

JOHN RUSSELL CUTLERY COMPANY

ED GREGORY

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Gleaned from **Greenfield** newspapers; 1825-1918 via
[Old Fulton New York Post Cards \(fultonhistory.com\)](http://fultonhistory.com)

and the

Turners Falls Reporter; 1872-1922

Greenfield entries will show in **green** tint.

By

ED GREGORY

Gazette & Courier
1825

Nathaniel E. Russell, native of Greenfield, returned to town from Colrain where he had been in trade. In partnership with Lyman Kendall purchased all waterpower and buildings on both sides of the Fall River and commenced the manufacturing of satinets.

Gazette & Herald
January 17, 1832

Named at the New York Convention, Nathaniel E. Russell on the *Central State Committee for Domestic Industry*. This organization had as its purpose the advocacy of various protective measures as tariffs and the advancement of American industry in general.

Gazette & Courier
February 26, 1839

Trustee mentioned by the appellation of Nathaniel E. Russell, possibly connected with John Russell Cutlery.

Greenfield Democrat
June 6, 1860

On Friday, as Silas Scott was engaged in sawing ivory at the Green River establishment, he found in an elephant's tusk an ivory ball. It was about 3-1/2 feet from the root of the tusk and 2-1/2 feet from the end, and it is supposed to have been in the tusk at least 100 years.

Gazette & Courier
September 26, 1864

The house of John Russell was entered and a watch and \$1.50 worth of silverware was stolen.

Oct.24

J. Russell & Co. have recently received an order from the Government for 2,400 dozen knives for the hospital department.

December 25, 1865

C. L. Butler has obtained a patent for improvement in table cutlery.

August 24, 1868

Frederick Clapp has been chosen Secretary of the John Russell Cutlery Company and has left the internal revenue office to discharge the duties of his office. Mr. Clapp has had several years practical experience in the cutlery works, and his service cannot fail to be of great value to the corporation in its enlarged and increasing business.

Sept.7

Joshua Thorniley left the J.R.C.C. after 20 years and David Hunter, also an employee took his place.

April 19, 1869

The muddiest piece of road in all this vicinity is between the depot and Russell's cutlery. The town of Greenfield is greatly to blame that they do not put the road in order. It can be easily done.

May.17

B. N. Farren bought a \$462.00 lot on G Street in Turners Falls, a \$1100.00 and a \$49.5.00 lot on Avenue A, and a \$.528.00 lot on 4th Street. Matthew Chapman bought a \$17.50.00 lot on Avenue A.

April 8, 1872

Charles Russell of New York, a nephew of John and Nathaniel Russell has gone into a partnership with Solon L. Wiley in the Old Green River Cutlery Shops in the manufacture of a usable patented article.

Apr.24

Nathaniel E. Russell appointed as delegate to the Young Men's National Republican Convention to be held in Washington, on May 7th.

August 9, 1875

It is said that President Field of the Russell Company intends, hereafter, to reside in Lowell with his family, giving general superintendence to the affairs of the Cutlery Company, but spending most of his time on other business in which he is interested.

August 1, 1876

Engineer Crocket is surveying the extension of 1st St. so that it can soon be opened to a point directly opposite the Russell Cutlery Works. Hitherto, it has been impossible to drive anywhere near the mill. A new wooden foot bridge with stone abutments has been built over the canal in place of the old one on piles which the ice displaced in winter.

September 17, 1877

George E. Chapman is foreman of the pocket cutlery department of the John Russell Works.

March 24, 1879

The John Russell Cutlery Company has just received from the U. S. Patent Office a valuable trade mark and a label for a class of their goods, through J. S. Grinnell, a patent attorney.

Oct. 27

Calvin L. Butler, foreman in the John Russell Cutlery Co. at Turners Falls, has just received through the agency of James S. Grinnell, a patent for casting on the handle of

pocket knives a metallic bolster much cheapening the cost of the manufacturer of the pocket knives.

January 5, 1880

The workmen in the grinding room of the John Russell Cutlery Company gave foreman Lucas March a handsome parlor set for a Christmas present.

October 23, 1882

Our old friend William S. Lee, who has been a sales agent of the John Russell Cutlery Co., has gone into business at Albany, N. Y., being associated with Gilbert Ackerman in the wholesale and retail hardware and cutlery trades.

January 28, 1884

Jacob Hillebrand is the new office boy at the J. Russell Cutlery Co. office.

Dec.29

J. Russell Cutlery Co.'s Silver Plated, Solid Steel Knives -Wholesale and Retail by C. P. Forbes, 1 Mansion House Block.

February 14, 1887

Major Henry Winn retires from the management of the Lamson & Goodnow Mfg. Co., having sold his interest to R. N. Oakman Jr., treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Co., who will succeed him.

July 20, 1889

The following resolution was adopted before adjournment. Resolved-that in accepting the resignation of R. N. Oakman, Jr. as director and treasurer of the company, the stockholders desire to express their appreciation of his ability and experience in the management of the affairs of the company, their esteem for him as a man, and for his services to the company.

Aug.10

Elmer D. Severance, foreman of the plating department of the Russell Cutlery Company, has resigned on account of ill health.

Dec.16

Mill Amy Bowman is at work for the J. Russell Cutlery Company.

November 28, 1890

Ex-Governor Talbott is at the Farren House, attending the Cutlery Meeting.

March 28, 1891

Joseph Batten has resigned his position with the Cutlery Co., and is now filling the vacancy caused by George Clapp at the Fitchburg R. R. Depot.

January 14, 1895

Kendrick T. Slate, paymaster at the John Russell Cutlery Co. for over ten years has resigned and takes a position as bookkeeper for the Towle Manufacturing Co. at Greenfield. W. R. Long of this place succeeds Mr. Slate as paymaster.

Jan.30

Death of William Booth. Mr. William Booth, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. died of heart failure at Chicago, the 2th. Booth had been employed by the company for about twenty-five years, visiting the trade of the large cities of the West, where he was well known and highly respected and liked. For some years he had made Chicago his home visiting annually the cutlery works in this place and his children. With others attending was Mr. W. P. Dustin, manager of the Cutlery Co. and among the floral offerings was an ivy wreath from the company he had served so long.

March 31, 1897

David Hunter, formerly superintendent of the cutlery works, returned from a trip around the world, to his Greenfield home yesterday.

Turners Falls Reporter

July 10, 1872

Our Paper

Last week we launched our little paper on the tumultuous seas of newspaperdom, with fear and trembling, and the reception we received at the hands of our citizens was even beyond our fondest expectations, and for this kindly sympathy we will endeavor to encourage our patrons in their encouragement. It is enough to make any journalist's heart beat with enthusiasm, his blood tingle with pride, to have it said in nearly every quarter that his new-born sheet is the prettiest, wittiest, and most readable local newspaper to be found anywhere, and these encomiums of the public are in every respect as flattering to the publisher as the praises bestowed on the new-born infant are to the household.

Several months ago we came to this place and established ourselves in the job-printing business. It was suggested to us that a town of as many inhabitants as this should not be without a "local paper." After getting better acquainted with its people, seeing the amount of manufacturing carried on, with other branches of industry projected, "we saw our duty a dead sure thing," and a rich harvest seeming to loom up as a reward for our labor, we "went for it there and then."

