The THIRD ONE-MAN MILL
IS THERE A FOURTH?
ANOTHER ONE-MAN MILL

When writing about two One-Man Mills for the June "Super-Calender," we did not dream that we would unearth another one, but we did. This time it is in far off Edmonton, Prov. Alberta, Canada.

We have received a most delightful letter from Mr. George K. Guild of that city. He writes modestly of himself, but withal, with a certain snap and vigor and progressive spirit that are unmistakable.

We take pleasure in quoting his letter in full, and in reproducing the picture of his mill and himself—and by the way—if you have any small dryers which might suit his machine, please write him about them, and at the same time help us in the Clearing House.

If anyone else has a One-Man Mill please write us about it and send us photographs too.

EDITOR

PIONEER PAPER MILL

10638 91ST. AVENUE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
July 6th, 1928

THE PUSEY AND JONES CORP.

GENTLEMEN:

I was very much interested in reading your Super-Calender of last month about One-Man Mills. I thought I was the only one in that class. I guess I am in Canada at least.

We have been trying for a long time to start a pulp and paper mill in this district, but without success.

The latest was the ————, which was incorporated about two years ago after a lot of preliminary work testing out the value of Alberta Wheat Straw for paper making. They failed to raise the capital they wanted and the Company was wound up about six months ago.

Previous to this attempt I myself had been trying to get someone interested in Papermaking here and not having the money to get properly equipped mill, set about to build a small plant to show what could be done in making wrapping paper, boards, etc., from waste paper and other waste materials.

I am pretty well versed in that line as a practical papermaker and mill manager. I built a Beater of about 170 pounds capacity. On my beater roll I used bars of angle Iron which work all right as I do not require any cutting action in re-making waste papers, simply beating. I put in the requisite stuff—waste and pulp. My machine is a 36 inch Fourdriner; the wire is 24 feet long, all the rolls I required I picked up locally. I got hold of some solid iron rolls about 11 inches dia. and had them turned and buffed and used them as calender rolls.

The drying was my big problem, at first I had three sheet iron dryers made, and fitted them with gasoline burners inside, but they did not make a satisfactory job. Eventually I went in for Board making only, mostly friction board which I had to finish off by air drying.

I enclose a snapshot of my little place, some of the boards can be seen on racks in the foreground, the fellow in the picture is myself.

The ———— came along and I was advised to go in with them. I did so and the result was I lost time and money on the job. So now I think the best thing I can do is to try and develop my plant. Get one or two steam dryers which would complete my
machine. If I could do that I feel sure that this would not be a One-Man Plant much longer. That seemed to me on reading your article to be the one flaw. To have carried on so long and not developed into something bigger.

Now my object in writing you is to find out if by ANY chance you might have any odd small dryers around or in your business of installing new machines to replace old and narrow ones you might be able to put me wise to where I could get such a thing. One or two dryers about 3 foot or more in diameter and 4 or 5 feet wide. It would not require any frames, only plummer blocks and doctors if possible. I hope I am not imposing on you in making this request, and I can assure you that if I am able to install a better plant, in, I hope the near future, I will certainly see your firm about it. The 30 inch fourdrinier and cylinder machine you built for the Bogalusa Co., particulars of which appeared in your Super-Calender of January 1927, would just suit me but I have not the funds at present. A machine like that would be capable of turning out good work.

Thanking you for the Super-Calenders which I receive regularly, and which always contain some interesting information in regard to our trade, I am

Yours truly,

GEORGE K. GUILD

CARE OF RUBBER ROLLS

We have recently received from a very prominent rubber covering concern of Canada (Name on request) a very good set of directions for the Protection of Rubber Covered Rolls such as main press rolls. We have also received their very kind permission to publish these in The Super-Calender. We ourselves have printed from time to time many suggestions about rubber rolls, especially the keeping of monthly records about rolls during their whole lives. See the Super-Calender for March 1928 and also for March 1927, etc.

Such records to include monthly plasteometer readings of densities or hardness showing the gradual change to a harder condition; dates of grindings; crowns; total life of the rubber cover and comments on its fitness for the work desired. Take these records up with the rubber Co. and consult with them about the new rubber.

PROTECTION OF RUBBER COVERS

Rubber Covered Rolls require specific care and attention in order to prolong service life and to ensure satisfactory results. For this reason we specially invite your attention to the following information:

(1) Keep Rubber Covered Rolls in an enclosed dark room or space where the temperature is maintained between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. When rubber covered rolls are shipped to you during the winter season, remove them from the cars promptly to storage space where the temperature will be as close as possible to the above. If it is necessary to keep rolls in storage for any length of time, be sure to examine them carefully, and if any crystallization or oxidization is apparent on the surface, see that the rubber roll surface is re-conditioned (re-ground) before putting Roll into service. Use of a magnifying glass is recommended when examining Roll surface for oxidization or “checks.” The naked eye cannot always detect these surface checks.

(2) Light, Air, and excessive Heat or Cold adversely affects the surface of rubber covered rolls. Dead storage for a period in
This is to certify that GEORGE KNOWLES GUILD of the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta, in the Dominion of Canada, has this day filed a caveat relating to METHOD OF PREPARING RAW MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVERTING THEM INTO PAPER and the same has been placed in the Confidential Archives of this Office under No. 20596 in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Act.

As Witness the seal of the Patent Office hereby affixed at the City of Ottawa in the Dominion of Canada this 5th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-six.

