;" elsewhere sought in vain.

He congratulates himself that in this day of the ubiquitous tourist, when every suburban lane and wooded dell, every mountain retreat and Arcadian valley, has its charms tabulated and its distance from a lemon accurately set forth in the pocket guide book of the indefatigable wheelman, there is yet left—even yet—one vernal spot that is not scorched by the scorcher and where

the long arms of the mills, the most leisurely of bread winners, seem to point enticingly to roads that lead from Nowhere to Nowhither.

Day by day as he knocks about, tanning his face and filling his lungs with ozone, he will fall in with country folk whose forebears set up their roof-trees here as early as 1690, and who built these mills after the prototypes they had known in the mother country. These first settlers of Dorset were English, but an early local record makes mention of a resident herdsman as "a Dutchman," and it is possible that the few Dutch settlers gave the idea and were the first builders of the Easternshore windmills, as the Hollanders who settled along the banks of the Hudson built

similar ones there. There is one mill in Dorset, the one at Golden Hill, that is a veritable twin of the mill now standing on the island of Nantucket, built in 1746, the earliest one like it having been built there in 1696; and our Golden Hill mill is also a fac simile of the one at Newport. But this mill is of an exceptional type in Dorset. It is extremely interesting because it is the real Holland mill, with its body shaped like a hexagonal tower extending to the ground and was, no doubt, the germ idea from which the characteristically local mill was evolved; the later kind being cheaper of construction, most probably, and certainly easier to manipulate as the little house-like structure of

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GOLDEN HILL MILL.—(HOLLAND TYPE.)

In Corn Pone Land

(Continued from front page.)

the Dorset mill is poised so nicely on the shaft that supports it as to turn, like a politician, toward every favoring breeze. All the machinery left in the Golden Hill mill is of wood. The useless arms have dropped away and the outside wheel, attached to the pole that turns the roof-cap, is spokeless.

Unlike the cyclopean eye of the typical Dorset mill, it has a tiny window in every hexagon. Argus-eyed is this old maker of meal, looking out over the far-stretching marsh lands and the broadening expanse of "Hungry" river, where freebooters invaded the lower islands in the old time.

Possibly the Honga became known as "Hungry" river from the fact that the tall mill could be seen silhouetted against the sky as the mariners turned into the channel miles below, toward the Chesapeake, and its mute suggestiveness of corn pone caused a free flow of the gastric juices in expectant stomachs. The high-pitched Dorset mill is peculiar to the eastern shore of Maryland. Whether the English settlers built them from

home models or developed them from the more cumbersome Holland mill is not, indeed, positively known. Conjecture but adds another charm to their many attractions and the mystery that envelops their origin lends its own fascination to these unique survivals.

One can almost touch a fairly god-mother, in a tall, peaked hat and bottle-green cloak, hopping down the long, shaky steps as one ascends them. And when one has climbed this perilous staircase and enters the little upper room with its fresh, sweet smell of newly-ground meal, its sacks of corn, its musical burr-burr of the great wheel one is almost sure one could write a Hans Anderson tale right there and then. Naturally it would follow conventional lines and be about a good, poor miller and a bad, rich brother.

The scurrying mice recall Cinderella, and a black cat with inscrutable eyes, sunning himself in lordly indolence, appeals to the imagination as a possible enchanted prince.

The motive power is transmitted to the grindstones by means of primitive cogs and bands attached to the large wooden pin which forms the center of the four sail frames, or arms.

(To be concluded.)



HARVESTING THE CORN.

Michigan

[Special Correspondence.]

All the mills in this city have been running full time since last report and have managed to dispose of a large share of their product. But this does not mean that the flour trade has been active for quite the reverse was the case. The demand was halting and unsatisfactory and the sales were made at little or no profit to the miller, the object being more to clear the warehouses than to make money. A few cars were sold to go east for biscuit-making, a part of the trade which never pays much profit. The general eastern trade took practically nothing. The south was not in the market at all. Foreign demand showed slight improvement, but the sales for export were not large. Locally the trade has been moderate and prices have not been changed. Stocks of flour here are still quite large, notwithstanding some sacrifice sales and the immediate future does not appear very bright in the millers. Contrasted with the dullness of wheat flour is the very active condition of the rye flour trade. The mills are pushed to their utmost to supply the demand and their consumption of rye has been great enough to cause quite a scarcity and an advance in the market. The latter, however, has not yet gone far enough to affect the price of rye flour. Receipts of flour in this market last week were 5,400 bbls, compared with 5,500 a week ago and shipments were 5,000, compared with 4,800 the previous week.

The sudden thawing of the winter's snow, accompanied by some heavy spring rains, has brought great trouble to such Michigan mills as depend on rivers for their motive power. Some rivers have reached a record-breaking height and the rising waters have put a stop at present to milling operations. Some actual damage has been done to milling property and more is likely to occur before the water subsides. In the meantime the mills at Grand Rapids, Lansing, Vassar, Alma and many other points are out of business and likely to remain so for another week at least.

NOTES.

