

A SHORT SURVEY OF THE SUN COMPANY.

SUN FLOUR MILLS CO LTD.

March 1926.

In view of my pending retirement from the Managing Directorship of the SUN FLOUR MILLS CO LTD. after an association of upwards of 40 years. ou our present Chairman Mr John Robinson made a suggestion during a recent interview, that I should write a short survey of the SUN Company, from the period of its inception until the present time.

In doing so I must go back to the year 1879 when I went to Waltham Abbey to manage a small Stone Mill of 5 pairs of Stones for Mr George Wright (of Ponders End Mills). This Mill was owned by Mr Charles Brown, and has been in the Brown family for many years.

At the termination of the Lease to Mr Wright, about the year 1883, it was decided to work the Mill by the Owners under the name of Charles Brown & Co, in conjunction with the Mills then being worked at Chelsea and Waddon.

I might mention here that every consideration had been given me by Mr George Wright during my stay with him, and I acknowledge his helpful advice in the decision I made to accept the offer of Mr Charles Brown to continue until the year 1886, when it was converted into a limited liability company under the title of Charles Brown & Co Ltd.,

At this time a further property was purchased, adjoining the old Mill plants erected by Messers Henry Simon Ltd, was a source of considerable interest to those engaged in the Milling Industry at that time.

About this period through unforeseen circumstances, a rearrangement of the present Company became necessary, whereby Mr Charles Brown took over the Waddon Mill, leaving the Waltham Abbey and Chelsea Mills to the New Company then being formed. The chief and largest of these two Mills being situated in Sun St, Waltham Abbey, and it was decided that the New Company should be registered as the SUN FLOUR MILLS CO LTD.

It was soon apparent that as our trade was increasing to a considerable extent, it was decided to install a Roller Plant in the Chelsea Mill, it has been difficult to market Stone Milled flour against flour milled under the new Roller Process. This work was also entrusted to Messers Henry Simon Ltd in 1888.

Mr Whitfield who had only recently joined us at Waltham Abbey being sent to take charge of the remodelled Mill at Stanley Bridge Chelsea

Nosooner had we got the Chelsea Mill going than a disastrous fire occurred at new "Sun Mills" at Waltham Abbey on Christmas Eve 1888, completely destroying the whole of this Mill which had not been running more than two years. This occurrence)- unfortunat e as it was in many ways)- was ultimately realized to be a Blessing in disguise, as the Mills situated as they were some 1½ miles from the nearest railway station, and 1 mile from the canal, were not in a good position commercially to cope with the competition then becoming apparent

The Board after due consideration decided not to rebuild at Waltham Abbey, but to seek a suitable site in or near London with ample water accommodation and commercially convenient for dealing with the ~~products~~ products of the mill. After a few months of enquiry and viewing ~~high~~ sites, we decided to purchase a range of Buildings which had for many years been used as a Rice Mill at Bromley by Bow, but which had for many years been closed down, prior to the purchase by the Sun Company.

Messers Simon were asked to make immediate arrangements for installing a 12 sack plant which was completed in September 1889, Messers Pollitt & Wigzell being given the order for the necessary Steam Power Plant.

The lease of the Stanley Bridge Mill, Chelsea was due to expire about this time, and the intention of the Board was not to renew upon expiry, but to increase the Plant at Bromley to 20 sacks per hour, utilizing all available machinery from Chelsea for the purpose.

It was also decided at this period, to erect Silos in No 4 Section of the buildings at Bromley, capable of holding 6000 quarters, and to make arrangements for washing and conditioning wheat.

Under the direction of Mr Baker and myself, and in spite of the many obstacles- peculiar perhaps, only to our own Company - the trade continued to expand, and a further increase in capacity of the Mills to 30 sacks per hour was decided upon in 1907.

Still a further steady and persistent demand continued for the Company products during ensuing years, and it was realised that a further increase in size would be necessary to deal with the increased trade, and in 1917 a further increase in the capacity of the Plant to 40 sacks per hour was made.

During the period under review many minor and important improvements have been made from time to time in all sections of the Mill

The latest addition of one of the most modern equipped Concrete Silos with a capacity of upwards of 15000 qrs. Wheat, including provision for a new Pneumatic Intake Plant, places the Company in a most important position regarding the handling and storage of grain.

In conclusion I can only express my earnest hope that the "SUN" Company, under the new administration will still extend its activities, and in no small measure contribute towards making a successful Group of the Mills constituting the Associated Company.

W. CORNWELL.

