

P89

Mercier Papers

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David Claude Mercier (known as Cecil) was born in Limerick on January 19th 1898. In 1920 he was appointed mill superintendent of the Bannatyne mill in Limerick and he worked in Limerick for the rest of his life. The duties of a Mill Superintendent were numerous and complex from the production of safe and high quality grain to daily testing of loaves to overseeing the foremen and dealing with industrial relations. Throughout this period Mercier maintained a daily diary recording events in the the Limerick and Cork Mills and these provide a detailed picture of his daily work from testing flour, adjusting machinery and plant to dealing with staff and unions.

Throughout the 1920's and 1930' Mercier undertook a major and thorough review of the mills and their work practices and advocated modernisation of work practices. The milling industry was under great pressure and the industry sought tariffs to ensure its survival. The collection includes Mercier's involvement as he was active in the debate regarding the imposition of tariffs and was an expert witness at the grain tribunal of 1929 urging government support for the industry. (P89/102-108)

In the early 1930's the Government embarked on a policy of industrial protection. The Control of Manufactures Act, which was implemented in 1932, required that manufacturing carried out in Ireland under the protection of extensive tariffs would have to be under majority ownership. Specifically in relation to flourmilling, The Agricultural Produce (cereals) Act was implemented in 1933. In addition to the requirement of Irish ownership, the Act also legislated for all aspects of the industry including milling licences, quotas and compulsory use of a proportion of Irish wheat in the grist.

In order to be in a position to continue milling in the Irish mills which they had acquired Ranks formed an Irish company, Ranks (Ireland) Limited. The company was floated on the Irish Stock Exchange where the minority of the ordinary shares not owned by Ranks were traded as well as a significant number of Preference Shares. By virtue of the number of preference shares issued the new company satisfied all the requirements of Irish ownership while still remaining under the control of Ranks in the UK.

That situation continued to apply until the company ceased trading in 1983, although The Control of Manufacturers Acts had been repealed and the obligations under the Agricultural Produce (Cereals)

Acts had ceased following entry the European Economic Community.

Cecil Mercier was retained as mill superintendent at the Russell mills and generally held the same duties as under the Goodbody's. The change was not entirely smooth however and Mercier received several letters from Ranks advising him of new procedures and requesting that he conform with them. (See P89/110) Initially as a British Company their takeover of the existing Limerick Mills was viewed with suspicion by press and politician in the newly independent Irish Free State. However over the years the Ranks Mills, known as the Shannon Mills became a valued part of the city's economy and a much loved place of work for generations of Limerick people. The mills produced top-quality flour and animal feeds. Ranks were traditionally seen as good employers who paid well. From an early date the company offered its workers sports and recreational amenities and a pension and savings scheme, at a time when such benefits were unheard of in Irish industry. The company, although British displayed a real loyalty to the local community

The various Limerick mills were consolidated over a period of years and all the city's mills production was centred upon the old Bannatyne on the Dock Road- known as the Shannon Mills. Mercier was a pivotal figure in these developments and helped in the transition. As mill manager he was also closely involved in negotiations during these years of change with the mill workers union (I.T.G.W.U.).

During the war years the country's ability to import foreign grain was severely reduced and supplies of everything from electricity to machine parts was difficult.. Ranks of Limerick were obliged by the government to increase supplies of flour for the Irish market in these extremely difficult conditions. These extra supplies were vital in the country's efforts to fend for itself during a time of war. Mercier as mill manager was again closely involved in implementing the government's directives.

The 1950's were marked by unemployment, emigration and economic depression. Mercier oversaw the continued expansion of the mills in these difficult times although the company's profit margins came under pressure. The demand for flour fell after the removal of a government subsidy in 1958. Ranks were forced to cut costs and rationalise. Mercier was again pivotal in this often difficult process which caused some industrial unrest in the plant. In the medium term this strengthened the

Limerick Mill as much of Rank's Irish operations became centred upon Limerick. After over forty years service in the Limerick milling sector- Cecil Mercier retired in 1963 a highly respected figure in the industry he loved and in the wider community. Eighteen years after his death, in 1983 the Ranks Mill closed as falling consumption of bread and the increasing flow of flour imports into the country made the Ranks Mill increasingly uncompetitive. The closure ended seven centuries of milling in the city. The Ranks Mill was not just a place of business to its former employees but was a place still fondly remembered.

The collection is arranged in three main sections. The first section includes material relating to Cecil Merciers training, his diaries and his personal correspondence. The second section relates to his management of the mills and milling matters including the Grain Tribunal, the war years, management of staff and production issues. The final section contains photographs of the mills from 1923 including photographs of staff in the former Russells Mills, images of various parts of the mill illustrating the milling process and photographs of staff at social events.

This collection is useful for researchers interested in industrial history, in economic history and the impact of milling on the local economy. It is useful for social historians as it relates to a key part of the local community in Limerick

I Cecil Mercier Diaries, Technical Education and Personal Correspondence (1923-1961)

Cecil Mercier diaries are an account of his working life as a mill manager in Limerick and his role in the management of other flour and provenander mills throughout Ireland, including Clara, Cork and later Dublin from 1925 to the year 1958. The diaries were kept on a daily basis and outline Mercier's duties and responsibilities at the flour mills. They almost daily note the quality of flour and sample loaves baked that day. Much of the diaries are filled with technical references to the milling process and problems with the production process, such as the extraction rate for wheat with notes on improvements and new equipment. The diaries note Mercier's efforts to rationalise production and increase efficiency 'each sack elevator will do away with at least two men'. P89(2, 28 December 1923, p19. The diaries also refer to market conditions for flour and national developments relating to the flour industry. Much of the diaries deal with staff 'caught one of Walshe's boys smoking in loft adjoining maize cleaning plant-bought him to Frank Morgan-instructed not to employ him again'. P89/1, 26 September 1923, p8. Diaries also relate to employer-union relations and there are frequent mentions of disputes, stoppages and strikes. The diaries also illustrate working conditions in the mills. From the third diary onwards most of the entries are in green ink

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|-----|---|---------|
| 1. | 5 September 1923-25 November 1923 | 95pp |
| | Notes that practice is 'picking up in a wonderful way-this seems to be the most successful week we have had since I took over these mills. Sales also show some considerable improvement'. p47. | |
| 2. | 26 November 1923-5 December 1924 | 140pp |
| 3. | 6 December 1924-31 October 1925 | |
| 4. | 4 February 1925-July 1926 | 189pp. |
| | Includes reference to renovations at Newtown Pery Mill | |
| 5 | 1 January to 31 December 1926 | 89 pp |
| | Includes reference to a strike in Cork Mills. | |
| 6. | 1 January 1927-31 December 1927 | |
| | Include details of proposed rationalisation in the Limerick Mills. c.160pp | |
| 7. | 1 January 1928- 31 December 1928 | c.160pp |
| | Includes notes on dispute in Limerick Mills. | |
| 8 | 1 January 1929- 31 January 1929 | c.160pp |
| 9 | 1 January 1930-31 December 1930 | c.160pp |
| | Includes reference to Ranks Ltd takeover of the Limerick mills. | |
| 10. | 1 January 1931-31 December 1931 | c.160pp |
| 11. | 1 January 1932-31 December 1932 | c.160pp |

