

THE DISPATCH.

VOL. I. NO. 18.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., OCTOBER 3, 1894.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE COAL OIL COMBINE.

TWO GRINDING MONOPOLIES FIGHTING FOR THE PLUNDER.

Why is it that Paraffine is such an Expensive Article?—The Russian Bear and the American Eagle, Once United for the Prey, Now at Loggerheads.

For the past two or three years there has been a good deal of discussion in parliament over the question of the duty on coal oil, or, as it is sometime called, paraffine.

The present duty is for the protection of the coal oil industry at Petrolia, in Lambton, West Ontario.

Petitions without number have been read in the house, from all sections of the country, excepting the particular section benefitted, praying for the removal of this duty. Last session a small reduction was made, but, apparently, not enough of a change to make any material difference in the price of the article. There is still much dissatisfaction throughout the country at the price demanded for an article in such general use as paraffine or coal oil.

Neither political party can cry "shame" to the other in this matter, but the country can cry "shame" to both.

The oil produced at Petrolia is not as good as the American oil. It is no use, because we wish to appear patriotic, to argue that it is. Any grocer in town will tell you that the people will not use Canadian oil. One of our leading dealers told me yesterday, that he did not keep Canadian oil in stock at all. And the reason is that he can't sell it. It is cheaper than American oil. You can get a poor quality for 18 cts. a gallon, and a better quality for 23 cts. a gallon, while the American oil is worth in small quantities 30 cts. a gallon, but Canadian oil is so beautifully odoriferous that even the most economical housekeeper will pay the higher price for the better article.

American oil under the present duty can be landed to the Woodstock importer in carloads of from 50 to 100 barrel lots, for 18 cts. a gallon at the best.

Coal oil is not only a pet subject for protection by governments, but is also in the hands of the most arbitrary of combines. It would be a cheap article, if free, but it is almost hopelessly in the toils of the grinding monopolists.

Anyone who has studied the subject knows that there are two great companies, the Russian Oil Company, and the Standard Oil Company. They are widely separated in distance, but act together as brothers in making the consumer pay outrageously. The Imperial Oil Company (the Canadian concern) is in the combine with the Standard Oil Company (the American concern).

It is interesting to know that a fight is occurring between the two monsters, the Russian and the Standard monopolies.

The New England Grocer has the following article in a late issue, which is reprinted for the benefit of the readers of THE DISPATCH:—
The proposed deal between the Standard Oil Company and the Russian oil barons, for dividing the petroleum market of the globe, is off for the time being, and open hostilities have been renewed that may result in a royal battle for the supremacy of the world in this important industry.

The Russian government, through whose agents the negotiations were conducted in behalf of the oil interests of that country, is much displeased with the independent attitude of the Standard Oil Company, and it has just shown its feeling on the subject by cutting freight rates on oil 50 per cent., and by reducing the export duty from 34 to 24 kopecks per pood.

This move means that the Russians will sweep every thing before them in the European markets—the foreign stronghold of the Standard Company—unless the latter comes to time. The Russians can supply refined oil for two cents per gallon, and with the transportation barriers removed, they will have no more fear from the Standard than they do today in their own country.

The articles of agreement, in accordance with which the world's markets were to be divided between the two great powers, specified that the Standard Company must crush out all competitors in America, so that the Russians would not be troubled by rivals in that part of the globe reserved for themselves.

The treaty might have been signed at the time of the conference in Paris, April, 29, but the Russians insisted on a clean job of it, and the Standard was given 60 days in which to dispose of competitors. It has been doing its best, by negotiations and otherwise, both in this country and in Europe. It was unable to win over the one remaining independent pipe line company in this country, which supplies several of the European companies and makes it possible for them to survive.

The standard company is preparing, if necessary, to carry war into the territory of the Great Bear, which has just announced its readiness for battle. The Standard has established a distributing station for oil in Jiva, and is preparing to tap several Asiatic ports. It also has other schemes on foot,

but it does not announce its programme in advance.

The removal of the export duty on oil, and the reduction on railroad rates one half, will give Russian oil an immense advantage in most of the foreign countries, although the Standard influence in Washington, in getting the tariff law amended, neatly protects it from any aggressions by its rivals in this country.

Let us hope that no amicable arrangement will be reached by these two vultures, and we may yet get our coal-oil at a reasonable price.

A Progressive Farmer.