J. T. MITCHELL
Commissioner of Patents
Alberta

Pioneer Paper Mill

HEAD OFFICE—1063 91st Ave., Edmonton, Alta.
MILL—Edmonton, Alta.
OFFICERS—George K. Guild, Owner and Manager.

EQUIPMENT—
  Beaters, 2.
  Wet machine, 1, 34".
  Fourdrinier, 1, 36".

PRODUCTION—High test, solid and laminated boards, paper pulleys, etc., 3000 lbs. per day.

NOTE—This is the only mill in Canada operated by one man. The above mill is idle at present, but the equipment is being used to demonstrate the possibilities of wheat, flax and other straws in the manufacture of paper.
The life history of George K. Guild, owner and operator of the "One-Man" Pioneer Paper Mill at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, brings out sharply the vigor, courage and tenacity of one who dares to carry out his ideas and purposes in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds.

The meagre and practically home-made and hand-made equipment of the Pioneer Paper Mill was described by Mr. Guild in a letter which was printed in the August number of "The Super-Calendar", monthly house organ of The Pusey and Jones Corporation at Wilmington, Delaware.

In a letter to Superior Facts, Mr. Guild sketches his career as a paper maker abroad and in Canada.

"Most of my folks were in some branch or other of paper making," writes Mr. Guild, "I was quite familiar with the ins and outs of a paper mill long before I actually went to work at the age of thirteen. My first job was that of beater boy. There were no eight-hour shifts in those days. They were twelve-hour shifts, with a changing over each week from day to night work. I started in the Culter Mills in the North of Scotland making news, writing, litho and other fine papers. I stayed there until I got to be third hand on the machine and then left to take a similar post in a mill in the South of England. I was ever on the lookout for advancement and experience. I worked in various mills in England, Scotland and in one mill in Ireland. Here is a list of the mills in which I worked before I went to Canada:

"Culter Mills, Aberdeen, Scotland, four years; Cartbridge Mills, Glasgow, Scotland, two years; Bonnington Mills, Edinburgh, Scotland, ten years; Cone Mills, Gloucester, England, two years;
Mendip Mills, Somerset, England, two years; Shoreditch Bridge, Durham, England, three years; West Hartlepool, Durham, England, three years; Garnett's Mill, Otley Yorks, England, five years; Vulcanite, Ltd., Belfast, Ireland, three years.

"I got used to making all grades of paper and handling all kinds of machines, I worked up step by step until I got to be night foreman, then day foreman and finally mill manager.

"Previous to my coming out to Canada I was manager for ten years at the Bonnington Mills, Leith, Scotland, and follows a copy of the reference I received from the owner of that mill:

Bonnington Paper Mills,
Leith, 22nd, March, 1913.

"Mr. Geo. K. Guild has been in my employment for the last ten years as mill manager. He leaves today of his own accord to go to Canada.

"Mr. Guild has always given me complete satisfaction. He is a self-reliant and resourceful man who thinks independently and successfully. He is a thoroughly competent papermaker and mill manager and has an excellent knowledge of general engineering. Mechanically, he is of an inventive turn of mind.

"In view of the qualifications just mentioned, coupled with the facts that Mr. Guild is a teetotaler and absolutely trustworthy in every way, I have always been able to leave the mill in his charge with complete confidence.

"I shall be very pleased to give further information should it be desired, but I shall have nothing but good to say of him.

"I. W. Henderson."
"I was at Ocean Falls, B. C., at one time and was shift foreman in the beater rooms of the mill there. Since then I have been doing what I could to start a mill in this part (Edmonton) of the world. I have made but little progress this far, but I will keep pegging at it until some day, I hope, to see a real good mill here."

Mr. Guild's closing paragraph is "the measure of a man." It sums up the ambitions, stick-to-it ness and fortitude of this man who is worthy of reward and encouragement and help of the paper industry.

His own story of how, after trying unsuccessfully to form a company and start a pulp and paper mill, he dug into the job alone and established the "One-Man" Pioneer Paper Mill at Edmonton, is worthy of retelling, in part, from his letter as published in "The Superintendent."

"Not having the money to get a properly equipped mill," Mr. Guild writes, "I set about to build a small plant to show what could be done in making wrapping paper, boards, etc., from waste paper and other waste materials.

"I am pretty well versed in that line as a practical papermaker and mill manager. I built a Beater of about 170 pounds capacity. On my beater roll I used bars of angle iron which work all right as I do not require any cutting action in re-making waste papers, simply beating. I put in the requisite stuff chests and pumps. My machine is a 36 inch Fourdrinier, the wire is 24 feet long, all the rolls I required I picked up locally. I got hold of some solid iron rolls about 11 inches dia. and had them turned and buffed and used them as calendar rolls.

"The drying was my big problem, at first I had three sheet iron dryers made, and fitted them with gasoline burners inside, but
they did not make a satisfactory job. Eventually I went in for board making only, mostly friction board which I had to finish off by air drying.

"The ---- ---- ---- came along and I was advised to go in with them. I did so and the result was I lost time and money on the job. So now I think the best thing I can do is to try and develop my plant and get one or two steam dryers which would complete my machine. If I could do that I feel sure that this would not be a One-Man Plant much longer.

"Now my object in writing you is to find out if by ANY chance you might have any odd small dryers around or in your business of installing new machines to replace old and narrow ones you might be able to put me wise to where I could get such a thing. One or two dryers, about 3 foot or more in diameter and 4 or 5 feet wide. It would not require any frames, only plummer blocks and doctors if possible."
This digitized item is from the City of Edmonton Archives’ MS-170 George K. Guild fonds.

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