

## LETTER ON OIL.

## A Second Sketch of Petrolia and Its Oil Trade.

The Tanking Described—The Water Supply—The Buildings—A Name for the Editor.

From Our Own Correspondent.

The most of the work of excavating and kerbing underground tanks has been done under the supervision of a man who from his youth has been engaged in that special line, and at the early age of sixteen years he began contracting in his own behalf, with sometimes a gang of thirty men under him. During the past few years he has utilized about two million feet of lumber in kerbing and fully thirty tons of nails in the same work. When "tanking" is done by steam, as is generally the case, some sixteen men are required to keep things moving, ten or twelve men filling the buckets and the others emptying, and it looks down into one of these tanks twenty feet across and of an unpleasant depth, is enough to make ordinary mortals careful of their footing, and fill them a desire to withdraw as early as convenient without being trayed that nervousness which men dislike so much to give way to, or exhibit. The cost of excavating these tanks is from twenty-two to twenty-five cents per barrel, so a nine thousand barrel tank would take about two thousand dollars to complete it ready for the reception of the crude. The process of "REFINING AND TREATING" is rather too intricate to describe from beginning to end, but the mode of converting the crude into refined is on much the same principle as that by which distilled water is made. Large "stills" boiler shaped, are filled with oil in its crude state, and beneath each still is a hot fire of gas or gas, that in time causes a "light vapor" to arise, which is run off into tanks, constituting the chemical known as "benzene," which is, however, subject to further processes of purification before it is brought into general use. After the light vapor passes off from the crude, a heavier vapor is formed, which is carried off from the stills through iron pipes to the "condensers." These are long wooden tanks, box shaped, filled with cold water, through which the iron pipes run, containing the vapor, and the latter is by this process again restored to liquid form taking the name of "refined oil." Before it can be placed upon the market for sale, it has to be subjected to other courses of treatment in order to make it safe to use, and non-explosive, up to a certain temperature. It takes about three barrels crude to make one barrel refined oil. Refined is at present inactive, car lots 14 cents per gallon, according to report for the week ending May 13.

## FIGHTING FIRE.

It is no doubt thought by many, and not without apparent good reason, that the oil region would be a veritable hot bed for the production of "fires," but strange to say it is very seldom we are visited by anything in the shape of an extensive blaze. Our refineries do quite often get ablaze, and send forth dense volumes of slate colored smoke, which in the daytime presents a magnificent appearance against the light colored heavens. We have two steam fire engines in town and one hand engine, two fire halls and two companies, and judging by the manner in which they reach the scene of a fire and subdue it, one naturally concludes that no small amount of efficiency has been arrived at by the members of our protectors' corps. Besides this our refineries have appliances of their own; which on the first alarm are immediately brought into use, and in more than one instance have done good service in extinguishing what might otherwise have proved a very destructive conflagration. On the American side, that is, in the Pennsylvania oil region, much more danger from fire is incurred, owing to their tanks for storing crude oil being constructed above instead of under ground, and thunder storms accompanied by lightning are often the cause of much serious loss and damage, in setting ablaze the contents of their tanks which are only too easily ignited. Speaking of fires necessarily leads us to the question of waterworks, with us a very vital question indeed, as we are dependent nearly altogether on underground tanks, though of considerable capacity, for our total supply.

## THE WATER SUPPLY.

Bear Creek is close at hand, but at certain seasons of the year it is almost a bare creek also, along which a stream of doubtful impurity pursues its serpentine course, carrying with it very discernible traces of having passed through oil territory. For household uses and other purposes the majority of our inhabitants, are dependent for this supply of "Aquaria" on the waterman, or "Aquaria" as he is designated, who makes daily trips with his tank wagon dealing out at one cent a pail his non-intoxicating beverage, to the cold water inhabitants of Petrolia, the Scott Act now being in force here. In consequence of this lack of an unlimited supply of hard water, rain or soft water is made good use of, almost every house having one and sometimes two wooden tanks close at hand in order to receive the water, run off the buildings on the premises. Others have a tank so arranged that the water is filtered as it is run in and by this means becomes quite palatable and very well adapted for cooking, etc.

