

J. H. Fairbank of that town, who, an American by birth, has for forty years made himself a progressive Canadian. Mr. Fairbank was born at Rouse's Point, New York, on July 21st, 1831, and was a descendant in the eighteenth generation of Jonathan Fairbank, who landed at Boston in 1633 and settled at Delham, Massachusetts. Of this old family came many active men of to-day, amongst them Senator Fairbank of Indiana, manufacturer; N. K. Fairbank of Chicago, scale manufacturer; Thadeaus Fairbank of St. Johnbury, Vermont, and many others. The father of the subject of this sketch was Asa Fairbank, and his mother Mary Oliver, also American born. He was educated at village schools and Chaplain Academy, New York, and as a youth he became attached to surveying and engineering. In 1853 he came to Canada and engaged in surveying in Ontario. In 1861 he located at Oil Springs, Ontario, where crude petroleum had been discovered and was one of the first to promote the oil industry in Canada. At that time the oil belt was located miles from any railroad and the operators were forced to use crude appliances to sink their wells and to undergo genuine privations and personal hardships. Of these Mr. Fairbank had his share. In 1865, after having been for four years a producer at Oil Springs, Mr. Fairbank removed to Petrolia, where he has since been a large operator. He owns and operates many wells in the oil belt of Ontario. He was the originator of the system now in general use in Canada by which a central power is used to operate a chain of wells.

In addition to his oil wells, Mr. Fairbank has other large interests in his district. He is president of the Crown Loan and Savings Company of Petrolia, and is a member of the firm of Vaugh & Fairbank, private bankers, organized at Petrolia in 1869. He is also a partner in the business of Van Tuyl & Fairbank of Petrolia, dealing in hardware and oil well supplies, a firm organized in 1867. He is owner of the Stephenson Boiler Works and Foundry, is interested in the Petrolia Pork Packing Company, and in the Milner Wagon Works of Petrolia. In brief, as has been seen, he is a business man of enterprise and of mind.

Mr. Fairbank has also interested himself in public affairs and served as head of the municipal council for several years. In politics he is a