Ours will be a purely family paper, with the interests of Turners Falls especially at heart, as we believe that, with the aid of one of the finest controllable water-powers in the world, it is destined, are many years to rank among the foremost manufacturing places in New England. Nor do we see any cause to doubt that the town Turners Falls will make the same rapid strides that has characterized it since its foundation, some three years ago, when it was nothing more than a quiet farm on the Connecticut River.

The rapid growth of the place is truly wonderful. In less than three years a town of 3000 inhabitants has sprung up, with well laid out streets, avenues, lanes and squares. The river was spanned with a suspension bridge 632 feet long, and a turnpike road made along the brow of the hill on the opposite side of the river, on to Greenfield, reducing the distance to less than three miles. A canal was constructed to utilize the water-power, and a paper mill, a pulp mill, a cutlery manufactory, a machine shop, a foundry, and a mill for the manufacture of fine writing papers, were erected. When we have more leisure, we will write up these features of our town more fully, giving copious descriptions of the manufactories. The new hotel is another of the ornaments of Turners Falls, and it, too, shall not escape our notice.

Our books are now open to receive the names of subscribers, and those living in the more remote parts of the County can have a paper mailed to them every week regularly by sending their address to this office. Our terms are printed on the first page. Persons living in town wanting to subscribe for the paper, would confer a favor on us by stepping into our office and leaving their names, as we will be unable to spare time at present to make a personal canvass.

July.17

Leg Broken—Antony Disselttle, while at his work in the Cutlery on Monday, got his leg shattered by being caught by the belt and thrown violently against the stone at which he was grinding. He wanted to stop the stone, and incautiously tried to throw the belt off the sheaf with his foot, when the belt caught it, breaking his leg instantly. The sufferer was taken in full haste to his home on the Sand Patch, and Dr. E. C. Coy called in, who set the leg, and the patient is now doing well.

July.24

We doubt if there is a town in New England where so rapid strides have been made in the last three years in this place. During that time over three hundred houses and stores have been erected. (and we do not include the mammoth works of the John Russell Co., the Pulp Mills, the Montague Paper co., the Turners Falls Lumber co., or the Machine Shops and Foundry) employment given to about four thousand persons, over three fourths of whom reside in the town, and the march is still onward.

July.31

The cutlery has been closed for the last three days for the purpose of putting in a new gear for one of the water wheels. Work will be resumed tomorrow morning, we understand.

Aug.7

-Russell Co. are laying a drain in the center length of their block, to carry off the refuse water. This was much needed, as a stagnant pool of filth has been at the lower end of the block a little too long.

-Taxes for 1872 Russell, John, Manuf. Co. 3,125.00

Aug.14

-The sewer along the back of the Russell Block is nearly completed.
-The Cutlery bell got broken last Wednesday, and a steam whistle now does duty it refused to perform, in a more satisfactory manner.

Aug.21

The cesspool at the rear of the Russell Block, the sewer which not being complete, finds an outlet on L Street, a channel having been formed by a ditch along the centre[sic] of the street to the river.

Sept.11

Has the Cutlery gone into a new branch of business and supplied the boys around town with "bones." Almost every urchin you see in the streets has a pair of those infernal peace-breaking instruments.

Sept.18

-The folks in the Russell Block have cleared their back yards, but the hog styes and closets in that locality keep on the "even tenor of their way," and—

From Third Street as in balmy June,
The evening breezes waft perfume!

-Frank Farnsworth, engineer at the Cutlery, got severely burned one day last week. He opened the furnace to put in fresh coal, when the gas suddenly escaped, throwing him backward several feet, and burning his arms and face in a terrible manner. He will not be able to work for some time, and is at present in an almost helpless condition. Dr. Coy attended him.

Oct.30

Accident—A man named Thomas Nash had his arm caught in a belt at the Cutlery, on Friday afternoon, and broke both bones of the same. Drs. Vining and Coy attended him.

Nov.20

Our table has been graced by a splendid photograph of the town of Turners Falls. The view is taken from High Street, and is remarkably distinct. The churches, hotel, **Reporter** office, Post Office, Schuler's, the Keith, Russell, and Pulp Blocks, McVey Bros. Restaurant, the top of Keith Mill, the Suspension Bridge, and many other points of special interest from the foreground; in the distance are Riverside and Factory Village, while the background is our own beautiful hills, with the mountains in the distance. As a work of art, it is the best effort we have seen anywhere hereabouts, and reflects credit upon the skill of the artist. Mr. Charles E. Barton has our thanks for his kindly remembrance of the press, and we wish him the success he deserves for his enterprise.

Dec.11

A German Church in the New City of Turners Falls, Mass.

Messres. Editors: You would confer a great favor if you would permit me to speak through the columns of the *Reporter* to the resident citizens of this place, and especially to its many outside friends, on the above named subject.

The erection of a German Church, or rather a Church for the Germans, in Turners Falls, has for two or three months past occupied the minds of a goodly number of our German as well as American friends. The last notice read "that subscriptions for it were being pressed with vigor." You were correct in your statement and I am glad to say, that our list of subscribers show already 54 names, 25 of which are Germans, with \$474, and the other 29 of other nationalities, with \$97.25, making a total amount of \$671.25.

Not quite a year ago this place, together with Greenfield and Shelburne Falls, was discovered, as a substantial field for missionary enterprise by the present pastor, who had been invited to come here, and preach once for the Germans, by the Rev. W.G. Leonard, then Pastor of the Meth. E. Church here. I came in compliance with the invitation and preached to a very full house, nearly 150 Germans being present.

It was the first German service ever held in Turners Falls. After the service I inquired from the congregation, whether they desired German preaching regularly, to which they almost unanimously responded in the affirmative. It was then stated that from 800 to 1000 Germans made these three places their permanent residences. Weekly prayer meetings have been sustained for the last 9 months and proved blessings to those that attended them.

And now, I will endeavor to state what is intended to be done with regard to the erection of a German Church. To secure the permanency, as well as a better propagation of our work, we must have a church of our exclusive use. And why should this want not be met? The Methodist, Baptist and R. Catholic Societies all have their chapels, and why should not the Germans have a church for their use, in which they can worship God in their mother-tongue. There are now as many Germans residing here as on any one other nationality, and their numbers will undoubtedly increase, in proportion to the growth of the city. Therefore we consider the German work in Turners Falls just as important as any of the other religious enterprises. This fact is considered and realized by the leading men of this town. The Turners Falls Co., through the representation of our intention by the Hon. Alvah Crocker, has generously given us a handsome building site, near the new school house, on which our trustees have concluded to erect a church at an expense of about \$5,000.000. We intend to build in the spring, if we can raise money or substantial subscriptions enough to warrant the success of the enterprise. We have commenced to collect subscriptions and thus far feel encouraged. Few of those who were asked refused to give. The present dull time, however, seems to be very unsuited to this effort. Many of the cutlery hands are out of work and the balance only work three-fourths of the time.