George R. Davidson, of Lenox, has patented a bran duster and grain scourer. Archibald G. Ellair and Charles A. Bray have established a new commission house here under the name of Ellair, Bray & Co.

A stock company is being formed at Chesaning for the construction of a 75-bbl flour mill.

William Close, grain dealer from Ganes, was among the visitors on 'change last week.

There is a movement on foot for the consolidation of the mills of Lapeer so as to save expenses.

W. D. Gray representing the Edw. P. Allis Co., was in Detroit on Saturday calling on the millers.

Christian Breisch, of Lansing, was a visitor on 'change a few days ago. His mill is down because of the high water, which threatens the property with damage. Mr. Breisch states that he has a number of good orders on his books and plenty of wheat, but must wait till the water in the river is lower. Farmers in the neighborhood of Lansing state that the wheat plant is doing well.

William H. Butler, of Emmet, in speaking of the establishment of a mill at Port Huron to replace the burned McMorran mill, said that Port Huron does not deserve a mill because the people there will not give one their support. "No outsider," he says, "can be found who will come to Port Huron and invest his money in a mill for the reason that no great amount of grain is raised within 10 miles of the city. When you get beyond this limit there are other mills that take care of all the grain raised."

John West, secretary and treasurer of the S. E. Clark Co. and half owner of the Clarkson flour mill, died in this city on Wednesday last at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S. E. Clark, the cause of his death being heart trouble. Mr. West had been ill only a little over two weeks and previous to that time had enjoyed perfect health for several years. After serving through the civil war he engaged in the milling business at Corunna in 1864 and at different times he owned mills at Corunna, Goodrich, Owosso, Eaton Rapids and Clarkson. For the past five years he had been a resident of this city, remaining in active business up to the beginning of his last illness.

FROM THE TRADE.

W. & A. McArthur Co., Cheboygan: "The flour trade with us is excellent. The flour trade is pretty light, but we anticipate the usual brisk trade as soon as navigation opens."

Reliance Milling Co., Vassar: "Milling news from us this week is nil as we are completely tied up on account of high water. We hope to get started next week."

Colby Milling Co., Dowagiac: "The growing wheat looks fine and there are no complaints of damage by the fly. Sixty per cent of the usual acreage was sown last fall. The demand for flour is very dull, but we hope it will improve. Feed brings a big price."

Hine & Chatfield, Bay City: "We are obliged to report a very quiet local trade. The country roads are almost impassable, so that receipts of grain are nothing. Wheat fields are now entirely bare and the next two weeks will be trying ones for the new crop, although it seems to be all alive at this writing. We are shut down for two weeks making some improvements in our bolting system."

Bela W. Jenks, Secretary J. Jenks & Co., Harbor Beach: "The flour trade is fair and feed is in excellent demand. Cars are a little more plenty than they have been. We have had two or three days' thaw and as far as can be seen the winter wheat crop is looking well, but the hardest time for it is yet to come."

The Voigt Milling Co., Grand Rapids: "There is always something to mar the even routine of milling. Just at present Grand Rapids is troubled with too much water. The river is on one of its tears and the water at the present time is higher than it has been since 1883, which has been the cause of shutting down the mills here for the last day or two. However, we look for it to recede within 24 hours. Wheat receipts have dwindled to a mere nothing on account of bad roads. There cannot be anything said regarding the growing crop, as the snow has only just disappeared. Do not think the wheat has been injured during the winter, as it has had a nice covering nearly all the time. Flour trade is fair, both local and domestic. There is more inquiry for milled than the mills can supply. R. J. Hamilton, of White Pigeon, who at present is traveling for the Milwaukee Elevator Co., and representing them in this state, gave the Grand Rapids millers a friendly call."

DETROIT MARKETS.

Wheat—The end of the week finds cash red and white $\frac{3}{4}$ c higher than a week ago, May unchanged and July $\frac{3}{4}$ c up. The base country roads are reflected in the light receipts, they being 21 cars, compared with 25 the week before and 18 a year ago. Business was dull all week and the quietness affected speculation and cash dealing alike. The millers were not buyers of wheat and there was next to nothing done in shipping. From the country all reports are favorable to the growing crop, but, of course, there is yet plenty of time for both frost and fly damage. Closing prices are, for No. 2 red spot, 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; May, 81c; July, 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; No. 1 white, 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; No. 1 northern, 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Corn—The market has ruled quiet and firm and prices are up $\frac{1}{4}$ c for the week. Receipts are 20 cars, compared with 49 the week before and 33 for the corresponding week of last year. Nos. 2 and 3 mixed are quoted at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and Nos. 2 and 3 yellow at 45c.

Oats—Very scarce and strong; up 1c for the week. Receipts 15 cars; week ago, 14; year ago, 10. No. 2 white are quoted at 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and No. 3 white at 30c. Trading has been very light, and stocks here are small.

Barley—Little going on. Market steady at \$1.16 for the best receipts per 100 lbs.

Rye—There is a first-class demand, millers being good buyers. The market gained 1c and closed at 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for No. 2. Cloverseed—Active and firm. No foreign business is being done, but farmers are free buyers. Prime is firm at \$6.65 and No. 2 at \$6.30 to \$6.40.