Mr. Isaac Hatfield of McKenzie Corner, is a farmer who believes in trying new things, particularly when they are recommended by those whose education and experience entitles them to form a judgment. Prof. Robertson impressed Mr. Hatfield when he first came to this country, and lectured on agricultural subjects. Mr. Hatfield has pronounced ideas on farming, and thinks that as a business it may be made to pay, if the farmers will carefully study their conditions. A few years ago he got some seed corn from London, Ont. It is known as Peerless' Prolific, and is solely used for purposes of fodder. He planted the corn the year he got it, and has put in a larger crop every year since. He sells milk to the cheese factory. In conversation with THE DISPATCH, Mr. Hatfield said that he found this corn the very best fodder he could find for his cows late in the summer when they began to fall off in their flow of milk. The corn grows six feet in height, and is two weeks later than the ordinary Indian corn in ripening. The stocks are two inches in thickness, and he thinks that he can get twice as much fodder from this kind of corn than from any other crop, from the same acreage of land. He also feeds the corn to his swine. In the second week in July, this year, he fed his cows, and they kept up the flow of milk amazingly well. Mr. Hatfield does not believe in selling hay and oats. He prefers putting them into his stock and thus keeping his land up in fertility. He has been farming for fifty years, and for the past forty years has only sold ten tons of hay and 200 bushels of oats. He contends that even if beef does not bring a remunerative price, the small profit is large added to by the fact that the cattle while being prepared for the market are enriching the soil. He further contends that this country is suffering severely by the amount of hay and grain sent away, to the detriment of the land.

Mail Service Changed.

The following change in the mail service will take place on Monday Oct. 1st:—
Mails for all points South, East and West, including registered matter... 11.30 a. m.
Mails for Millville and Fredericton... 12.20 p. m.
Mails for North including registered matter... 1.00 p. m.
Mails for Montreal and upper provinces including registered matter... 2.40 p. m.
Mails for all points east and west... 7.45 p. m.
Matter intended for transmission by first mail should be posted 30 minutes before the hour of dispatch.

The attention of the public is called to the additional mail at 2.40 p. m. for the upper provinces, which will be found to be very expeditious, and a decided advantage over the previous arrangement from the fact that registered matter by this mail will be forwarded direct instead of being sent to St. John as before.

Fredericton News.

The Fredericton correspondent to the St. John Sun is authority for the following:—

The interest of C. H. Fisher in the property lately assigned by him to H. H. Pitts for the benefit of his creditors, was sold on Saturday by Auctioneer Hatt on Phoenix square, subject to the mortgage encumbrances upon these properties. The residence of Mr. Fisher, as well as the brick block on the corner of Queen and York streets were both purchased by Willard Kitchen at a nominal bid, who, it is understood, was acting in the interests of the mortgagees. The stock shares in the Central Fire Insurance company, were also advertised for sale at the same time. This however, was not sold. The company claim to have a lien on this stock for an indebtedness due them by Fisher for something like \$1,200 and forbid the sale. What will be done with this stock now remains to be seen. The company claim that it can only be sold with their consent, and they will not consent until the debt due by Fisher to them has been paid.

The will of the late Rebecca Caroline Gordon has been admitted to probate. The estate is estimated at about \$20,000, and with the exception of a few small bequests of personal articles, goes in bulk to Christ church cathedral, Fredericton. Bishop Kingdon and Wesley Vanwart are the executors, each of whom gets \$50, and the latter a diamond ring. Mrs. Gordon was the only surviving sister of the late Judge Minchin of this city, and under his will had the entire income from her brother's estate during her life. She is the last of the Minchin family, and by the terms of Judge Minchin's will the whole of his estate remaining at his sister's death is bequeathed to the lord bishop of Dublin, Ireland. The value of this estate is variously estimated at from \$75,000 to \$90,000.

NO CROSSINGS THIS YEAR.

ASPHALT ALL USED FOR SIDEWALKS AND KING STREET IN THE MUD.

Coun. Jones Stands Up for His Rights.—He Says an Appropriation was Made for Crossings on King Street, and Now the Residents There are Euchred Out of It.

Mayor Hanson was so sick as to be unable to attend the meeting of the town council on Monday evening, so Coun. S. Watts was voted to the chair. There were present Couns. Churchill, Flemming, Jones, Connor, Leighton and Dickinson.

A new electric light was voted for Maple street, and the electric light committee was authorized to report at next meeting on the cost of a light on Connell street, at the end of Elm.

Coun. Flemming called the attention of the board to the fact that the upper end of Connell street paid water and light taxes, but got absolutely nothing for it. He thought it about time they had a light up there.

Mr. Watts said for the finance committee that if the friends of Faulkner, who is in gaol for non-payment of taxes, would pay \$50, they would be disposed to give him a receipt in full.

The finance committee was authorized to ask the police magistrate for a report for the next meeting, and to learn from the chief of police whether he had paid to the treasurer that \$100 he collected from the circus fakir on the 16th of August.

Coun. Leighton, on behalf of the street committee, said in reply to a question from Coun. Jones, that the committee did not intend to build the crossings for which appropriation had been made, because the asphalt and tar had all been used up, and the appropriation was run out.