12	1 January 1933-31 December 1933 Includes account of a fire at Newtown Perry Mills	c.160pp
13	1 January 1934- 31 December 1934	c.160pp
14	1 January 1935-31 December 1935 Diary refers to labour unrest in Limerick mill	c.160pp
15	1 January 1936 -31 December 1936	c.160pp
16	1 January 1937-31 December 1938	c.160pp
17	1 January 1938- 31 December 1938 Includes reference to 'Government permission for a new flour mill on Dock Road'.	c.160pp
18	1 January 1939- 31 December 1939	c.160pp
19	1 January 1940 -31 December 1940 Includes details of Government regulation of Flour Milling and the effects of war-time shortages with all the Australian wheat nearly exhausted.	c.160pp
20	1 January 1941-31 December 1941 Includes notes on war-time preparations with loose telegrams and production reports.	c.160pp
21	1 January 1942-31 December 1942 Includes reference to air raid drill and the organisation of Ranks fire brigade as part of the Auxiliary Fire Service.	c.160pp
22	1 January 1943- 31 December 1943	c.160pp
23	1 January 1944- 31 January 1944	c.160pp
24	1 January 1945 -31 January 1945	c.160pp
25	1 January 1946-31 January 1946 Includes reference to labour unrest over the appointment of casual boys'- labour unrest in mills and its resolution.	c.160pp
26	1 January 1947- 31 January 1947	c.160pp
27	1 January 1948 -31 January 1948	c.160pp
28	1 January 1949-31 January 1949	c.160pp
29	1 January 1950-31 December 1950	c.160pp
30	1 January 1951- 31 December 1951	c.160pp

Wage increase at mills

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|------|--|---------|
| 31. | 1 January 1952-31 December 1952 | c.160pp |
| 32. | 1 January 1953 - 31 December 1953 | c.160pp |
| 33. | 1 January 1954 -31 December 1954 | c.160pp |
| 34. | 1 January 1955 - 31 December 1955 | c.160pp |
| 35 . | 1 January 1956-- 31 December 1956 | c.160pp |
| 36 | 1 January 1957 - 31 December 1957 | c.160pp |
| 37 | 1 January 1958 - 31 December 1958
Includes reference to his appointment to oversee Ranks mills in Clara, Cork, Limerick and Dublin and to a major strike in Ranks Limerick mills. | c.160pp |
| 38 | 1 January 1959 - 31 December 1959 | c.160pp |

2. Technical Education (1914-1919)

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| 39. 1910 | Design for a small mill by W. B. Stevenson. |
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1 item

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| 40. | 12 January 1914-23 April 1914 | Notebook containing Cecil Mercier engineering notes, including technical drawings with calculations, notes and problems. 'A gas engine runs at 98.75 RPM fly wheel feet in diameter. What size of pulley must be fitted on a counter shaft so that latter may run at 250 RPM'. 9 February 1914. |
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140pp

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| 41. | 22 May 1914-23 March 1916 | D.C.C. Mercier student notebook with details on the constituents of wheat, wheat mixtures, methods of calculating the price of wheat, descriptions of wheat available in 1914, a summary of the examiners report in 1915, power and calorific values and other technical aspects of milling 'ropes should run on pulleys not less than 30 times their size'. (9 November 1914) |
|-----|---------------------------|--|

140pp

42. 11 May 1917 D.C.C. Mercier notebook on military law relating to training in the Royal Engineers Cadet Unit Newark concerned with the application of military law, crimes and punishments for officers and men, powers of commanding officers, evidence and witnesses.
17pp
43. c 1917 D.C.C Mercier Milling Notes with handdrawn diagrams of plansifter floor and cleaning plant.
7pp
44. undated D.C.C. Mercier Milling notes with notes on Grands Molins Vilgrain and moisture content figures.
2pp
45. undated Exercise book with detailed drawings in pencil of milling machinery.
24pp
46. 24 September 1919-16 March 1920 Letter book containing copies of D.C.C. Mercier's letter written from H. Simon Ltd. Manchester's offices, relating to all aspects of his work including ordering parts, reports on tests, personal remuneration , ' my present entire remuneration does not even meet the cost of living', 11 November 1919. Includes a letter to James P. Goodbody, Messrs James Bannatyne & Sons Ltd Limerick accepting their offer of employment ' My father has communicated your offer in connection with City Mill for which I thank you and beg formally to accept same'. 12 February 1920.
c.50pp
47. 25 March 1919- 3 August 1919 Letter book containing copies of D.C.C.Merciers letters written from 3 King Square Bristol, with letters concerning technical reports on the Temple Mill in Bristol, organising his passport. From 29 April the letters are written from France- Messrs Grands Moulins, (Vilgrain), Nancy on the mill at Vilgrain.
60pp

3. Personal Correspondence (1929-1961)

48. 1929 Envelope addressed to Cecil Mercier bearing Furlongs of Cork wax seal.
1 item
49. 15 June 1941 Letter to Cecil Mercier from his father regarding the closure of City Mill in Limerick. ‘ My Dear Son Pleased don’t ask me to write about City Mill “shut down”. I have been trying to work up my mind to it but simply, I can’t. Includes a scanned copy. p1
1p
50. 8 June 1941 Letter from Cecil Mercier to his father reflecting on the closure of City Mill and expressing his satisfaction with the pension arrangements and transfer procedures for staff, recalling some of the. ‘ This 7th June is a sad day for many of the men in our City Mill. She shuts down for good in a few hours what a record she has behind her. 1883 when the first 7 sack plant was erected to 1941 when she is turning out 35 sacks per hour’. 58 years. John McDonnell went to the firm of Bannatyne in that year and he is still hale and hearty & clear of brain & able to design or plan as well as any man after all that time’. p1
5pp
51. 1920 D.C.C. Mercier tax assesment for 1920-21 including a memorandum on the provisions of the Finance Act 1920.
2 items
52. 3 June 1929 Cover letter from Lloyds Bank, London to Mrs E.M. Mercier, 7 the Crescent Limerick concerning a Stock receipt.
1p
53. 4 April 1934-22 May 1934 File relating to electricity supply bills to Cecil Merciers’ home , Hazeldene, Ennis Road, Limerick. Includes a notice to consumers on rates of charge
11pp

54. 13 January 1961-6 June 1961 File of letters concerning Mercier's efforts to assist a Mill Manager to get a specialist medical advice for his young son as he was concerned about his developmental progress.
- 10 items
55. 1 November 1949 Letter from P.F. Atkins, Cork Milling Company to D.C.C. Mercier requesting Mercier to accept the position of Vice President of the Cork & District Milling & Grain Society.
- 3 items
56. 11 September 1919 Circular letter from Henry Simon Ltd, Engineer concerning appointments to the firm.
- 1p

P89/2/

II Management of the Mills (1924-1961)

1. Reports by D.C.C. Mercier on the operation of the mills (1924-1961)

57. March 1924 Report by D.C.C. Mercier on Russells Mill, describing progress on repairs and improvements at Newtown Pery Mill, including a new Testing Room, ' We have now adopted quite the finest system of routine testing possible to arrange in any Mill. Absolutely no excuse possible for variation of quality or uneven working', noting that testing rooms have also been introduced in Mallow Street and reports improvements in Henry Street Maize and Wheat Store and recommending a new bulk storage scheme for Corbally Mill and improvements at Mallow Street Mill for cleaning and dust extraction. Includes recommendations on the use of boys as labourers, the reorganisation of Suttons Store and the introduction of machinery to allow for drastic staff reductions. Provides an assessment of the Mallow Street Mill equipment recommending changes including replacement of the five foremen, ' they cannot be described as efficient Millers, they do not command respect of the Mill Operatives', p21 concluding that due to the bad condition of these mills he has had 'to devote 75% of his time in the interest of this Firm and has not been able to spend as much time at the other Mills as he would have wished'. p22. Includes two copies.

