

The Marysville Cotton Mill

St. Croix Courier

Dec 9/1880

Interest in Cotton Mill in St. Stephen growing

Reporter

Jan 19, 1881

A New Paper Industry

Numerous rumors have been afloat for some time past respecting the intentions of Alex. Gibson, to put in operation at Marysville a cotton mill or some other industry that would furnish employment to a large number of people. By the investment of some of his wealth in factories Marysville will in a few years grow to be a large and prosperous town or city. The Saint John Globe copies the following from the Toronto World, which we hope is a correct statement of Mr. Gibson's intentions:

"In the spring Mr. Alexander Gibson will erect large paper mills at the village of Marysville, on the river Nashwaak, a tributary of the Saint John river emptying into that stream opposite the city of Fredericton. He will employ a considerable number of workmen in the manufacture of the finer kinds of writing and printing papers. **He has recently made a trip through Massachusetts, and inspected the principal paper mills in that State with a view of profiting by their experience and improvements.** Mr. Gibson is thoroughly able to put large capital into the concern, and its establishment and success as an industry is certain. When the New Brunswick railway is completed to the Rivière du Loup to connect with the Intercolonial, Mr. Gibson will be able to compete with his Quebec and Ontario rivals." [maybe Gibson was banking on the completion of the line to Rivière du Loup by the CPR]

The idea is a good one, and we hope to see it carried out. It would save the Reporter and other newspapers the trouble and expense of having to send to Ontario for the paper required in their business, which is a considerable item in the course of a year.

St. Croix Courier

May 5/1881

Cornerstone of Cotton Mill to be laid soon.

St. Croix Courier

June 16/1881

Cotton Mill cornerstone to be laid June 24.

St. Croix Courier

June 23/1881

Huge article on opening of cotton mill. pp 1 and 2. Complete report of laying of cornerstone June 30.

Reporter

July 20, 1881

The Gathering This Afternoon

Hon. Messrs. Blake and Huntingdon arrived in this city by the David Weston Monday evening. They were met by the Band of the 71st and a reception committee. There was also quite a crowd at the wharf to witness the proceedings, but no cheering and no enthusiasm. Mr. Blake was the guest for the night of Alexander Gibson, Esq. The visitors were shown through the city and several public buildings by members of the committee yesterday morning. In the afternoon Mr. Blake held a reception at the Queen Hotel and in the evening the Lieut. Governor gave a dinner in honor of the

visitors. At this hour of going to press Mr. Blake is addressing the public in the officers' square.

There are from four to five hundred persons present. The gathering is about equally divided between men, women and children, among whom would probably be 100 to 150 voters. The speaker creates no excitement, and the burden of his speech so far has been the tariff, the expenditure, and the Pacific Railway: the same old story. **He is speaking under an awning made of Canadian cotton.** the meeting is a great failure, in fact a complete fizzle.

Reporter

Aug 10, 1881

Another Cotton Mill

As our people are aroused respecting the advantages to be gained in this Province under the existence of the National Policy by the establishment of manufactories of various kinds, we gladly make some extracts from the Telegraph of a meeting recently held in Saint John for the inauguration of a cotton factory in Portland:

“Mr. Parks made a general statement. He said in March or April last when Mr. Walker, of the English Cotton Machinery firm, was here, he conceived the idea of starting a mill for making grey cottons. He knew no better place to do so; in fact none as good. He applied to the Council of Portland to see if they would grant any special privileges or exemptions. They agreed to exempt the building, capital and stock from taxes for 20 years, collecting only the taxes on the site. He applied to the Water Commissioners as to what rates they could give and got a favorable answer. He found, that the present freight of coal from Springhill was 82 cents; the price of the coal 50 cents for slack, so that the cheapest coal in the world was available, and still it was good enough for the purpose. The lot of 400 x 280, containing about 2 ½ acres, and valued at \$10,000 would be rented at \$600, for 21 years, with covenant for renewal. They has 3 months from June 18 to close for the site if they saw fit. Letters patent has been applied for at Ottawa, but had not yet been taken. A mill costing \$200,000 of which about \$150,000 would suffice for buildings, leaving \$50,000 for working capital, would contain at least 200 looms, and make 3,000,000 yards of cotton cloth a year, or about 750,000 pounds. The net profit per pound would be 7 cents, or say \$50,000, which would give 25 percent on the capital.

In reference to the danger of overproduction, he said it did not yet exist. The United States, with 55,000,000 of people, had 13,000,000 of spindles; Canada, at that rate, should have \$1,000,000 but it had not yet 175,000, so far as he could make out. **The new mills projected at Halifax, St. Stephen, Kingston, Montreal and here,** with from 10,000 to 15,000 spindles each, would only add about 65,000 spindles to those in existence. In Fall River, Mass., alone there were 275,000 spindles, and it was erecting five or six new mills.

The cost of cotton was the same here as at points West. The climatic conditions were favorable, and wages were not unfavorable, when the character of the labor was considered.

Mr. Parks, in answer to a question, stated estimated weekly cost of coal, which, for a 300 horsepower engine, he put down at 30 a week. The cost would cost \$5 or \$6 a ton in England.

In answer to further inquiries, Mr. Parks said that cotton could be manufactured as cheaply in Saint John as in Lancashire, and that being the case, all export trade could be had as well as the home market. Goods could be sent long distances at such low rates that Saint John could compete with Montreal, Toronto, etc., in sending goods to Manitoba and British Columbia; we could save more in coal in sending goods to Ontario that we would lose in freight. At the proposed site the cartage of coal would be saved. They might also hope to retain their workers, for if they got \$4 here they would not go to Fall River for \$6. He said the workers here were steady, did not want many idle days and were quick in learning.

Reporter

Oct 19, 1881

Work in progress on St. Stephen cotton mill.

It will be noticed by an advertisement in another column that employment can be obtained by stone and brick masons on this mill.

The promoters of the Saint John cotton mill are also making good headway with the subscription list. It is to be hoped the cotton manufacturing business will not be overdone. **This, we believe, will be the fourth factory of the kind started in the Maritime Provinces.** But then there will be a great market in the North-West, which will grow rapidly the next few years, and this must be supplied.

Reporter

Feb 1, 1882

The Saint John Cotton Company have paid \$8,000 for 14 acres of land, situated on a portion of the old Wright shipyard, Courtenay Bay. On this land a three storey building is to be constructed, operations to commence some time next month. It is said that when the factory gets in running order it will furnish employment for 350 persons. It is expected that the building will be ready for the machinery in July next, and the factory going three months later.—Freeman

Reports Here on proposed Fredericton Bridge construction

Reporter

Feb 18, 1882

Hon. John Boyd delivered his new lecture "Kathrina and Arthur Bonncastle," in Chipman's Hall, St. Stephen, last week. **The St. Croix Courier says that Mr. Boyd was accompanied to St. Stephen by Alexander Gibson, and John Tapley, the party immediately on their arrival driving to the St. Croix Cotton Mill, where they were met by the two managers, Mr. Brown and Mr. Woodman, and the contractor, Mr. Patterson, who showed them through, explaining the "why and wherefore," of all they saw. We judge from the reference to this enterprise by the lecturer, that the whole party were gratified, and that at no distant day the "king of the Nashwaak" will "go one better" in that locality. He has the means to spare to build up a great industry on his own property, and no man knows better than Mr. Gibson just when and where to strike.**

Reporter

June 10, 1882

The Saint John Cotton Factory

The corner stone of the Saint John cotton Factory was laid by His Worship the mayor on Wednesday, with imposing ceremonies. Mr. John H. Parks, President of the company, reviewed the prospects of the company and furnished details of the proposed new building. . . .

Reporter

Aug 9, 1882

Halifax Cotton Factory

The first annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Cotton Manufacturing Company was held on Wednesday afternoon. The report of the Directors was submitted and adopted. It consisted mainly of a recapitulation of facts as to choice of location, etc., that are already familiar to the public. The announcement was, however, made that "by the end of September all is expected to be roofed in and ready for the machinery, and the directors calculate that early in the (coming?) year the factory will be in active operation."

reporter

Sept 16, 1882

(By our special correspondent)

Our st. Croix Neighbours

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Just above St. Stephen along the river, is Milltown which is noted for the number of saw mills and its cotton factory.

The drive to Milltown on the St. Stephen side is most beautiful. Trees on both sides of the road form a pleasant avenue and the view fo the St. Croix River, from the rising ground, as it winds along between the hills is most picturesque. The cotton factory is a source of considerable wealth as well as accommodation to the surrounding country particularly to Milltown proper. Some 250 girls are engaged in the various departments beside a large number of male operatives. The site is one of peculiar advantage as the water power by which the machinery is run is one of the finest in the world and capable of running two or three factories of the same size and capacity. Since the factory has been running the improvement in Milltown has been very perceptible. The management has erected a number of handsome little cottages for the use of the operatives and the addition of such a large number of people to locality has distributed considerably money throughout the village for boarding and furnishing the necessities of life to the large number of hands employed. It is expected that another and much larger factory will be shortly started further up the river and on the American side. If so it will make that part of the Province quite a manufacturing depot fo the cotton trade.

(to be continued)

Pilot

Nov 23/1882

Henry Osburn, Esq., Railway Manager, has during the past few months been making extensive alterations, additions and improvements to his premises at the Point, which are now nearly completed, and when finished will make Mr. Osborn's house one of the most comfortable and conveniently arranged residences in the county. (Detailed description of layout and plumbing)

John S. Magee now offering St. Croix Cotton Mill cotton for sale in his store.

Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser

Nov 15, 1882

Communications

New Brunswick Girls, for American Cotton Factories

Mr. Editor:

A few weeks ago I noticed an advertisement in your paper soliciting female help for a Massachusetts cotton factory. I think that although this may on the face of it appear all fair and above board, and a legitimate method of procuring female labor for our neighboring Republic, still I also think the press of our Province has been negligent in its duty in not presenting to our people the arduous labor and trails to which our girls will be subject in an American cotton factory, particularly should our farmers know these facts, because it is among them the agent for these companies receive the larger number of their recruits. In a fair and impartial manner let me give your readers some of the arguments, and facts connected with the agent, and cotton factory life, and judge whether it pays for us as New Brunswickers to form a female supply depot for the American market.

An agent for an American company comes to our city, advertises in the city papers, and posts up his advertisements around the streets. He also provides himself with a companion who "knows the ropes" and a team, and with circulars and posters flood the country. On these posters girls are informed that female help is required in a cotton factory, in the States, and requesting them to call at a certain place where they will receive full information, and ending up with the fact that good wages, will be given those who will go. The girls attracted by the words "good wages" visit the place indicated, and the agent in a suasive manner, and in behalf of the Company by whom he is paid, and also probably receiving a percentage on all he may induce to go with him, explains to them the working of a cotton factory, the manner of work and the wages—as if wages could buy a girl body and soul. Let us listen to some of these arguments and see if they will hold water.

Agent: My desire is to help the young girls of your country and to give them a fair remuneration for their labor. I believe that female help should demand as high wages as male help, for doing the same labor. Come with me and you will be gaining

wages as male help, for doing the same labor. Come with me and you will be gaining an independent livelihood, receive good wages, and if you are careful, lay up money, and at the same time get out of this hum-drum life and see the world!

Questioner: Very true, Mr. Agent, but is it not wonderful that you with such a large population in our own country and with such enlarged ideas for the welfare of your own people must needs come to such a small place as New Brunswick for your supply. Perhaps it is because you think we are green and can more easily impose on our people and have them toil themselves into the grave to enrich your company's purse; or perhaps it is a matter wholly philanthropical which induces you to pay their way over to your nice large factories. We should think though that if this was such a remunerative business you could get lots of girls from the vast resources of the Union to fill your demands for labor without coming to such a province as this. Is it not that point about helping our girls and the country a little far-fetched. In fact is it not a desire to help yourself or your company, you are more anxious for, than to help the girls. I believe with you sir, that female help should demand a fair remuneration for its labor but what are your great inducements?

Agent: Well, we don't pay very high at first because a girl has to learn, you know. We pay a girl all she is worth. Any position in the factory is open to her when she is capable of filling it. At first we pay somewhere between four and six dollars a week, we have to take a girl off other work to learn her, you see, and if she does not readily take to the work, there is no profit for us in keeping her. Our maximum wages to a girl would be between seven and eight dollars.

Questioner: So, Mr. Agent, you pay a girl according to what she is worth—in your own estimation. Of course, sir, you know that self-interest is always predominant in all undertakings, and the Company are expected to make something out of this girl you have brought from New Brunswick. You are always sure the Company does estimate her at her true value, or perhaps her true value while in New Brunswick is enhanced somewhat from her value when she has got to the factory, and she must stay to pay up by labor the amount of her ticket? But let us see. You say, sir, that you give this girl say five dollars a week as a start. What expenses will she likely have to pay out of that?

Agent: Well, there are her board and washing. She can get board from \$2.50 to \$3.25 a week; her washing will amount to about 50 cents; the rest she will have to spend on herself.

Questioner: Yes, the rest. Let us see, board \$3.25, washing 50 cents, total \$3.75, deducted from wages at \$5—balance of \$1.25 a week or about \$6 a month. Why, Mr. Agent, those girls can get more than that here for doing housework, and the work is far easier, and they often get a day off without being "docked," and have a chance to see their friends and relations.

Agent: Oh, but stop that is only for the first few weeks, after they learn and the Company see they are advancing they receive \$6 and even more a week.

Questioner: Well, allowing it at \$6 a week, expenses, not including clothing, \$3.75 or about \$10 a month. Well, ten dollars a month, Mr. Agent, is not so bad but what does the girl have to do for her \$10 a month?

Agent: Oh, she has to work 10 hours a day in the factory.

Observer: I have heard it said, Sir, that everything goes by steam in these factories, and that no opportunity is given the girl to rest during the 10 hours, excepting the hour for dinner, and that all this time the girl has to remain on her feet, walking around the looms, and that she is not allowed to talk to her companions. This must be very hard on the girl's constitution.

Agent: Oh, well that is a fact, of course the work is hard but here is the Ten Dollars a month she clears. We can't afford to pay an agent and his expenses for going to New Brunswick and the ticket of the girl on and let her sit down with her hands folded. Of course, she is expected to work and to work hard.

There are many other questions, Mr. Editor, I could ask of this agent which I think would show your readers conclusively this: that American girls prefer by far to do house work than to labor in a factory; that **the social position of the factory girl is the lowest in the States**; that the American girls cannot be had for love of money to work in the United States factories if they can possibly help it; that the cotton lint which arises from the looms in the American factories is very injurious to the health, and I am told factory girls never live longer than from five to ten years; that they are

and I am told factory girls never live longer than from five to ten years, that they are crowded together in their boarding houses like sheep, sometimes from eight to ten in a room, where they are subject to all manner of degradations and trials, that according to their own arguments if they do not find a girl taking to the business or in other words not making money for the Company they do not want her, that is they turn her off in a strange country among a strange people to shift for herself;—mothers think of that—and lastly I think no mother or father who would desire his or her daughter to grow up to a virtuous and pure womanhood, and in the fear of the Lord would subject them to the contaminating influences of the life in a cotton factory, where no fatherly or motherly eye is watching over them, no one except the overseer who grinds them down to the dull monotony of their slavery.

Mr. Editor, last week at the Fredericton station I saw a bevy of our Provinces girls accompanying an agent on the road to this life of toil. I saw the ruddy hue of health and pleasure on their cheeks; they were going to see the world—through the windows of a railway car—and I wondered if any of them would ever again breathe the pure air of their native country. Ministers will expound from their pulpits on the horrors of slavery and intemperance, but of how infinitely much more importance is the sustaining among us of a pure and virtuous womanhood. Some of those who left our city we can well afford to spare, but there were others—those from the country districts—who knew nothing of the work and trials before them.

Cotton is a necessity, and cotton factories are, and always will be established where these enterprise will pay, but let the United States supply its own labor to carry on its own enterprises, and not endeavor to sap out the young life of our country.

Respectfully yours,

A True Blue Nose

November 13th, 1882.

We very willingly publish the communication of “A True Blue Nose” as it treats of a subject which is of importance to the country. There is much truth in what our correspondent states, and we fear that many of our young women who have left comfortable homes in our country districts will in future years regret the course taken by them. The expectations they cherish of great benefits to be enjoyed in their new homes are rarely realized, and they most frequently become the victims of bitter disappointment. We feel for them. Our correspondent puts the case well, and his remarks should be carefully read and thought over by any who many have formed the intention of leaving. There is plenty of hard work in store for such, among a strange and unsympathising people, where they will be exposed to all sort of social dangers; and the evils to be encountered are such that money compensation cannot make up for. Health, and happiness at home, with a moderately supplied purse, are preferable to hard work and misery in a strange eland if one’s purse is well filled, but even this is doubtful. If these factories offer such great inducements to the women it is somewhat extraordinary, as our correspondent, remarks, that the young women of the United States do not avail themselves of them. The inference to be drawn, is, naturally, that they do not.

Reporter

Nov 25, 1882

Response to True Blue Nose above.

For the Reporter

Amesbury, Mass.

Mr. Editor: My attention has been called to a communication in your last issue signed “A True Blue Nose.” Like many other writers for the newspapers, this T. B. doesn’t fully understand the facts in the case, or if he does understand them does not fairly state them. I have been connected with the Company and its predecessors for over twenty years, and I have yet to learn of the first act of oppression or bad faith committed by them toward their operatives. **The Company provide board in their own boarding house and in private families for the girls brought from New Brunswick at the rate of \$2.25 per week. There is no reason why in six months time they should not earn \$25 to \$30 per month. Many of our female help do**

earn that, and some of the male help earn \$45 to \$50 per month at the same work. Ten hours a day is not an excessive demand on anybody, and is in fact very much below an average day's work in New Brunswick. is hard work to watch a shuttle and mend threads, I am well aware, but this is all explained and understood, and there is no deception practiced. Your correspondent's pathetic appeal to mothers would be of some weight had it any foundation. Two of the girls who came here from Fredericton have been sick. I think both of them will bear me out in saying that no more could have been done for them in their own homes than has been done in this Company's boarding house.

Of course the Company is trying to make money out of their employees labor. What employer isn't? In regard to the mortality of this town it will, I think compare favorably with Fredericton. There has, in my recollection, been but one attempt to murder since 1862. That offender was promptly punished, and the jury who convicted him didn't say they were sorry.

Our jail is a curiosity being about as secure as an average dry goods box and when it is tenanted the offence is usually drunkenness or some light offence. With about 50 percent more population than Fredericton, our taxes and general expenses are less than one half. I am willing to forward to you a certified copy of our pay roll for any month you may name in order that any statements herein made may be verified.