And now I wish to bring matters home to each individual reader. Having acquainted you with our enterprise as well as our need, we appeal to your charity and benevolence for aid. Especially to you who have the means, who can give, If you only will—to you we appeal in this our need. A liberal subscription will not make you any poorer and help us a great deal. The German population, mostly hard-working people, of whom the majority are not able to understand the English language well enough to be benefited by an English sermon, must have the gospel preached to them in their mother-tongue,—and ought to have a church in which they can listen to it.

Hoping that many, if not all readers of the Reporter will favorably consider this appeal and send us a liberal subscription I remain,

Respectfully yours, CHARLES REUSS, Treasurer and Secretary

P.S. Please address all letters to Chas. Reuss, Turners Falls, Mass.

January 29, 1873

The cutlery is expected to run full time in a week or two.

Mar.3

The John Russell Cutlery Company held their annual meeting on Thursday, and adjourned to the 2nd of April, without electing officers.

Mar.12

Already several large manufacturing companies are in full operation. Among these are the Clark & Chapman Machine Company, which makes a specialty of water wheels and saw mill machinery; the Montague Paper Company, manufacturers of fine printing papers, with a daily production of 6 tons; Turners Falls Pulp Company, John Russell Manufacturing Company, whose cutlery is world renowned; the Keith Paper Company, manufacturers of fine papers, and the Turners Falls Lumber Company.

Apr.23

The John Russell Cutlery Company have a meeting today.

Apr.30

John Russell Manufacturing Co.

The stockholders held an adjourned annual meeting at the Farren House on Wednesday last, and by their action, we are glad to say, have placed this immense concern in a way to be of more value than ever before to our community and to the stockholders.

The first item of business was the report of a committee previously appointed to investigate the financial status of the company. Jos. H. Ely, Esq., of Lowell, submitted the report, which was pronounced exhaustive upon the subject entrusted to the committee. Among other recommendations, and the principle one, was one to offer for sale the works, stock and interest of the "John Russell Manufacturing Company," and the formation of a new committee to be known as the "John Russell Cutlery Company," with a cash capital of \$500,000. So able was the report and so favorably was it received that upon vote it was *unanimously* adopted. About 4000 shares were represented.

As soon as this section was had, Hon. Alvah Crocker, Ex-Gov. Thos. Talbot, and J. H. Ely, Esq., were elected a committee to conduct the details of the sale and transfer to the succeeding company.

John Russell Cutlery Company

A special meeting of the new organization was then held, when an election for treasurer being rendered necessary by the resignation of Spencer B. Root, Esq., so long treasurer of the old Company, the vacancy was filled by the choice of Richard N. Oakman, Jr., by a unanimous vote.

The other officers still hold their respective positions.

The number of Directors was reduced from nine to seven, and the Board now stands; Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg; Thomas Talbot, N. Billerica; H. E. Wilcox, Meriden, Ct.; M. Chapman, Greenfield; Chas. W. Russell and Edwin Bulkley, New York; and B. N. Farren, Turners Falls.

The meeting was the largest the old company has ever held, very nearly *all* the stock being represented. We must congratulate our people upon the class of men who represent and who are identified with this branch of industry in our town. Such men as Col. Crocker,

Lieut.-Gov. Talbot, B. N. Farren, D. C. G. Field, Jos. H. Ely, Josiah Gates, M. Chapman, A. P. Bonney, A. M. Whitney, Oakes Ames, Oliver Ames, 2nd, Chas. T. Crocker, G.S. Burbank, B. F. Butler, C. C. Burr, of our own state, Gov. Henry P. Haven, A. C. Wilcox, Dr. Chas. Osgood of Conn., and Edwin Bulkley and W. C. Russell of New York, are not going to let the interests of the concern lag any longer, and we rejoice that the establishment is to be run at its utmost capacity just as soon as the arrangements for the new company are completed.

Another important point for Turners Falls is the decision to have all the workmen who can reside in this town. Too long has the town had the onus of all the blame that has rested upon the shilly shally way in which work has been carried on. We have borne the stigma of having the works unused, or only used in part, while another town has received whatever money has been paid out there. Hereafter the company, who are largely interested in other ways in Turners Falls will see that as much as possible of their money is spent here.

To capitalists there is offered a chance to invest in one of the very best companies located in Turners Falls. Every possible advantage is possessed by the company in the matters of buildings and machinery, and every facility for transportation of material and goods is at their command; we can readily anticipate the quick sale of the company's stock, and would advise all who are anyway interested in the old company or who desire to invest in the new one to make as early an application as possible, as a very large portion has already been subscribed for.

May.28

A Drive to Turners Falls

-A lovelier morning never gladdened the heart of mortal than that in which my friend and I hurried and bustled about, with a brush here and a sweep there to make ready the house in case the "lord and master" returned while we were absent. Soon the children came rushing in, exclaiming at the top of their voices, "The carriage has come! The carriage has come!" Now for stowing ourselves away. It was roomy, to be sure, but there was a good many of us. On the back seat were two fair-haired girls, each with a dolly in their laps, and on the front seat were two talkative mommas, with little baby Bessy between; next came water-proofs and shawls.

A cluck and a cut with the whip and away we went, past green fields, pretty gardens, up and down hills, till we came to what is called the New Road, which is picturesque enough to satisfy the most exacting. Still on we went till we came to the new Suspension Bridge, which is truly very beautiful of itself, but when taken with its surroundings, is charming. We crossed it, drove around to different points, trying to get a view of the Falls. Finally my friend made a bold dash, and down we went, right into the cutlery yard, not knowing or caring how we should get out, but intent on seeing the Falls.

We soon caught a glimpse of a tall, fine looking man, whom we recognized at first sight to be a gentleman. We were not mistaken, for as soon as we made our desires known he assisted us to alight, one and all, then escorted us around cars, over tracks and piles of iron, through a paper mill, to the window that overlooked the Falls.

There we stood as if spell-bound and feasted our eyes upon the beauty that lay before us. The water being remarkably high and the sun very bright, it seemed as if everything had conspired to enhance the beauty of that spot. In the midst of the river, just below the dam, was a little island, with its rocky center studded with green trees and low bushes, and around it were rocks over which the water tumbled and dashed along with great fury.

At our right and directly before us, the water was pouring over the dam with such force that it sent up a dense cloud of white, feathery spray that glistened in the sunlight like so many diamonds.

At our left, on the opposite side of the river was a high bank, covered with beautiful trees and shrubbery, and at the top of it was a road which led along the river bank to the ferry. This road gave a fine view of the Falls, with all their kindred scenery, and the pretty new buildings that are springing up in every direction, each adding new beauty and giving fresh proof of the strength of New England enterprise. We feel to confidently prophesy a glorious future for this young child of civilization, and may it ever extend to all that same degree of politeness and courtesy which we gratefully acknowledge.—*Gazette*.

-The cutlery is running on full time at last.

June.4

"Corporations have no souls," therefore it would be absurd to expect that the Pulp Company. The Russell Cutlery Co. and the Keith Company will plant shade trees in front of their whole streets of buildings, as required by their several deeds, or that the Turners Falls Company will insist that it shall be done. Is the clause in the deed meant to be binding only in the case of the man—or, perhaps, the poor widow—who has a lifetime's savings invested in a small lot in the place?