22pp

58. 8 March 1924 –24 December 1924 Report by D.C.C Mercier on a new meal Mill Scheme for Mount Kennett and Russells Meal Mills. Proposing to centralise meal production in Mount Kennett and close New Town Pery, showing costs and production at the mills and proposed savings. Table A shows the total wages and meal manufactured at Mount Kennett and Russells Meal Mills from 8 March 1923 – 24 December 1924, noting the number of men and boys, wages paid, meal tonnage per mill by type ‘course middle cut’ and tonnage for comparable mills in Tipperary, Gort and Scarriff, including a column calculating total wages and costs noting Russells Mill had 1594 daily employees and 1941 weekly permanent staff, while Mount Kennett had 665 boys, 380 daily men and 2090 permanent weekly staff. Cost per unit were calculated as cheaper in Mount Kennett at 5/11.75 compared with 7/11.89. Table B shows weekly averages of the number of men employed, wages, meal tonnage over a 95 week period for both mills, Table C shows the combined weekly average output at both mills over a 95 week period, while Table D shows a comparison between weekly output of Mount Kennet Mill on 3 shifts ..and the actual requirements of the two firms in the same period, showing the quantity produced in excess of the required tonnage. Table E describes the Three shift arrangement for Mount Kennett Mill listing the names and wages of the men working on each shift from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m to 10 p.m and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m including the names of men listed under the Loading and Storage Gang, Day Employees, Joiners and Repairs, with a sum of the total wages per shift. Table E calculates the proposed savings of the new scheme. The new scheme involved labels and packing sheets to allow for tracing where and when meal was produced, new storage lofts and conveyors and packing schemes to provide additional storage, clearing surrounding lanes and access points so that all meal could be delivered by lorry or horsecart. Include recommendations to improve equipment and maintenance. Includes recommendations on staff reduction, ‘nothing should be done to arouse the suspicion of the employees which would at once plunge us into serious labour trouble...if Employees at Russells learnt that Mount Kennett was supplying certain Russells customers, many explanations might be given.... “Bannatynes’ meal preferred”: Bannatynes taking over that town or district’. Includes a list on men to be dispensed with, noting, their age, number of years service, whether they were married, the number of dependents and their weekly wages. Includes an opinion on the reasons that should be provided to the workers for the closure.

32pp

59. 25 July 1925-28 July 1925 Report by D.C.C Mercier on the electrical power requirements to operate the Marina Mill and Lapp Quay Mill in Cork in different ways without increasing expenditure, including a memorandum concerning power required at Marina for a 22 sack plant.

2pp

60. 13 June 1928-8 August 1928 File of material relating to a report by Mr Boosey of Henry Simon Ltd, 20 Mount Street, Manchester on the Bannatyne Mill with reference to City Mill, examining each aspect of the process from delivery of grain, recommending that the wagons ‘back in’ to avoid loss of grain during deliveries, assessing equipment, recommending some new equipment, and adjustments, ‘The size of

the hopper under the weigher should be increased as the measurer runs empty occasionally', p4 commenting favourably on the brake roll ' In fact speaking in general terms there are not many mills where break roll are worked as well as is done at this mill'. p5. Comments that there is 'not a proper system of taking samples' p8 concluding ' that the mill required fumigation and in relation to maintenance that the man responsible for the mill should be the one to arrange for its maintenance, recommending new equipment to improve quality and moisture content concluding there is room to do all the above in the building and make a much better mill than at present'. p10. Many of the key passages are underlined . Includes a cover letter from [G.M. Anderson], Henry Simon Ltd referring to Specifications No. 6002 and 6004 for wheat cleaning and roller mill machinery.

20pp

61. 20 June 1928 Reports by D.C.C Mercier on City Mill, in five parts, proposing a new scheme commenting on drawing no. 6289, including an assessment of machinery, and new equipment required, examining costs calculated at £13,700.5.0, makes five 'Points of Importance' including ' A guarantee that the new Plant will give yield from dirty wheat of 75% Retail Flour of quality equal to that produced at Russell's new Mill...We to be the judges of its suitability', Part 5, p2.

18pp

62. 8 July 1928 Drawing of the proposed reconstruction of City Mills for Messrs J. Bannatyne by Henry Simon Ltd, Manchester.

1 item

63. 9 October 1928 Report by D.C.C. Mercier on the Goodbody Mills at Clara. Under the heading Labour Economy' he lists the names of the staff, recommending staff reductions and efficiencies section by section, calculating the resultant savings; he recommends that the Brusna Maize Mill should be shut down and its manufacture transferred to Erry and advises a reduction in general labour ' Cut your men on fixed jobs to rock bottom and keep a keen eye on the general labour column', p12. Includes an assessment of storage, the possibility of producing yellow maize meal at Brusna, an examination of plant and equipment at Erry Flour Mills, ' I cannot say a good word for this type of Samuelson Hydroliser', p23. he examines the issue of whether the wheat cleaning plant should run 12 hours per day or continuously and in relation to Erry Mills highlights the absence of sample boards and a mill log, concluding, 'when manufacture is more concentrated at the Erry end, supervision should be much improved with much better results in every direction' p37

37pp

64. 16 July 1929-7 August 1929 Report by D.C.C. Mercier, marked private and confidential, contesting the findings of Mr. Bosey, of Simons Ltd, on the mills at Cork, who had commented to Mercier ‘You have got to do something soon, or be left behind by your competitors’, p1, 7 August 1929. Mercier disputes the accuracy of Bosey’s testing, disagrees with his evaluation of other flours ‘Spillers “Purity” is never put up against “Three Star”, not to speak of “Victor” as a standard of what correct Retail Flour should be’, p2, 7 August 1929. He dismisses some of Bosey’s criticisms as minor, ‘the seal referred to at the time of Mr. Bosey’s visit was home made and about to be replaced’, p2 and disputes the rationale of some of his recommendations, concluding however, in agreement with Mr. Bosey that Lapps Mill should be shut but that more savings would be achieved by immediate closure.

12 pp

65. 5 May 1933 Memorandum by D.C.C Mercier to J.P. Goodbody on a visit to Messrs McMullen’s Maize Flaking Plant, Cork, comparing aspects of the plant with their own ‘I also noted particularly the big difference between our plant and their’s in that McMullens have three Cokers for three Rollers as compared without two for four Rollers’. P2

5pp

66. 29 July 1960 Notes by D.C.C. Mercier on the Blue Cross plant at Buncrana calculating the cost of production , with notes on the production of fine oatmeal and moisture loss results for the Oats plant for the six months to 28 February 1960. ‘Figures given me by Mr. Rosser’. p1

3pp

67. 23 November 1961 Letter to L. Greenwood from D.C.C. Mercier with an enclosed table showing economies resulting from increased output at Marina Mills.

2pp

2.Staffing and Industrial Relations (1929-1961)

68. 9 My 1929 File on the settlement of the strike in 1929. Includes a report on the conference with members of the ITGWU on 9 May .

6pp

69. [1920-1929] Notes on 19 discussion points with union representatives and agreements reached, 'We agree to choose as far as possible from boys & men at present presenting themselves for employment but after long discussion they agree to our trying out new boys on a small scale to discover new blood of the right type, p2.
- 5pp
70. Two ms. copies of a detailed paper by D.C.C. Mercier on issues raised by the unions, including the question of wages paid to boys, the employment of casual labour and the reduction of labour in the Packing Loft, Counter and Screenroom at City Mill and at Russells Mill, Limerick; 'We must reserve the right to choose the right type of labour for the mills....it is only from the daily labour we can test new men or boys.' p9
- 2 items
71. 13 March 1924 Letter from [CCG] John Furlong & Sons, Ltd, Cork, to D.C.C Mercier making him aware that at a recent meeting of the Joint Industrial Council the issue of operatives in Limerick Mills being required to scrub floors was raised. Signed 'yours ever CCG'.
- 2pp
72. 8 November 1923 Note on Edward A. Spratt listing his background and experience.
- 1p
73. c.1925 "Memoranda of Points for coming Flour Milling Conference' listing issues in the Limerick Mills resulting from recent operational changes with demands from the men. 'Three men formerly employed with extra help when packing small packages...At present only 2 men employed per shift.... This work is a hardship and the men demand help and relief to take their meals and perform the functions of human nature' p1
- 3pp
74. c. 1925 Table of twelve workers' names, employment class, employment 'stitcher boy', rates per hour and remarks.
- 1pp
- 75.. October 1927 Ms. notes listing under job title the names of men and boys employed on the Packing Loft totalling 13 men and 22 boys.