In conclusion I wish to say to any who may have the intention of coming here, do not come unless in good health, nor unless you have got enough grit to keep at it until the preliminary obstacles and difficulties are overcome. I will guarantee to furnish return ticket to Fredericton to any one who comes here and does not find that matters are better for them than was represented by our travelling Agent, Mr. W. E. Darling.

Yours truly,
John C. Risteen
Paymaster, H. W. Co.

Reporter

Nov 28, 1883

Rebuttal by True Blue Nose.

New Brunswick Girls for American Cotton Factories

. . . (Mr. Risteen a native of Fredericton)

I think when it is known that Mr. Risteen is in the employment of the company that is, that he is paymaster for the company, it will be understood why he makes such strenuous efforts to build up their cause. Of course a person who is paid for doing certain work is obliged to write against his convictions sometimes which is probably the unenviable position Mr. Risteen occupies in this controversy. I am afraid he, like many others of our Fredericton boys was willing to receive his education and start in life in New Brunswick but when he went to a strange country forgot about his home and now repeats that worn out cry which Horace Greely started 60 years ago—Go West, young man.

How many of them are glad to get back to their old birth place? At least 90 percent and the other 10 percent die before they can buy their return tickets.

Mr. Risteen remarks that he can vouch for the good faith of the company as he has been connected with it and its predecessor for these twenty year. This seems strange. My memory, may be wrong but I think I remember Mr. Risteen's benignant countenance beaming out of Mr. Chestnut's counting room, and also his career as an insurance agent, at not longer then 10 years ago. Mr. Risteen is well known in Fredericton and such statements as these will not hold water.

The facts are, the cotton factory champion does not say, that the factory life is not one of the hardest; that it is not one of the most unhealthy a girl or man can adopt; that it is not demoralizing both to the morals and habits; that the girls are not crowded together like sheep in their boarding houses; that the company does not endeavor to make all the money out of them it can; that the girl does not rank in the lowest social grade in the United States; that American girls do not prefer to go out to house work than to die by inches in these factories and lastly that it is such a school a parent

would desire his daughter to graduate from

His whole appeal is from a money point. That a girl will in a short time earn \$25 per month—with \$20 expenses he might add but he eschews this item. He says nothing about the company the girl will be thrown into, or the influences she will be subject to. He says two of the Fredericton girls got sick shortly after their arrival. Probably one walk through the factory sickened them. The next word we will hear will be that the remainder are sick also. Well, better be sick in the body than the mind and soul. If you are sick girls remember there is always a warm welcome around the old fireside and friends waiting with open arms to receive you. Let no feelings of false pride influence you to remain away if you would like to return.

He says “do not come unless in good health, nor unless you have got enough grit to keep at it.” Yes, don’t go without you have made up your mind to wear out that good constitution in drudgery and toil, and to return broken down and diseased, to die. If you are healthy you may possibly be able to work a little longer for the Company.

He says “in conclusion” that he will furnish return tickets to those who do not find cotton factory life as represented by their agent. Yes, but he does not say he will give you return tickets if you do not find cotton factory life as you imagine it to be.

Girls—the future womanhood of our country—pause and think. Will it pay you for the small remuneration offered you—for any remuneration—to enter into a life such as has been represented? A life which entirely unfits you for filling woman’s greatest mission, that of serving the Giver and Maker of all things, and of being an honorable and trusty wife; a life in which you make not the least provision for your after years, and one in which the tendency is entirely to pull down and destroy your young maidenhood.

Mr. Editor, I have encroached on a larger portion of your valuable space than I anticipated but the subject is one which I think should receive the attention of the public and which I offer as my excuse.

I remain, sir,

A True Blue Nose.

Fredericton, Nov 27, 1882

P.S. Since writing the above, I am informed that Mr. Newman, the agent who is superintending the laying of the City water pipes, says that one Irishman is as good to work as two Italians, and that one Italian can do more work than two of our laborers. Not very complimentary I must say to our laborers, but this illustrates the point that by far more work is expected of laborers in the United States, and that our people when they go there must expect to work very much harder than they do here; and although the wages may perhaps be a little larger the higher expenses and the extra work makes up far more than the difference.

*Reporter

Dec 6, 1882

Rebuttal of True Blue Nose’s rebuttal. Get photocopy.

Reporter

Dec 9, 1882

Speaking of factories, we are pleased to notice by the last Royal Gazette that Mr. Alexander Gibson, Sons, and Associates, have filed in the office of the Provincial Secretary a memorandum of Association for the incorporation of the “Marysville Paper Company,” for the purpose of manufacturing pulp and paper of all kinds, with a capital of \$75,000 to be divided into 750 shares of \$100 each; the office or principal place of business to be at Marysville in this county. Such a company as this must give employment to a large amount of labor, and it is a source of great satisfaction, to know we have men in our neighborhood, who can take hold of an carry such an enterprise to a successful issue. We wish we had more of them. Is it to be said that one man can do more for the country than the whole Government itself?

Reporter

Feb 7, 1883

M. F. N. Bosson, who is superintending the work, informed our reporter that there will be no difficulty in securing girls to operate the machines. He is in receipt of a

large number of applications for positions from female operatives in Parks' cotton factory in St. John, who he says, seem very anxious to come here to work, and will no doubt be employed, as the directors are anxious to employ the best skilled labourers. Besides these there are other young persons in Moncton and vicinity actually begging employment. It is expected that some 35 hands will be engaged, and the mill will be in operation in April.—Transcript.

Reporter
April 11, 1883
Cotton Mill

A rumor has obtained circulation to the effect that we are to have a mammoth cotton mill in this vicinity at an early day. Speaking of the cotton mill in St. Stephen the *Courier* says it is now turning out 112 patterns of fancy shirtings, and preparations are being made to increase the number. All the goods manufactured meet with a ready sale. About all the machinery for the building has arrived. **The employees number four hundred and fifty.** As soon as the frost leaves the ground, work on the office will be begun.

With everything working so favorably, with the continuance of the present tariff assured, with a daily extending market and increasing demand for the goods manufactured and with the power lying all ready to be utilized, we cannot see why an extension of the present building or the erection of a similar one should not be proceeded with during the coming season. [extension of the present one – meaning in Milltown?]

Reporter
April 14, 1883
The Cotton Factory

A few days ago we mentioned the fact that a rumor gained currency to the effect that a cotton factory would shortly be started in this vicinity. Since then we have received many inquiries upon the matter from persons who doubted the probability of such an undertaking being launched in this County, for want of capital. Fredericton has several men of means who have it in their power to benefit the city by an enterprise of this character and receive large returns upon the investment, but there seems to be a fear of success, or a lack of that faith enjoyed by the people of St. Stephen and other localities in this Province, and our people are thus deprived of the thrift and prosperity following such speculation. We do not speak authoritatively but we have information from a reliable source that the early establishment of an immense cotton factory at Marysville is an assured fact, and if it is true, that Mr. Gibson is moving in the matter, a transformation will soon take place in the beautiful village of Marysville that will put Fredericton to the blush. The factory in St. Stephen is today giving steady employment to four or five hundred persons and we would not be surprised to hear before long that the number of employees will be increased to double the number.

York Gleaner
May 2, 1883
Mr. Gibson's Cotton Factory

The Cotton Factory at Marysville about to be erected by Mr. Gibson is the largest undertaking ever entered into by any one man in the Maritime Provinces if not in the Dominion; it is certainly a more extensive enterprise than even any company of men and capitalists in the Maritime Provinces ever anticipated inaugurating. While other sections of the Province were agitating for factories and other enterprises that would employ a great amount of labor, and would increase population, Mr. Gibson was quietly laying his plans in his own mind for the erection of the factory that preparations have already been commenced for. The undertaking is a gigantic one, it is one that only a man or a company of unlimited means could engage in.

The factory will be located on the east side of the Nashwaak, directly opposite the residences of Mr. Gibson, and **the work of removing buildings from the site is already in progress.** The main building will be 418 feet long by 100 feet wide; four stories in height in addition to the basement which is to be used for storage and repair

shops. On the main building will be a tower 22 feet square and extending to a height of 120 feet. Connected with the main building by a passage way 18 feet long, will be what will be known as the "picker" building. 284 feet long by 98 feet wide, two stories high, in addition to the basement which will be used as a storage and dust room. The buildings are to be of brick with stone trimmings. The rough stone for the foundation, about 2,000 yards of which will be require, will be obtained within a half a mile of the building. About 5,000,000 of brick will be used in the construction. These will be manufactured at a short distance from the building. The amount of hydraulic cement to be used will be about 1500 barrels; of lime, about 2000 casks. The floor beams and rafters will consume about 800,000 feet of Southern Hard Pine; and about thirteen hundred thousand of lumber will be used for the floors, rough, etc. This will be manufactured at the mills. There will be about 230,000 square feet of floor surface or 5 ¼ acres. In the rear of one end of the main building will be the engine room which will be 42 x 56 feet and attached to this will be the boiler room, 94 x 46 feet. The factory will have a capacity of about 50,000 spinning spindles and about 1,1000 looms. It will consume, when in full operation, about 12,000 lbs. of cotton per day or nearly 4,000,000 lbs per year or about 1900 tons. When in full operation it will give employment to about 1,000 people. To drive the machinery it will require a pair of engines of about 1,000 nominal horse power, the steam for which will be supplied by 10 or 12 large boilers, and the fuel used will be portion of the waste wood from the saw mills. The plans for the buildings and arrangement of machinery, have been prepared by Messrs. Lockwood, Greene and Co., of Providence, R.I.

Portions of the material have already been purchased and excavations have been commenced. The factory will be equal to the largest in the Maritime Provinces.

It will be seen from the above that thee will be ample requirements for a bridge across the river—in fact that the bridge will be a necessity, and we have no doubt that the Government will seek in every way within its power to secure to the city the supplies that must necessarily be required for such a vast enterprise.

York Gleaner
May 30, 1883

Marysville Cotton Factory

Rapid progress is being made in the construction of the Marysville Cotton Factory. A large number of men are excavating and preparing the for the foundation of the buildings. The different materials and machinery necessary for the work are expected to arrive soon. The engines for brick making will be here probably b y next week; the cement will be to hand some time this week, and in a short time the stone cutters and masons will make things lively round Marysville.

York Gleaner
June 6, 1883

Marysville Cotton Mill

The contractors for building the foundation of the Cotton Mill has arrived, and are already at work. Capt. Kelsey is superintending the work. 1,500 barrels of cement and 200 barrels of lime arrived last week. Five machines for making he brick for the mill have also arrived, and three of them have already been placed in position on the hill near the site of the mill.

York Gleaner
June 20, 1883

New cottage at Marysville

Mr. Moses White has in course of erection for his brother, Mr. Elias White, at Marysville, a fine one and half story wooden cottage. It is situated on the south-east side of the site of the cotton factory, and when finished will be neat, comfortable, and commodious. The main building is 24 x 30 feet; the L 15 x 34. They contain 11 rooms, 2 pantries, etc. The cottage formerly owned by Mr. E. ?white was situated on the site of the cotton factory, but is with ten acres of land, were purchased by Mr. Gibson lately and the cottage was moved a few hundred feet to the rear of its former site.

Reporter

June 23, 1883

Several hundred hogsheads of molasses were landed on Gibson wharf this week for Mr. Gibson's establishment at Marysville. A large quantity of machinery to be used in connection with the construction of the mammoth cotton mill, is expected today.

Reporter

July 4, 1883

Encouraging

It would seem as though certain persons are ready to decry every project for increasing the manufacturing interests of the country. They have been busy lately endeavoring to impress upon our capitalists that there are too many cotton factories in this country. Such bosh does not take with intelligent persons. An exchange says that the Canadian farmer can now buy Canadian made cottons as cheap as the English made. Not only is the Canadian cotton as cheap as the English is in England, but it is better quality by long odds. It will wear four times as long. The common cottons of Manchester are filled with lime and chalk, and turn grey when washed, while the gray cottons of the Canadian mills turn white. Even the Chinese are kicking against the system of cotton adulteration, which has been practiced both in England and the States, and are now largely manufacturing on their own accounts.

Reporter

July 11, 1883

The Central Railway

The Central Railway is to be built. At the meeting of the Local Government, held in this city a week ago, arrangements are understood to have been made for providing the bonus of \$3,000 a mile to the Company, and the names of the leading men connected with the enterprise give the assurance that the road will, before long, be an accomplished fact. **It will run from Gibson to the head of Grand Lake direct, making we presume, a slight diversion towards Marysville, to accommodate the new Cotton Mill being erected there.** It remains yet to be settled whether the road will, from this point, continue direct to Salisbury, or make a divergence to some point nearer St. John, to accommodate the people of that city. But however that question may be decided, certain it is, that the Central Road will be pushed without delay. We must be excused for feeling greatly gratified over this. One of the first questions we advocated when assuming control of the Reporter was the building of this road, which, we felt, would supply a link greatly needed in our railway system, would open up a section of country which had been greatly neglected, a section too of undoubted mineral deposits which merely require development to make them a source of revenue to the country, and which would, as well, render Fredericton's position a more important and central one. **While the road will contribute to the development of the mining interests of this section of country, it will pass through the thriving village of Marysville, whose immense cotton mill, will, ere long, be the wonder of the continent, and will produce a traffic of itself to keep the road pretty well occupied.** It will make this city more central also, because to connect with a road at Fredericton leading to the United States, a bridge must be built, which will provide the accommodation now so much clamored for. The Miramichi road is now partly provided for, and will doubtless be pushed to completion also. Whether it comes direct to this city or strikes the Central at some intermediate point, Fredericton will be brought much closer than at present to our northern neighbors, and we will become the most central place, and occupy one of the most advantageous positions as a commercial and manufacturing centre, in the Maritime provinces. Everything points to this, and we think we can safely say Fredericton has seen its worst days.

Reporter

July 18, 1883

There are twelve hundred windows in Gibson's new cotton mill, St. John—Pictou News.

This not strictly true. Mr. Gibson has no cotton mill in St. John, or any other town so far as we know, and of course the 1200 windows do not exist. But Mr. Gibson

town so far as we know, and of course the 1200 windows do not exist. But Mr. Gibson has several hundred men employed upon the foundation for a cotton mill to be erected in Marysville, York County, where he resides, and when the mammoth structure is erected it will be lighted by at least 1200 windows.

Reporter

July 28, 1883

The Cotton Factory

A representative of the Reporter indulged in a drive to the beautiful villa of Marysville, the seat of the Nashwaak lumber king, on Wednesday, and in common with the hundreds of visitors who preceded him, was amazed at the magnitude of the work in progress there for the Gibson million dollar factory. The natural beauty of the locality prompted a visit from the stray tourist a quarter of a century ago, but the attractions of today are multiplied an hundred fold and the stranger can gratify his curiosity of looking upon the prettiest church in the Lower Provinces, in the Dominion perhaps, if we except Montreal. A neat and unobtrusive looking parsonage, at present occupied by Rev. E. Evans, ex-President of the Methodist Conference, is located on one side of the church, and the village school house, a commodious building with tower and bell, on the other. Mr. Gibson's palatial residence is in the centre of the village, while at respectful distances on either side are the beautiful residences of the married members of his family.

The pretty residences of Marysville have been frequently referred to, but the object of our representative's present visit was to view the progress of the latest enterprise, the construction of the mammoth cotton factory so much talked about. The hum visible on the eastern side of the Nashwaak, directly in front of Mr. Gibson's residence, exceeds that to be seen in any other locality in the Province. Several hundred men are kept as busy as bees at the different branches of the work, and to the casual observer all appear to be anxious to do "their level best," while the hours of the day last. The location is delightful and the existence of all necessary material within a few yards of the place would lead one to believe that the rearing of a huge factory there was foreordained. The entire work appears to be under the superintendence of Mr. D. Maxwell, an engineer of extended experience as manifest by the calmness with which he views the progress of the work. Messrs. B. Mooney and Sons, of St. John, who are accustomed to big jobs, have the contract for all the excavating and stone work, and probably have upwards of two hundred men employed on this part of the work. In a short time they will be ready to give place to the brick layers. The huge blocks of granite being pressed into shape, as well as all the stone used for the foundation are procured near at hand. Perhaps visitors are more struck with the facilities for brick making on the ground than any other part of the work. This branch is under the supervision of Mr. John Parkes, of Ontario, whose experience on both sides of the Atlantic makes him feel quite at home in this, the largest job he ever undertook. Within a few yards of the site of the factory is an inexhaustible bed of clay of the finest quality for bricks to be found anywhere, and without the least preparation is ready for moulding. Five patent machines are in operation, each of which is capable of producing fifty thousand bricks per day, and this part of the work gives employment to nearly one hundred men. These machines are worked by steam and all that is required is to throw in the clay which comes out nicely formed bricks. Already between three and four hundred thousand have been manufactured and on Thursday the first kiln of 30,000 was burning. It naturally astounds the visitor to be told, that millions of bricks will be used in the construction of this immense building, but such is the fact.

This gigantic undertaking must prove of incalculable to this portion of the Province and will probably be the means of turning Marysville, from a village to a city in a few years. With a bridge over the St. John we would like to annex the beautiful city to the celestial city.

York Gleaner

Aug 8, 1883

The hum at Marysville Cotton Factory still continues. The immense foundation is about completed and the gray granite basing is being laid. From the large extent of ground which the foundation covers, and the hum around it, one would suppose that it

ground which the foundation covers, and the ruin around it, one would suppose that it was the nucleus for a city.

Reporter

Aug 18, 1883

Cotton Mills

From the *Courier* we learn that at the annual meeting of stockholders of the St. Croix Cotton Mills the report of the treasurer was read, showing that 30,000 spindle were now in running order. The mill has manufactured during the year ending June 30, 1883, about four and a quarter million yards of cloth. The present capacity of the mill is 225,000 yards per week. During the last week of the fiscal year, 183,182 yards of cloth, comprising grey and colored goods, were manufactured. The number of operatives now employed is about 600. It was resolved to increase the capital stock by \$500,000, making the whole stock \$1,000,000.

York Gleaner

Sept 5, 1883

Mr. Gibson's Cotton Factory

This factory is now beginning to loom up in great proportions. The solid stone basement of the main building which is 418 feet long by 100 feet wide, and of the "picker" building to the north end of the main building, 284 x 98 feet, and which is situated L wise, and connected with the main building by a broad passage way, have already been completed, a layer of grey granite laid, and now the brick layers are running up the walls at a lively rate, the carpenters setting the hard pine columns, upon them their stringers and laying the flooring, while immediately to the north are the stone cutters preparing their work; further on again are the brick makers driving away, and to the south is the machine shop with its full complement of help planing and turning the wood for various services in the Factory, and from early morn till night numberless teams with heavy lumber fairly dot the road from the ferry-boat to the mill. Altogether the scene is a lively and a interesting one.