## HOUSES AND ROADS.

Our houses as a rule are frame structures, and owing to the scarcity of stone the foundations are mostly cedar posts set end and end, and that, coupled with the fact that our system of drainage is very distantly related to perfection explains the want, greatly felt, in the non-existence of cellars under the large proportion of dwellings. "X" forms a very important feature in the general appearance of things in this locality, though it does not by any means add to the beauty of the surroundings. To illustrate this subject somewhat, and also to give you an idea of the "jocular element" that predominates in the average Petrolian, I will relate an incident that occurred no later than the past spring. Mud in quantities to suit the most covetous of that article, lay on our front street from end to end, mortar like in the evenness of its quality, and thin enough to leave no trace of anything possessed of nerve sufficient to venture through. Two of our well known business men could not resist the opportunity to go fishing, accordingly they soon appeared armed with a bamboo pole each, and with a zeal worthy of a better cause began to cast in their lines into mid-stream or mud-mud and anxiously await a bite. For some minutes they continued their sport much to the amusement of the crowd of on-lookers, and whether our town fathers felt that a reflection was cast on them by this, or whether it was the effect of a petition praying that august body to take some action regarding the bettering of our principal roadway, tenders are now being advertised for, for a cedar block pavement on main street from Bear Creek to the Canada Southern railway track, a distance of probably an eighth of a mile.

## RAILWAYS ETC.

Our railway accommodation is excellent. Five passenger trains each way daily on the Western division Grand Trunk, connecting with Winnipeg with Santa branch from and to London, and during part of the year what is called the "Petrolia oil special" is run daily between here and London. The Canada Southern gives us four trains daily each way, connecting with trains on the St. Clair branch.

## THE CHURCHES.

For our spiritual advantage and well-being we have churches of all the leading denominations, three being situated on "the flats," lying between the east and west end and which are watered by Bear Creek. This stream at times seems to possess considerable of the "bad element" the way it raises things in general during the rainy season, completely encircling all the churches, occasionally to the depth of two or three feet, with those situated on the lower portion of the hollow. Apply or rapidly these flats have been called "The Valley of Dry Bones," on account of the number of dead Christians who congregate there Sunday after Sunday to worship. The reflection is not very encouraging, but with new blood in our pulpits, (of which four were but recently vacant) we may expect a waking up among those dry bones, and a livelier interest manifested in things spiritual.

## POLITICS.

I see by notices pasted around town that a Mr. E. McGillicuddy is Secretary or President of the Liberal Conservative association for this riding, and I presume he is possibly from a different part of the Emerald Isle, from which his namesakes the staunch advocates of reform principles come, who weekly endeavor by the influence of THE SIGNAL to uphold such men as the leaders of the right local Opposition in Ottawa. Wishing you continued success, I remain, yours,

G. B. R.

12 SHILOH'S CATARRH REMEDY—a positive cure for Catarrh, Discharge and Canker Mouth. For sale by J. Watson, druggist.

Merchants can get their Bill Heads, Letter Heads, etc., printed at our office for a little more than they generally pay for the paper, and it helps to advertise their business. Call and see samples and get prices.

A Catarrh Cured, health and sweet breath secured, by Shiloh's Catarrh Remedy. Price 50 cents. Nasal injector free. For sale by J. Wilson, druggist.

## Bluevale.

The cheese factory is in full swing now, making about twenty cheeses a day.

Last Sabbath the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the Presbyterian church, Rev. Mr. Ross, of Brussels, on Thursday, and Rev. Mr. Young, of Clifford, on Saturday, conducted the preparatory services. Mr. Young preached on Sunday both morning and evening.

The 24th was locally celebrated here. All day, our streets teemed with the busy throng, and at night they were not deserted. The day's program, which consisted of the usual sports, were fully carried out, and a grand concert was given as a final. The proceeds, which were about \$600.

On Sunday the Savage band, under the management of Mr. Woodhull, had their long promised field meeting. The neighborhood was well represented, both morning and afternoon. In the evening Mr. Woodhull preached the farewell sermon. About one hundred and sixty converts are the result of the Band's work.

## DANGER AHEAD.

There is danger ahead from neglected colds. A tight cough and irritated throat are the warning signs of lurking danger to the lungs. Haggard's Pectoral Balsam cures colds, sore throat, stubborn coughs, and all bronchial and lung troubles.

Remains to be seen—any day at the morgue.

13 "HACKMETACK," a lasting and fragrant perfume. Price 25 and 30 cts. For sale by J. Wilson, druggist.