76. [1928] Report titled 'Proposed Labour Economies Packing Loft City Mill Comparison Between City Mill & Newtown Pery Mill' examining the staffing levels in both mills with recommendation for reductions ' It is proposed to dispense with services of 3 flour stitchers (one per shift) and two hold boys'. p1 Includes recommendations for altered work practices , ' There would be no filling the "hold" by night. All flour is now trucked "two high" from the sewing machine', p3 He questions why such spacious offices are required for the office clerks, with recommendations for new equipment including elevators and flour feeder an an estimate of these costs and overall savings. Includes notes preparing a position for discussion with the unions.

18 items

77. 4 May 1929- 28 May 1929 File of Correspondence between the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and the Bannatyne and Goodbody Mills concerning matters that were the subject of a labour conference, including the issue of boy labour, temporary employees, the staffing of Mallow Mill and the system of paying wages.

10 items

78. 9 May 1929 Position paper prepared by D.C.C. Mercier in response to issues raised by workers representatives at a conference on 9 May 1929, with proposed management solutions and bargaining positions,; ' If they dispute our figures for the number of packages they are packing, then ask them what they say the figure is.'. p9 Includes a draft typescript copy and a manuscript first draft containing notes taken at the conference with J.N. Russell headed paper.

2 items

79. 29 May 1929 Copy of a typescript letter from the Secretary, Irish Transport & General Workers Union, O' Connell St, Limerick from the Director, James Bannatyne & Sons Ltd concreing outstanding issues from a recent conference. 'We are asking Mr. Mercier to arrange a meeting with your Committee in order to dispose of any details arising'. p1 29 May 1929

1p

80. June 1929 Report on Mills by D.C.C Mercier, listing staff members by their normal jobs, wages, and where they were employed at time of visit,

analysing the procedures with recommendations for staff reductions and altered practices, 'The so called Clerk in charge at Railway, No 14 merely looks on at the men working. I recommend as is done elsewhere that this man be instructed to take a hand in loading and unloading operations, and one labourer be dispensed with, p2. Includes a ms. draft.

2 items

81. 30 March 1931 Letter from David Clancy representing the workers offering terms towards a settlement of the strike and nominating men to meet with Mercier.

1p

82. 3 June [1934] List of workers names and employment numbers directed to report to the New Mill with instructions for other staff.

3pp

83. 3 December 1937-8 December 1937 Case concerning charge that two workers in Ranks had worked excessive hours. Includes a paper by D.C.C. Mercier [prepared for legal counsel] defending Ranks (Ireland) against a case of breach of the Conditions of Employment Act 1936, in the case of Patrick Devitt and Patrick Sheehy, charge hands of shifts. The paper defends Ranks pointing out that the other two charge hands were sick during the period, that both men did this work without pressure from the firm and had confirmed this to the Inspectors, calculating the actual hours worked by each man, time when they were off but still on the premises and the hours permitted for License Shift works. Includes a table of hours worked.

11 items

84. September 1941 List of employees names, job title, and rate of pay at Shannon Mill, Dock Road Limerick.

1p

85. December 1942 List of wage rates for Shannon Mills.

1 item

86. 19 June 1943 List of wage rates for Cork Flour Mill Apprentices.

1p

87. 1943-1944 Two lists of wage rates for Shannon Mills.

2 items

88. c. 1945-January 1948

Staff Structures listing all mill employees. The first list is undated but shows lower wage rates than that of January 1948.

2pp

89. January 1945

Staff organisational structure listing the names of mill workers in [Shannon Mills] and their rate of pay.

1 item

90. c. 1945

Summary of all agreements concerning wages and terms and conditions for all classes of workers.

2pp

91. 17 January 1958

Notice or proposed wage rates agreed under the Packing Joint Labour Committee.

1p

92. 19 May 1961-21 June 1961

File concerning industrial relation problems and productivity in the Blue Cross plant, Buncrana with reports from the plant concerning concessions on wages to staff and correspondence between D.C.C Mercier and senior management at Ranks 'I have read though with horror Rossers's letter of the 19th May with regard to Union negotiations at Buncrana', (23 May 1961, p1); emphasising to Mercier in a subsequent letter that it was his job to see that production was increased at the plant.

7 items

93. 26 March 1940-9 May 1940

File of references received for John O' Connor, engineer.

3 items

94. 10 February 1958-28 February 1958

File concerning proposed redundancies in Dock's Stores and Shannon Mills. Includes a copy of a letter from E. O'Neill, local secretary of the ITGWU to D.C.C. Mercier stating that he would not meet to discuss these issues as sufficient managerial authority did not exist in the local Limerick Mills to decide the issue, with draft replies 'The reasons you give are of course not relevant but naturally if you do not wish to discuss the matters referred to in our letter of the 24th instant, we must leave this to

your own judgement'. (28 February 1958)

14 items

95. 21 May 1959 Letter from [MA Crowley] to H.P Goodbody, circulated to D.C.C. Mercier summarising the proceedings of a meeting between the company and the Irish Transport and General Workers Union concerning proposed staffing arrangements a a new Ration Plant at Marina Mills.
- 2pp
96. 1 September 1942 Notes on evidence and proceedings against an employee, subsequently discharged, accused of stealing flour.
- 6pp
97. 21 January 1943-29 January 1943 Summons for three people to appear in court charged with stealing flour for Ranks (Iteland) Ltd.
- 1p
98. 21 1957 December 24 December 1957 File relating to the pension application of M.J.Gabbett, mill shift foreman..
- 7pp
99. undated Details of a pension scheme, titled' Appendix 1
"Headings for a Pension Scheme"
- 9pp
100. 1 May 1959-28 September 1959 File on the the payment of gratuities on retirement. File includes correspondence with Odlums Ltd, a copy of their company gratuity scheme, details of Ranks rates and conditions of pensions for workpeople operative form 1957, correspondence between the Irish Transport and General Workers union with Cecil Mercier. Includes a cover letter refering to a new Gratuity Scheme – scheme itself not included. 28 September 1959.
- 16 items
101. 6 July 1961 Letter from Hugh MacSweeney enquiring about a vacancy on the departure of Mr. D.P. Brown to another mill.

3.Grain Inquiry Tribunal (1928-1930)

102. 21 May 1928 Copy of a letter to the editors of the Irish Times newspaper, and Independent newspapers from D.C.C. Mercier, Royal George Hotel, Limerick, concerning the Flour Tarriiff Application, commenting 'having the highest technical qualifications I am amazed at the manner in which this matter has been handled. The whole affair seems to have ended in smoke. With one exception the evidence of TECHNICAL EXPERTS was not availed of'.p1 He advises that a flour suitable for biscuit manufacture could be supplied from home grown wheat if the Department of Agriculture could investigate a better seed wheat, writing that within the previous two years new machinery was available to allow millers to mill 20- 25% home grown wheat even with high moisture content; ' every SAORSTAT MILLER should be compelled to use 20% of home grown wheat', p2.