In the brick yard bricks are being manufactured at the rate of 50,000 per day. When we visited the yard there were four kilns burning, each kiln containing 250,000 brocks which h are pronounced to be of the best quality. We notice one new feature—that is the bricks to be used around the windows are rounded at one end, and this will have a very fine effect when set.

In labor Mr. Gibson finds no trouble to procure required. It has been this way with him from the start. At present about 400 men are employed, and the probability is that this number will son be increased.

The building will, without any difficulty, be roofed in this fall. The inside work will be prosecuted with the same vigor and energy that have characterized operations from the start.

No description of this building can give our readers an idea of its magnitude. It is an enterprise of a gigantic character; it is the largest cotton mill in course of construction in America, and all undertaken by one man. Not only is it so, but it will be the most complete in America. All Mr. Gibson's works and acts are of a character large in their conception and complete in their execution.

Reporter

Sept 5, 1883

A large number of men from the Marysville cotton mill visited the city on Saturday evening. On the way down they were coated with dust, and they reported the condition of our streets little better than on the road leading to Marysville.

Reporter

Sept 10, 1883

Cotton Manufacturers

Touching this branch of industry he gives the gratifying intelligence that the following additional lines of production are being entered into during 1883: Brown sheetings, and shirtings, bleached and fancy shirtings, apron checks, nun's stripes, denims, ticks, ducks, cottonades, crotchet and knitting cottons, beam warps for woolen mills, drills, bags, wadding and batting, cheviots, Canton, flannels, shoe ducks, picketings, wigans.

The list of new lines it will be seen is quite formidable. In 1889 [sic] there were seven cotton mills. There are now (1883) twenty, which can produce \$10,400,000 worth of goods per annum.

York Gleaner

Oct 10, 1883

The Cotton Factory

Work on the Gibson cotton factory is progressing rapidly. Portions of the walls on the main building have been run up a storey, and on the "picker" building the walls all round have been run up two stories including the basement.

York Gleaner

Oct 24, 1883

The Cotton Trade and the N. P.

(a Liberal take on the matter)

The failure of David Morrice, cotton and woollen dealer of Montreal, to meet his paper[?] the reported embarrassed circumstances of one of the largest dry goods establishments of the same place the acknowledgement of the sugar refiners of over-production and their demand on the government for bounties; and the reported protest of the St. Croix Cotton Co.'s paper, have caused a flurry in commercial circles, and produced a decline in the price of bank stock in the upper provinces to no inconsiderable extent. The Morrice failure will prove a commercial calamity; the sugar refiners' demands are but a sure precursor of severe depression, and the reported circumstances of the Montreal dry goods house referred to, and of the St. Croix Cotton Co. will add its quota to stifle trade and hasten depression. The circumstances as reported may not be wholly true, but few will question that there is some foundation for the report.

Of the effect of the Morrice failure on business, few in these lower Provinces have the slightest idea. He controlled the entire cotton trade of Canada; has stock in all of the mills of any note now in operation, and is therefore mixed up to no inconsiderable extent in our own Province trade as well as in the Upper Provinces. He did an enormous business in woolens likewise, and controlled to a certain extent this department of dry goods. In working himself therefore out of his present position he will be watched with more than ordinary interest even in these lower Provinces.

We earnestly wish for the benefit of all concerned that he may be successful, but the circumstances are such that we fear collapse is inevitable. His liabilities are \$1,500,000, and his assets at present markets are \$1,800,000; his notes payable in three, six none and twelve months. With an increase in the price of cotton that had the slightest semblance of permanency, and with an increased demand for that article, we believe there is hope. The indications, however, are that the downfall in cotton will continue for some time, yet; the demand, for some time to come is already supplied. It is thought of course that he system of four days per week operation of the factories will cause a rapid reduction of the supply on hand, but when it is remembered that the over-production has been extraordinarily enormous, and that since the bank ordered Dundas to slaughter their cottons to meet the \$900,000 due it, the dealer and the people are supplied to no end, the difficulty can be readily seen. Provided a demand for cotton should spring up, then another difficulty presents itself to Mr. Morrice. The people have not at present the means to buy. Mr. Morrice's position therefore is a critical one, and his downfall means the downfall of the cotton trade in Canada. When cotton, manufactured in the Dominion, sold at 6 ¼, 7, 8 and 9 cents per yard, the manufacturers had their profits and could employ the most expensive labor, but now that it has come down to 4 ¼, 5 ½, 6 and 7, with a prospect of even a still greater reduction the trade become prostrate, and the thousands of workmen become idle. A fair idea of the state of the trade may be gathered from the operations of one mill, that of the Nova Scotia Cotton Mill. It has sunk \$45,000 during the short time of its existence.

Now, aside from the commercial significance, this state of the cotton trade has its political significance. In '78 and '79 Sir Leonard Tilley predicted that his policy would bring us a return of prosperity, and that in a most permanent form; to the manufacturers he promised the highest protection—a protection to secure them

against outside intrusion, and that would compel the people to buy of them. To the people he gave out that as our factories became developed the cheaper could we purchase, and so on. This was the object of his policy; this is what was in store for the good people of Canada. His promise to the manufacturers, together with the bright outlook in Britain and the United States, led to **a reckless investment of capital in manufacturing enterprise**. Some factories were run up, others enlarged, and large quantities of work were turned out. This, with easy foreign markets, built up the brightest hopes; labor was in demand for a time, money was easy; people became extravagant. But the tide has turned. The factories have put upon the market more than the people can purchase, and they are unable to find a foreign market. Labor is discharged, or partially so, and the natural results follow. These results are the predictions of Blake, Mackenzie and Cartwright. The N. P. has been fraught with disaster and ruin, and before the coming period of depression can be entirely averted, many changes in the present policy must be made, and these changes must look towards the Liberal policy of Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie. How infinitely better would it have been had Canada chosen to continue the Cartwright policy.

Reporter

Oct 24, 1883

St. John Cotton Mill

While cotton mills throughout the country are being put on short time because of over production of grey cotton, it is gratifying to know that the St. John Cotton Company's mill will be kept running on full time. The company have now 180 looms in operation, and as soon as some few parts arrive from England, the entire number of looms in the building will be in use. The product of the mill has met with great favor while in the market, and the company have now three months order ahead.—Telegraph

Pilot

Oct 25, 1883

Alexander Gibson has shipped this year from Saint John 97,000,000 feet of deals in 115 vessels. Last year he shipped 110,000,000 in 136 vessels. Mr. Gibson's cash expenditure from January 1st to Oct. 1st is said to have amounted to \$1,500,000, this includes the expenditure on the Cotton Mill he is building at Nashwaak.

Reporter

Nov 10, 1883

More Water

Marysville will very soon be in possession of an excellent water supply through the enterprise of Alex. Gibson, whose primary object is to have a good supply upon the opening of the cotton mill, and as a protection against fire. It is brought in eight inch iron pipes from Mill Stream, about a mile distant. Several boilers have already been received for the factory, and a mammoth iron tank is being manufactured by Messrs. McLaughlan of St. John, for same premises. The immense building is steadily rising into space and will probably be ready for its roof before genuine winter weather sets in.

York Gleaner

April 16, 1884

The Marysville Bridge

The construction of a bridge across the Nashwaak, at Marysville, to give the persons to be employed at the cotton mill and those who have business there, as well as the general public, a means of crossing that river, may require to be defended, but we do not believe it does. If anybody else besides Mr. Gibson had built not the cotton mill, but any small factory there, not an objection would be raised to the bridge; but because it so happens that Mr. Gibson owns the land on both sides of the stream, and has large interests on both sides, the bridge, according to one of our city contemporaries, ought not to be built. Mr. Gibson probably has as much right to consideration as any other citizens, and he asks about as few favors as anyone. But putting him aside altogether. What about the thousand or twelve hundred people who

will live around the Cotton Mill—have they no rights? Really, the *Farmer* ought, notwithstanding its blind hatred of the Local Government, not to imagine that everybody else's vision is so obscure that they cannot see through its absurdities.

York Gleaner

May 28, 1884

Marysville

The floors in the cotton factory will be all laid this week.

Reporter

May 14, 1884

Accident at Marysville.

While at work on the cotton mill yesterday afternoon, Mr. John Dunbar fell off a staging, seriously cutting his face and head. He was picked up unconscious, and Dr. Barker was immediately summoned, who rendered the necessary assistance. He is now resting quite easily.

Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser

May 17, 1884

The Cotton Trade

The cotton stocks held by the retail trade of Canada are known to be comparatively short and it is thought that a greater demand on the mills, with, perhaps, slightly increased prices, will result. This is a desirable change, as many of the manufacturers have lately been selling at prices little above the cost of production. In the meantime it has been decided to still further the output of the mills. According to the Dominion Dry Goods Report the Halifax, St. John, Windsor, Moncton, St. Croix, Chambly, St. Anns, Lybster, Kingston, Merriton and Brantford are chiefly affected by this decision, and the number of spindle will be temporarily reduced from about 2850 to 1450. At the same time there is a reduction in the work of the looms engaged on bleached cottons. The Hudson mills now run only 200, the Valleyfield 100, and the Merchants 300, and will continue at this rate till October.—Courier

Reporter

July 19, 1884

Shut Down

Very general regret is felt over the announcement that the managers of the new Brunswick Cotton Mills, have felt it necessary to shut down this establishment for a time owing to temporary depression. It is claimed that the assets of the Company are largely in excess of its liabilities, and we hope soon to hear of business being resumed. A large number of operatives are out of employment in the meantime. The *Globe* says: "The suspension of Wm. Parks and Son, of the New Brunswick Cotton Mills, was a rather painful surprise to the public. Work in the mills was stopped yesterday, but it is expected will be resumed about next Monday week. In the meantime a meeting of the creditors will be held, and an extension, probably of two or three years, asked for. The liabilities are estimated at about \$225,000 including preferred creditors to the amount of about \$115,000. The assets are estimated to be over \$400,000.

Reporter

July 26, 1884

To Marysville

For some time past two stage lines have been on the road between Marysville and this city, and now a genuine Boston Omnibus sirs the dust on this already much traveled road. When the cotton mill is in operation, it is likely all the Indiantown army works will be transferred to this route. Before they come we hope they will be renovated and re-upholstered.

To Resume Work

The public will hail with satisfaction the announcement that arrangements have been made by the creditors of the New Brunswick cotton mills to resume operations. A

joint stock company will be at once formed under the management of Mr. Parks with a capital stock of \$200,000. It is expected the creditors will take stock to the amount of their respective claims.

Accident at Marysville

A serious and almost fatal accident occurred in the cotton mill at Marysville on Thursday morning. A load of bricks had been taken up to the fourth story all right and Mr. Mooney and a boy were coming down on the elevator and when within a few feet of the third story the rope broke and they were precipitated with great force to the ground. The rebound was frightful and it was feared both occupants were killed. Medical assistance was speedily procured, and although no bones were broken both men are seriously injured. The rope was new and was used for the first time, but it had been stored in a room where acids were kept and although not noticed must have come in contact with the acid.

Reporter

July 30, 1884

Two Days in Marysville

Some of its Attractions Noted – The homestead of the Lumber King. – The Church – The Cotton Mill – The Railroad – Beautiful Private Residences – New Buildings – The Bridge – A Busy City in Prospect

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After an early breakfast on Monday morning we were consigned to the care of Mr. C. H. Hatt, and after taking a seat behind his 2.20 trotter started for an inspection of the cotton mill. We were soon convinced that our guardian, who only recently returned from a study of the large mills in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York, was just such as newspaper men like to fall in with. While en route we learned the number of hands employed in many of the leading American factories, the profits of different cloths manufactured, the number of spindles in use, the horse power of the different engines and their makers, the number of threads to the inch of good and poor cotton, the weight per yard, the size of pieces and remnants, the automatic springs, hydraulic pressure and the thousand and one names of the intricate pieces of machinery used in the manufacture of cotton and prints,--but by this time the cotton mill was reached and with a much muddled brain we determined to defer a description of these important points until our own cotton mill was fully equipped and in motion. Upon reaching the mammoth structure capable of covering 100,000 people, we met Mr. Gibson who was discussing with Capt. Kelsey, the famous American civil Engineer in charge of the works, respecting the solidity and permanency of the granite engine bed almost ready to receive the motive power for the factory.

It is not our purpose to give a description of the Marysville cotton mill just now, as this was attempted last fall, but will reserve minute particulars until the machinery is introduced and the spindles are in motion sometime in October next. As we entered the road doorway on the south side of the building our friend, anxious for the comfort of the scribe, suggested a comfortable ride on the elevator to the roof. With hat raised and a thousand thank you's and conscientious scruple respecting the dividends of certain life insurance Companies and the feelings of a host of uncles aunts and cousins, we unswervingly declined, remembering that only a day or two before poor Mooney and the lad Starkie were unceremoniously hurled through the air at lightning speed by this same vehicle of destruction. However, there is no danger of a recurrence of similar accidents.

The spindles and other machinery for the building are daily expected, and upon its arrival the interior will present a busy aspect. Hundreds of men are still daily employed at the main tower facing the Nashwaak, at the flue tower in rear of the "picker," in fitting weights to the windows, painting white the interior walls of the entire structure, and a number of men from the Providence Stove and Gas Pipe Co. are engaged hanging water pipes fitted with automatic sprinklers. These sprinklers are placed ten feet apart in each flat of the building, and it is simply impossible for a fire to occur. The automatic sprinklers are so arranged that upon heat to the extent of 150

degrees reaching them at any time they at once reply with a spray of five-feet of water, which of course is continued wherever sufficient heat reaches them in any direction. This the most perfect system of fire protection invented, while at the same time all danger of damage from flooding a burning building is avoided. In addition to this modern method coils of hose are kept at each stairway and shipped by a pressure of water equal to that afforded in this city. Workmen are now constructing a mammoth iron tank in the main tower. Its dimension are 14 feet 8 inches by 19 feet 8 inches and 8 feet high. Any Marysville or Fredericton school boy who will furnish the capacity of this tank will have his name published in the Reporter.

The engine to be used in the mill, is already on the ground, and the bed for its reception will be completed in a few days. This a Harris-Corliss double engine manufactured at their works in Providence, R.I. It is upwards of 1,000 horse power and weights 100 tons. One of the shafts weights 20 tons. The fly wheel is the largest in the Dominion and has wider face than any ever before manufactured by the Harris-Corliss Co. It is 23 feet in diameter and its face is 10 feet wide. Belts will be carried from this wheel to each flat, but on the main floor no belting will be exposed as is the case in most factories. Altogether there will be about eight miles of belts, and some idea of the extent of the building may be had from the fact that the net work of gas and water pipes will measure about thirteen miles. The boiler room which adjoins the engine room contains ten mammoth boilers manufactured by Fleming and Sons, of St. John, the front of each bears the monogram "A. G." [Alexander Gibson] these are fitted with the Jarvis patent furnace for burning wet slabs or sawdust.

The architects, Lockwood and Greene, the General Superintendent Capt. Kelsey, the enterprising owner, and all concerned have a good prospect of witnessing the early completion of the Marysville cotton mill.

Work is still carried on extensively in the brick yard under the superintendence of Manager Perkiss. Although only one machine is in operation 12,000 bricks are made every day, but in six hours one day lately the men turned out 10,000 hand-some panel bricks. The engine used in the yard is in charge of Mr. William Atkinson, of St. Mary's.

Notes

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The Bridge at Marysville is in a forward state and in a few days foot passengers will be able to cross upon it.

A sash and door factory is in full blast near the cotton factory.

Reporter

Aug 16, 1884

The Miramichi Valley

Engine No. 8, of the New Brunswick line, was switched on this road on Tuesday evening last, and was run slowly up to Marysville. As the road has not been ballasted yet, the train which consisted of the engineer and three cars of machinery for the factory, was run very carefully. The cars were loaded with brick for the return trip. [the factory must be the cotton mill]

York Gleaner

Aug 20, 1884

Rails are now laid to the front of Mr. Gibson's store. It is expected that an accommodation train will soon be run to and from Gibson. A large force of men is at work along the line of the road for about 12 miles. Work upon the railway here from the Nashwaak will be soon begun.

York Gleaner

Aug 27, 1884

The Bridge

Across the Saint John River Opposite this City.

Particulars of its Structure. Its Strength Demonstrated by the Best Authorities.

Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser

Aug 27, 1884

The Cotton Factory

The Cotton Factory

In referring to the annual meeting of the St. Croix Cotton Mill Company held last week the Courier announces that during the year the production of the Mill has been much diversified and, where a year ago sixty per cent of the output was "brown" goods, today only a very small percentage of the looms are engaged in that branch; and there is manufactured about every variety of colored goods which human ingenuity can desire. The percentage of the cost of production is being gradually reduced and is now nearly as low as that of any American mill. Were the demand such as to justify the employment of the fullest capacity of the looms it would be as low. The failure of D. Morrice and Co. does not unfavorably effect the Mill, except so far as it depresses the general cotton interest of the Dominion that has already been largely discounted.

The sales during the past year have approached nearly half a million dollars and in some lines of goods it is found difficult to make the supply equal the demand. The products can be found in every dry goods store of the dominion and the reputation of St. Croix goods may be considered as well established.

Regularly and very satisfactorily the sales of the good are on the increase and, with the large and the generally improved condition of affairs which seems to be confidently anticipated, it is hoped and believed that the Company will soon feel the effect and energy from its season of financial distress.

From reliable information it appears the some of the cotton mills are doing well. The Montreal Cotton Company, notably is receiving three times as many orders at present as at the same period last year, while it has curtailed its production one half. An expert, who has more and longer experience than any other man in Canada in the business, stated recently that the trade would ere long come up to its former profitableness, and this seems to be the general idea held now on the subject.

Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser

Aug 30, 1884

Almost every day the present week Marysville has been crowded with visitors. The cotton mill is of course a great attraction, but there are many other points of interest in the village.

St. John Cotton Co.

The adjourned meeting of the stockholders was held yesterday afternoon, when the committee on ways and means submitted their report. They recommended that one or two courses be adopted either issue scrip for the amount required to carry on the business, which scrip should be a first charge on the assets of the company; or sell the whole of the property of the company and wind up its affairs. After discussion the directors were instructed to send out circulars to all the stockholders advising them of the present financial standing of the company and asking them to subscribe for the additional scrip required. The meeting adjourned until the 1st September.—Sun 28th.