-We learn from Myron A. Ward, the Superintendent of Geo. L. Manchester's work here, that his men have completed the laying of about 9,000 feet of the heavy cast iron 12-inch pipe for the Keith Company. The fidelity with which the work is executed may be instanced by the fact that on Friday last 516 feet was laid by two men and their assistants. The pipe is now complete as far as the cove below the ferry. It is also laid from the Russell Co's. "gate" up to the Bardwell barn on First Street.

June.11

The John Russell Cutlery Company

Held their final adjourned meeting on Thursday last at Lowell, and completed their organization by the choice of the following board of officers: Pres. Jos. H. Ely; Treas. D. C. G. Field; Supt. Matthew Chapman; Clerk, Frederick Clapp; Directors, Alvah Crocker, Horace G. Wilcox, Oakes Ames, 2nd; Henry M. Whitney, Jos. H. Ely, Edwin Bulkley, Matthew Chapman, Thomas Talbot.

The stock was all taken, and there were requests received for more, to the amount of \$28,000 in excess of the capital. We rejoice at this, but more than at the fact that through the long and embarrassing preliminary meetings the utmost unanimity prevailed, and that the new company will commence its career under the most favorable auspices. In the persons of the executory officers we have gentlemen of large experience and acknowledged probity, and we confidently look forward to the ultimate success of the company, as the

successors of the John Russell Manufacturing Company, the largest, oldest, and best cutlery concern in the country.

June.30

The capital of the Russell Cutlery Co., \$450,000, was to-day paid in, in cash.

July.2

The Cutlery is closed for stock-taking. It will open up again in a fortnight.

Aug.6

-Wm. P. Crocker, Esq., has evidently earned the good will of the mill owners by his happy forethought in constructing a road leading from the suspension bridge under the Keith Mill arch to the Russell Works, and a passage may be had through their yards to the Pulp Mill and Montague Mill. It is made of stone and dirt from the new canal, and besides being very convenient must be very substantial.

John Russell Cutlery Co.—This company was organized July 30th, as the successors of the John Russell Manufacturing Co., a corporation that has a world-wide reputation, and a transfer of all that company's property and business was made. It will be a matter of congratulation to all who have ever transacted business with the old concern to know that all the old faces and old names are retained, and although a change of name has taken place, there will be no change in the business, excepting so far as the increased facilities for transacting the same and the impetus, the addition of their large paid in cash capital must make.

The new board of officers are—*President*: Jos. H. Ely; *Treasurer*: D. C. G. Field; *Clerk*: Frederick Clapp; *Directors*: Alvah Crocker, Thos. Talbot, H. M. Whitney, Josiah Gates, H. C. Wilcox, Jos. H. Ely, Richard P. Braff, B. Sargent, and Matthew Chapman. The capital is \$453,000, all paid in. Work was begun on the 1st inst., and they will steadily increase their force until the whole capacity is employed should trade give any warrant whatever for the same.

Aug.13

Taxes for 1873	Russell, J. Manufacturing Co.	\$3,750.00
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Sept.12

What is Turners Falls going to send to the Annual Exhibit of the Franklin Co. Agricultural Society? Clark & Chapman, the paper mills, cutlery, and our ladies ought to do something for the fair.

Sept.17

The John Russell Cutlery, the Keith, the Pulp and Montague Paper companies have contracted for the fire apparatus necessary for the protection of their works. They will have three rotary and three steam pumps, with all the modern appliances. Let us suggest that it would be well for the Turners Falls Fire District to secure if they can, the proper connections to make this force available in case of fire up in the town. The stream of water from a 6-inch pipe should be a great inducement to the District to seek to make it available in case of need. We do not know that the companies would consent, but presume they would, upon fair terms.

Sept.24

John O'Neill, aged about 12 years, son of Mr. William O'Neill of our town, was seriously injured at the Cutlery on Monday. His hand was so badly smashed that two fingers had to be amputated, and it is probable that more will be forced to undergo the same operation.

Oct.1

-Over 100 hands are at work in the Cutlery.

-They are now running a quarter extra time in the trip hammer shop of the Cutlery.

Oct.29

Owing to the financial pressure, the John Russell Cutlery Co. have been compelled to close their works two days (Friday and Saturday) of each week, and on the other days, the workmen will be put on three-quarters time.

Dec.24

The men employed in the Cutlery, who have had work of late six days in the week, have had their time reduced to four days.

January 7, 1874

The Cutlery will be run upon six day's time hereafter, instead of four.

Jan.14

The Montague Paper Company are putting in another steam pump. Mr. George L. Manchester does the work. He has already put in six of these pumps in the different mills and the Cutlery. They are known as the Easthampton Valley Steam Pumps.

Feb.1

The John Russell Cutlery Co. are running their manufactories as long as the men can see to work without artificial light. There is every prospect of a large spring business.

April.1

Cutlery—Full time.

Oct.7

The John Russell Cutlery Company held a meeting, Wednesday. Mr. D.C.G. Field, former Treasurer was elected President and Superintendent, and R.N. Oakman, Jr., Cashier of the Crocker National Bank, was elected Treasurer. Mr. Oakman resigns the Cashiership at the bank, as well as the Treasurership of the Montague Paper Company. The changes were made necessary by the death of Mr. Ely, the former president.

May.6

Turners Falls

This for a place but five years old is almost a wonder. The first grand feature of this town is the Connecticut river with its monster dam, affording probably the most reliable and extensive water power in the state if not in New England. There are already massive machine shops, run by Messrs. Clark & Chapman; pulp works—that of preparing wood for its manufacture into paper, George Hance superintendent and with whom we took a walk through the mills; very extensive paper mills, and probably the largest cutlery establishment in the world; all built of brick and stone, and all in successful operation.

These are at present the principal branches of the business of the town all of which require dwelling for their operatives; not withstanding many of the employees of the cutlery

works reside in Greenfield, where the business was formerly carried on, and a train of cars is run morning and evening for their accommodation. They have already completed and are occupying several long blocks of three and four story dwellings, all of handsome brick made near the premises at Turners Falls; and the principal stores, of which there are many of the usual variety found in town or city, also all of brick.

In one of the fine brick buildings we found the offices of the Turners Falls **Reporter**, A.D. Welch editor and proprietor. We are glad to have an opportunity to say that the **Reporter** is one of the *live* papers we are always pleased to find among our exchanges.

Last but not least among the objects of interest in this embryo city is the Farren House, G.T.C. Holden proprietor. This with its outfit is a sixty-thousand-dollar house; and we venture the assertion that it is as handsome, as well furnished and as well kept as any house to be found in the State. Among its guests we were pleased to find our townsman the Rev. L.P. Frost, to whom we are indebted for kind and unceasing attentions during our visit there; Mr. F has a host of friends in this place; and, as an evidence of his popularity, he has quite unexpectedly to himself been appointed superintendent of all the schools within the limits of Montague, seventeen all told, including those of Turners Falls.