7pp

103. 26 October 1929- 18 November 1929 File of material relating to the Grain Inquiry Tribunal including calculations of electrical supply required to grind various combinations of grain. File contains three large sheets of paper containing nineteen handwritten points addressing the issues arising from grinding home grown cereals writing that ' natural millers burn the oat hulls', pointing out that extra electricity would be required to grind certain mixes, that grain containing black oats is least saleable, and can be unsuitable as cattle feed., that storage issues and moisture content problems would arise ; ' The home grown Grain arrives at the mill undried during a few months of the year,- to dry it as it arrives, to enable you to put it into silos or bins (the only economical method of storage) would require large capacity kilns which would be idle for 75% of the year'. p3

9 items

104. 17 January 1930 Draft memorandum on the evidence to be given by D.C.C. Mercier and C.F. McCarthy to the Grain Inquiry Tribunal, outlining the process in which the Cork Farmers Association had approached the Millers Association and at subsequent conference had nominated D.C.C. Mercier and C.F. McCarthy to prepare a statement of the issues involved and replying to the Tribunals twenty queries. The first part deals with the moisture content of home grown cereals, costs of storage , kiln drying, shrinkage and loss. Includes test results measuring the power required to mill various grain admixtures and comments on the machinery required to mill these ' it is not possible to give exact figures of the extra cost which such arrangements would entail on the Miller but that it will add to the eventual cost is the considered opinion of the largest Irish Mills ', p5;

Includes a final; ‘ General Note on Matters’ indicating the repercussions of accepting the Tribunals proposals, including risk of fire from grinding the hulls of oats, lack of facilities on many mills, unusable stationary and sacks and added insurance costs.

7pp

105. January 1930-9 April 1931 File relating to expenses incurred as a witness before the Grain Inquiry Tribunal.

12 items

106. 10 January 1930 Letter from[C Gby] John Furlong and Sons (1920) Ltd to Cecil Mercier concerning his planned appearance at the Grain Tribunal requesting his time in Cork. Includes a handwritten note [by Mercier], ‘ put this before Mr. James P. Goodbody’ (p2 10 January 1930).

2pp

107. 19 December 1929-30 December 1930 File relating to a request to the Grain Inquiry Tribunal to facilitate the appearance of D.C.C Mercier and C.P. McCarthy at the Grain Tribunal at the request of the Cork Farmers Union and in particular request to extend the sitting of the Tribunal to allow them to attend. Includes a reply from the Grain Tribunal J.R.O’ Donnell indicating that he had no knowledge that the Union intended to nominate expert witnesses referring to the nature of the submissions already heard, indicating that the proposal of the Irish Grain Growers Association would not involve shutting out of all imports of maize meal and requesting but that little evidence had been submitted on certain points such as the storage of home grown wheat and enquiring if the Association would like to submit evidence in this area.

5pp

108. 19 March 1930 Cover letter from A.J. Magennis Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, 50 South Mall Cork in connection with the payment of expenses for Merciers attendance at an Enquiry concerning Grain admixture with Maize meal..

1p

4. D.C.C. Mercier and Ranks Management (1930-1961)

109. 11 March 1930 Letter from P. Jones, 91 Roseby Road, Muswell Hill, London N 10 to D.C.C Mercier, concerning a prior meeting with Mercier and others in Limerick where he had not revealed that he was a representative of Ranks and thanking Mercier for his assistance; ' I expect by this time you are pretty well sure of my identity....Although I am not enamoured of Southern Ireland from a business viewpoint, yet I shall look forward to seeing you again some day, but in a clearer atmosphere'. p1

2pp

110. 1 May 1937- 7 June 1937 File of letters from Ranks (Ireland) to D.C.C. Mercier concerning the firms system for handling of technical matters, instructing Mercier to take all technical instructions from the Milling department in London to ensure conformity in flour production. Includes a letter from Arthur J.Rank ; 'As you know, as a firm we do not wish to use the red tape too much-we desire for people to use their initiative and their brains, but the Milling Department must be kept in touch with, and have reported to them everything that is going on. I know in the past this has not been the case but it is with Mr. James Goodbody's written agreement that in future this shall be the case. (13 May 1937, p1) A further letter dictated by Arthur Rank requests ' that the instructions that we send from the Milling Department to you are not to be passed on to Mr London or Mr. Goodbody.Now do not let us have any more trouble in Ireland- the system is perfectly simple if you will only let it work through the Milling Department'. (4 June 1937, p1). Includes replies from D.C.C. Mercier emphasising his concerns with the supply of wheat to the mills.

6 items

111. 24 December 1931 Note from J. Arthur Rank to Mercier wishing him a happy Christmas.

1p

112. 24 December 1941 Letter from [W. Raylor] to Mercier with seasonal good wishes.

1p

113. 25 December 1943 Letter from J. Arthur Rank to Cecil Mercier with seasonal good wishes.

1P

114. 18 February 1958-10 March 1958 Cover letter to Major T.D. Hallinan, The Cork Milling Company Limited, Marina Mills, Victoria Quay Cork from Hodgson, Harris & Co, Chartered Accountants, circulated to D.C.C. Mercier with a copy of the minutes of the twenty fifth meeting of the Management Committee of Ranks (Ireland) Limited held in Limerick on Tuesday, 18 February 1958. Minutes discussed trade, flour quality, a summary of the Millers Advisory Committee regarding quotas for flour production, and action recommended against millers for under and over production. The meeting also dealt with redundancy proposals in Limerick, with wage increases and reducing the number of shifts from three to two; minutes also deal with the financial position of Ranks Ireland, staffing issues including retirement age, an application to provide a loan to a staff member who were getting married and staff housing.

10pp

115. 14 February 1958-21 February 1958 Circular letters concerning staff changes to the Milling Department as a result of the retirement of R.E.T, Amphlett, advising that D.C.C. Mercier had been assigned responsibility for all milling matters in Ireland.

5 items

116. 20 December 1961-24 July 1961 Circular letters from J.D. Hutchinson, Joseph Rank, Limited, London advising staff on a re-organisation as a result of the retirement of Mr. G. Reid and subsequently Cecil Mercier.

4pp

117. 17 January 1950 Report of the Directors presented at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Ranks (Ireland) Limited including a Statement of Accounts.

4pp

118. 13 December 1955 Report of the Directors presented at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Ranks (Ireland) Limited including a Statement of Accounts.

4Pp

119. 24 September 1947 Report of the Directors and Statement of Accounts for Ranks (Ireland) Limited.

5. Mount Kennett Provender Mill (1930-1949)

120. 15 March 1961 Letter from F.J.Smart of Ranks (Ireland)
Limited writing from London to D.C.C.
Mercier concerning arrangements to
increase capacity at 'A' Mill.
1p
121. 27 November 1930 Flow sheet for proposed maize packing
plant at Mount Kennett Mills.
1 item
122. 5 June 1935 File relating to the Provendar Mill
including layouts, flow sheets, a
photograph of milling equipment and
Blue Cross product labels.
27pp
123. 1930 File of notes on the daily operation of
Mount Kenneth Mill, listing the men
employed, weekly wage rates, and some
instructions' shut down for dinner to avoid relief question & while running the plant in for
first week or two. (8 May 1930).
9 items
124. 5 June 1935 Report and meal scheme for a new provender
plant at Mount Kennet submitted by D.C.C.
Mercier to J.P. Goodbody. The scheme
examines the plants capacity recommending optimum units for efficiency, outlining the staff
and shift requirements referring to diagrams for XXX Fine and K meal. Fine Meal, Coarse
meal, maize meal and a diagram for the handling of Home Grown Grain for admixture to
Maize meal.
11 items
- 125 . c. August 1935 Notes costing three staffing options, X, Y and Z
for the proposed new mill scheme at Mount
Kennett provender Mill including notes explaining that staff reductions in the previous year
meant that these costing were more favourable than those submitted a year ago.
2 items
126. undated Flow chart for fine and coarse meal with notes

on process and staffing.

1 item

127.

Hand drawn flow sheet in pencil of the 'present flaking plant at Mount Kennett, with a note attached on the most economical staffing

method.