## CHAPTER II.

"Malden, Mass., Feb. 1, 1886. Gentlemen—Informed with attacks of sick headache, Neuralgia, female trouble, for years in the most terrible and excruciating manner.

No medicine or doctor could give me relief or cure until I used Hop Bitters. 'The first bottle Nearly cured me.' 'The second made me as well and strong as when a child.' 'And I have been so to this day.' 'My husband was an invalid for twenty years with a serious 'Kidney, liver and urinary complaint, 'Pronounced by Boston's best physicians—'Incurable! 'Seven bottles of your Bitters cured him, and I know of the 'Lives of eight persons' 'In my neighborhood that have been saved by your Bitters, 'And many more are using them with great benefit. 'They almost 'Do miracles! 'I am

Mrs. E. D. Slack.

## Good Value.

Many sufferers buying medicine have been disappointed, don't give up, buy a reliable article like Dr. Chase's Liver Cure, and with it you get a recipe book alone worth the money. James Wilson, sole agent.

## Dungannon.

Justice.—Some rustic again penned a very puerile and scurrilous article in your journal last week placing our young men and peaceful village in an unfair light. We are among the oldest residents, and can truthfully say the gentlemanly demeanor, decorum and temperate habits of our young men are not excelled in any village in our province. We will always be pleased to see weekly items of interest from our village and locality in your paper, and there is not a better field for a local correspondent in the county. If this would be literary lunacy would confine himself to these things instead of trying to stigmatize men whom he might well envy, and in whose footsteps he might creditably follow, he would be taking a step in the right direction. This middle-aged wiseacre also speaks of early shop-closing, and impudently asks, "What does this mean?" Why, the great sophisticated lying, there is not a shop here but what is open from twelve to fourteen hours, and in other places we hear of their striking for the eight-hour system. What he should have said is: Our shops ought to adopt the early closing movement for the summer months. We would remind him gently of the old adage about "children playing with edged tools," because if he uses his quill again slinging mud at his neighbors it is quite possible for him to get unpleasantly surprised.

Says Dry adon: She knows her man, and when you rant and wear Can draw you to her with a single hair. But it must be beautiful hair to have such power; and beautiful hair can be secured by the use of CHINGLES HAIR RESTORER. Sold at 50 cts. by J. Wilson, druggist.

## P.A.'S.

The House on Thursday was astounded by a series of charges made by Mr. Cameron, of Huron, against the Government in reference to the conduct of Hugh John Macdonald and Mr. Stuart Tupper, the one the son of Sir John Macdonald and the other the son of Charles Tupper. These young men have been using their influence with the Government for making large fortunes from companies in timber limits, coal lands and other public enterprises. It is said that enormous fees have been paid Mr. Tupper for operating before his father as agent for some railway corporations, before his father's retirement from the office of Minister of Railways. It is also alleged that influence was used to deprive a leading law firm in the Northwest of the law agency of the Hudson's Bay Company, which was taken from the firm referred to and given to Macdonald Tupper, each of whom received \$5,000 a year from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Mr. Cameron made many other charges equally astounding, and conclusively established charges which he had before made against two other members of the House, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Haggart.—[London Advertiser.

In the history of medicines no preparation has received such universal commendation, for the alleviation it affords and the permanent cure it effects in kidney diseases as Dr. Van Buren's Kidney Cure. Its action in these distressing complaints is simply wonderful. Sold by J. Wilson.

New Life for Functions Weakened by Disease, Debility and Disipation. The Great German Investigator is the only specific for impotency, nervous debility, universal lassitude, forgetfulness, pain in the back or sides, no matter how shattered the system may be from excesses of any kind, the Great German Remedy will restore the lost functions and secure health and happiness. \$1.00 per box, six boxes for \$6.00. Sold by all druggists. Sent on receipt of price, postage paid, by F. J. Cheney, Toledo, Ohio, sole agent for United States. Circulars and testimonials sent free. Sold by Geo. Rynnas, sole agent for Goderich.

3m: GODERICH BOILER WORKS

Chrysal & Black, Manufacturers of all kinds of STATIONERY, MARINE, UPRIGHT and TUBULAR BOILERS.

SALT PANS, SMOKE STACKS and all kinds of Sheet Iron work.

On hand, ready for delivery: 130 H.P. New Steel Boiler; 18 H.P. New Boiler.