The main avenue of this town are laid out one hundred feet in width, while all the cross streets are sixty feet in width in the clear, with restrictions as to building upon or near the side walks. The whole village, some two miles square in extent, is laid out into streets or lots; and a view from the highlands down upon the village proper is a sight not easily to be forgotten.

July.1

The cutlery Company has stopped its work for a few days to take stock, and do other work necessary at mid-year.

July.15

The cutlery resumed operations Monday with a full force.

Sept.16

The base ballists[sic] among the Cutlery hands have challenged the best nine to be picked from among the Keith and Hotel nines. No response from the challenged parties. Come boys. Let us have a game.

Sept.23

A painful accident happened to John Leary at the Cutlery on Friday, A piece of steel broke from one of the dies he was working and striking him in the eye destroyed his sight.

Oct.7

The John Russell Cutlery Company held a meeting, Wednesday. Mr. D.C.G. Field, former Treasurer was elected President and Superintendent, and R.N. Oakman, Jr., Cashier of the Crocker National Bank, was elected Treasurer. Mr. Oakman resigns the Cashiership[sic] at the bank, as well as the Treasurership[sic] of the Montague Paper Company. The changes were made necessary by the death of Mr. Ely, the former president.

Nov.4

-The John Russell Cutlery Company employs 450 hands at present and their business is steadily increasing. The Keith Paper Company are being a larger business than at any previous time in their history, and the Montague mill is cramped keeping up with their orders. Things look lively at the Pulp mill, and Turners Falls has probably never been so prosperous.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company are running on full time.

-Mr. Calvin L. Butler, of Greenfield, succeeds Mr. M. Chapman as Superintendent of the lower rooms in the John Russell Cutlery.

Dec.16

The reader, who has never seen Turners Falls must not be led to believe that the engraving on our first page aims at anything beyond simply giving a view of the magnificent falls. The scenery everywhere about the falls is fully as grand as the view presented. The artist did not attempt to show any of the mills, excepting the Turners Falls Lumber Company's establishment on the left, as those acquainted with the scene will observe, nor does he convey to the eye of the stranger any idea of the existence of the smart little village of Riverside, which extends along the west bank of the river for nearly a mile.

In the view given, the Clark & Chapman Machine Shop, the Pulp Mill, the Montague Paper Mill, and a portion of the extensive John Russell Cutlery works should be visible, but the cataract was all the artist made any pretensions to sketch. To the stranger it might not be out of place to say that the Connecticut River is over twelve hundred feet wide at the falls, and the water, varying in depth, according to the rains, from one to ten feet, has a fall of thirty-five feet, being nothing short of a pocket edition of Niagara.

Those who desire to visit Turners Falls at any time will find the Farren House, within a stone's throw of the falls, one of the most comfortably furnished hotels in the State, with a table as generously provided as any of the large city hotels, and all who are looking for suitable places to locate manufactories, of any kind should become familiar with the position in which Turners Falls stands.

March 24, 1875

-There was a strike of the handle finishers in the cutlery, Saturday. The workmen say that the company had been continually cutting down the prices of their labor till at last they were unable to earn more than from seventy to ninety cents a day, which they considered small pay for able bodied men, and so struck.

Mar.31

The cutlery commenced running full time Monday, and they report business as being very good.

May.19

The cutlery is running with 450 hands.

June.16

The cutlery man unreeled their hose and tried the fire pump, Saturday afternoon. Through seven hundred feet of hose, laid up the hill to the rear of the Farren Hotel, an al-

titude of over a hundred feet from the pump, a three-quarter inch stream was thrown about 150 feet.

July.7

The cutlery has shut down for a couple of weeks to take stock and make repairs.

July.14

The cutlery started up Monday morning, having finished taking inventory of stock Saturday.

July.28

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Company is being held to-day. Some important changes are reported to take place.

Aug.4.

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company:

President - D.C.G. Field Treasurer -R.N. Oakman, Jr., New York

Assistant Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock, Greenfield

Clerk - Frederick Clapp Superintendent - David Hunter, Greenfield

Directors -D.C.G. Field; Charles T. Crocker, Fitchburg; Thomas Talbot, Billerica;

Edwin Bulkley, New York; George H. Sargent, New York;

H.M. Whitney, Lawrence; A.G. Cook, Lowell

Aug.11

Mr. Manchester's men are rearranging the heating pipes in the cutlery, their old position being in front of the blowers as to lose half of their heating power to the room.

Nov.10

E.I. Braddock has hired power in the cutlery buildings and is manufacturing his patent rat traps in great quantities, for which he finds a ready sales.[sic] He will make a fortune very quickly, and he deserves it for his perseverance.

Nov.17

Michael W. Taintor of Greenfield was killed in the John Russell works in a shocking manner last Friday morning. He was employed in the trip hammer shop, and the belt to his machine having slipped from the pulley on the driving shaft, he went to replace it without stopping the power, against the positive and oft-expressed orders of the management. While reaching for the belt the unfortunate man's shirtsleeve, which was loose and dangling from his arm, was caught and wound around the shafting, the belt ensnaring the poor victim, while he was whirled around forty or fifty times on the shaft, which was making two hundred revolutions per minute, till the arm was torn from the socket, when he was thrown across the shop to the floor, apparently dead.

Abner Avery was the only one in the room who had the presence of mind to go to the man's assistance, promptly, and in lifting his insensible body up, discovered that the arm had been torn out, the blood streaming from the body in a horrible manner. Mr. Taintor came to shortly, and said to Mr. Avery. "This is rough, Ab."

Drs. Coy, Campbell, Ulrich and Deane were called, and the unfortunate man was moved to Schuler Block, but he was beyond the aid of medical skill, and died in one hour after the accident.

Besides the fatal wound, both legs were broken and the body bruised considerably. The management of the cutlery did everything in their power for the wounded man, and lost not a moment that could be applied in the hope of saving his life.

Mr. Taintor was 46 years old, and had been in the employ of the cutlery company thirty years. He was an honest, hard-working man, much respected wherever known, he was a member of the Baptist church. He leaves a wife and two children in comfortable circumstance.

Dec.1

-About 475 men are at work in the cutlery at present.

-The cutlery Company intend to have a fine display of their manufacturers at the centennial show this year.

-1876 T.F. Reporter not available-

June 6, 1877

-The John Russell Cutlery Company have planted a row of shade trees in front of their Third Street tenement block.

-Farwell Booker of Shelburne Falls, has invented a grinding machine for cutlers' use which is quite creditable to his inventive genius. The John Russell Cutlery Company have just placed one of the machines in their factories, and are much pleased with its work.

-The large scroll turbine water wheel furnishing power to part of the cutlery works was badly smashed on day last week by large rocks getting into it some unaccountable manner. The wheel was made unusually heavy, especially for the work, and has been running for seven years, under a forty foot head, furnishing 300 horse-power. A new wheel is being made to take the place of the one broken.

June.13

The John Russell Cutlery Company works shut down Saturday, for a month, to take the customary yearly inventory and make repairs.

July.4

-The John Russell Company are having a large Crocker fire-pump made for use in their factories.