2 items

128. undated

Hand drawn flow sheet in pencil of [Mount Kennett Mill].

1 item

129. 4 July 1949

Flow sheet for cubing and ration mixing at the provender plant in Mount Kennett Mill.

1 item

6. Wartime Measures (1942-1944)

130. 12 February 1942-7 March 1942 Two notes from G.M. Goodbody, Ranks Ireland Ltd, to D.C.C. Mercier, informing him of official notifications of instructions from the Flour Millers Association and the Flour and Bread Controller regarding war time regulations for flour. 'Extraction goes to 100% as from Monday next' (12 February 1942, p1).
- 2 items
131. 20 April 1944-5 May 1945 Order Extraction From Dirty Wheat. File relating to the efforts of the Irish Flour Millers Association and Millers Control Committee to standardise retail and baking flour for wartime requirements, including requests for Millers to increase production by 12 ½ % while restricting mill running hours; includes technical advice to millers on how to achieve the standard with minimal use of electricity and requests regular samples from the mills to monitor conformity. Includes a letter from the Emergency Scientific Research Committee, 45 St. Stephens Green, Dublin to the Irish Flour Millers Association concerning experiments they had conducted into baking techniques to improve baking results from wartime flour, recommending that the public should be advised on the procedures. ' for making the dough one pint of buttermilk or well soured milk should be added to each 1lb of flour'.(15 June 1944, p1)
- 25 items
132. 11 August 1944 Copy note from the Millers Control Committee, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin to Ranks (Ireland) Limited informing them that the sample of retail flour submitted was 'superior to the standard, and the Committee would be obliged if you will take immediate steps to bring your Retail Flour into a line with the standard'. (11 August 1944, p1)
- 1p

7 Routine Technical Matters and Unit Cost of Production (1923-1961)

133. 17 July 1923 Proposed wheat cleaning plant for Messrs Bannatynes Ltd drawn by Henry Simon Ltd, Manchester.
- 1 item
134. 30 April 1923-26 March 1927 File of material relating to the calculation of the average cost of production for 1926. Includes a statement for the UK mills showing wages paid

and the cost per sack produced with some costings and expenses for previous years.

5 items

135. 14 April 1924 Proposed diagram for the introduction of two sifters, four D H Cents and one reel for Messrs J.N. Russell, Newtown-Pery Mill, by Henry Simon, Ltd, Manchester, Drawing Number 5577. Machines coloured blue are new, coloured red are existing and those coloured brown had not been ordered.

1 item

136. 26 February 1925 Half yearly stock taking results for Newtown-Pery Mill, listing the Qualities of Flour produced, Quantity produced, Averages with a ms note at the end on the method used of calculating the percentage of flour extracted.

1pp

137. 27 July 1925-28 July 1925 File concerning electrical power estimated requirements for Marina Mills, Cork including a letter to Cecil Mercier from his father concerning the figures.

3 items

138. undated Ms letter from D.C.C Mercier concerning the breakdown of a new Plamsifter machine, disclaiming on his part and the part of their employees any responsibility for the breakdown, requesting a replacement to be forwarded.

2pp

139. 24 February 1925 Letter from Henry Simon Ltd Engineers, Manchester to Messrs. J. Furlong & Sons Ltd listing the average electricity consumption per machine listed. The second page is missing.

1pp

140. 7 August 1928-8 August 1928 Copy letter and reply from D.C.C Mercier to Henry Simons, Ltd, Milling Department Manchester, clarifying Mercier's request for a 12 ½ % reduction on the price of rollers as opposed to a reduction of £12. 10. 0 per roller mill. The reply confirms that Simon's intended offering the latter agreed to forward a specification for Bannatynes City Mill, with the price reduced by the percentage requested.

6pp

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|------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 141. | 1929 | List showing the cost per cwt, weight and moisture content for white oats, black oats, barley, fine meal and blends. |
| | | 1pp |
| 142. | 30 October 1929-21 November 1929 | File of notes and calculations concerning unit costs of production and power requirements. |
| | | 6 items |
| 143. | 3 October 1931

3 October 1931 | Statement showing a comparison of production per man hour at the Doncaster and Newtown Pery Flour Mills in respect of the quarter ended |
| | | 1p |
| 144. | 31 May 1932 | Note on Rollers Surface measurements in Newtown Pery Mill and City Mill |
| | | 1p |
| 145. | 20 December 1932 | Memorandum by [C.F] to Messrs J. Bannatyne & Sons Ltd. concerning the power available for the City and Newtown Mills. warning against overloading the engines, pointing out that the equipment is in very poor repair; ' Under present conditions I think it is madness to aim at more than 35 sacks per hour... the engineer should be treated more reasonably and given time to maintain and improve the condition of the engines', p1 |
| | | 1p |
| 146. | 8 November 1934- 2 May 1935 | Table of deliveries listing quantities in columns under product headings; 'coarse, 'flake maize'. |
| | | 1 item |
| 147. | 6 December 1939 | Hand coloured flow sheet for 'A' mill with a copy of the sheet for 'B' Mill, including a copy of the screens flow sheet for Shannon Mills, the wheat cleaning polant that served both 'A' and 'B' Mills. |
| | | 3 items |
| 148. | 1940 | Flow sheet for 'B' Mill and revised in 1946 ' as sent to Mr. Reid'. |

- 1 item
149. 1949 Screens flow sheet.
- 1 item
150. 1939 Hand coloured screens flow sheet showing which machines came from City Mill, Newtown Pery Mill, were new or existing with interlines for future extensions.
- 1 item
151. Copy of flow chart for No.1 cubing unit.
- 1 item
152. 11 August 1956-27 November 1956 File of correspondence with T.A. Oxley, Luska, Puckane, Nenagh, County Tipperary for the Department of Scientific and Industrial research, Slough, England concerning the assessment of a small device for measuring moisture content in grain .
- 12 items
153. January 1957 Flow chart for Shannon 'A' and 'B' Mill.
- 2 item
154. December 1957 Drawing of Flour runs at Marina Mills, Cork by C. McDonnell.
- 1 item
155. 5 March 1958-18 March 1958 File relating to a report by Mr. Reid on the maintenance condition of the mills at Cork with recommendations for improvements; includes a copy of the report sent to G.M Goodbody with a letter to D.C.C Mercier . 'I am particularly concerned about the remarks concerning the grain movement at Avoncore. This is not the first time we have had trouble with this man, we really cannot go on.' (18 March 1958. p1)
- 8 items
156. 1 May 1959 Letter from Peter Greenwo0d to D.C.C. Mercier concerning stocktaking at Clara requesting a report on the method of calculating extractions used in Midleton, Marina and Shannonvale as auditors had noticed variations in method in different mills ' it appears to me that we may be losing a considerable sum of money per year through flour in burst bags being dredged into offals when with careful

dredging it could be put back into the mill'. p1

1p

157. 24 November 1959

Drawing in pencil showing relationship of weigherpackers to band conveyor incorporating automatic vibrator for Jospeh Rank Ltd.

Scale ½ : 1 foot

158. 23 August 1960-5 September 1960

Cover letter and copy of a report by the Central Laboratories, Deptford titled Wheat Moisture Determinations, from [M. Goodman], Ranks Ireland, Limited to J. G. Macnab, Limerick, requesting his comments.

4pp

159. 4 February 1961-12 January 1962

Correspondence file relating to routine operational matters including the supply of equipment, roll surface results and costs of modifications to the Dublin Mill.

9 items

160. 1961

Notes on the usage of wheats in the Shannon Flour Mills for the ten weeks ending 8 July 1961.

161.

Wheat stocks calculator table.

1p

162. 1961

Notes on Millable Native Wheat Drying Loss to 18 November 1961.

