

a large quantity of pine timber for local mills and outside mills. During the time of my general mercantile business, I did not do anything in the wholesale lumber trade. I will refer to that later on. The pine lumber interests began to wane; we had ransacked the country pretty well for it and cleaned it fairly well up. The hemlock had not come upon the market, but now a tannery was offered us, and as one of the members of the Council at that particular juncture, I worked diligently for the plant to be placed with us in Huntsville, which we succeeded in securing and which remains till this day as the lagrest sole leather tannery in the country, and it is growing every day. After a good deal of see-sawing and wire pulling, we succeeded in getting it located in Huntsville. During those years of depression, the timber was one of the assets, but at that particular period, there was not the demand for it. I might here refer to a fact which became very conspicuous in my life. The result of moving from one place to another, and changing business from one thing to another, this had to be encountered,—the doubt with which you were looked upon as a stranger and as a merchant; the opinion amongst the illiterate class was that all business men were frauds and it required time to settle the question of integrity and character; it requires time to establish character and to leave the indelible impression that a man is as good as his word.

I continued in business until 1894. On the 18th day of April of that year, a fire occurred which produced a general conflagration. One of our merchants had piled out some fifty barrels of coal oil behind his stone store, the only supposed fire proof building at that time in the village. A boy was sent to clean up the yard and on lighting some rubbish, set fire to the barrels. As a consequence we had the conflagration. The coal oil streamed through a culvert and out into the river until the surface of the river was covered. The boat behind my store that I had engaged to come to my rescue in the event of fire, had not yet gone out, but was ready to make her first trip. I had men carry out