

**OMAHA IS A GREAT MILLING CENTER**

Two Flour Mills Here Turn Out 2,000 Barrels a Day, Besides 1,300 Tons of Alfalfa Meal.

**HISTORY OF FLOUR MAKING**

Omaha makes no special claims as a milling center and yet there are two flour mills in operation with a capacity of 2,000 barrels a day, vastly more than would be sufficient to supply all the people of Greater Omaha and Council Bluffs with flour. In addition there are three alfalfa mills with a capacity of 1,300 tons of alfalfa meal a day.

Yet the ultimate value of a crop of wheat and that in which the grain men are interested and which fixes the value of wheat day by day is what it will be worth after the miller has converted it into flour. The story of milling is an interesting one.

Primitive man reduced grain to flour by means of a hand stone and this method obtained for 4,000 years with no improvement. The grain was simply placed in a hollow stone and pounded into meal by means of a pestal.

The first grinding device was called the saddle stone. The Greeks and Romans knew it, and it is still in use in some primitive lands. It consisted of a stone with a shallow hole in it. In this the grain was placed and then rubbed with another stone. The miller of old Babylon, Nineveh, Assyria and Egypt used this process. The miller in Egypt at the time of Joseph was imprisoned and later hanged for producing bad flour. He used a saddle stone.

The quern, an Italian invention, was the next step in progress in milling. In this for the first time the parts were mechanically combined instead of being loose stones. The quern introduced a circular motion, the upper stone revolving on the lower one.

An early, but important improvement in the quern, was the grooving of the faces of the stones so as to give them a sort of cutting edge. This kind of mill is still found in parts of Asia and is plentiful in China and Japan.

Women were the first millers and the grinding of the grain was their work until recent times. Then it became the work of men. Now it is done by water, wind, steam and electricity.

Windmills came into use long after watermills. A windmill tower of the Crusader period still exists in Syria. About the year 1200 they came into use in England.

The first entry of the steam mill into the world is announced in the Gentleman's Magazine in 1774: "A new discovery has lately been made and is now carrying into execution near Blackfriars' Bridge, of a new method of grinding corn by means of fire engine which communicates a power of working thirty-six pairs of stones, besides other subordinate machinery for building, etc. This promises great profit if the inventor can carry it into effect at a moderate expense."

This mill stood at one end of the Blackfriars' Bridge in London.

A curious fact in connection with milling is that every process through which milling has advanced in its entire history is in use today in some quarter of the world.

**Wireless for the Dutch East Indian Colonies Talked**

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb. 14.—The project of establishing wireless communication between the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indian colonies is receiving serious consideration. The government is now unable to communicate with its colonies by cable except through British lines and the question has been raised in Parliament several times recently as to how far the British consularship has affected free communication.

A petition from one of the principal Dutch Chambers of Commerce has been sent to the minister for the colonies pointing out many advantages that would accrue from wireless communication with the Indies. One project calls for two intermediate stations, which would have to be on foreign soil, but it is now believed that a direct connection is not impossible. The distance from the existing stations of Scheveningen, Holland, to Sabang, East Indies, is 4,250 miles, but it is pointed out that the German stations in southwest Africa have been able to pick up messages from Nauen, Germany, a distance of 5,000 miles, and with the most powerful installations the Dutch project might be realized.

**Another Pair Who Work Well Together**



George A. Roberts



M.W. Cochrane

Zamloch is Coach. Pitcher Carl Zamloch, once with the Detroit Tigers, has been named coach.

of the University of California varsity base ball squad.

**Robbins Turned Back.** The Chicago Cubs have turned Pitcher Robbins over to the Wilkesbarre club of the New York State league.

**Hart to Brooklyn.** Fred Hart, former Cub trainer, has accepted a similar position with the Brooklyn team of the National league.

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**Southern Railway**

323 Grain Exchange

The Southern Railway, realizing the importance of Omaha as a grain market and considering it a logical point for them to locate an office to assist the shipping public in various ways to get new accounts and assist in holding the old ones, established an office May 1, 1912. While the rails of the Southern Railway do not enter the west, information as to rates, tracing of cars, etc., can be furnished right here at Omaha the same as if it was a home line. In addition to the grain and grain products there is other business in Omaha and its territory which is very attractive. The object and policy of the Southern Railway is to assist in cementing the business ties of the south and west in all the various commodities that they handle each to each other.

**R. M. VAN NESS CONSTRUCTION CO.**

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