-The Clark & Chapman Machine Company have constructed for the John Russell Cutlery Co. an extra heavy scroll wheel to take the place of the Reynolds wheel which recently gave out. The new wheel is forty-eight inches in diameter, has 28-inch buckets, and weighs 10,00 pounds, and was in operation just three weeks after the order was given. Although smaller than the wheel it replaced, the Clark & Chapman wheel gives much more power, and President Oakman of the Cutlery Co. is more than satisfied with the change.

-The cutlery works were started up on full time last week.

Aug.1

-At the annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. last Wednesday, these officers were re-elected; A.G. Cook of Lowell, president; R.N. Oakman, jr., treasurer; Fredk. Clapp, clerk; Directors, A.G. Cook, Josiah Gates, Lowell; B.N. Farren, Turners Falls; Ex-

Governor Thomas Talbot, North Billerica; Edwin Bulkley, New York; Charles T. Crocker, Fitchburg; H. M. Whitney, Lawrence. A dividend of three per cent was declared.

-Thomas Ryan, a young lad, had a thumb taken off while working at a machine in the cutlery, Saturday. His fore-finger was also badly cut, but surgeons will be able to save the member. Drs. Coy and Campbell have charge of the patient.

Aug.15

-Farwell Booker has sold another of his excellent grinding machines to the John Russell Cutlery Co. These machines grind either a convex or a concave surface, and the two in use here will grind two hundred dozen blades a day, with one man to a machine. The inventor is a brother of William Booker of this village, an Englishman, who has ground cutlery for twenty-five years.

-Geo. G. Rockwood has taken a negative of the Montague Mill, the view commanding the entire river walls from the bulkhead to the cutlery. It is the largest negative ever taken in Franklin County, being twenty by twenty-four inches.

Sept.5

Thomas Butler, pitcher of the Independent base ball[sic] club, received a severe wound, Friday, while at work in the cutlery. The prong of an unfinished fork was driven through the center of his hand, entering the palm and coming out between the bones of the first and second fingers.

Sept.12

-Geo. E. Chapman is now foreman of the pocket-cutlery department of the John Russell works.

-There is work for every man in this vicinity now, at reasonable wages. The Keith, John Russell Cutlery, Montague Paper and Clark & Chapman Machine Companies are all doing a thriving business, and the store-keepers have no cause to complain.

-George Carter had a finger split through the second joint in the cutlery the other day.

Sept.19

-A thirteen-year old lad named Trefley Vasseur, had his right arm almost severed with a saw, while at work in the cutlery, Thursday.

-The workman's train, running up the track by the cutlery last night, collided with an empty coal car, and the latter was thrown over in the canal, while one or two cars of the train were thrown from the rails, tearing up a small piece of track.

Oct.10

Campbell & Hazelton are constructing 500 feet of sidewalk in front of the Russell Block on Third Street. A granite curbing is being used.

Nov.7

Business is brisk at the cutlery, and five hundred men are employed.

Nov.14

Geo. E. Hartley has the job of making the Russell Block sidewalk on Third Street. . . . President Keith speedily took an interest in the welfare of his operatives, and has so far secured situations for his best help in paper mills here, there and everywhere. But many of the female help, especially of the rag rooms, will be unable to obtain employment at all dur-

ing the winter. Fortunately work in the cutlery is very brisk, and therefore the blow will be less felt in the village than if the fire had occurred last winter, when the wives of many of the idle cutlery hands supported their husbands and families by working in the rag-rooms of the paper mills. The workmen will mostly all remain here, and will find something to do when the work of rebuilding is commenced.

Nov.21

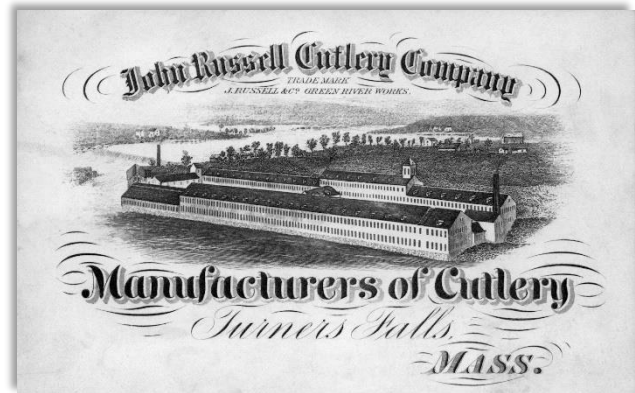
The John Russell Cutlery company has it new Crocker fire pump placed in position. At a trial last week, the pump, which has a capacity of three gallons, worked splendidly, throwing

Dec.5

The John Russell Cutlery Co. being crowded for room has begun to build a good sized, two-story addition to one of the lower wings of their factory, to be used for a carpenter's shop. Campbell & Hazelton are the builders.

Dec.12

The Greenfield people are making a slight mistake in one particular. They are doing all they can to get the cutlery works started so as to "get ahead of Turners Falls," as the papers hint. If they so much desire to a rival to our cutlery, it may not be so obtainable in the end as they contemplate for its natural to suppose that the John Russell Cutlery Co. may have a little something to say.



Russell Cutlery salesman's calling card. *e.g. archive*

If Greenfield has \$45,000 to invest in a river cutlery establishment, "just to keep trade away from Turners Falls," perhaps the management of our cutlery works will say to its workmen who reside in Greenfield, "You must come to Turners Falls to live," and thereby take the wages of the workmen amounting to \$10,000 per month out of that town at one stroke. The pay roll at the Russell works now foot up about \$17,000 per month, and of this sum fully \$10,000 is taken to the shiretown. We do not say that the Russell Cutlery management would do anything of the kind, but it is possible, and reasonable. Every workman in our cutlery should live in this village, and not be compelled to travel five miles to and from his work, losing in winter a quarter of a day's time on account of the railroad accommodations. All of the Turners Falls workmen are making full time, while the Greenfield men have to go home in the latter part of the afternoon.

—T.F. Reporter 1878 . . . **No Russell content**—

Jan. 1, 1879

-The John Russell Cutlery Company has purchased Mr. Severence's interest in the silver plating business in the cutlery buildings.

-The silver plating department of the cutlery works has been considerably enlarged, lately.

Jan.8

Lucas March, foreman of the grinding room of the John Russell Cutlery works, on Christmas day was presented by the men in his employ with a costly set of furniture.

Jan.15

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. has purchased Mr. Severence's interest in the silver-plating business in the cutlery buildings.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company have of late put upon the market the handsomest silver plated table cutlery ever manufactured in this country. Much of their holiday goods had an exceedingly rich appearance in leatherette cases of superior finish.

Mar.26

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. have just secured in the U.S. Patent Office a valuable trade mark and label for a class of their goods, through J.S. Grinnell, patent attorney.

-Joel Cobb, from Meriden, has charge of the silver plating department of the John Russell Cutlery Co., and has rented Parson Wyman's house in the city.

Apr.2

The cutlery started up on full time, Monday.

Apr.9

Christopher Brummer died in an epileptic fit, in the cutlery, Saturday.

Apr.16

The directors of the various corporations met, Monday, to talk over projects tending to the extension of the business interests of the village, and consequently to brighten prospects for the future.