1p

163. 7 June 1961-10 June 1961

File of forms circulated by Ranks Limited London to all Mill Managers relating to lifting tackle and shackles under the requirements of the Factory Act.

6 items

164. 11 July 1961-3 August 1961

Survey of spare equipment requirements in a

number of mills including Avoncore Mills,
Cork, Marina Mills, Cork, and Shannon Mills.

16 items

165. 8 March 1961

Note dictated by D.C.C. Mercier on the grain
and flour silos constructed by Collen Bros.
Noting their capacity

1p

166. 4 October 1961-10 October 1961

Notes from the Cork Milling Company and the
Dublin North City Milling Company Limited
concerning bin inspections on main hoists.

3 items

167. 7 October 1961

Note from [] M.J. and L. Goodbody, Clara to
D.C.C. Mercier concerning an idea to move a
new and unused piece of plant from the former
mill at Mallow (to Clara) ‘ Taking a long view of things I think it would be a good idea if it
was transferred here and installed at our old factory site. This would leave us entirely
independent of all this grain ‘veto’ trouble’.

1p

168. 2 December 1961- 15 December 1961

File of quarterly returns for the quarter ending 2
December 1961. Returns are listed on Grist
sheets for Marina Mills, Cork, Shannon Vale

Mills and Clara Mills.

11 items

[169]

170.

Flow sheet showing new arrangement for new
auto packer no. 4308 at the Blue Cross Plant, a
mixed compound-animal feed plant.

1 item

8. Published and reference material relating to Ranks and Milling (1915-1960)

171. 10 January 1915-17 April 1916 File of price lists for flour, bran and meal produced by Russells Mills, Limerick..
10pp
172. 14 March 1916-1 May 1916 J.N. Russells & Sons Ltd price list for Maize, Flour and Meal.
5 items
173. 1928 Booklet titled 'Progress and Development in the Irish Flour Milling Industry, A Description of the Reconstruction and Extension of the Newtown-Pery Flour Mills, Limerick, published by J.N. Russell & Sons, Ltd, Limerick, reprint of an article published in 'Milling', The organ of the British and Irish Millers.' Includes photographs of the remodelled mill, of D.C.C Mercier, Mill Superintendent and Spence Collinson, Mill Manager.
11pp
174. 3 June 1936 A Study on Aerating Agents in Soda Bread by H. Horace Wardd, Analytical and Consulting Chemist, assessing acid calcium phosphate, Cream of Tarter and Acid Pyrophosphate to 'find the best aerating agents to add to flour that would produce satisfactory bread under the very varying treatment that it may receive'. p1
9pp
175. Photocopy of a brochure on the 'Reform' v Patent M/Q. Puifier, supplied by Henry Simon, Ltd, Engineers.
11pp
176. Advertisement Notice for Blue Cross products, advising farmers to feed their pigs and poultry a mix of their own cereals and Blue Cross products, with recommended guidelines for mixing. 'when you have used up what you have on the farm get "Blue Cross" complete –in-themselves foods'. Includes a copy of the notice with a drawing at the back of the Blue Cross Mixing Plant and notes on Stage 1 and Stage II.
2 items
177. April 1960 A revised classification of home grown wheat varieties according to their value for milling

and baking purposes. Published by the
Research Association of British Flour Millers.

1 item

178. File of Ranks recipies for home baking
including recipies for chocolate sandwich cake,
one stage madeira, basic egg sponge, on Ranks
headed paper with a footer 'Ranks Radio programme- Tune in every Tuesday 2.00pm RTE
Radio.

12pp

179. 1922 File of material relating to the Tug and
Pneumatic Grain Discharging Plant the
'Garryowen' including a published letter by the
makers Henry Simon describing the technical features of the vessel and a set of photographs
taken by George Spillane of the vessel undergoing repair and painting in dry dock. Includes
a copy of a photograph of workers taken at the Docks. Ed Doherty, V. O Donnell, Mick
Bowman, deny Walsh, Sheamus Murphy Gus O'Neill and Bill Long. Includes a photograph
of a small group with one man holding the a lifebouy with the name 'Garryowen'.

14 items

180. June 1976 File of published article relating to Ranks and
Milling including an Article by Tom Toibin
from Bakery World concerning redundacies at
the Limerick plant in 1976, an article from Milling, 1936 concerning the grain silo in
Limerick, an extract from the book 'The Master Millers' and an article from the Limerick
Christmas Gazette 1989 concerning the canals in Limerick. Includes a report compiled by
P. O Hanlon relating to Cork Mills, an article by Arthur McDermott on his memories of
starting work in Newtown Pery Mill in 1932, an extract from Irish Business, February 1980
on the financial difficulties faced by the company, an article on the development of a tourist
facility at Croom Mills in 1998 and a copy of a photograph showing Joseph Rank and his
sons on his eightieth birthday. Includes an extract copy of an article form the Limerick
Leader in 1945 concerning a case in which a man was charged with assaulting Mercier

9 items

181. 22 February 1983 Press Statement by Gordon Bull, Managing
Director, Ranks (Ireland) Ltd concerning
incorrect reports in the media regarding the
reasons for the companys closure in Limerick, the efforts of the company to prevent the
importation of wheat and the lack of government support, ' no help was forthcoming and we
could be forgiven for feeling that there was a definite view, in official circles, that it would
be best if Ranks were out of the way'. p2 He explains the financial position and offers
support to any co-operative considering to recommence milling in Limerick. Includes copies
of contemporary press cutouts relating to the strike and closure of Ranks.

7pp

182. File of reference material relating to the 'Eclipse Flower', a barge vessel used by Ranks with notes by Norman Campion and extracts from the publication 'Fine Lines-Clear Water'. Includes copies of photographs

16 items

- 183 2003 Letter from Bertha Callendar to Norman Campion concerning her knowledge of milling and her memories of working in Ranks including the management of the horses, the construction of No. 1 Silo, typing in the Bannatynes' office as a child and later managing her fathers typewriter supply business, the trial of a worker accused of stealing flour, and the fire in Newtown Pery Mill when she was a child.

5pp

184. 4 November 2010 File relating to Ranks Bulk Railway Carriers including copies of photographs of the wagons with a notes and sketch drawing by Norman Campion describing their usage.

6pp

185. 1976-1977 Copy of Ranks TV Guide with the cover story listing the promotional items for media advertising for Ranks products for the year, 'the Mike and Sheila Show. It's radio's most popular sponsored programme of all. Mike Murphy presents the music, Sheila Cunningham of Ranks Home baking Advisory Service provides the recipies'.

2pp

P89/3/

111 Photographs (1922-1980)

- 1 1940-1980 File of photos donated by George Spillane including three images of the closed Ranks Limerick Mills in c.1980. Photograph A is a view of the Provender Mills Silos taken from the Docks. Image B of Shannon Mills is taken from the Dock Road showing the tranchard crossing the road. Image C No. 4 Silo with grain intake building on the left and a low building on the right used for large motors.

4 items

2 c.1940 Photograph of wheat intake at Shannon Mills showing wheat being weighed and sampled. One man is taking a sample from a bag of wheat using a spike sampler while another man standing at a high desk is noting results. Includes a copy

[]

4 c.1960 Picture of Arthur Rank and three other men at the presentation of a wireless radio to a staff member.

5 c.1960 Group photograph of Ranks management and staff on the occasion of the retirement of Elizabeth Kirwan and Stan Copues. Lord Rank is in attendance.

6 July 1961 Photograph of Limerick Docks with Shannon Mills in the background showing unmillable Irish wheat being loaded by suction onto a ship for export.

7 1 November 1935 Photograph taken outside in a yard of a large group of staff of Newtown Perry Mill, the majority in formal dress with only a few(those on duty) in working overalls or white coats. Includes one boy. A sign is placed in front of the group with 'Newtown Pery Mill 1 Nov 1935' written on it.