Marysville Cotton Mills

B. Mooney and Sons finished their contract, which was for brickwork, yesterday. The carpenter work is about finished also.

York Gleaner

Sept 3, 1884

Marysville

At the Cotton Mill, a number of men are at work putting up the mules, and at other work in the building. Quite a force is engaged in grading the ground, which necessitates quite an extensive arch cutting in the rear of the mill. A most excellent brick sewer has been put in from the mill to the river. It is oval in shape and substantially constructed. A tap to prevent the wind from driving back the foul gases into the mill is now being built. Very handsome granite steps are being put at the mill doors, which will add greatly to the appearance of the structure. The great engine will soon be put in and everything got in readiness for a start some time this year. **In the excavations made both for the grading and for the water works large fossils were found** They were taken from the foundation known and the drift and unless their

found. They were taken from the foundation known and the drift, and unless their presence was due to local causes it would seem to be a refutation of Ignatius Donnelly's theory of Ragnarok a strong argument in support of which was that all the formation known as "drift" is non-fossiliferous. But what is the theory of Ragnarok, you may ask. Why it is that the clay, sand and gravel we see is part of the tail of a comet. But we won't discuss this now. The water works above spoken of re for eh supply of the town soon to grow up around the cotton mill and the hydrants are upon the ground. The water is taken from the Campbell Brook about a mile above the mill, where a substantial cedar dam has been built. An eight inch main conveys the water to the mill. The supply is very large and of excellent quality.

Reporter

Sept 17, 1884

Wm. Parks and Co. (Limited)

The New Brunswick Cotton Mill was not started yesterday, as was anticipated, as the alterations which have been made while it has been shut down are not yet completed. The mill used to be run by two small engines, but those have been taken out and a new large engine has been put in position. The new engine was built by Thomson and William's Manufacturing, Co., of Stratford, Ont., and is one of Brown's well known cut-off stationery engines. . . [description here]

St. John Visitors

The Fawn brought a large excursion party from St. John on Saturday night accompanied by the 62nd Fusiliers Band. The visitors jointed the worshippers in the different Churches on Sunday and spent Monday forenoon driving about the city, to Marysville,, Springhill and other points. On Monday Mr. Sheldon secured the services of Mr. Benj. Wheeler with a lively four-in hand attached to the tally-ho and followed by a number of carriages took the 62nd Band to Marysville. **After visiting the cotton mill** Mr. Alex. Gibson Jr. entertained the party at luncheon. Before leaving town the band gave a concert on Phoenix square. A large number of citizen assembled on the wharf in the afternoon to wish the visitors a safe journey home. Mr. Steward Hammond was all smiles as he surveyed his happy looking guests on deck.

Reporter

Oct 25, 1884

Vice-Regal Visit

. . .

Marysville

The party were driven to Marysville. They included His Excellency the Governor General, Lady Lansdowne and Lady Florence Anson, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Miss Wilmot, and Miss Drury, Lieut. Anson, A. D. C. and Col. Drury, A. D. C. Hon Messrs. Ritchie, Turner and Gillespie, Messrs. John A. Bowes and J. T. Sharkey of the Telegraph, J. W. McCready, of the Capital and others. The Attorney General and Chief Commissioner accompanied the party across the river, and took occasion to direct the attention of His Excellency to the Bridge. His Excellency, on reply, enquired if that was the bridge of which he had noticed so much correspondence in the papers.

At Marysville the party were cordially received by Alex. Gibson, Esq., who showed the party through the cotton mill. Both the Marquis and Marchioness expressed no little surprise at finding such a magnificent building in this part of the country.

Leaving the mill, the party re-crossed the river. . . .

Reporter

Jan 17, 1885

An Important Event

On Thursday last Alex. Gibson opened the steam valve connecting boiler and engine of the mammoth cotton mill at Marysville, and without the slightest jar the engine and machinery were for the first time in motion. This important act was witnessed by several of our citizens and by hundreds of residents of

Marysville and the Nashwaak, whose cheers resounded with increasing force throughout the building. The owner was as unconcerned over the operation as he would be in giving a donation towards the erection of a church. Mr. George Nowlan, son of the janitor of the City Hall, is to occupy the responsible position of engineer of the factory. Manager Prest, whose experience in cotton mills gives weight to his opinion, is thoroughly satisfied with everything in connection with the Marysville mill, and is prepared to begin the manufacture of cotton as soon as the market is ready to receive it. This factory is now provided with 12,000 spindle, 272 looms, and 132 cards, all of which will probably be in motion about the first of March.

Reporter

Jan 21, 1885

A Boom in Cotton

It is encouraging to find that the Telegraph is warranted in reporting that all the machinery in the New Brunswick Cotton Mills, St. John, is now in motion, not a machine of any kind being idle; also that so far all the goods made have been readily disposed of.

Miramichi Advance

Jan 22, 1885

Mister Gibson's Cotton Mill

On Wednesday morning of last week, Mister Gibson, in person, turned the steam on the great Corliss engine of his cotton factory, at Marysville, in the presence of about three hundred people of his own village, and several ladies and gentlemen from Fredericton. At once the monster wheel began its revolutions without the least creak or jar, and as it moved a cheer went up from all present, the ladies, by waving their handkerchiefs, vying with the men in showing their pleasure. There are ten furnaces with boilers eighteen feet long and six feet in diameter, but only two were required for the experimental starts. The engine is double and of fourteen hundred horse power. The fly-wheel is seventy-five feet in circumference and nine feet face. At ordinary work it will revolve sixty times per minute velocity. Mr. Prest, the manager, says he could wish for no better machinery or workmanship and that every part fitted on putting up as if made on the spot. No better power could be imagined. The belts will be adjusted without delay, and before long all will be in working order. There are now place ready for work 12,000 spindles, 272 looms, and 132 cards. Early in March the factory will be stocked and fairly ready for work.

Reporter

March 4, 1885

Marysville

The machinery in the Marysville cotton mill is now in working order and in a short time the mammoth factory will be in full blast. Mr. Gibson left for Memphis, Tenn., on Monday morning for the purpose of purchasing the raw material.

Reporter

March 21, 1885

Manufacturing Interests of York County

. . . Not so far from the city's limits, however, there are several industrial institutions of which any city or any country might justly feel proud. Specifically noticeable in this connection are the cotton mill and lumber works of Alex. Gibson at Marysville, and the hames factory of W. McFarlane, at St. Mary's. The cotton mill has not yet been put in operation, but it may be as well to state that in its construction during the past year and a half, and its equipment this fall, steady employment has been given to large body of people. The tabular statements, bearing upon the industries of Marysville, especially will prove an interesting study.

The following table contains a statement of the total number of hands employed in certain industries of York County in 1884, together with the total average weekly wages paid:

Place	Employed in 1884	Weekly Wages
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Fredericton	503	3712
Marysville	1642	12871
St. Mary's	9	81
Gibson	18	113
Nashwaaksis	9	55
Douglas	5	30
Benton	10	66
Canterbury	80	600

The following table contains a statement of the several industries in the County of York together with the number of persons relatively employed therein, and the total weekly wages:

Marysville		
Cotton Mill		
Carpenters	30	288
Painters	8	72
Bricklayers	12	216
Machinists	24	288
Plumbers	4	55
Laborers	18	126
Brick makers	20	180
Sawmill men St. Mary's	1426	11646
Confectioners	3	14
Harness Makers Gibson	6	63
Furniture and Leather Manufactured	8	38
Saw Millmen Nashwaaksis	10	
Carriage Manufactured	6	36
Tanners Douglas	3	19
Grist and carding Millmen Benton		5
Tanners Canterbury		10
Mechanical operatives in York Co.	345	2367

The Millmen of Fredericton are in the van, both in force and cash. In 1878 the mills have employment to 172 hands, whose weekly wages amounted to 1164; and in 1884 to 153 hands, the weekly wages being 1137. The number of hands and the weekly pay roll would be greater in the latter year but for the stoppage of R. A. and J. Stewart's mill, owing to the low price ruling for deals. The foundry and machine industries had, in the six years from 1878 to 1884, made marked advances in force, in wages and in machinery, the weekly wages having increased from 323 in 1878, to 554 in 1884, and the force from 46 in 1878 to 66 in 1884. Other industries have made progress, but none of them so rapidly as the foundry and machine works of McFarlane, Thompson and Anderson.

The districts in York county outside of Fredericton help the record wonderfully. Marysville leads off in men and wages in both periods, the total weekly pay, even without the cotton mill running, being 13,802 in 1884, and the working force correspondingly large. The Advance on 1878 us quite marked in certain lines.

IN Motion

The mammoth engine in Mr. Gibson's cotton mill at Marysville was in motion this weekend and worked to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. The various spindles and machinery throughout the building are in excellent trim and the manufacture of cotton will be undertaken as soon as the raw material arrives.

Reporter

April 18, 1885

Marysville

Before the snow again flies this pretty village will be transformed, into a town sufficiently large to support a Mayor and Board of Aldermen. A large quantity of new cotton is daily expected from the South, and immediately upon its arrival the cotton

mill will be set in motion, affording steady employment for hundred of operatives. Mr. Gibson has contracted with Mooney and Sons, of St. John, for the erection of a number of brick dwelling houses on the factory side of the Nashwaak, and this mammoth job, it is stated, will be commenced in a few days. In addition to “the Store” already there a large dry goods establishment will be opened shortly.

Reporter

May 27, 1885

The Marysville cotton factory was not open to visitors on Monday afternoon much to the regret of many who went up from the city to go through it, and inspect the machinery.

Reporter

June 6, 1885

Takes the Cake

The manufacture of cotton in Mr. Gibson’s mammoth mill at Marysville is now an established fact and Manager Prest is receiving congratulations upon his success in the undertaking. Local cotton dealers pronounce the first pieces made much superior to anything they have handled here. A sample piece in the store of George Hatt and Sons on Thursday was closely and proudly inspected by Frederictonians.

Reporter

June 20, 1885

Closed Doors

Competition is sharp between the drivers of the different lines of coaches running to Marysville, and some persons who went up to see the cotton mill on Saturday could not obtain tickets of admission because they travelled by the wrong conveyance.

Reporter

June 27, 1885

King Cotton

The product of the Marysville Cotton Mill has been placed upon the market with greater success than was anticipated, and the texture and quality of the goods are said to be far ahead of anything in the trade. Mr. Fred. S. Williams, for many years connected with the wholesale business of Daniel and Boyd, St. John, is the Canadian representative of the already famous Marysville Cotton Mill.. it was expected that at least 272 looms would be working today, and in order to keep abreast of the expected demand additional looms will be set in motion and a larger area of the mill will afford work for an increased number of operatives immediately. Our merchants are already being benefited by the evening visits of the operatives and employees.

Reporter

Oct 3, 1885

Gibson Cotton

ON Wednesday last the Marysville cotton mill shipped by the “David Weston” for the upper provinces 126,500 yards of grey cotton, in addition to several other large shipments lately. New machinery is being added, and very soon a cotton flannel machine, imported from Germany, will be placed in the mill. The managers expects very soon to have 375 looms in running order and the output of the mill can be increased steadily in keeping with the demand. The interruption caused by the shortening days will soon be overcome as Mister Gibson intends to introduce the electric light into the mammoth factory.

Reporter

Dec 23, 1885

A Big Dinner

[gigantic cotton mill celebratory banquet]

For many years past the children residing in Marysville have been the recipients of a Christmas Box from Alexander Gibson Esq. and hundreds of fat turkeys have been

distributed by this gentleman in the neighborhood every year. **Every man, woman and child in the growing village will be entertained at dinner in the cotton mill on Christmas day, and this will doubtless be the most extensive banquet ever spread in New Brunswick.** It will require about one hundred waiters to serve at the tables and all will be clad with white cap and apron. Mr. George W. Foster, proprietor of the village hotel, has undertaken the preparatory work and he will be assisted by some well known caterers in this city. The occasion will be enlivened by the presence of a brass band. No wonder the lumber king is respected by his army of employees.

Reporter

Dec 26, 1885

the Marysville Banquet

Over a thousand Entertained by Alexander Gibson Esq. in the Cotton Mill

The dinner given to the residents of the Marysville and other invited guests by Mister Gibson on Christmas day was probably the most extensive affair ever undertaken by any individual in the Dominion. For years it has been Mister Gibson's custom to entertain his employees at this joyous season but the event of yesterday far exceeds anything before attempted and its magnitude is a fitting sequel to the liberality so characteristic of him all through life. His guests on this occasion began to arrive at 5 o'clock and for an hour men, women and children entered the mill in a steady stream, and among the mass of people were many from this city. At the entrance, to the banquet room, Mister Gibson received his hosts of guests with a smile and shake of hand making all feel welcome. They were then taken charge of by the Rev. John Reed, Mister Gibson Jr., Mr. C. H. Hatt, Mr. F. S. Williams, Mr. Butler, Mr. Rolley [Rowley?] Mr. Murray and others, and were seated at the tables.

A continuous row of thirty tables was stretched along the upper side of the building, and each table seated thirty four persons. Mr. Gibson's daughter and other Marysville young ladies and two young ladies from Fredericton presided over the tables and were exceedingly jealous for the welfare of those under their immediate care. The tables were a sight to behold and were groaning under the weight of the tempting viands arranged with taste and judgment. As one turkey had been provided for every four persons it is no wonder the representative of the Reporter expressed the belief that enough provisions were left to give a sumptuous repast to all Fredericton. IN addition to turkey and ham every table was abundantly supplied with hot mashed potatoes and turnips and other vegetables and fixings, and for dessert the appetites of all were appeased with hot plum pudding, rich pastry, oranges, apples, grapes, tea and coffee.

At sharp six o'clock all rose to their feet, while grace was sung through the instruments of the Fredericton Brass band. Not

Not the slightest jar or confusion occurred, owing to Mister Gibson's perfect arrangements. All the waiters and the Band took dinner at five o'clock so they were naturally in no hurry to clear the tables. Much credit is also due to Mr. G. W. Foster, whose arrangement could not be excelled by any caterer in the province. The Band played a fine programme at intervals during the evening and contributed much to the pleasure of all, and some happy speeches were made.

The mammoth dining hall was brilliantly illuminated by the electric light and by the judicious display of flags. The scene was enchanting and is calculated to linger long in the minds of all present.

Gleaner

Aug 2, 1887

Marysville Cotton Mill

A large amount of new machinery has been added to the Marysville cotton mills during the past two or three weeks and more has just arrived. Two large cotton mules, of 800 spindles each, have been received from England for the mills. Of the 200 looms that have been ordered, 75 only have reached here as yet. The remaining 125 looms are expected shortly. Upwards of two thousand dollars were paid in duty for the cotton mill machinery yesterday.

Marysville Hotel

A large new brick boarding hotel, three or four stories high, and capable of accommodating one hundred boarders, is to be immediately erected at Marysville, on the opposite side of the street from the cotton mill and for the accommodation of the cotton mill operatives. This hotel is much needed as both public and private houses at Marysville are at present over-crowded. The number of operatives are now, too, constantly on the increase.

Gleaner

Aug 20, 1887

Editorial lambastes Sir John's policy toward New Brunswick.

. . . Sir John in one of his speeches in this city said that Fredericton was likely to become quite a railway and business centre. We all feel that may be the case. Her position, together with the advantages of the new bridge, are likely to make of her what Sir John predicts. It is clear that Sir John's opinion of us is that we are not able to make the most of our advantages.

Sir John in his speech at Saint John virtually credited the National Policy with Mr. Gibson's success. Those who heard the premier must have smiled at the statement. Everyone who knows Mr. Gibson knows that it is his indomitable energy and extraordinary ability which has made him what he is, and that he would today be standing on as firm a ground, if the National Policy had never been born. Put Alexander Gibson on a barren rock and in twenty years he would be Alexander Gibson again.

Gleaner

Oct 15, 1887

The Spinners at Work

The number of hands employed in the cotton mill is increasing. The number now reaches 350, and will be over 500 before many weeks, as a large number of additional looms and other machinery which arrived this year are now nearly in running order. In addition to the 600 horsepower engine that moves the machinery now in operations, a second engine of equal power will be set in motion when the new machinery is ready for operations.

Marysville Notes

The cotton mill was closed down on Thursday for the want of raw cotton. A carload, however, was landed at Marysville by special on Thursday night, and the mill began operations yesterday.

Sandy Robinson, who ran the cotton special train on Thursday night, tells of an encounter with a bear on the road between Blackville and Doaktown. As soon as he saw the bear on the track, a short distance ahead, he threw open the throttle valve at full, and sent the engine along at dashing speed, but the bear jumped the track just in time to save its hide. A few feet from the track the bruin turned about composedly and watched the snorting engine and train pass by.

The new three story brick hotel opposite the cotton mill is completed and will soon be occupied. The hotel will be kept by Mr. Thomas Morrison, who has been in Mr. Gibson's employ for some time. The hotel has 27 sleeping apartments. It is finely fitted up and the boarding accommodation afforded the cotton operative here will be all that can be desired. This addition to the lodging accommodations of Marysville is greatly needed at present.

Close beside the new hotel two story brick double tenement houses are being erected which are nearly completed. There is now twenty-four brick dwelling houses on the eastern side of the river, besides the hotel, the factory, dye-house, and the storehouses of brick.

Gleaner

Nov 15, 1887

The Marysville Cotton Mill has been shut down since Friday owing to the non-arrival of the raw material, which is daily expected.

Gleaner

Nov 10, 1887

NOV 19, 1887

The New Hotel at Marysville

The fine large brick building on the right of the Marysville Cotton factory is a new hotel for the accommodation of the female operatives of the factory. It is in charge of Mr. Thomas Morrison, who has already shown his adaptability for the work. The hotel will accommodate about fifty boarders with the greatest comfort and Mr. Morrison has the full compliment.

Gleaner

Nov 24, 1887

The Marysville cotton mill is still shut down for want of new cotton. There are ten shipments on the road, all of which are overdue. They are expected daily.

Gleaner

Dec 3, 1887

Marysville Industries

The shingle mill will be ready for operation early next week and the sawing of shingles will be continued throughout the winter. A large quantity of shingle stuff is on hand ready to begin operations. The cotton mill has now a big supply of raw cotton on hand and the mill is running in full blast. Mr. Gibson imported \$3,195 worth of mill machinery during November as against \$18,994 last year. The machinery for the cotton mill has now mostly all arrived.

Gleaner

Dec 24, 1887

Mr. Woodman has resigned his position as manager of the Marysville Cotton Mill to take a position as manager of a shoe factory in Massachusetts. Mr. Googan will succeed Mr. Woodman as manager of the factory.