A new mill for the manufacture of manilla papers, to be located below the suspension bridge, was under consideration, but nothing definite has transpired. The Russell Cutlery Company are in need of a block of twenty tenements, but will probably not build them before fall. Some improvements to be made in the surroundings of their Third Street block, after July.

May.14

The streets are lined with hurdy-gurdies from morning till night. But as the inhabitants are used to hearing the trip hammers of the cutlery, they don't seem to mind the infliction of "Baby Mine."

June.18

A young son of Mark White had two fingers cut off in the cutlery last week.

July.2

The John Russell Cutlery Works are so busy this year that the customary two weeks shut-down for repairs will not take place, but instead a large force of men will work at repairs after regular hours, and between weeks.

July.16

The John Russell Cutlery works are giving steady employment to more men this summer than at any time during the past five years.

July.23

Charles Hampshire had a hand badly injured in the cutlery one day last week.

July.30

Jacob Fritz, a cutlery workman, who lives in Greenfield has purchased from W.P. Crocker, three building lots on Railroad Street, and will put up a house on one of them and move to town soon. Together the lots measure 143 by 120 feet.

Aug.13

-The John Russell Company will shortly build woodsheds and other out-houses all along in the rear of their forty tenement block.

-The John Russell cutlery works are running extra time to keep pace with the rapidly increasing orders. During July of this year three times as many goods were manufactured and sold as during the corresponding month last year.

-R.N. Oakman, Jr., is one of the new directors of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

-R.N. Oakman, Jr., Treasurer and Manager of the John Russell Cutlery Co., has by excellent and shrewd management increased the business of his company to such an extent as to overburden himself with the cares of the interminable details incidental to the business, consequently he has secured for an assistant, W.P. Dustin, one of the best posted hardware and cutlery men in the United States, who has entered upon his duties.

Aug.20

Over 500 hands are employed in the cutlery. Those living in Greenfield go home at half-past five, while many of the Turners Falls operatives work extra time.

Sept.17

Joseph Shoemaker fell upon a revolving emery wheel in the cutlery, last week, and had a large piece of flesh ground out of his arm.

Oct.1

The John Russell Cutlery Company are building a continuous row of wood-sheds and outhouses, 400 feet long, in the rear of their Third Street block. William Niemes does the brick work.

Oct.8

The probabilities are that the cutlery works will run nights this winter to keep pace with orders. There is talk of lighting the buildings with either gas or electricity.

Oct.22

Manager R.N. Oakman, Jr., of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has decided to light his factories with gas made from crude petroleum, and had begun work on a gasometer with a capacity of 5,000 feet. Manchester & Ward having the contract to pipe the buildings—about 12,000 feet to be used. All the shops are to be lighted, requiring the use of some 500 burners.

Oct.29

-Campbell & Hazelton have the contract to do the mason work of the gasometer for the John Russell Cutlery Co.

-C.L. Butler, in the employ of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has patented a process for casting a metallic bolster on pocket knives, in such a way that the scale linings

and blades are firmly secured by a single operation, and the cost of knife-making materially lessened.

Nov.5

-The John Russell Cutlery Company are building a small addition to their shops for an inspection room, the apartment at present used for that purpose being needed for additional grinding stones.

-The Russell Cutlery establishment will, upon the completion of the gas works, run ten hours a day the year round. This is good news for the workmen, and for the town, but those workmen who live in Greenfield will find it inconvenient to get up at half-past five on a cold winter's morning to catch the train.

Probably half of the men who live in Greenfield have houses which they do not care to, or cannot sell, but the other half could just as well as not come to this village to live, and may be the long working hours will have a tendency to bring these hither.

Nov.26

-Martin Voetsch had a hand fearfully injured last week, with a knife he was grinding while at work in the Russell Cutlery.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company are so crowded with work on hand that they have called in all their traveling salesmen till January, so as to get a chance to catch up with the orders on their books.

-A boy named Breen had his fore arm cut half way through with a saw, at which he was working in the cutlery, Saturday.

-Christian Sauter had his hand badly lacerated while at work grinding in the cutlery, the other day.

Dec.3

The Montague Paper Company will light their new pulp mill with gas from the John Russell Cutlery Company gasometer.

Dec.10

Some young women operatives in the cutlery got into the habit of appropriating the lunch of some of their companions until an unmerciful dose of jalap¹ under the ernst of a toothsome pie persuaded them that the most judicious thing to do would be to bring their own lunch.

Dec.17

The John Russell Cutlery works present a brilliant appearance in the evening when over 500 gas jets are burning.

Dec.31

Lucas March is foreman of the John Russell Cutlery works. A.A. Taylor is foreman of the finishing department in the Keith mill.

¹ A twining plant of the convolvulus family, the dried tubers of which have a purgative effect. Native to Mexico.

January 14, 1880

Improvements in Turners Falls during 1879

Transcribed 3-2-2014 e.g.

For the images shown²



View of a portion of Turners Falls as seen from the Town of Gill.

List of New Buildings and the Causes Which Led to Their Erection

Before our readers we spread a truthful sketch of a small portion of Turners Falls as viewed from the road passing around the Gill shore of the Connecticut River, for the benefit of those who have never had the pleasure of seeing one of the busiest as well as one of the most picturesque towns in the New England states. Below, we also give a view of the entire falls and river above the village as seen from a point on the Greenfield shore of the Connecticut.

Taking an imaginary position by the fence in the foreground, the reader will observe a small portion of the great falls which are the cause of all our greatness. The whole volume of the Connecticut pouring over a fifty foot fall. The first building at the falls is the Shawmut Manufacturing Company's Leatherette works, underneath which, through a massive bulk-head, passes the water from the river to the canal which furnishes power to the manufacturing establishments that are in operation here. Behind the Shawmut is the Clark Manufacturing company's shops and foundry where fire pumps, water wheels, saw mill are made, and general machine work done. Facing us, extending along the riverbank, is the Montague Paper Mill, where all grades of book and news, and some grades of writing papers are made, also wood pulp in great quantities. This establishment—managed by Mr. George E. Marshall, one of the shrewdest, and most progressive paper makers in the

² Transcribers' Note: The images shown in this facsimile are contemporary copies of the images printed in the January 14, 1880 issue of the Turners Falls Reporter. The images from the Reporter are not as legible as the cuts shown here. Images; Ed Gregory archive.

world,—is the most extensive in the United States, and has been prosperous to a marked degree. The product of this mill is 10 tons of paper, and 10 tons of pulp a day.

Beginning just below the rapids at the right, is the John Russell Cutlery works, the largest establishment of its kind in America, and believed to be one of the largest in the world, employing about 700 persons, and using the most improved machines and devices to make the best cutlery at the lowest price, and as a result, John Russell knives are sold to-day in Sheffield, right in the Englishman's teeth, we would say, if we did not know that the Englishman never puts his knife in his mouth. The establishment is managed by Mr. R.N. Oakman, Jr., a young man of splendid executive abilities, who must be credited with leading his company to success through all the hard times. He is assisted by an able corps of specialists, Mr. W.P. Dustin, who has charge of the selling department, being considered one of the best posted hardware men in the United States.