This roused Coun. Jones, and he went for the street committee with some vigor. He told them that the appropriation had been made for two crossings on King St., but the committee had used the asphalt and tar to suit their own purposes, and now he wanted enough material purchased to lay those crossings, and made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Coun. Churchill.

Coun. Dickinson said he did not want to see the appropriation over run. He knew that \$1000 was not enough for streets, and he had voted for \$1500, but as the majority of the council had thought \$1000 sufficient he would not vote to over run that amount.

Coun. Flemming thought that this would not be the first time the street appropriation had been exceeded, and he had even heard of other departments over running their appropriation, and he wanted to see those crossings put down.

Finally after quite a war of words, Leighton moved, seconded by Connor, that Jones' motion be laid over till next meeting. The vote was a tie. For it, Leighton, Connor and Dickinson; against it, Jones, Churchill and Flemming. The chair gave the casting vote with the motion to lay over, and the crossings on King street went out of sight for this year.

The council adjourned until Friday night.

Board of Trade Matters.

A meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Friday evening last to decide the question of a delegation to the meeting of the provincial boards to be held in St. John tomorrow.

There has been some difficulty in getting men to go. The council, at a meeting a few evenings previously, decided to recommend to the board that three delegates be sent, and their railway expenses paid. The board, at Friday's meeting, accepted the recommendation of the council, and elected the president, H. Paxton Baird; Alex. Henderson and Jas. Watts, as delegates.

When it came to the question of what course the delegates were to adopt at the conference, a debate of some intensity ensued. A communication had been received from the president of the St. John board, stating that the Woodstock delegates would be expected to move two resolutions, one dealing with freight rates, and the other with the duty on coal oil.

Mr. Baird, speaking as one of the elected delegates, said that he did not feel it incumbent upon him to go before the St. John board prepared to open up a discussion on the subject of the arbitrary freight rate from McAdam to Woodstock. The St. John board would probably not be altogether in sympathy with the motion, and for his part, he did not possess the necessary data to make a complete case before the conference. Mr. Tiffin, the C. P. R. freight agent who was a member of the St. John board would undoubtedly be present, and would at once ask for a detailed statement of the grievances of which this board complained. The transportation and freight

committee had been instructed to collect data with regard to freight rates, and although called together did not respond. Therefore, the delegates were not in a position to represent the matter at the conference as fully as it should be represented.

Mr. W. W. Hay said that it appeared to him that some members of the board, not excepting the officers, were receiving special privileges from the C. P. R. What were the delegates elected for, he asked, if it were not to state before the conference the grievances under which this town labored, in the matter of freight rates? If the delegates appointed were not prepared to state the case of this board before the conference they had better stay at home.

A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. J. T. A. Dibble, M. P. P., urged that it was no use in members of the board wasting their time in talk. The C. P. R. simply did what every merchant would do if he had a monopoly. They got as much as they could out of the people, and would do so, until we had a competing line. We should use all our influence in parliament to get a subsidy for a branch line to the Bangor & Aroostook. As far as he personally was concerned, he would do all in his power to get aid for such a scheme, from the local government. He denied that anyone in town got special rates.

Mr. Jas. Carr pointed out the great disadvantages that he labored under in dealing with the C. P. R., and made a very strong speech in favor of this board doing everything in its power to get an alternative route from this town.

Mr. D. L. Pitt also complained that as a produce shipper from the county, he was so handicapped that he was now about making arrangements to do his shipping over the Bangor & Aroostook.

On Monday evening a meeting of the council of the Board of Trade was held, to take into consideration the resignation of James Watts as one of the delegates to the conference in St. John. On motion of W. W. Hay, it was resolved to call a meeting of the board for the following evening, as the council did not have authority to deal with the matter.

Musings.

The timely and thoughtful action of the board of trade in securing the town council rooms, and having therein stationary and reading matter for the use of business men visiting the exhibition last week, was not productive of very apparent results. But like a good many other wise moves the indirect result may be more far reaching than many people imagine. On the evening of the first day of the show I met a Woodstocker, who said that he did not notice many strangers taking advantage of the board of trade's hospitality, "but" he added, "it looks nice to see those papers and magazines in a public room, where a fellow could go and read an evening." This remark indicates the feeling of the people with regard to a public library and reading room. It is something which the town must have soon. I am glad Coun. Murphy has been bold to bring the matter before the town council. There is enough money belonging to the Mechanic's Institute fund to start the project in good shape. There is no reason why we should not have the library before next autumn.

I met a citizen a day or two ago who has the reputation of saying pretty bright things. He remarked: "I was just down at the new bridge, and I saw a notice hanging up, 'No Loafing on This Bridge.' It struck me as vastly funny, for has not Came been loafing on the bridge all summer?"