Gleaner

April 7, 1888

Building at Marysville

It is probable that building operations at Marysville will be carried on extensively this summer. An additional number of dwelling houses will be required for the accommodation of the factory employees, and it is expected that they will be erected during the summer. Mr. P. Mooney, contractor from Saint John, has been looking the town over for the past few days.

Gleaner

April 26, 1888

The Cotton Trade

Mr. Gibson's Refusal to Rob the Consumers

(Toronto Globe)

There is great excitement in the cotton trade. It turns out that the recent meeting of the manufacturers' combine was a very squally one. **Owing to the refusal of Mr.**

Gibson, of New Brunswick, to assist in robbing the consumer, the other two New Brunswick cotton mills say it is impossible for them to maintain rates, as they cannot find any wholesalers fools enough to pay them ten cents for what can be got from Mr. Gibson for 8 ½. The shipments to China are generally regarded in the wholesale trade as a mere piece of bluster on the part of the manufacturers. There is no trade that requires closer knowledge than the Chinese. It is to be doubted if Canadian cottons will meet with any sale, even at slaughter rates, and against inferior goods. In any event the wholesalers regard the shipment to China as a public confession by the manufacturers that the market here is overstocked and that rates had to come down. The manufacturers themselves have now made the same discovery. Within the last few days shirtings, cottonades, and all colored cottons have been reduced from 36 to 33 cents, and there are indications of a further fall. The wholesalers are incensed against the manufacturers because the latter put off their goods at the higher rate, and now refuse to make any rebate

Gleaner

May 5, 1888

Commission at Marysville

What Mr. Gibson and his Help Told the Labor Commission

The Cotton Combination—a Savings Bank, Post Office

And Customs Officer Wanted at Marysville—Help all Contented

The labor commission proceeded in Marysville yesterday afternoon, where they were kept pretty busy all the afternoon and evening taking evidence concerning the thriving industries of that place. They were met by Mr. Gibson, who showed them through the large cotton mill, and gave them every information about his industries before their sittings began. The commissioners, one and all speak very highly of their reception at Marysville.

Mr. Gibson in giving evidence, said that he manufactured about 33 million of lumber in deals, boards, and scantling, about 16,000,000 lathes, 14,000,000 shingles. Last year he gave employment to about 700 men in the woods getting out logs. Their wages run from \$16 to \$22 a month. He employed about 200 men streamdriving, and they would earn from \$1 to \$3 a day. In the shingle mill the men got from \$1 to \$2.50 a day, and there were about 60 of them employed at this work. In the saw mills there were all told about 75 hands receiving from \$1.25 to \$2.50 a day. In the brickyard there were at present 20 men employed. They were just commencing here. The men that were employed in the winter getting out logs, usually found employment in the dull season streamdriving, working in and about the saw mill, and some of them on the railway, while others went to work on their farms. The saw mill runs about seven months out of the year.

The cotton mill was in operation the whole year round, excepting a day or two now and again. Both the saw mill and cotton mill were run on the ten-hour system. The hands are paid once a month. Some of them are paid in cash, and some take goods out of the store, but they were not compelled by any manner or means to take their pay in this way. He had been in business for 45 years [since 1843 then] and in all that time he never hired a man with any other understanding than on the cash basis. He thought the goods were sold at his store as cheap as they could be got elsewhere, or else his hands would not buy there. The store was run solely for the convenience of the operatives, and not for any monetary speculation. The men that were working in the woods could not get along very well without getting their supplies in that way. He thought there were about 425 hands on the pay roll of the cotton factory. The greater proportion of his hands lived in his tenement houses. He rented the brick double tenements for \$80, each part having six or seven rooms. He could have more tenants if he had more houses. He never heard any of them grumble about the condition of the houses. They had a system of fines in the cotton mill for bad weaving, but it had become about obsolete. One month these fines amounted to \$126. He thought he could stand that loss and so told the manager that he better abandon the system. He never had any trouble from the start in selling his cotton. He was now selling it all over Canada. He mentioned particularly Galt and Toronto. He was aware there was a cotton combination, and at their last meeting, he understood, that they decided to boycott him. One result of this was that he had made up his mind to place in 100 more looms in his factory. He had never had a letter from a combination stating that they were going to boycott him, but he understood so. He had never heard any grumbling from the hands about being paid once a month. If any of them wished money between pay days, they were never refused it. There had never been any liquor sold in Marysville, and there never would be as long as he had the swing. What little liquor was brought in the place was brought by the men over from Fredericton. The hands as a rule that he had were very intelligent, and in most every flat of the factory among the female operatives there could be found a number that would make good clerks. In speaking of the public buildings in the place, he said they stood in need of a savings bank, a post office and a customs officer. So far as he was concerned he was perfectly willing to put up a building for that purpose. He had spoken indirectly to the government about the matter, but nothing had been done as yet. There were only three ports in the province that exceeded Marysville in import and exports. Last year the exports of Marvsville amounted to \$761,000. the imports. free and dutiable. \$418,000.

He thought the business would increase 25 percent each year.

C. S. Goghan, superintendent of the cotton mill, next gave testimony. There were 425 hands employed in the cotton mill, about 155 of them being men, the remainder boys and women. A good weaver sometimes earns as high as \$9 a week; the wages of expert weavers averaging \$1.25 a day. Employ very few boys, the youngest being 12 to 14 years old. At the start these boys get from 40 to 65 cents a day. There had been a system of fines in the mill, but there were none now, and never would be as long as he was manager of the mill. The system, to his mind, was a foolish and unrighteous one. The habits of the hands in the mill were the best of any mill he had ever been in. The wages would compare favorably with any mill he had seen in the United States. He thought considering the advantages they possessed, they could live cheaper in Marysville than most places. They had three means of egress from the factory in case of fire. The conveniences for men and women were entirely separate. He thought the rents for houses in Marysville were very cheap compared with those of other places. These houses were about the same in dimensions as in other cotton mill towns. While in the United States 25 cents were paid for beef steak, it could be got there for about half that amount. The overseer of each department hired the hands. He didn't think when he hired the hands that they inquired whether they could read or write—especially the small ones. He had never heard of any serious accident in the mill. In case of a serious accident in the mill he thought the mill would pay the physician. In several places where he had worked in the United States especially in Georgia and South Carolina, they worked 66 hours a week, while here they work only 60 hours a week, and their rate of wages compare favorably with those of Georgia and Carolina. He had noticed while there that very few of the hands made full time. It was the exception rather than the rule, while here it was the reverse. The overseers in the mill had the power of discharging as well as hiring. If a hand wished to leave before pay day they would have to wait until pay day for it. These hands would never be docked for being late unless they were very late. He had never noticed any dissatisfaction among the hands.

In the evening the testimonies were all from employees. The first witness was W. E. Cheswill, overseer of the spinning and dress department. In that department they employed 115 hands, 86 or 90 of them being girls, the youngest of them would be 14 or 15 years old. They average 75 and 80 cents a day in this department. He never heard of any complaints from the hands in his department. He took goods out of the store for pay but had never been solicited to do so.

The next witness was J. C. McPherson, foreman of the dye room. He had been a year and a half in the dye room. There are 14 hands in this department, 9 men and 5 boys. The average wages of the men were \$1.25 a day. They got steady employment the year round. He paid between \$4 and \$5 a year taxes. He found meat, flour and groceries cheaper here than in the United States.

The other witnesses were Frank Wood, slasher tender, Blanche Wheeler, filler carrier, C. O. Shaw, overseer of the cloth hall, John Murdock, overseer of the carding department, George Hatch, foreman of the weaving, Frank Wheeler, spinner, Joseph Cheatham, male spinner, Judson Libbey, second hand in the cloth room, and Harry Osborne, dyer. The evidence showed that the men were all satisfied in every way.

The commission left in the early morning for St. Stephen.

Gleaner

May 22, 1888

Festivities at Marysville

A promenade concert and supper will be held in the cotton mill at Marysville this evening. The committee in charge have spared no pains to make the entertainment a success, and a big time is anticipated.

Gleaner

June 30, 1888

More residences at Marysville

The foundations of eight double tenement brick buildings are completed at Marysville on the eastern side of the river. The brick work will be begun as soon as the kiln cools.

Gleaner

July 12, 1888

Marysville and Some of its Industries as Seen by a Correspondent of "The Gleaner."

An idea of the work done in the saw, shingle and lath mills.

(Tenements)

Now let us cross the river and pay a visit to the carpenters and brick layers. They are busily at work putting up 8 brick buildings, each 44 by 22 feet, with 2 stories and a basement.

The cellar walls are 2 ½ feet thick at the bottom and 2 feet at the top, built completely with stone and mortar with six brick columns to support the sills. The top rows of stone are cut from the Marysville freestone. The brick work is done by John Kelly, while all the work is superintended by Samuel Butler Jr. There are 27 employed and a house is built complete in a week. Mr. Butler is well qualified for the position, as he has had a good mechanical training from his father, who, I need only say, built the church. Don't get uneasy, I will stop in a minute. The brick works are running and with 3 men and a boy to a machine turn out from 14 to 15 thousand per day to one machine. With all 5 machines running this give 73 thousand in a day, making about one million in a fortnight, which would build a solid brick sidewalk 4 feet wide for nearly 11 miles. There are other industries which I will write about if I find time, but should I forget come and see them.

--A. H.

St. Croix Courier

July 12/1888

Poles for the electric lights are soon to be put in place by the gas company. The general impression has been, until very recently that the St. Croix Cotton mill would be the first to give the city electric light, but the gas company have pushed matters more rapidly and will be the first to occupy the field. The inactivity of the cotton mill is suggestive of the conclusion already arrived at by many that the latter corporation will not erect poles this season. This gibes the gas company the monopoly on both systems of light, gas and electricity. How reasonable they will be in their charges is a matter yet to be ascertained. Neither as individuals or as a city can this community afford to pay a fancy price for light.

Gleaner

Sept 20, 1888

Maine Press Men

How They are Enjoying Their Stay in the Capital

Their Visit to Marysville and What They Saw

Meeting of the Association Last Evening

. . . (describes meeting the Association in Marysville after ride down Northern and Western to Gibson, and overnight in Fredericton.)

. . . At 4 o'clock a number of them were driven to Marysville, while others went up in the train, both parties arriving about the same time. The cotton factory, of course, was the first place to be visited. Mr. Gibson was at the door and, after cordially receiving the visitors, started to show them through the building. This occupied over an hour and a half. Every department was gone through and the different processes in the manufacture of the cotton explained. The machinery was all running full blast, and the sight in the spinning and weaving rooms was one worth seeing. The visitors were amazed at the size of the establishment and there was no end to the number of questions asked Mr. Gibson by the different representatives. They were shown through the building from bottom to top, and, when they came out, they all disagreed as to the number of miles they had traveled. They were one though in that they were all tired.

But there was more to be seen before returning to Fredericton. A walk around the blocks on the eastern side of the river showing what wonderful improvements had been made within a year. There are now something like 47 double tenement brick houses, in the town. Several others are in course of erection. The visitors would scarcely credit the statement that a little over a year ago there was not a brick building

on that side of the river besides the factory. The buildings are all going up in blocks, so that regular streets are being formed. All the houses are well finished, and made as comfortable as possible for the employees who occupy them.

A visit to the brick yards was next in order. Some specimens of clay were shown the newspaper men, which, in its natural states, contains the exact proportions of clay and sand required for the manufacture of brick, and there is abundance of it only a few feet from the yards. It is believed that no other place in the world possesses this advantage.

When the visitors had finished with the eastern side of the town it was after six o'clock, and, headed by Mr. Gibson, they hurried across to the church, which all pronounced one of the handsomest little churches they had ever seen.

Before leaving for the city, Mr. Dennis, of the Halifax Herald, on behalf of the party, thanked Mr. Gibson for his kindness in showing them about the town. He felt sure that all were delighted with their visit, and that they would always remember his kindness in connection with it.

Mr. Gibson assured the excursionists that it was a great pleasure to him to have such a representative lot of newspaper men visit him. He hoped they would enjoy their stay in Fredericton and their homeward trip. Concluding, he said, "**Don't forget the Short Line.**" He was then given three hearty cheers, after which the party returned to the city. . . .

Gleaner

Sept 29, 1888

Building at Marysville

The masons have finished work on the last of the brick houses which it is intended to erect at Marysville this fall and the carpenters are at work getting it ready for occupancy. This will make the eighth brick house put up this year, all double tenements.

Gleaner

Dec 1, 1888

The Cotton Factory

The Marysville cotton factory is running full blast, and an immense quantity of goods is being turned out daily. New machinery is arriving constantly over the Northern and Western and being placed in position in the factory. At no other time have so many machines been kept running as at present.

Gleaner

Jan 19, 1889

Accident in the Cotton Factory

A young lad named Walley? Brown employed in the Gibson cotton factory, had one of his hands severely mangled by being caught in a carding machine on Thursday afternoon. Dr. Sharp was called and found it necessary to amputate four of the fingers.

Pilot

Feb 14, 1889

Alexander Gibson and Sons (Limited)

Notice is given in the Royal Gazette that application is to be made by Alexander Gibson, Alexander Gibson, Jr., James Gibson, John Gibson, John r. McConnell and Charles H. Hatt for letters patent for the incorporation of themselves into a company to be known as "Alexander Gibson and Sons (Limited)." The object for which incorporation is sought are: The manufacturing and dealing in all kinds of lumber, the manufacturing and dealing in cotton and wool and all descriptions of cotton and woollen goods and other such like fabrics, and the manufacturing of bricks, and the erection of works building sand houses. The place of business of the company is to be at Marysville, and the capital stock \$3,000,000 in 30,000 shares of \$100 each. The three first named of the applicants are to be provisional directors of the company. The publication of this notice has given rise to considerable speculation in financial circles.

Date March 23 1889

County York

Place Fredericton

Newspaper New Brunswick Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser

C.O. SHAW, foreman in Gibson Cotton Mill, died at his home in Marysville (York Co.) on Sunday. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Dr. Sprague conducted services at the house and grave. Deceased came to Marysville from Lowell, Mass. and leaves a wife and a daughter of 9 years.

Gleaner

May 21, 1889

Building at Marysville

A large crew of men commenced work at Marysville this morning under the supervision of Mr. John Kelly of Saint John, excavating the earth and preparing for the foundations for nine or ten double brick tenement houses, which Mr. Gibson is to erect on the east side of the river. It is expected that all the buildings will be ready for occupancy in the fall.

Gleaner

Aug 15, 1889

The Cotton Trade

Annual Meeting of the Dominion Millers at Montreal Yesterday

Mr. F. S. Williams, of the Gibson cotton factory, attended the annual meeting of the Dominion Grey Cotton Association, held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, yesterday. The other mills represented were the Nova Scotia Cotton Co., Windsor, Saint John, Moncton, Hochelaga, Kingston, Merriton, Braven and Costicookie. In consequence of the high price of cotton it was resolved to close down the mills during the first and last weeks of September, so that with the small stock on hand the position would naturally be a strong one. Prices are to remain unchanged ranging up to 24 ½ cts. Per lb., and finer grades to 26 cts. The following committee was appointed to look after the affairs of the association: A. F. Gault, J. Minnes, and W. Curry.

Gleaner

Oct 12, 1889

Everything Humming at Marysville

Everything is on the hum at Marysville just now. Since the saw mill started again an extra force has been employed, and work has been carried on day and night, the night force quitting at twelve o'clock. An immense quantity of lumber is being handled in this way. The lath mill is also running full blast; and **the cotton mill employees are putting in extra time. The factory for some days has been running until nine o'clock pm, and will continue to do so for a while longer. The extra work is all on colored goods.**

Gleaner

Nov 30, 1889

The Cotton Business

The cotton business at the Marysville factory is very brisk at present. Large quantities of goods are being sent abroad by the Northern and Western. In some lines, as ticking, it is impossible to keep pace with the demand, and it is the intention to increase the number of looms making that fabric.

Gleaner

Dec 6, 1889

The Cotton Factory

Mr. Culligan, who has for some time had charge of the top flat in the Marysville Cotton Mill, where ring-spinning, and several other operations are carried on, retires in favor of Mr. George Tapley. A supervisor at the ring-spinning is expected soon to oversee that department.

Gleaner
Feb 6, 1890

In spite of all we hear of the cotton interest in Canada under the National Policy, one of the Saint John mills is now shut down in consequence of an attempt to reduce the wages of the operatives by about 15 percent. Either the stories we hear of the mills are fictions, or some of the proprietors of these mill are very greedy of gain.

Gleaner
Dec 16, 1889

The Cotton Factory

The cotton trade continues active. Orders were lately issued from the Marysville factory for the manufacture of 178 cases for packing goods. They will be filled as soon as possible, and sent to their various destinations. (Earlier reference to Foster's Hotel in Marysville.)

Gleaner
May 12, 1890

The Cotton Combine

An Ottawa dispatch says that A. F. Gault, the cotton king of Montreal, is about to leave for England to organize a syndicate to buy up all the cotton mills in Canada, with the object of preventing cut-throat competition, and to regulate prices. What Mr. Gault may be able to accomplish with the other cotton mills, the Gleaner does not know, but the Marysville cotton mill, as the Gleaner before said, is not for sale.

Gleaner
May 15, 1890

The cotton Combine

It was rumored in cotton circles at Montreal yesterday that the mission of A. F. Gault to England has so far been successful and that negotiations with an English syndicate for the absorption of the cotton trade of Canada at a price of ten million dollars is likely to become an accomplished fact. David Morrice, of the firm of Morrison, Sons and co., has left for England suddenly in consequence of a cablegram received from Mr. Gault. A dispatch says that it is understood that one large concern has refused to enter the combine. This is probably the Gibson factory.

Gleaner
July 19, 1890

Unsuccessful in his bid for English support for a cotton combine, Gault will return in the fall. Proposed capital will be 12 million.

The Herald
Sept 10, 1890

Strike at Marysville

A large number of the weavers employed at the cotton mill Marysville went out on strike last Thursday. The employees complain of the system of fines at present in force, which they say has the effect of seriously lowering their wages. Mr. Gibson was away at Blackville during the strike but was telegraphed for and it is thought an agreement will be arrived at. [Interesting, in the Royal Commission on Labour in 1888 Gibson and his foremen insisted there was no system of fines in place.]

Gleaner
November 29, 1890

Large shipments of cotton are being made from the Marysville Cotton Mill this week. Orders have been sent to the machine ship for 300 cases to be ready by Thursday.

