

For practically a century, the Sugden family has been associated with flour milling in the West Riding, and it is not surprising to find that the products sent out from the Brighouse Mills are in great demand in the busy Yorkshire towns which lie within reach when it is remembered that throughout the years "quality" has been the watchword of this old-established firm.

In these days of fierce competition, the local product does not necessarily have the advantage, and the miller in the district must be in a position to offer the right product at the right price if he is to keep the trade. This fact is fully realised by Messrs. Sugden, and the wisdom of the policy which the firm has pursued of maintaining the mills in a high state of efficiency is clearly demonstrated at the present time.

We had the pleasure of examining the flour when visiting Brighouse recently, and can testify to its excellence; we can readily believe that the regular quality of the products has been responsible for keeping up a steady trade.

In order to maintain this regular quality, Messrs. Sugden have always kept their plants up-to-date, and, when required, have introduced new and improved machinery for they appreciate that without modern plant in good condition, it is impossible to secure the best results. Last year the mill was completely remodelled by Messrs. Henry Simon, Ltd., Manchester, when a number of new machines were installed and the whole plant re-arranged on Messrs. Simon's latest system. In the recent reconstruction, special attention was paid to the exhaust system. A new Simon fanless purifier was introduced, and the existing purifiers were altered from the individual fan type and linked up to one central exhaust. A new cyclone and fan were put in to deal with the air from these machines, and a Simon suction filter dust collector was added for treating the exhaust from the roller mills, plan-sifters and centrifugals. As a consequence, the various machines are kept remarkably cool and clean, whilst the purification of the stocks is all that could be desired. Several new roller mills have been installed on the reductions with most satisfactory results, the increased length keeping the stocks lively and of a good colour even on the lower reductions.

The breaks are arranged, and have been for some years, on the Simon "Alphaga-Plansifter" system, and for this method Messrs. Sugden have nothing but praise. We were interested to note among the break roller mills, certain machines which were installed by Messrs. Simon in 1896. An examination of the work being done by these machines showed that after practically thirty years' continuous service, they were still running satisfactorily and dealing with the stock in a remarkably efficient manner. This is surely a great compliment both to Messrs. Simon, who built them, and to Messrs. Sugden, who have looked after them so well.

The wheat cleaning side has also received attention and this section of the mill is arranged on the most approved lines. After treatment on the usual dry cleaning machines, the wheat passes to a "Reform" washer and stoner, to which is connected a Simon vertical whizzer. The washer is provided with additional damping worms for dealing with Karachi wheat. The wheat is

then conditioned, and after lying for some hours in special conditioning bins, is sent to two Carter disc separators in which the cockle, barley and oats are extracted. These machines were installed during the recent reconstruction, valuable extra space being secured by their introduction, as well as greater efficiency.

After weighing and final treatment on a "Reform" emery scourer and an aspirator, the wheat is sent to the first break perfectly clean and in excellent condition.

Messrs. Sugden also have a very complete provender mill equipped with modern machinery for the preparation of high quality cattle and poultry foods. A very large business is done in this trade, and Messrs. Sugden find a ready sale for all the mill offals as well as the finest grades of barley meal, Indian and bean meal, &c.

All finished products are dealt with in a special packing shed, and at the present time a three-storey steel frame building is in course of erection, which, when completed, will provide extensive additional storage room. The packing and weighing are performed automatically, and the sacks are delivered to motor wagons direct by shoots. These shoots are provided with automatic counters which register on an indicator on the packing floor the exact tally of sacks sent down.

Brighouse is particularly well situated, being within easy reach of such busy centres as Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, and large supplies of the famous flour are sent daily by motor wagon to these thriving Yorkshire towns, as well as to the numerous small towns and villages which lie within a comparatively short radius of the mills.

As already mentioned, it is nearly one hundred years since a Sugden commenced flour milling in Brighouse. The late Mr. Thomas Sugden bought the mill which stood on the site of the present imposing buildings, and after a successful period purchased other mills in Brighouse and Huddersfield. These mills, in the early nineties, were remodelled on the roller system, and in course of time the four mills which the firm then owned were merged into two larger mills at Brighouse. These plants were completely remodelled by Mr. Henry Simon,

in 1893, with a total capacity of 15 sacks per hour. One of these mills was burnt down in 1895, and the following year the Brighouse mill was rebuilt and equipped by the famous Manchester firm of milling engineers with a 15 sack plant. This has been remodelled from time to time, and though, as Mr. A. G. Sugden remarked to us, during the control period they could easily have got rid of many times their output, they refused to make any increase, believing that under normal conditions the present capacity would be sufficient for the district.

After the death of the founder of the firm, the business was carried on by his sons, the late Mr. David Sugden and the late Mr. Richard Sugden, who was well-known on the markets before the war. The latter died three years ago when well over 80, and the firm is now under the control of his three sons—Colonel R. E. Sugden, C.M.G., D.S.O., Alderman G. F. Sugden, J.P., and Mr. A. G. Sugden. The family has always taken a keen interest in local affairs, and Alderman Sugden has just completed three years' continuous service as Mayor of Brighouse.

Colonel Sugden is well-known in Yorkshire, having taken an active part in the Territorial Army for some years. He has a



(Top) Alderman G. F. Sugden, J.P.

(Left) Mr. A. G. Sugden.

(Right) Colonel R. E. Sugden, C.M.G., D.S.O.