Beans—Futures are up 2c, but cash beans are unchanged. Cash beans are firm at \$1.87, April at \$1.85 and May at \$1.82.

Brewers' Supplies—The market is not particularly active, but the advance in the corn market has given strength and prices are a little higher throughout the lot. They are, for coarse grits, \$1 per 100 lbs; car lots, medium, 65c; fine, 90c; brewers' meal, 90c; white corn flour, \$1.15.

Cereal Goods—Prices are higher for the line of goods made from corn. Oat products are firm, but the price has not yet been advanced. Local trade is active. Prices are, for rolled oats in car lots, wood, \$2.35; rolled wheat, \$2.50; yellow granulated meal, \$2.20; yellow cream meal, \$2.10; white granulated meal, \$2.40; white cream meal, \$2.20; white corn flour, \$2.50 with the usual discount for paper and lute.

Milled—The demand has fallen off quite noticeably, but no reduction has been made; in fact corn goods have been advanced. Country millers in some places complain that they cannot get the figures quoted. Prices are, for bran and coarse middlings, in car lots, \$17 per ton; fine middlings, \$18; cracked

corn and coarse cornmeal, \$17; corn and oat chop, \$14.50.

DETROIT FLOUR TRADE.

Prices to the city trade, in wood, 190 lbs, are as follows:

	Per bbl.
Michigan patent	\$4.40
Michigan straight	3.90
Michigan clear	3.60
Michigan low grade	3.15
Buckwheat flour	5.00
Rye flour	\$3.25 to \$3.50

Dealings in spring wheat flour have been of the ordinary volume. The demand is not showing much improvement. Prices are:

	Per bbl.
Spring patent (Detroit made)	\$4.20
Minnesota patent	4.30
Minnesota clear	3.25

In paper sacks 15c and in jute 30c less than the above per 190 lbs.

Stocks of grain in Detroit elevators at the dates named were as follows:

	Mar. 30, bus.	Mar. 28, bus.	Mar. 29, bus.
Wheat	412,656	494,868	419,431
Corn	478,810	481,214	161,494
Oats	2,388	2,701	48,984
Barley	17,424	22,902	6,715
Rye	27,780	42,775	6,021

Detroit, April 1.

JOHN BARR.

Toledo

[Special Correspondence.]

The month of March, with all its natural adversities of weather and insects, has closed, and the reports from the world's wheat fields so far show a higher level of condition than last year. At home the complaints of winter killing are very light and the evidence of damage by the fly is much less than last year. Abroad, I have seen cables reporting unfavorable March weather conditions and reports of damage to wheat in Germany and Austria-Hungary, but the barometer of the markets gives to the reports but small value.

This side of the harvest there is no change of consequence in the statistical position of wheat. Undoubtedly the advance and firmness of corn have had a steady effect on prices of wheat. The Argentine wheat movement is light, but the latest reports from Australia indicate a surplus of wheat for export of 26,000,000 bus, which is about twice as much as an average. The latest reports from India are more favorable to the wheat crop than previously. Russia continues to peddle out her wheat surplus slowly, but in excess of previous years. From Aug. 1, 1900, to March 9, 1901, her exports aggregated 44,457,000 bus, compared with 34,341,000 in 1899-00 and 39,586,729 in 1898-99. Russian exports since Aug. 1, last, equal to 80,000,000 bus, for the year, if continued. Exports of flour in the week equal 288,383 bbls, compared with 189,085 last year.

It has been a week of quite narrow fluctuations in wheat markets, but prices have been maintained. It has not proved a happy week for the miller. The theory is that foreign as well as domestic stocks are decreasing and that soon the strife to purchase will outstrip the production of flour. The evidences of it today are very feeble. The demand is light and for profits, please look through the large end of the telescope.

Toledo mills have made larger outputs this week, compared with last. There is a lack of uniformity in sales. The National mill has run full time, but has disposed of only a portion of its product. The Northwestern mills here and in the interior have been on about two-thirds time and report a dull week in the flour market.

The Harter company report the output and sale of 13,000 bbls.

The general opinion with our millers is that foreign stocks are decreasing, but it is quite evident that the decrease has not yet excited any solicitude over there. The redeeming feature in the deal is the high price and sharp demand for mill-stuff and low freights by rail and ocean. The output of flour at Toledo in the week equals 30,000 bbls.

Receipts of wheat in the week at primary points equal 4,132,000 bus; in previous week 4,314,000; last year, 3,651,000; increase in 1901, 681,000 bus.

The exports of wheat and flour in the week, from both our coasts and Canada, equal 4,495,000 bus; in previous week, 3,257,000; in 1900, 2,962,000; increase in 1901, 1,533,000.

It may thus be seen that the receipts of wheat are 681,000 bus more than in 1900 and the exports 1,535,000 more than then.

DENISON B. SMITH.

Toledo, Ohio, April 1.

M. B. Sherwood has bought the mill of John Elliott at Brashear, Mo.

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