Gleaner
Dec 22, 1890

The Cotton Mill Safe

The rumor that the St. Croix cotton mill would be affected by the failure of Owen Bros., Providence, has been denied. This firm is one of the largest stockholders in the mill and it was thought that its failure would close the mill. Arrangements, however

mill and it was thought that its failure would close the mill. Arrangements, however, have been made with the creditors for running the mill with increased capacity, and as soon as weavers can be obtained more looms will be put in operation than have been working for some time past.

The Herald

Feb 9, 1891

the Marysville Cotton Mill

An exchange says: Messrs. Owen and King, representing the present management of the St. Croix Cotton Mill, were in Marysville last week to consult with Alexander Gibson concerning the running of the two mills in lines that will not conflict. It is altogether probable that arrangements will be made between Mr. Gibson and the St. Croix mill by which the two establishments will be conducted in a manner to render the business of both profitable and to minimize the effect in raising the prices of goods of the recently formed combine.

Gleaner

Feb 20, 1891

The Mill

One of the gangs in Mr. Gibson's mill at Marysville is busy cutting boards for cotton boxes. Another will start in a short time on the general manufacture of lumber, and a month will likely bring again the hum of renewed energy in the busy town.

Gleaner

April 29, 1891

Parks and Sons Cotton Mill

This morning in the Equity Court, Judge Palmer granted an injunction order restraining the Bank of Montreal from commencing and prosecuting any proceeding against the Receiver of the cotton mills of Parks and Sons or interfering with him in the discharge of his duties as such receiver.

Gleaner

may 4, 1891

The Cotton Stealing Case

The case against T. Buckley for stealing cotton from the factory at Marysville was not pressed this morning by the prosecution. Mr. Gibson did not wish the prisoner to be sent to jail as the family of five children would be thrown on the public. Mr. Marsh allowed the prisoner to go, on a promise of better behavior in the future.

Gleaner

May 5, 1891

More cotton Found

Town Marshal Barker, of Marysville, who made the arrest of Buckley for carrying cotton from the factory at that place, searched two other houses finding cloth at each of them. it is hoped that the proceedings taken may prove a salutary lesson, and no necessity arise for a punishment such as the law inflicts for such acts.

The Herald

June 27, 1891

*A Total Wreck

[the story of the National Policy, a ship being beaten to death by the winds of change. Good editorial]

Gleaner

July 17, 1891

Several houses are going up on the eastern side of the river, below the cotton mill, and this end of the village is growing rapidly.

Gleaner

Sept 18, 1891

John Hatch dies at Marysville. He came from Nova Scotia to work as overseer of the

John Hatch dies at Marysville. He came from Nova Scotia to work as overseer of the Marysville cotton factory weave room.

The Herald
March 12, 1892
Cotton Business

A meeting of cotton mill owners was held at St. Stephen during the week. It is thought that the mill at that town will be sold to the Dominion colored cottons mill's company. This will make the company, the practical owners of seven cotton mills, the only ones left out being the Gibson and Parks factories. Parks is involved in law and cannot be reached, the company has secured control of the output of the Marysville mill for ten years.

Gleaner
May 12, 1892
Into the Cotton Mill

Three Men Get into the Office Through a Window and View the Safe
Three men entered the business office of the Gibson Cotton mill about three o'clock yesterday morning intent upon burglary. The men effected an entrance through the window of the office in rear of the mill, where they were the most unlikely to be discovered. On getting safely inside they locked one of the doors of the office, and while two of the men investigated the condition of the safe the other guarded the second door. They had not been any length of time in the building, certainly not long enough to get their drills at work, if they had any, when the night watchman came along. He was not attracted by any noise, nor even a suspicion, to the office. He was merely making his rounds. It was not until he found the first door locked that his suspicions were aroused, for he had before been in the office, and the door was then unlocked. Hastening to the second door he heard a racket inside, and on reaching it and opening it, he saw three men jumping from the window, but before he himself reached it to get a view of them they were out of sight. The watchmen claims, however, that he could identify the men if he were to see them again. The officials of the mill have their suspicions, and it may not be long before three arrests are made.

Gleaner
May 14, 1892

The total number of workmen now in the employ of Alexander Gibson in his cotton and lumber business reaches about 1,280. Of this number 500 are engaged in the cotton mill, 65 in the lath mill, 40 in the shingle mill, 90 in the saw mills, 30 in the brick yard, 380 on the lumber drives, 25 on booms on the Nashwaak river and some 30 or 40 at his Blackville mill. Mr. Gibson has now been in Marysville about thirty years and in that time has manufactured there about 600 million of lumber, all of which has been cut on the Nashwaak waters. A remarkable fact in this connection is that in all those years his lumber drive has not once been hung up over the season in the stream. He attributes this fact to the extra care he has paid to the stream in providing driving dams. In this item along the cost of driving has been reduced from \$1.50 to fifty cents per thousand.

The Herald
May 14, 1892

A few evenings since a tramp, who was doing the town, got into the cotton mill perhaps to have a warm berth for the night, but the watch, who in this case is never asleep lit on him very lively and he was glad to get out safely. Richard is just the man to make it hot enough for anyone who takes shelter there.

Saint John Daily Sun
June 11, 1892
Fredericton and Marysville Supplement

But when we speak of the lumber trade of Marysville the half has not been told. The fame of Gibson's cotton mill has gone throughout Canada and far beyond her

borders. It is the largest single mill in Canada. At present it employs 500 hands, and can provide employment for 1,300 whenever the market of the country is large enough to consume the output, as the capacity of the mill is more than double the present output. This mill was started by Mister Gibson in 1888. The bricks of which it is constructed were manufactured by him on his own property within a stone's throw of the structure. It was completed in 1885 [sic] and fitted throughout with the most improved machinery. There is nothing old-fashioned about it. So keenly is Mister Gibson on the lookout for the newest and best that some of the machinery put in at the beginning has already been discarded and replaced by newer inventions. And yet he mill has only been in operation since 1885. It is lighted at night by electricity from their own dynamos. There is also a splendidly equipped machine shop in connection, where new machines are built or injured ones repaired by workmen of the highest skill. The mill is well ventilated, amply protected against fire by hydrants outside and pipes through the mill supplied by gravitation, with plenty of hose on every floor, and is in every respect a complete and splendidly equipped establishment. English experts recently declared that this mill surpassed in its equipment the vast majority of English cotton factories.

Coun. Hatt

Charles H. Hatt, who is the head book keeper in the cotton mills, is the son of George Hatt, senior, of Fredericton, and a son-in-law of Mister Gibson. Mr. Hatt is one of Mister Gibson's trusted lieutenants in all that related to the affairs of the cotton mill. He spent some time visiting the chief cotton mills in the United States before entering upon his duties at Marysville, and thus gained a clear and extensive knowledge of the operations of these mills. He is a master of the art of book keeping, and fulfills the duties of his responsible position with great ability. He is treasurer as well as having the oversight of the books, and devotes his whole time and attention to the cotton mill and its affairs. Mr. Hatt has been a member of the town council since its organization, and is decidedly popular among the townspeople because of his genial and kindly nature. He, too, is a horseman, and takes an interest in having the representatives of Marysville on the turn fully up to the standard.

Coun. James Gibson

Coun. James Gibson is the younger of the two living sons of Alexander Gibson, senior. He is to be found every day in the cotton mill, where he is assiduously laboring to familiarize himself with every detail of that branch of the business, and so be in a position to lighten the duties of his father as time goes on. To him the town owes its splendid brass band, a better one than is found in many more pretentious towns. He is a musician of great skill, and spent much time and labor in perfecting the organization of the band. He was also the principal organizer of the splendid Marysville rink, which is conducted under his supervision. He also owns a fine farm property a few miles up the Nashwaak, which is cultivated under his direction. He is the owner of Oliver Wallace, No. 9436, imported from Kentucky, and one of the best bred trotting stallions in the province. Like his brother, Coun. Gibson takes a deep and hearty interest in all that pertains to the welfare of Marysville and its people.

In the Cotton Mill

Among the officers in the cotton mill must be mentioned Thomas S. Shaw, the superintendent. Mr. Shaw is an old hand, having had control of some of the largest corporations in the states. He was principal of the Tremont and Suffolk mill, Lowell, for 20 years, and was 10 years with the Boott corporation. He is a perfect mechanic, a clear-headed, competent manufacturer, and an invaluable officer. Mr. Shaw has become a part of Marysville, and is highly esteemed by al.

Fred. S. Williams, formerly selling agent of the mill, and prior to that in the employ of Daniel and Boyd, is now in the cotton mill looking after the work of manufacturing in the several departments. He is a clear-sighted, eminently practical and thoroughly conversant with all the details of manufacture.

It is one of the characteristics of Mister Gibson that he has a shrewd knowledge of men, and in his business enterprise he has surrounded himself with men of ability and worthy of trust, each fitted to render him valuable service in the

prosecution of those enterprises.

Herald

Sept 10, 1892

St. Croix Cotton Mill

What has been Done in the Slashing Line

The following appears in the St. Croix Courier:

“The statement of the Fredericton Herald in regard to the slasher tenders at the Gibson cotton mill beating the record of the St. Croix Mill slasher tenders is proved incorrect by an examination of the slashing books at Milltown. The books give the following: 2074 cuts dressed in 50 hours on slashers Nos. 2, 3 and 4. These three machines are the same in every way as the three at Marysville and the length of cut is the same. The Gibson mill men will have to go a long way by the 3786 cut mark claimed by The Herald before they beat the St. Croix. During the same week that the above 2074 cuts were dressed at Milltown, slasher No. 1 dressed 942 cut. This is a machine for running heavy heavy ticking. The the No. 5, a tape dresser, dressed 1008 cuts, which makes the 5025 cuts spoken of in the Courier last February. When the Marysville men do their best the Milltown men believe that longer experience will enable them to do better.

Herald

Aug 27, 1892

Rush in Cotton

The St. Croix Courier some time since, published an account of the great work done in one of the rooms of the cotton mill at that place. The Marysville men set out to do better and have accomplished it. In one week three slashers dressed 3786 cuts of pattern work, sixty-three yards, to a cut. The slasher men were James Hovey, James and Wesley McCoughy. John Heron made the size, helped the slasher and attended the web drawing. This is far ahead of what the St. Croix mill did yet Marysville has not as yet done its best.

Gleaner

Feb 16, 1893

More Machinery for the Gibson Cotton Mills

Two additional napping machines were placed this week in position in the Marysville cotton mill, making seven napping machines now in operation in the mill. The demand for napped cottons has so largely increased during the past year or two that Mr. Gibson has had to add these machines to the plant to be able to fill the orders. The new machines were manufactured in France and are said to be worth \$2,400 or \$2,500 apiece.

Gleaner

Feb 21, 1893

Still Another Lot of Machinery for the Marysville cotton Factory

The Marysville cotton factory, in addition to the full day time is now running full blast every other night, and in order that the demand for its good may be supplied will have to continue doing so until some additional machinery which has been ordered arrives and is ready for operation. It was only the other day that Mr. Gibson put in two new nappers, imported from France costing it is said \$2,300 or \$2,400 apiece. The additional machinery mentioned above as being ordered are from fly frames, six English carders and one picker. They are expected to arrive in a few days and when in operation will make quite a material difference in the daily output of the factory.

Herald

April 1, 1893

Woolen Mill

Another Big Enterprise at Marysville

It must be pleasing to all who wish to see the country prosper to learn that it is contemplated by Mr. Gibson to add another enterprise to those which have made that village and himself famous in manufacturing. It is at present proposed to convert the

large shingle mill into a factory for the manufacture of all kinds of woolen goods. With the cotton mill so near and also under his control, all classes of goods can be made, covering an immense range. they cannot only be made as well but as cheaply as in any other part of the American continent. besides other advantages that will arise from this new venture. it will be of more immediate advantage of Central New Brunswick than has Mr. Gibson's other factories been. They did much for a portion of the province, but this will consume about all the wool that can be raised here. It will necessitate the keeping of more sheep by our farmers, and will be a boon to all. The busy town will extend its bounds as the hands to be employed will require homes, and these ill have to be built, as there is as large a population there now as the town can accommodate.

Gleaner

May 23, 1893

Twenty tons of new machinery for Mr. Gibson's cotton mill have been delivered at the mill by the CPR within the last few days. Thirty tons more are now on the way to scows from Saint John, and there are yet twelve more tons more at the station to be delivered. Within the next seven days Mr. Gibson will, therefore, have sixty-two tons of new machinery in course of erection in his mills at Marysville. Yet in the face of these fact the pessimists are cowlng that the place is without industries and there is nothing doing.

Herald

May 27, 1893

Mr. Alex. Gibson is arranging for the erection of twenty double brick houses at Marysville. The brick yards are running at full blast and the town is all alive with manufacturing bustle and enterprise.

A scow load of cotton manufacturing machinery was towed here (Marysville) on Thursday, and two car-loads of hangers, shafting, etc., for the cotton mill here reached Fredericton on the same day. Notwithstanding all the cotton fabrics turned out here the demand is fully equal to the supply.

Gleaner

June 3, 1893

Mr. Gibson's Cotton Shipments

Mr. Gibson's shipments of cotton have been giving our streets the appearance of those of larger manufacturing cities. Very much of Mr. Gibson's manufactured cotton is carted from Marysville via the bridge to the CPR station here. With the dozen trucks loaded four tiers high with large boxes of the cotton, and each drawn by a handsome team of well cared for horses, there is every suggestion of prosperity round about as these cross the bridge three and four times a day and pass out to the station. Had we a few more Gibsons, and a smaller number of howling political cranks who see no merit in the country, New Brunswick would long ago have enjoyed the prosperity which its natural advantages can give.

Herald

June 24, 1893

Gibson's History

The village sprang into existence about twenty years ago when the narrow gauge, now the Canadian Pacific Railway Woodstock branch was built. Here the shops and railway offices for the whole system to Edmundston were located and the steam ferry plied across the river bringing a great part of the traffic that now passes by the bridge through the heart of the village. The machine shops, yard and wharf business gave employment to perhaps one hundred men, and year by year the village grew, slowly but steadily. Stores were opened, blacksmith's hops were put up and churches were erected. It received its name from the founder of its prosperity, Mr. Alexander Gibson. When Mr. Gibson sold out the railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway the place

began to decline as the mechanics were taken to McAdam and other places; the work ceasing the laborers had to go elsewhere.

Then the Marysville cotton mill was built and another lease of life was given the village. Marysville, where the cotton mill was located could not accommodate all the operatives and the houses vacated by the railway men were soon tenanted. Eight or nine hacks, carrying from five to twenty passengers left the village for the factory every morning, returning at night.

Gibson was located directly opposite the southern portion of Fredericton, on the east side of the Saint John river. It consisted of a main street, the Marysville road and several smaller streets, all built up with cottages costing from \$500 to \$3500.

Gleaner

July 6, 1893

Marysville

A Traveller's Opinion of Our Enterprising and Progressive Hub

"You have some of the finest scenery and most enchanting drives around this city that I have ever seen," said a gentleman, to a Gleaner reporter, as the two sat discussing things in general in front of the Barker House the other evening, and then continuing, this stranger, who seemed full of the subject told how he enjoyed a drive that afternoon to Marysville. I had heard he said of Mr. Gibson, and of the Marysville cotton mills, and after refreshing myself with friend Coleman, on my arrival, I took a drive out to see the place. **My idea of a small manufacturing town, gathered from what I had seen elsewhere, was not at all attractive. The dingy factory, with crowded and dusty rooms, and the small crowded tenements of the employees, located around a smoky hollow from conveniences and necessity more than anything else, made up the general figure and I did not anticipate a different state of things at Marysville. You may therefore imagine my surprise when I saw the place, a prettier spot is not be found I believe in Canada.** If the big cotton mill were hid the visitor would at once infer that Marysville was the summer home of the busy people who work the machinery in that immense brick cotton factory and the big saw mills. I understand that Mr. Gibson takes some pride in these manufacturing establishments, and well he may, but he has greater reason to be proud of that most enchanting little town, which he has built up. Of its beauty, cleanliness and picturesqueness, too much cannot be said. It is a fit home for the artist, or the philosopher, as well as the merchant and manufacturer. Any person who comes to Fredericton and fails to visit Marysville loses half the pleasure of his visit. "I have been so enchanted with my short visit to this place that my stay will be prolonged a day or two more than I have intended," said this enthusiastic gentleman in his conclusion. What do you think of Fredericton, enquired the reporter. "It is all that it is represented to be, and a sail up the St. John river is the greatest treat of all. Why your people here do not seem to appreciate the beauties with which they are surrounded. They seem happy and contented, and so they should be. It would be a contradiction of nature's laws to find things otherwise.

Gleaner

Dec 21, 1893

Cotton Mills to be Closed Down

A number of rumors are afloat to the effect that the cotton mills controlled by the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company and the Dominion Cotton Mills Company are to be closed down owing to trade depression and uncertainty about the tariff. This combine contains all the cotton mills of the country. The St. Croix mill has been closed down for a week off and on and is at present running on half time. The cotton lords hint that other mills will have to be closed and operatives thrown out of work. It is believed, in Montreal and that this intimation is merely thrown out to scare the workingmen and other mill owners in view of the tariff reform movement.

Gleaner

March 8, 1894

A Thriving Town

What the Energy of One Man has Done

Marysville, and the Number of Employees There
How the Cotton Mill Benefits the Nashwaak Valley

This has been a winter when there has been a great depression in trade, when many manufactories in the neighboring republic have been closed down, when gaunt poverty has stalked through the land, when rich men have become poor and poor men beggars, and when it has seemed as though all must suffer. The business interests of Canada have suffered from this depression, but not to any degree as compared with those of the United States.

Thanks to the liberal trade policy of the Canadian government, which, while it encourages trade with other nations, fosters and protects the home market, the total business for the year has been over \$1 million more than in any previous year of Canada's existence, and that during a year when the depression of trade has been more marked than has been known in this generation.

Especially in our own province has been noticed this prosperity despite depression, and a careful examination of reports from all parts of the world goes to show that there is less suffering, less actual penury, in New Brunswick than anywhere else. Occasionally a case of deep poverty is discovered, but investigation almost invariably proves that the fault lies with the person himself.

Among the many towns in the province, where prosperity reigns, in none is it more noticeable than in the town of Marysville.

A Gleaner reporter hunted up a few facts in regard to the town, in order to see what was being done there. The oldest industry of the town is, of course, the lumbering industry, and in order to provide the logs for use in the saw mills, between 1,000 and 1,200 men, with about 250 pairs of horses, have been employed in the woods this winter. They have now finished their season's work and returned to their homes. 400 of these men will be employed on the drives as soon as the ice runs out of the Nashwaak, while during the sawing season there will be from 275 to 300 men employed in the saw mills.