A Complete 2nd-hand Threshing Outfit, Boiler, Engine, Separator, &c., all in good working order. Will be sold cheap. Mail orders will receive prompt attention. Works: Opp. G. T. R. Station. P.O. BOX 361. Goderich, May 28th, 1886.

NEW FRUIT STORE

G. CARDONE

Takes pleasure in announcing that he has opened out a new

Confectionary & Fruit Store

IN GODERICH, on WEST STREET, adjoining Knight's Barber Shop. The stock is new, and has been bought from THE PRICES ARE VERY LOW. A call is respectfully invited. Goderich, March 25th, 1886.

HARKNESS HAIR BALM

Restores grey hair to its natural color, removes dandruff, stops the hair from falling out, increases its growth, and will not soil the skin. As a hair dressing, it has no superior. Guaranteed harmless.

Prepared by HARKNESS & CO. London, Ont. Sold by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Dealers.

## HURON AND BRUCE

LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY

This Company is Lending Money on Farm Security at Lowest Rates of Interest.

MORTGAGES PURCHASED. SAVINGS BANK BRANCH. 5, 4 and 5 per Cent. Interest Allowed on Deposits, according to amount and time left.

OFFICE:—Cor. of Market Square and North Street, Goderich. HORACE HORTON, MANAGER. Goderich, Aug. 5th, 1885. 1991-

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS! GILLES' Liniment Iodide Ammonia.

The speediest and most certain medicine in the world for all kinds of ALL FAMILIES USE IT. Weak Back, Enlarged Joints, Paralysis, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Diphtheria, Scalds, Protrusion Uterine, Female Weakness.

The best and only certain remedy to relieve pain of all kinds, no matter how long standing. Instant relief guaranteed. Cripples, Swollen Joints, Varicose Veins, Bites of Insects or Sick Headache. No oil or grease; is clean and sweet; will not soil.

Inflammation of the Kidneys, Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Incontinence of Urine. Is the only Liniment in the world possessing alterative powers. Can be taken internally; cures Cramps and Colic, Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

Sold by all Druggists. Trial Bottle, 25c. Write Dr. GILLES, box 342 N. Y. P. O., who will give advice on all diseases free of charge. Beware of unscrupulous dealers and counterfeits. The genuine has the name blown in the glass and glass-smile of the discoverer name over each one.

Giles' Improved Mandrake Pills Safe, sure, reliable and effective. Do not gripe. Purely vegetable. No mercury, anti-mony or aloes. They can be relied on for all Disorders of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, etc. Sold by all druggists at 25c. per box.

Write Dr. GILLES, box 342 N. Y. P. O., who will give advice on all diseases free of charge. Beware of unscrupulous dealers and counterfeits. The genuine has the name blown in the glass and glass-smile of the discoverer name over each one.

Burdock BLOOD BITTERS.

WILL CURE OR RELIEVE DIZZINESS, DROPSY, FLUTTERING OF THE HEART, ACIDITY OF THE STOMACH, DRIVENESS OF THE SKIN, AND every species of disease arising from disordered action of the BOWELS OR BLOOD.

T. MILBURN & CO., PROPRIETORS, TORONTO.

West Street Meat Market.

Andrews & Johnston.

ALL KINDS OF MEATS

Careful Attention and Prompt Delivery. A CALL SOLICITED. Dec 21st, 1885.

HAGGARD'S YELLOW OIL

ERGEMATE WORM POWDERS.

Are pleasant to take. Contain their own Force, and are a safe, sure, and efficient destroyer of worms in Children or Adults.

CONFERRY & CO. SEED ANNUAL FOR 1886.

For a full list of all the seeds, and to customers of 500 (without price), and to customers of 100 (without price), and to customers of 50 (without price), and to customers of 25 (without price), and to customers of 10 (without price), and to customers of 5 (without price), and to customers of 2 (without price), and to customers of 1 (without price), and to customers of 1/2 (without price), and to customers of 1/4 (without price), and to customers of 1/8 (without price), and to customers of 1/16 (without price), and to customers of 1/32 (without price), and to customers of 1/64 (without price), and to customers of 1/128 (without price), and to customers of 1/256 (without price), and to customers of 1/512 (without price), and to customers of 1/1024 (without price), and to customers of 1/2048 (without price), and to customers of 1/4096 (without price), and to customers of 1/8192 (without price), and to customers of 1/16384 (without price), and to customers of 1/32768 (without price), and 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