

oil the lands in the immediate vicinity were eagerly purchased by American and other speculators, at high prices, and derricks and steam engines soon dotted the banks of the Thames. In another part of the work we will notice the "oil fields" of Ontario.

The decline in price of oil in the U. S. to a mere nominal figure (at one time being as low as 10cts. per barrel) soon ruined the prospects of the speculators and operators here, then the great fire of March, 1867, which destroyed all the fine substantial buildings erected during the excitement, cast a deep gloom over the (only a few weeks before) most lively busy spot for its size in America.

The great majority of the settlers having lost heavily, now became discouraged, and left by hundreds to seek their fortunes elsewhere, reducing the population to about 1,000 in 1868.

Bothwell, like Chicago, rose again like the Phoenix from its ashes, and to-day compares favorably with the most flourishing towns in Ontario.

It is steadily improving, a number of good brick stores and dwellings are in course of erection; the new Town Hall, a fine structure of white brick, also two new brick churches, have just been completed. The merchants and manufacturers are shrewd and enterprising, and there is every reason to believe that every inch Bothwell gains henceforth she will retain.

A reference to the subjoined list of names will give a sufficient idea of the mechanical and professional prosperity of the town.

Mails daily—population 1,200

ADKIN, JAS. F., fruit and confectionery, fresh fish, oysters, &c., also news dealer, new Town Hall store  
 Allen, H., cabinetmaker  
 American Express Co., Wm. Loughton, Agt.  
 Atkinson, T. R., marblecutter  
 Atwell, Geo., feed store  
 Avery, N. H., tailor  
 Badder, Jas., trader  
 BAILEY, CHAS. E., lumberer  
 BATT, CHAS. W., contractor & builder, Oak. (See card)  
 BATZNER HOUSE, M. Waters, prop. (See advt.)

Barlow, J., laborer  
 Bechely, Ed., night baggage man, G.W.R.  
 Bechely, F., night operator, G.W.R.  
 Beck, F. F., Peter  
 Beck, John, confectionery and toy store  
 Beck, J., tailor  
 Bent, J., mason  
 Bloom, S., teamster  
 Bodman, R., grocer  
 BOON, THOMAS, cabinetmaker, &c., Main. (See card)  
 BOTHWELL ADVANCE.—published every Friday morn-