In the cotton mill there are employed all the year round upwards of 550 hands, while a large number of men are employed each year in and around that town, both above and below, in connection with the brick yard and other work, and at the mouth of the Nashwaak.

Many have been the changes effected on the Nashwaak by the enterprise of the head of all this industry, Mr. Alexander Gibson. Homes where once luxuries were unknown and even the comforts of life were few, are now as comfortable as those of those of any part of the country and many luxuries have been added, not only so, but the indirect results of the industry have been great. **Let us quote an example as to how the cotton mill has benefitted the people. Before it was started there were a large number of girls who either stayed at home and lived a life of penury, or went to the cities to "hire out." These girls now go to the mill and there find employment. They are now able to dress well, and at the same time live in comfort. It is estimated that the mill hands of Marysville leave \$600 per week with Fredericton merchants, besides the large amounts they spend in Mr. Gibson's stores.**

One case, out of many, will illustrate another way in which the people have been benefitted. This is an actual fact, and occurs often. A man with a large family was deeply involved in debt. He and his daughters sought and found employment in the cotton mill. His creditors pressed him. He asked and received assistance, he agreeing to allow his pay to be kept back until it was paid up. In the meantime the daughters supported the family by their earnings. Another man and his daughters found employment in the same way. He was in financial difficulty and asked help. The daughters agreed to let part of their salary go to pay the loan to their father. This occurs frequently, and the confidence reposed in the wage-earner has never been violated.

Gleaner

May 12, 1894

Saint John Cotton Mill Strike

the Saint John cotton mill is still closed and the prospects for its reopening are not very bright, according to the Globe. Some of the women in the carding room who refused to work at the reduced rate of wages have gone away from the city. An effort

refused to work at the reduced rate of wages have gone away from the city. An effort will be made by the men who are thrown out of employment by the action of these women to get those who remain to go back to work. If the effort is successful the mill will probably resume operations by Thursday next.

Gleaner

May 29, 1894

St. Croix Cotton Mill Closed

A Reduction of Wages Ordered and a Strike Results

There is a strike in the St. Croix mill of the Canada Colored Cotton Mills Co. Since last August they have been running only about 35 hours per week, and the operatives have not much more than made their board. Last week they were notified that they must submit to a general cut down or else the factory would be closed during the summer months. About 25 percent of the operatives declined to accept the cut, and as the others were not enough to run the factory, it was not started this morning. The operatives claim that the cut averages about twenty percent, but the management claim that it averages only 10 1/2 percent. They state that every cotton company in the United States and Canada have adopted the scale of wages they now offer, some time ago, and have also only been running about half time. The Canada Company was the last to adopt the scale, and did so very reluctantly and only because the state of the market compels them to do so. There is no hard feeling between the operatives and the management, but as matter look now the mill is not likely to start up before September. The strike affects about seven hundred operatives directly, and indirectly the entire community.--St. Stephen despatch to Saint John Sun.

Gleaner

Aug 2, 1894

Will Probably Die

John Allen Falls into a Vat of Boiling Dye

While at Work in the Dye House at Marysville

Body Badly Burned from the Feet to the Neck

This afternoon while John Allen, a young man of about 25, who is employed in the dye house of the Marysville cotton mill, was working around one of the vats, he in some way lost his balance and fell into the vat. The vat at the time was filled with boiling dye. Dr. Coulthard, of this city, who was visiting patients in Marysville, was within a stone's throw of the dye house at the time of the accident and was immediately on the scene. He did all he could for the unfortunate young man, dressing his badly burned body as quickly as possible. He was removed to his residence where he now is in a very precarious condition. Dr. Coulthard does not expect that he will recover.

The victim of the accident is very badly burned, his entire body from his feet to his neck having been immersed in the boiling liquid. The vats are large and the contents are heated by steam coils running across the bottom of them.

Gleaner

Aug 3, 1894

John Allen's Condition

Mr. John Allen, who was so badly scalded yesterday afternoon by falling into a vat of boiling dye in the dye house of the Marysville cotton mill, is a little easier today, but his condition is still critical. He cannot be raised in bed. Mr. Gibson has made every arrangement for his comfort and has given orders that he shall be supplied with everything needed to aid in his recovery.

Gleaner

Aug 4, 1894

New Houses in Marysville

Mr. Gibson is now in the process of erection of six new brick house, and is arranging to build six more. A new street is to be opened up on the same side of the river as the cotton mill. Mr. Gibson has applications from his employees booked away ahead for houses. Many are forced to board because house accommodation cannot be provided fast enough. Several families live in Gibson and work at Marysville because they

fast enough. Several families live in Gibson and work at Marysville because they cannot as yet get a house in the latter place.

Gleaner

Aug 16, 1894

Lord and Lady Aberdeen

Their Arrival at the Capital Last Evening

Reception and Ball in the parliament buildings – Their visit to Marysville – the Cathedral, the University, Normal School and Victoria Hospital.

[Interesting the Marysville comes next to the Legislature]

. . .

At Marysville

Lord and Lady Aberdeen . . . took a special train this morning at 10:45 over the Canada Eastern Railway for Marysville. On their arrival at that place, they were met at the station and welcomed by Mr. Alexander Gibson, His Worship, Mayor Gibson and Mr. C. H. Hatt. Mr. Gibson took Lord Aberdeen under his personal charge, and **the party were conducted through the cotton mill** and shown the various operations. After the inspection of the mill, the party was taken to the church and shown the beauties of this gem in ecclesiastical architecture. The party then proceeded to Mr. Gibson's residence and were introduced to Mrs. Gibson and her daughters, Mrs. Hatt, and Mrs. Merritt.

His Excellency expressed himself as highly pleased with all he saw. He was agreeably surprised at the prosperity and activity of this town of one man's creation. The party returned to the city shortly before noon. A visit was then made to the cathedral, where the party was received by His Lordship Bishop Kingdon. . . .

Gleaner

March 16, 1895

Accident at Marysville

A young man named Pine and another named Stafford met with a serious accident at Marysville yesterday afternoon. They were both working in the mule room of the cotton mill. Pine's hand was caught between the truck of the mule and the rail upon which it runs and two of the fingers taken off. Stafford's hand was caught in a part of the machinery of the mule and very badly crushed. Medical aid was at once rendered and the young men are doing as well as can be expected.

Gleaner

Oct 28, 1895

Entertained by Marysville

Presentation to Mr. Thomas S. Shaw, late Superintendent of the Cotton Mill

Mr. Thomas S. Shaw, superintendent of the Gibson cotton mill for the past seven years, was treated to a genuine surprise on Saturday evening. Mr. Shaw's son has large business interests in Lowell, Mass. A recent death there made it necessary for him to get a new manager, and it was to consult the son's wishes and interests that the father decided to accept the situation. He tendered his resignation as manager of the Gibson mill some days ago, with feeling of deep regrets, and it took effect on Saturday. Mr. Shaw was invited by the heads of the various departments of the mill to a supper at the hotel in the evening, and Mr. Gibson was also asked to be present. The supper was well prepared in Mr. Joseph's Robinson's best style, and after the good things had been thoroughly discussed, Mr. Charles H. Hatt, on behalf of the heads of the departments, in a very neat and appropriate speech, presented Mr. Shaw with a gold headed cane and a very handsome gold chain and keystone. Mr. Shaw was visibly affected by this testimonial of affection and hearty good will, and it was some minutes before he found words for reply. He very deeply regretted leaving his position and his associates in the mill. His seven years at Marysville had been years of comfort and happiness. He had never been better treated, nor more ably supported in another position he had held. He would never forget the people of Marysville for their unbounded hospitality, nor Mr. Gibson for his manly kindness. He greatly appreciated the testimonial presented.

Mr. Gibson said he could not let the occasion pass without contributing his regrets at the proposed departure of Mr. Shaw. He exceedingly regrettable the change.

Mr. Shaw had proved himself a very capable head of the mill, and socially he was a very endearing man.

The party then adjourned to the parlor, where they enjoyably spent the remainder of the evening in vocal and instrumental music. Mr. G. B. Smith, Mr. Charles H. Hatt, Mr. James Lee, Mr. Lem Clegg, Mr. Claude Clayton and Mr. James Myers, gave every acceptable vocal solos, while Mr. Gibson sang a national song with stirring feeling, after which he sang, by request, and **in mother Scotch**, Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon. Instrumental music was furnished by Mr. William Heron, Mr. James Myers, and Mr. J. Gregory; and just before the party dispersed Mr. F. S. Williams and Mr. Charles H. Hatt stepped to the front and presented Mr. Shaw with a large and very handsomely bound Bible.

Mr. Shaw left this afternoon for Lowell. During his seven years at Marysville he had become much attached to the people and was a great favorite at the mill. He is a thorough manufacturer and a thorough gentleman.

Gleaner

Nov 12, 1895

What Tearing Down Tariff Fences Means

. . . The Conservatives also took the duty off hot-climate wool and raw cotton. Woollen and cotton cloths and clothing have never been so cheap in Canada as under the National Policy.

Beacon

May 14, 1896

Mr. Gibson as a Missionary

Mr. Alexander Gibson, the lumber and cotton king, is to bring himself and a few of his collars to Charlotte County to endeavor to persuade the electors here that it is to their interests to continue protection on his manufactures. Not only is Mr. Gibson highly protected, but he is debtor to the country, through his connection with the St. Mary's bridge company, to the tune of \$66,000. He was not always a protectionist; he is on record as saying—and the record can be produced—that he did not fear competition in his cotton business and could get along without protection. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that it was not under Protection that he laid the foundation for his big fortune. With such a record, it would be bad tactics to import Mr. Gibson as a political missionary.

Gleaner

Aug 13, 1896

Fredericton and Marysville

The last issue of the Boston Sunday Herald contains a five column illustrated account of this city and Marysville. Speaking of this city it says among other complimentary things, eighty-five miles from the city of Saint John, on the west bank of the Saint John river, is situated a city both beautiful and interesting, Fredericton, the capital city of New Brunswick, and a more beautiful sail than that from Saint John to the capital city can hardly be imagined.

This river, which by some authors has been called "The Rhine of America," and by others compared with the Hudson, is, indeed, a beautiful and wonderfully interesting stream. Bold and rugged bluffs, gently sloping uplands, broad intervals, lofty hills, beautiful island, tributary streams, bays, links that connect it with large and small lakes, and a thousand other charming features, the work of nature arrests the eye of the tourist who journeys by streamer from Saint John to the spot 85 miles above, where Fredericton lies amid its stately elms on the west bank of the river."

Referring to Marysville it says: "The fame of the Gibson mill extends throughout Canada. This mill was started by Mr. Gibson in 1883. The bricks of which it was constructed were manufactured by him on his own property within a short distance of the structure. The large four-story brick building was completed in 1883 and fitted throughout with the most improved machinery." **After further remarks** the article goes in closing says: "In order that these 1,000 or more employees might be well housed, Mr. Gibson erected a large number of wooden and brick buildings. There are probably no operatives in any part of Canada better cared for than those at

Marysville. Owing to the interest taken in the town by Mr. Gibson, liquor has been kept out of it. The best interests of the townspeople are carefully guarded by him, to whom the town and its magnificent industries owe their existence."

Gleaner

Oct 8, 1897

Strike in St. Croix Cotton Mill

A strike is on at the St. Croix cotton mill since Monday, when fourteen girls employed in the spinning room went out against a cut in their daily wages from \$1 to 78 cents. If they remain out and yarn cannot be got from other mills, half of the Milltown factory will have to shut down next week.

Gleaner

March 25, 1899

An Advance in Cotton

The Price of the Canadian Product will be Advanced April 1st

Montreal, March 25. On April 1st the Canadian cotton mills will advance their prices. The Merchants' Cotton Co. has issued a circular stating that owing to the increase in the cost of raw material it has been found necessary to make an advance. Values have risen sharply in the United States and it was said this morning by a prominent cotton man that within a short time some grades of cottons had advanced as much as one and a half percent. Raw Cottons have advanced all the way from a cent to a cent and three quarters per pound.

Ontario in Line

Toronto, March 25. Word was received here yesterday that some of the cotton mills had decided to advance prices and today orders will not be accepted in all cases at old figures. The reason for the advance is given as appreciation in value of raw material. Raw cottons also have gone up in some cases as much as 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents a pound.

Beacon

Oct 11/1900

Among the visitors to St. Stephen on Saturday last was Mr. Alex. Gibson, the lumber and cotton king of York, who came down to visit the scenes of his boyhood days. He first drove out to Oak Bay, where as a lad he began his active career. Mr. Gibson was born in St. A/Andrews but very early in life removed to Oak Bay. After looking over the old place on the Bay Road he drove to the Union, Milltown, where he labored for many years as a workman in the Todd lumber mill, and where he spent many of the happiest moments of his life. It was with a sad pleasure that he viewed the old home and recalled its many pleasant associations. On Sunday, the aged millionaire worshipped in the church of his early manhood days at Milltown—the Methodist—occupying the same pew as he had occupied forty years before.

St. Croix Courier

April 25, 1901

Half Time at the Cotton Mill

Owing to the overproduction of colored cotton goods, the Canada colored cotton mills company has found it necessary to greatly curtail its output by shutting down its factories. During this week the factory at Milltown is shut down and it will be operated only on alternate weeks from now on until Sept. 1st. The monthly payroll amounts to about \$20,000 distributed among 800 hands. This curtailment in their earning ability means very serious conditions for many individuals and families.

About eight years ago the factory was shut down for some weeks but many of the male employees found work on the sewers which the town of Milltown was then putting in. No such work is in progress now and relief cannot be had from that source though about forty operatives have found temporary work upon the roads. Some operatives, who have come from farms in the adjacent county districts, will spent the alternate weeks at the farm. Ten or fifteen operatives from Marysville have already

returned there, while others are looking towards the mills in the States. Not much encouragement is held within that direction for the mills there are also contending against an overstocked market. Last week all the mills at Fall river were shut down and the Lowell mills were shut down recently.

Conditions will be bad enough with the mills working alternative weeks but many employees expect that a complete shut down will occur at any time. The merchants on the river will feel the curtailment in the wage earning of so many people and, as there is not much promise of better conditions in other directions, the situation is somewhat serious.

Gleaner

Nov 26, 1901

Gibson's Cotton Mill

Mr. James Shaw, of Lowell, Mass., has been appointed superintendent of the Gibson cotton mill at Marysville, in succession to Mr. J. B. Cudlip, who has accepted a similar position at Saint John. Mr. Shaw arrived at Marysville yesterday and has entered upon his duties. Mr. Shaw was superintendent of the Marysville mill for two or three years, being the immediate predecessor of Mr. Cudlip, and gave very general satisfaction in that important and responsible capacity

Gleaner

March 6, 1902

Where is Marysville?

This is the question that was asked in the House of Commons on Tuesday by Mr. Clancy, member for Bothwell. The occasion for asking this question was a vote on an item of \$9,500 for public building at Marysville. Mr. Clancy said he did not see any occasion for this expenditure, although he did not know where Marysville was, and therefore could not be an authority in regard to the amount of public money that ought to be expended there. That such a question should be asked thirty-five years after confederation shows that the people of the upper provinces have yet much to learn with regard to these provinces by the sea. It is deplorable that so much ignorance should prevail in the west in regard to this part of Canada, and that the people of the west should apparently take so little interest in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. They ought to understand that these provinces are the eastern gateway of Canada and that their prosperity is quite an important to the well being of the Dominion as that of any other part of Canada. Mr. Gibson stated that Marysville was a growing and prosperous town in his constituency; but he might have said much more in regard to this highly interesting place. He might have stated that this town of 2,000 inhabitants had been created by the energy, enterprise and ability of his own father. He might have said that it contained saw mills of enormous capacity, shingle mills and lath mills, **and also one of the largest cotton mills in Canada, if not the largest. The cotton manufacturers of Canada would not be likely to ask the question as to where Marysville is. They know all about it, and it is by no means unlikely that the member of Parliament who contemptuously asked where is Marysville had on his own back at the same time some of the cotton from Mister Gibson's Mill.** We trust that the public men of the Upper Provinces will make an effort to become better informed in regard to the thriving towns and industrial centres of those portions of the Dominion which lie to the eastward of them.

Gleaner

Nov 19, 1902

Gibson Manufacturing Company

The Plan for Its Reconstruction being Discussed in Saint John.

Mister Gibson in Conference with Halifax Capitalists

A Satisfactory Conclusion Almost Sure to be Reached

Saint John, Nov. 19

John F. Stairs and Max Aitken, of Halifax, are in town today in consultation with Mister Alexander Gibson and Lieut. Col. McLean, regarding the reorganization and recapitalization of the Gibson Manufacturing Company. Mister Gibson and his friends were in conference all morning and it is understood although nothing has been yet

allowed to creep out, that on all the principal points under consideration satisfactory conclusions have been reached.

Beacon

Nov 27/1902

Alexander Gibson's Life-Works

A Native of Charlotte County who has amassed Millions by well-directed energy The properties of Alexander Gibson, of Marysville, including his interest in the Canada Eastern railway, the great Marysville cotton mill, his lumber mills, grist mill, brick yard, timber areas, and the village of Marysville have been recapitalized at \$6,000,000 and will be placed under the control of a new corporation. A provincial company has been formed, with Mr. Gibson as president.

The consummation of this gigantic project, involving properties which were largely accumulated by the energy and foresight of one individual, serves to direct attention to the man who is responsible for this accumulation and who is still capable of giving personal attention to its management.

Mr. Gibson was born in Charlotte County over 80 years ago, the little house on the Bay road where he spent many of his early days being yet standing. He was scarcely 15 years old when he went into the milling business at Milltown. After mastering the mechanical details of the business he was able to see the great possibilities that lay in the path of the lumber industry. He resolved to embark in business on his own account. It was not long before he owned a most valuable lumber property at Lepreaux.

He disposed of this and by a master stroke secured the entire control of the Nashwaak River and the timber lands thereon. This property was purchased from Robert Rankin and Company over thirty years ago, when it was valued at \$130,000. It is said Mr. Gibson has cut fully hundred million feet of logs into deals on the Nashwaak. The cotton mill was built from bricks manufactured by him within a stone's throw of the structure. It is lighted by electricity from Mr. Gibson's own dynamos. Years ago, Mr. Gibson built a railway extending from Gibson to Woodstock. This has since passed into the possession of the CPR. The Canadian Eastern was then built from Gibson to Chatham; and later on the bridge across the Saint John River gave this line an entrance into Fredericton. **Tis giant of industry constructed some year since at Marysville what was then one of the largest cotton mills in America. He conceived the idea of building about the mill a town, for the cotton mill's employees and this he successfully carried out.** And now within the attractive little town of nearly 2600 inhabitants resides only the Gibson concerns employees. Mr. Gibson is now a man over 80 years of age, but he retains the same vigor and splendid business ability that marked him a great man a quarter of a century ago. All through his life, Mr. Gibson's charity has been a by work in and about the district which he moved and did business.