8 c.1940 Photograph of Ranks Exhibition stand showing a replica of a mill and a n advertisement for Ranks flour.

[9]

10. 1920-1960 Photograph album containing black and white images relating to Ranks Flour Mills and Milling in Limerick including photographs of milling equipment and processes, staff at work and also at social events.

10.1	N/D	Photograph of a group of a number of men working in the packing section, filling, sewing and moving sacks of flour.
10.2	1948-1949	Photograph of mill joiner demonstrating the design of mill spouting

		equipment to a visiting group. Includes a copy.
10.3	c. 1948-1949	Photograph of a Flour Roller Machine
10.4	c. 1948-1949	Photograph of John Mc Nabb Chemist, in a white coat standing behind a bench with a piece of laboratory equipment on it.
10.5	c. 1948-1949	Photograph of visitors to the mill with Cecil Mercier showing them a wall of equipment with meters and a hinged door.
10.6	c. 1948-1949	Photograph of David Mercier in a white coat pointing down to a piece of equipment
10.7	c. 1948-1949	Photograph of the mill floor
10.8	1948-1949	Photograph of D.C.C. Mercier demonstrating the removal of small seeds in the milling process to a visiting group. Includes a copy.
10.9	1948-1949	Cecil Mercier examining the sampling process with a group of visitors to the mill.
10.10	1948-1949	Photograph of Kenneth Brisbane showing a roll fluting machine to two visitors. Includes a copy
10.11	1948-1949	Photograph of John McDermott showing spare rolls to a group of visitors with Jim Hughe in white overalls standing. Includes a copy.
10.12	1948-1949	Photograph of D.C.C Mercier showing flour and wheat samples of various parts of the milling process to a group of visitors. Includes a copy.
10.13		List of presidents of Irish Flour Millers Association, 1902-89
10.14	1928	Advert with picture of Newtown Perry Mills, Limerick
10.15	c.1970	Photograph of Shannon Mills on the Dock Road, Limerick by George Spillane.
10.16-18		Print of picture of S.S. Garryowen.
10.19		Photograph of machinery on 1 st purifier floor of Shannon Mills, Dock Road, Limerick
[]		
10.21	c.1945	Photograph taken from above looking down on Cecil Mercier seated at his desk in the power plant, Shannon Mills with another miller standing beside him.
10.22	1950	Photograph of women working in the returnable sack cleaning department showing a woman on the left holding a bag up a high powered suction cleaning unit with empty sacks in piles on the ground.
10.23	1960	Photograph of staff at Shannon Mills taken against a high stone wall on the occasion of a mass in the mill given by a former employer, having been ordained a priest. By George Spillane.
10.24	1952	Photograph of Ranks Choir. Includes a copy.
10.25	0.19	Photograph of Arthur Rank inspecting Shannon Mills Fire Brigade. Includes a smaller copy and another photograph taken from a different

		aspect. 3 items
10.26		Photograph of Ranks Fire Brigade Rescue Unit carrying out a demonstration in the yard of Shannon Mills.
10.27	1983	Front page of Irish Times, 25 February 1983
10.28	1970	Ranks demonstration for the Irish.Countrypwoman's.Association.
10.29	1920	Photograph of a small group of staff taken in the yard ouside at Newtown Pery Mill. L-R Sid Ringrose, Millwright, John Stockil, Foreman, Jim Kirpatrick, Assistant Manager, unknown, unknown. Front row l-r: Spence Collison and D.C.C. Mercier . Includes a copy
10.30	c.1930	Photograph of large group of staff at Newtown Pery Mills
10.31	c.1930	Photograph of Mount Kenneth Mills Staff taken outsside in the sunlight with the front row sitting on flour bags. The Manager John Stockil is standing to the left of the picture. Includes a copy.
10.32-38	c.1940	Ranks Sports Day
10.39		Photograph of Arthur Rank with a wireless radio- a presentation gift for staff on retirement.
10.41	192222	Photograph of a group of mill workers on strike.
10.42	1914	Large group of mill workers. Boys are sitting crosslegged in the front row.
10.43	1920-1930	Photograph of Jim Kirpatrick, Spence Collison, D.C.C. Mercier and a woman seated at a desk in Merciers'; office in Newtown Perry Mills with four small heaps of flour samples on the desk. Includes a copy.

11. 1949 Photograph of Cecil Mercier showing a sample of part of gradual reduction of wheat to a visiting group
12. 1949 Photograph of a miller wearing cap and overall and two vistors looking upwards at a piece of milling equipment.
13. 1949 Photograph of sifter floor at Shannon Mills with a row of belts fitted with safety guards fitted. See also P89/3/22
14. 1949 Photograph of a Barron impact grinder machine at the Provender Mill
15. c.1950 Photograph of a group of firemen outside Shannon Mills with a large barrel shaped piece of milling equipment to their rear.
16. 1957 Photograph of Ranks Fire brigade with D.C.C. Mercier and other staff members. Includes a newspaper clipping of the same image published in the Limerick Chronicle in 1988 with names.

17. Photograph of two men c. 1940 from D.C.C. Mercier collection.
 18. Photograph of D.C.C. Mercier addressing a crowd, holding a speech in his hands.
 19. c.1930. Photograph of Spence Collison at his desk.
 20. 1930 Photograph of a mill worker in overalls standing beside a barrell.
 21. c.1950 Photograph of a group of Ranks staff at a social event with Cecil Mercier seated in the centre holding up a bottle of beer in both hands..
 22. 1920 Photograph of the sifter floor at prior to the installation of safety guards [Newtown Perry of City Mill]See also P89/3/13
 23. c. 1960 Photograph taken at a billiards competition taken at Shannon Mills Social Club.
 24. 24. c.1960 Photograph of D.C.C. Mercier presenting a prize cup to Tim Moroney winner of a billiards competition at Shannon Mills Social Club.
 25. c.1970 Group of Ranks Staff at a social event grouped on the stairs and landing of a hotel.
 - 26 c.1940 Photograph of a harvest scene showing a reaper and binder pulled by a tractor.
 27. c.1940 Ranks Stand at Limerick Horsehow showing a working model of a mill and bags of flour.
 28. Copy of a photograph of a ship in Limerick Harbour taken from a height Ranks Mill is to the left of the picture.
 29. c.1940 Photograph of J.V. Rank addressing Shannon Mills Fire Brigade
 30. c.1940 Photograph of J.V. Rank inspecting Shannon Ranks Fire Brigade accompanied by D.C.C. Mercier, dressed in fire brigade uniform.
 40. June 1937 Photograph taken outdoors in sunlight of a large group of men and women mill staff.
- [186-188]
189. 1978-1979 File of photographs of Ranks new feed mill in Cork

built by Simon Barron Ltd. Photographs show modern equipment and buildings under construction.

10 items

190. c.1960-1970 File of photographs of Ranks flour promotions in retail settings.

4 items

191. 1976-1977 Copy of Ranks TV Guide.

IV Additional Material Accessioned in 2012

192. 14 April 1978-April 1983

File of material relating to the closure of Ranks in Limerick including a report titled Ranks (Ireland) Limited The

Future Proposal for Discussion. outlining the problems in the industry and proposing diversification and investment in Limerick. Includes Extracts from a study for the Industrial Development Authority of the flour industry concluding that there was overcapacity in the industry and a press statement by Gordon Bull, managing Director concerning the reasons for closure.

4 items

193. 1909-1934

Notebook held by J.G. MacNabb, Miller and Chemist with sketches of diagrams

and equipment and notes on milling. Includes recipes for bread, calculations and inserted letters and notes. Includes an index to the rear of the volume.

c.150 pp

194. 2012

Exhibition album recording visitors reaction to