Would that our local poet might be able to say of the hill behind Grafton what Mr. G. G. N. Byron said of the hills of Greece, "eternal summer gilds them yet." But he couldn't. The leaves are taking on other hues than green. Red and yellow predominate. It makes one chilly to look at them. In a few short weeks the plough will vie with the water cart in its efforts to make Chapel St. look like some one's back yard.

Still At It.

Professional burglars visited Nelson on Thursday night. They bored a hole through the door of Messrs. Burchill's store, but failed to get it open. Then they broke glass in the office window, but failed to dislodge the inside shutter. Their next attempt was at Messrs. Sargeant's store, and it was more successful. They forced the door and then drilled a hole in the safe and blew it open, making a complete wreck of it. But the booty was not in paying quantity, as there was but from \$10 to \$15 in the safe. They took what was there and decamped. The burglars are supposed to be two men who came up the Intercolonial that day and had supper at Ivory's Crossing.—Chatham World.

MURDERED IN HIS BED.

FAIRVILLE THE SCENE OF A HEART-RENDING TRAGEDY.

The Victim is Struck with an Axe as He Lies in Bed, and Dies Soon After.—Jealousy the Alleged Cause for the Crime.—The Murderer Arrested.

A shocking tragedy was enacted at Fairville St. John at an early hour on Monday morning. Guildford Crawford, a middle-aged man, in a fit of jealousy battered in the head of John Henry Branton, a young Englishman.

The dreadful affair took place in Crawford's house, in what is known as "Brown's flats," on the road to Cushing's mill. The deceased, John Branton, boarded with Crawford. Not long ago Crawford got the idea into his head that Branton was paying attention to his wife, although there did not appear to be any justification for any such suspicion. He did not accuse Branton openly, but accused his wife, and although she denied the allegation and his son and daughter pointed out that it could not be true, he still harbored the unjust suspicion.

Sunday night the members of the Crawford family and Branton went to bed in excellent spirits. They had been all sitting in the kitchen conversing freely. Crawford was there too and said nothing that would show that he was disturbed in mind. The others talked and laughed and had no forboding of the terrible tragedy that was to be enacted before the light of another day had hardly begun. The family retired to bed at about 10.30. Branton slept in the same bed in a room with Hartley Crawford, a son of Guildford Crawford. About half-past four o'clock Hartley heard his father come down stairs from his sleeping apartment with a lighted lamp in his hand. He called out and asked him what he was doing up so early. He replied, "It's five o'clock." He then went out and lit the fire. Hartley fell asleep. The next thing he knew he was awakened suddenly and saw his father standing at the side of the bed with an axe uplifted in his hand.

Before he could realize what was the matter or do anything to prevent his father from committing a crime, the blow fell, the corner of the blunt end of the axe striking Branton who was sleeping on the inside of the bed on the temple over the left eye. He saw no more than one blow struck and thinks his father must have struck one or two blows before he was awakened. Poor Branton never stirred. Stunned by the blows and terribly injured, he lay in the bed, while the blood gushed from three small wounds around the left eye and from his mouth. Seeing what had been done, Hartley turned to his father and said: "You've done it now; you've killed him sure." The father made no reply, but going out left the axe with which he had committed the dreadful deed near the door of the kitchen and began walking up and down the floor of the kitchen. His daughter, aroused from her sleep by Hartley's cries of murder, came rushing out and seeing poor Branton lying as if dead on the bed, said, "Oh, father! How could you have the heart to kill poor Jack?" Seeing the axe, the girl became alarmed that her father might do further damage and she took and concealed it from him.

When the dreadful deed was being committed Mrs. Crawford was in the yard drawing water from the spring. She heard the cries of murder and hurrying back to the house saw what had been done. Uttering a wild cry she sank into a swoon and for a while it was thought she, too, would die. After she recovered a little she was taken to the house of Charles Arbo. The poor woman was nearly distracted with grief and terror. Meanwhile Hartley had run out and aroused some of the neighbors, who, learning what had happened, went for Dr. Gray and Officer Hennessey. Dr. Gray arrived about a quarter to six and at once saw that Branton could not live any length of time. He bound up the wounds as best he could and then went away. Hennessey on his arrival enquired where Crawford was. He was informed he had gone up stairs to his room, but was told he had better not venture up, as he was armed with a club. The officer, however, went up, and instead of finding, as he expected, a murderer at bay, he saw Crawford lying on the bed. He got up quietly, when ordered by the officer, and accompanied him quietly to the Fairville lock-up.

Branton grew gradually weaker and those that remained with him until he died say that he was choked by the blood in his throat. He died shortly after seven o'clock.

An inquest was held, and a verdict based on the above facts was found. One of the doctors in his evidence said that he had been called to see Crawford, and was in doubt whether he was insane or was shamming insanity. While he was being taken to the lock-up the policeman asked him if he knew that he had killed Branton. "Yes," he said, "my head has been wrong for some time."