Gleaner

Jan 20, 1903

Fire at Marysville

What might have resulted in a very serious conflagration occurred in the dry room in connection with the dye house of the cotton mill at Marysville early this morning. A large quantity of cotton was piled in the room to dry and it is believed the fire started from the ignition of the cotton piled around the electric light apparatus. When the watchman arrived the smoke was very dense and the flames had a good headway. Some of the hands came to his assistance, however, and after a hard fight the fire was extinguished. With the aid of the automatic sprinklers. No serious damage was done to the building.

Gleaner

March 13, 1903

Cotton Weaver's Strike
Three Hundred Employees of the St. Croix Cotton Mill
Would not Agree to New Schedule of Prices

Gleaner
Aug 1, 1903
Cotton Mills Close
Trade Throughout New England in a Demoralized Condition, Cause it is Said by the
High Price of Cotton and Refusal of Dealers to Agree to Corresponding Advance
Millions of Spindles Idle
Details

Gleaner
Aug 4, 1903
Immense Output
The Months of June and July a Record Breaker with the Gibson cotton mill
The shipping clerk of the Gibson cotton mill informed the Gleaner today that the
mill's output of manufactured cotton for the months of June and July has been a
record breaker. The value of the output during the two months mentioned amounted to
the enormous sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The goods have been
shipped to all parts of Canada, from Halifax to Vancouver, demonstrating what a great
reputation the manufactured article of the Gibson cotton mill has. There is not a mill
in Canada with a better record than the Gibson cotton mill, which gives promises of
excelling them all.

Gleaner
Dec 24, 1903
The Cotton Industry
Proposition to Cut Wages of Employees of Dominion Cotton Co. 10 Percent
Directors Finally Decided to Allow the Present Wages to Continue for a Time
Cost of Raw Material the Cause of Trouble

Gleaner
Feb 2, 1904
Saint John Cotton Mills
May be Forced to Close down for a period on Account of the High price of Raw
Cotton
Saint John, Feb 2
In an interview with the Star today, Col. George West Jones, president of the York and
Cornwall Cotton Mills, said that unless the cotton market breaks in a week or so, the
Saint John mills will have to close down. They have on hand a supply of cotton
bought when the market was lower, but his will be gone in about a week and if they
have to buy as the market is now, the mills must be run at a heavy loss or close. If
they close about 500 people will be thrown out of work.

Gleaner
March 17, 1904
Marysville Cotton Mill
The Marysville Cotton Mill has been experiencing to some extent the difficulties
which all other cotton factories are meeting in obtaining a supply of raw material.
After shutting down for a short time a quantity of cotton was obtained and for a
fortnight past the mill has been running full time. Commencing today the mill will run
only half time, from 7 am to 1 pm. Five days of the week, shutting down all day
Saturday.

Gleaner
July 30, 1904
Marysville Cotton Mill
Will Be Closed Down all of the Month of August
While the Immense New Driving wheel is being Installed
Rhode Island Workmen will Come here to do the Work

knobe island workmen will come here to do the work

Most of the parts of the new main drive wheel for the Marysville cotton mill have arrived from Providence, Rhode Island, where they were manufactured by the Harris, Corliss Engine Company. The above paragraph doesn't sound as if it carried much importance, but it does. The new wheel for the big mill is one of the largest driving wheels in the world, being but a very little smaller than the one at the Centennial Exposition that caused such talk and created so much interest.

The new wheel has a diameter of 25 feet and the width of the face is a little over 10 feet wide. The wheel is driven by a 1,400 horse power engine and weights almost 45 tons without the shaft. The face of the wheel is wider than that of the wheel exhibited at the Centennial Exposition, but the diameter is not quite so large. The manufacturers have been working on the new wheel for three months.

The old wheel is to be taken out of the factory and replaced by the new one has been in use for the past 20 years, every since the factory was built. It has seen three chief engineers. The first of these was the late George Nowlin, then came his son and now Mr. Thomas Flanagan is in charge. The old wheel weighed over 40 tons without the driving shaft.

Work will be commenced next week on removing the old wheel, a crew of men from the Harris, Corliss Company coming on to do the work. As soon as the old wheel is removed the new one will be installed. The new wheel will have a wooden rim and when finished it will look like one solid piece of wood. The rim will have to be built on the wheel after it is installed.

When the work starts next week on removing the old driving wheel the Marysville Cotton Mill will be shut down. It will be shut down for about one month. In the Marysville cotton mill about 550 or 600 hands are employed, and they will be out of work for that time.

Except during part of last January and February the Marysville cotton mill has been running full since it was opened and then it was closed down during part of those two months because of the extraordinary state of the cotton market and the lack of the raw material. Other cotton mills throughout the country have not run so full, and the only reason that the Marysville mill shuts down now is because it is absolutely unavoidable.

Gleaner

Aug 27, 1904

Cotton mill expected to resume in 10 days time.

Gleaner

Dec 21, 1904

Cotton Interests

Reasons Which Led Up to the Proposal to Amalgamate

Montreal, Dec 21

The first action in the cotton merger was taken today by the Bank of Montreal, which has been largely interested in some of the companies since their inauguration, and it was by interests connected with the bank that the committee composed of Messrs. Gordon, David Yuile and J. P. Black was brought together.

One of the practical reasons given for the amalgamation was that the government in all the conferences with the cotton interest had stated that they were unwilling to grant such tariff protection as would enable some of the largest companies to pay dividends in a large amount of watered stock. It is therefore proposed that as a preliminary to amalgamation, the companies do away with all watered stock.

Gleaner

April 4, 1905

**The Factory Act

Objection to Girls in Cotton Factories Working Eleven Hours – The Quebec Competition

Gleaner

April 30 1907

April 30, 1907

Large Output Cotton Factory

The output of the Alexander Gibson Railway and Manufacturing Company's cotton mill at Fredericton this year will be the greatest for the past decade, due principally to the increased Western business which the mill is handling

This mill is now conducted as a part of the colored cotton combine of Canada and the orders have been coming in very fast of late from the headquarters in Montreal.

Some large shipments are being made this week to the Winnipeg customers.

Gleaner

June 8, 1907

Gibson Company May Sell Out \$1,250,000 Cotton Business

Negotiations for Immense Deal Have Been Going on at Marysville for Some Time. Property to be Sold Includes Cotton Mill, 54 Brick Houses and Land which Cost About \$1,250,000 and May bring more Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company the Likely Purchasers. Where the Deal Stands Now.

[this article was reproduced in the Montreal Gazette for June 10, 1907]

it is stated upon the very best of authority that the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company, of Montreal have for some time been negotiating with the Alexander Gibson Railroad and Manufacturing Company of Marysville for the purchase of the Marysville Cotton Mill, with the property and houses which form a part of the cotton mill division of the company's business.

While it is stated in some quarters that the deal has already been completed and that the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company have now the owners of the property and business, it is learned from reliable sources that the matter has not yet quite reached that far that a deal has been put through, though the matter is likely to be closed up at almost any time.

There are many stories in circulation about the streets; in fact there have been rumors going about Marysville for some time past. Of late a substantial foundation has been given to the rumors through engineers and surveyors being at Marysville, where they have been running lines on the boundaries of the cotton mill property and other persons have been looking the property over, apparently for the purpose of appraising it.

At Marysville it has been stated that there have been several syndicates bidding for the property and that offers and counter offers have been made and that eventually the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company has been successful in landing what they were after.

For some years past the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company of Montreal, have been buying the entire output of the Marysville mill; in fact, the orders for the mill to make up have been coming in direct from the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company. The later company's travellers have sold all the goods and the mill has been run under instructions from its head office. The Gibson Company's traveller [agent] were called in off the road some years ago and have since either been employed at some work for the company or found positions elsewhere.

The Gibson mill, however, has been one of the very few of what are known as the independent mills in Canada, the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company being what is known as the "Trust" in Canada. It is a big syndicate which has bought up practically all the mills, and so far as can be learned, the only ones which it does not now own are the Gibson cotton mill at Marysville and the York and Cornwall mills at Saint John.

The only other concern owning cotton mills in Canada is the Dominion Textile Company but they are invested practically altogether in gray cotton and therefore not thought to be figuring in this deal at all.

Col. Hugh H. McLean, one of the directors of the Gibson company, and who takes a foremost part in the company's affairs, was asked at Saint John today relative to the sale of the cotton mill property owned by the company and stated that negotiations have been on for its sale, but that the deal has not been put through as yet.

Mr. J. W. Spurden, manager of the Bank of Montreal, this city, who has lately elected a director of the Gibson company in place of Mr. M. S. L. Richey, was seen at noon today relative to the talked of sale, and the information which he gave out corroborated the statement made by Col. McLean at Saint John.

From well informed persons at Marysville similar information was obtained, while the officials of the company at the offices and at the mill stated that the matter was something with which they would have nothing to do although they had heard rumors.

One day about the middle of this week Col. McLean and Mr. Laurence MacLaren, another director of the Gibson company, came to this city from Saint John and that their visit was one of importance was shown by their bringing with them Col. McLean's stenographer, who accompanied them to Marysville.

Of course, it is impossible to learn as yet what price is to be paid for the Gibson cotton mill property. The property which will change hands will include practically all the company's holdings in Marysville on the east side of the Nashwaak river, which will include the cotton mill and the large annex, a good many acres of ground and all of the brick tenement houses on that side of the river, about 55 in all. This property, including the cost of the erection of the mill and the fitting up of it with all the machinery which was installed, etc., cost Mister Gibson for the Gibson company over 1 million. **In fact, it is stated that the cost was about \$1,250,000.**

The work of erecting the Gibson cotton mill was commenced in the year 1883, the contractors being the Messrs. Mooney, of Saint John, and it was in May 1885 that the mill was completed, fitted with machinery and commenced operating.

Mr. Alexander Gibson Sr. the head of the Gibson company, and the founder of Marysville, who was so seriously ill during the past winter, was able to visit the mill the other day for the first time since his illness.

If the Gibson company sells out the cotton mills business they will still control one of the largest industrial enterprises in this province--the lumbering business. **The Gibson Company at Marysville and Blackville sawmills, shingle mills, manufactures between 35 and 40 million feet of lumber annually.**

Gleaner

June 20, 1907

Sale of Gibson cotton Mill

It is understood that the transfer of the Alexander Gibson Railroad and Manufacturing Company's property at Marysville to the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company will take place on or about the 30th day of June. It is understood that the arrangements for the sale of the property, mentioned some time ago in the Gleaner, for the first time, have been completed and that the papers will be signed before the end of the month.

It is learned that on July 1st the Bank of Montreal will open a branch at Marysville, and it is understood that this move is taken as a result of the determination of the Canadian Colored Cottons Mills Company to take over the cotton mill business and property at Marysville at about that time.

The price to be paid by the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company for the property which they will acquire will be over \$1,000,000 and it is said that it will be nearer \$1,500,000.

Gleaner

June 29, 1907

Cotton Mill Deal is Now Completed

Between \$1,250,000 and \$1,300,000 Price to be Paid by Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company. Mills Starts Up Today

While the head officials of the companies concerned refuse to talk for publication, there is no doubt that the transfer of the Alexander Gibson Railroad and Manufacturing Company cotton mill property at Marysville to the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company is agreed upon and on Monday morning the big engine which runs the machinery of the mill will make its first turn for the new owners and with Mr. C. H. Hatt as superintendent.

The work of stock taking is now proceeding. Messrs. Dawson and Bruce of

the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company representatives of the Gibson Company and Mr. Cudlip, formerly superintendent of the mill and now of the York and Cornwall mills at Saint John, are carrying on the work.

Yesterday afternoon the mill shut down at 4:45 o'clock and the employees were notified to return to work on Monday morning for the new owners.

As has been stated before, the change in ownership will make many changes at Marysville and hereafter the employees of the mill will be paid every two weeks, and two weeks' pay will be held back, as is the rule in the mills owned by the new proprietors.

Property in Marysville is reported to be taking on a boom. It is said that prospective merchants are looking for sites there to open stores and that some city business houses would like to start branches there.

The Bank of Montreal is to have a branch at Marysville, thus saving the taxes which they would have to pay to this city on the Marysville business if it were done through the Fredericton branch.

It is learned that there really was a hitch recently in the sale, through a move made by English people, interested in the Gibson Company. This trouble is now stated to have been arranged satisfactorily and it is said that the price to be paid is between \$1,250,000 and \$1,300,000.

It is reported that during the last year the Gibson company conducted the cotton mill it was a paying business, but before that it had been an uncertain proposition, making profits some years and losing money in others.

Persons in a position to know the facts state that there are between 800 and 900 employees at the cotton mill now and there is sufficient room in the mill to employ a good many others if the necessary machinery was set up.

The mill was built over twenty years ago and cost with the machinery installed somewhere in the vicinity of \$800,000, it is said. The 55 brick tenement houses and the several frame houses which are transferred with the mill and the property which goes along would bring the original cost of what is now being sold up to close on a million and a quarter dollars.

It is creditable to Mister Gibson that he was able to establish such an industry-one which has been a benefit not only to Marysville and York county, but to the province generally.

Gleaner

Jan 18, 1908

Marysville Boom at Cotton Mill

Since the cotton mill at Marysville changed hands, considerable new machinery has been installed and large orders have been placed for additional machinery, which will be installed as soon as it is possible to get it from the makers. The new owners of the cotton mill intend to add largely to the capacity of the mill and greatly increase the output. This with the addition of new houses to be built for the extra hands required in the cotton mill, will make quite a boom in the factory town, which will be good news for the pole of this vicinity as well as for Marysville.

Gleaner

March 12, 1908

Marysville Is Closed Down

The Canadian Colored Cottons Mill at Marysville is closed down and will not be running for some days.

The principal cause for the mill being closed down is the scarcity of fuel, Up to this time soft wood has been used for fuel at the mill and the supply has run out. In the vicinity of 100 cords of this wood was used daily at the mill, being supplied by the Gibson Company. While the mill is shut down it has been decided to install coal burners and it is thought that they will be ready for used in the near future. The mill will resume operations on Monday.

Beacon

Aug 21/1913

The death of Mr. Alexander Gibson removes a striking figure from the life of this Province. Born 94 years ago, in a little cottage still standing on the Oak Bay road, near St. Stephen, Mr. Gibson early began the struggle for his daily bread. A man of indomitable will, of abounding energy, a giant almost in size and strength, he soon began to make his mark in the world. The writer remembers him when in his manhood's prime he carried on the biggest lumber industry in New Brunswick. He had an office at the foot of King Street, St. John, and when not attending to the details of his rapidly growing lumber business at Nashwaak, spent his time in this office meeting ship captains, merchants and the thousand and one men of this class who did business with him. In those days he was a "ding," and a very busy one, and the man who did business with him had to do it very promptly. He was a man of few words, being curt of speech almost to roughness, but beneath this rough exterior his friends knew there beat a great big heart. Carrying on the biggest lumber business in New Brunswick, it was his ambition that he should have the biggest cotton factory, and when he built his big cotton mill at Marysville it was his proud boast to the writer when he inspected it soon after its erection, that it was the biggest cotton mill in New Brunswick. Mr. Gibson likewise built a railway, which he conducted for a time with profit. He was interested in politics, too, his sympathies for the most part being with the liberal party, whose platform of free trade with the world at large appealed to his strong, self-reliant manhood. In the election campaign of 1900, when a St. Andrews man was the standard-bearer of the liberal party, Mr. Gibson manifested his sympathy by coming into the County and assisting by his presence in the campaign. [this would have been Mr. Armstrong himself!]

Alexander Gibson

The death occurred on Thursday last of Mr. Alexander Gibson, famous as the "lumber king of the Nashwaak," and known throughout Canada as the founder of Marysville, York Co., with its great lumber and cotton mills, and also for his railway enterprises. As he was in his 94th year, and had been in ill-health for some time, his death was not unexpected.

Mr. Gibson was a native of Charlotte County, and commenced his life work at Milltown when he secured employment as a youth in a lumber mill at Milltown at \$1 a day. He soon began to display the ability that distinguished him in after life, for he became the owner of a mill, but Lepreaux attracted him, and he transferred his activities to that stream. There he was very successful, although other operators had not done well. He was not satisfied, however with the progress he was making, and the opportunity offering to buy the valuable mills and lumber lands on the Nashwaak York Co., from Robert Rankin and Co., he availed himself of it, the purchase price, it is said, being \$130,000. Mr. Gibson was at this time quite a young man, with a good knowledge of the lumber business. He quickly improved his milling property, secured large tracts of lands for future supplies of logs, and became the principal shipper of deals from the port of Saint John to the English markets. He next became interested in the development of the upper St. John, and was the builder of what is now the Gibson branch of the C.P. R. It was then the New Brunswick Railway; it extended to Grand Falls and had branches into Maine. The Canada Eastern, now a branch of the I.C.R., running from Fredericton to Loggieville, Northumberland, Co., was also his work, jointly with the late Hon. J. b. snowball.

One of Mr. Gibson's greatest enterprises was the erection of a cotton mill at Marysville, soon after the National Policy came into operation. Work was started in it in 1885. It was pronounced by experts to be superbly equipped mill, and it gave employment to hundred of persons.

In time all these enterprises passed into other hands. The CPR and the Dominion government bought the railways, the Dominion Textile Co. secured the cotton mill, and the Partington Pulp and Paper interests obtained the lumber mills and lumber lands. Mr. Gibson has been practically living in retirement for a few years.

Mr. Gibson was generous to Marysville. He built a handsome church for the Methodists (afterwards destroyed by fire) and presented it with an organ. He erected a town hall, established a free public library, and furnished a site for a trotting park. It is recorded of him that he took a deep interest in the welfare of those with whom he was brought into contact; that on a number of occasions he struck off his ledger accounts

of debtors whom he knew to be in serious financial difficulties; that he voluntarily paid the expenses of young men who were struggling for an education, while many times barrels of flour and other necessaries of life have arrived in the nick of time to relieve the distress of needy families. Mr. Gibson was a man with a kind heart, agreeable disposition, and very hospitable. His death will be deeply mourned not only on the Nashwaak, but throughout the Province.