

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER

DEVOTED TO *
→ THE MANUFACTURING & MINING INDUSTRIES, OF THE *
→ DOMINION. AND INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

VOL. XIII.

TORONTO, ONT., AUGUST 5, 1887.

No. 3.

A GOOD BUSINESS OPENING—VAPOR STOVES.

WHEN it is remembered that the use of gasoline vapor stoves for domestic purposes is practically universal throughout the United States, where they almost entirely supplant coal and wood cook stoves during the warmer months of the year, it is strange that the article should be unknown in Canada. The refined gasoline used in vapor stoves is a by-product of petroleum produced in the process of manufacturing illuminating oil. It is inexpensive, and the cleanliness and convenience of it has placed it very high in favor where it is used. Although the vapor stove won its way into common use in families because cooking could be done in warm weather without annoyance from the heat, incident to the use of the coal or wood stove, it is not now removed from the kitchen when cold weather comes on, for it is found to be a valuable and convenient adjunct to the other stove at all times, and particularly when a quick, fierce heat is desired for only a short time, and when it is not convenient to re-kindle the coal or wood fire. The climate of Canada is very similar to that of northern portions of the United States, and there are several months in the year when the heat in Canadian kitchens, where coal and wood stoves are used, is quite as oppressive and disagreeable as it would be in the United States under similar circumstances. But all American kitchens are now equipped with vapor stoves, while none are to be found in Canadian kitchens.

We are not aware that any refined gasoline is made in Canada, although large quantities of crude petroleum, from which it is made, is produced here. We presume, however, that should the demand for gasoline become sufficiently large and imperative, its manufacture would be begun, and that the supply would soon equal the demand.

It was but a few years ago that vapor stoves were first brought into use in the United States. For a while the manufacture of them was confined principally to St. Louis, Cleveland and some other localities in Western States. With characteristic shrewdness Yankee enterprise was quick to observe that the article was bound to increase in favor, and Yankee ingenuity was quick to invent and embody improvements that have rendered vapor stoves perfectly safe in the hands of the average housekeeper, and competition in their manufacture has brought the cost of them down to where they are within the reach of all. Instead of their being a luxury that might be dispensed with, they have become a necessity that all families must have. The manufacture of vapor stoves in the United States has grown to be a vast and widespread industry in which unlimited capital is invested and thousands of

skilled workmen employed, and it is a noticeable fact that in addition to the many establishments started for the exclusive purpose of manufacturing vapor stoves, a large portion of the old regular stove founders there have embodied the production of vapor stoves as special features of their works.

At the same time the petroleum refineries instead of finding this by-product a nuisance and its disposition an important and vexing question, now engage extensively in its refinement, and are reaping large pecuniary benefits therefrom.

The growth of the manufacture of vapor stoves, and of the production of refined gasoline for fuel for them, has gone on hand in hand, and now such stoves may be bought at retail anywhere in the United States for from five to fifteen dollars each, and the gasoline for about ten cents a gallon.

Why should there not be a corresponding demand and supply in Canada for vapor stoves and gasoline? Shrewd men are constantly on the *qui vive* for profitable investments, and we suggest that some of them act on this hint and engage in the manufacture of vapor stoves and the production of refined gasoline. It will pay.

THE CUSTOMS SEIZURE CASES.

ON June 24th last, in Montreal, in the Exchequer Court, the cases of the Crown vs. J. C. Ayer & Co., of Lowell, Mass., were brought to a hearing, one action being to confiscate \$79,000 worth of goods which had been previously seized by the Customs authorities, and the other to recover fines and penalties aggregating \$379,000 for violations of the revenue laws growing out of the above mentioned seizures. Briefly stated, it was charged that Ayer & Co. had, for a number of years, imported goods into Canada upon fraudulently undervalued invoices, thus defrauding the Government of a large amount of duties that should have been paid.

Upon the hearing of the cases it was shown that one of the witnesses for the Government had previously been in the employ of Ayer & Co., that he was familiar with their methods of doing business, and that he was aware, as he alleged, that the frauds were being perpetrated. This witness, who had been discharged from the employ of Ayer & Co., became an "informer" for the Government, and as such was entitled by law to a certain proportion of whatever fines might be collected for violations of the revenue law. From the testimony it does not appear that the statements made by this witness were successfully controverted, or that Ayer & Co. were not guilty of the offences charged, but a great and unreasonable hue and cry has been raised not only against the witness because he was an "informer," but also against the Government because