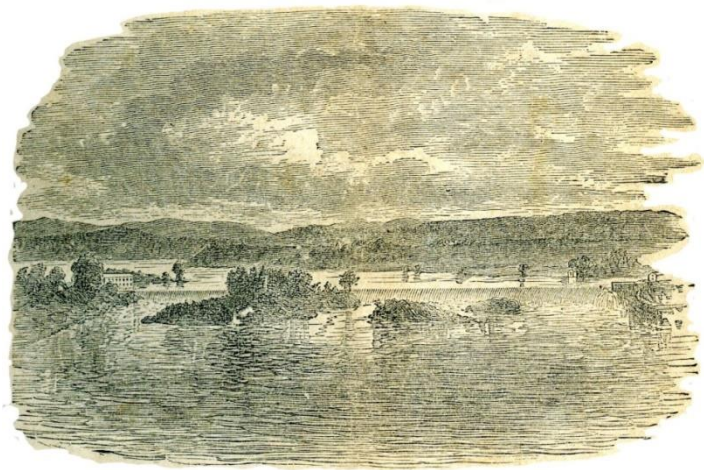
Below the cutlery works, and out of view, is the world famous Keith Paper Company's fine paper mill, acknowledged on all hands to be without an equal, in its appointments and managements, on the American continent. All grades of fine writing papers are made, from the toughest ledger to the most delicately tinted notes for ladies' use. Much of the success in making very thin papers is due to the quality of water used in washing the "stock," and in this respect the Keith company are especially favored. The purest spring of water that ever came from the mountain side is carried in 12 inch iron pipes a distance of two miles to the mill. The cost of the aqueduct alone was \$35,000. The product of the Keith mill is five tons a day. Mr. John Keith is president and treasurer, and gives the entire business his personal supervision.

The next mill site below the suspension bridge is occupied by the Turners Falls Paper Company's new mill, one of the most substantial structures ever erected for the manufacture of paper. We shall refer to this mill again.

The Griswold Manufacturing Company's cotton mill is the next mill below. This concern is just starting up, and has now one hundred looms at work on the finest cotton goods. New machinery is being added as fast as it can be made, and in a short time the product will be doubled. Mr. Joseph Griswold, Jr., an experienced manufacturer and bright business man, brought up to the business since boyhood in his father's cotton mills at Coleraine, has charge of this mill.

These mills give employment to a great many persons, who earn good wages.

The causes which lead to such activity in real estate transaction and building enterprise the past year, are manifold. First of all, the return of better times, gave the manufacturers opportunity to increase their product with profit, thereby employing more help, and



The falls and islands. High water c1850 e.g. archive

furnishing steady employment to those already in the mills. The first to take the lead was the Montague Paper co., which concern added a 78-inch Fourdrinier machine, and made other improvements. The John Russell cutlery works soon began to employ more hands, and then lengthened the house of labor. The Keith company were soon forced to run the finishing rooms in their mills nights. [It must be remembered that the machines on which the paper is made, in the mills here, are always kept in operation every hour during the year, except on Sundays. Each mill has two gangs of hands, who work the alternate twelve hours of the day, beginning at 12 noon and 12 midnight.] Then, early in the spring, President B.N. Farren, of the Turners Falls Co., organized a new paper company, with these officers: B.N. Farren, president; W.E. Everett, treasurer; Geo. E. Marshall, R.N. Oakman, Jr., Charles S. Wheelwright, W.D. Russell, Porter Farwell, directors; James F. Marshall, superintendent. Work was at once begun on a new mill for the manufacture of manilla paper, and in a few weeks the machinery will be put into operation. Mr. Griswold began in the summer to place machinery in his cotton mill, which has been in course of construction several years, and a short time ago Turners Falls shipped to New York its first bale of manufactured cotton. Another help to our prosperity was the erection of a magnificent suspension bridge across the Connecticut river, a quarter of a mile above the falls. The bridge is 550 feet long, and cost \$42,000. But the villagers had not begun to congratulate themselves on the arrival of better days, when President Yeamans of the New Haven and Northampton railroad came on the scene with a corps of civil engineers, surveyed a route for the extension of his railroad to Turners Falls from Northampton, received bids, let the work, and now the road is in course of construction. Before snow flies next fall, regular trains will be running on this new road direct between Turners Falls and New York.

Building lots were bought by the dozen every week, and houses began to go up as fast as the materials and workmen could be obtained to build them, and the growth of the place was retarded by the inability to purchase brick at any place.

Directly in the center of the large sketch, is the Farren Hotel, on avenue A, a splendid building which was erected at a cost of \$75,000. Just opposite is Schuler block, which was erected at a cost of \$16,000 in 1872, where the REPORTER office is located.

The Montague Paper Company began the business boom in the spring, by buying land above the canal and building a handsome brick stock house on a solid stone formation. The building is two stories high, 140 feet long by 30 feet wide, with slate roof, capped with a handsome cupola. Like everything planned by Geo. E. Marshall, Esq., the very efficient treasurer and manager of the Montague Paper co., this building is substantial, handsome, yet in every way perfectly adapted to the purpose for which it was constructed. Campbell & Hazelton were the contractors for the brick work, and Geo. O. Peabody the wood-work.

On the corner of avenue A and Fourth Street, Gilbert L. Rist bought a lot 55 by 110, and began to build a splendid brick block, early in the summer. It is 45 by 60 feet, three stories high, and has a Fitzwilliam granite front. With granite key-stones in brick arches over all the windows. Underneath the block are two stone-walled cellars. The first story is divided into two grand stores, 20½ ft. wide 60 feet deep and twelve feet high. The north store is for the clothing business of G. L. Rist & Co. It has a large show window on

Fourth street as well as in front, and, when finished, will be excellently adapted to the business. On the other side, Mr. Rist's shoe business will be located, and 15 feet will be partitioned off for a work room. Both stores are to be sheathed overhead. A fire-proof brick wall divides the block from cellars to roof. On either side of the wall are front doors leading to tenements in the two stories above. Each half is identical with the other. At the first landing an ample hall extends from front to rear, and from this hall the several rooms are accessible, and all the rooms are convenient. The first two from the front are for parlor and sitting purposes, and are separated by folding doors. The next is a dining room, with spacious cupboards, and the rear room is for a kitchen. Ascending either by front or rear stairs, another large hall is found, along which are the doors opening into two good-sized bed rooms, each room having a closet 3 by six feet. In the rear of the block is a convenient two-story out-house, for wood, coal, etc., accessible from first and second stories. Altogether, this block is an exceptionally fine one, an ornament to the avenue, and a source of satisfaction to its owner. The brick work and plastering was contracted for by Campbell & Hazelton" Hitchcock & Farnsworth were the carpenters, and R. M. Starbuck & Co. put on the tin roof. Mr. Rist is a good, honest, straightforward business man, held in the highest esteem throughout the community, who came here ten years ago with a solid determination to "grow up with the place". In earnest, and after years of industry, strict attention to business, and patient waiting, he has met with a good measure of success.

In 1870 he was the only person in business in Turners Falls, if we may except a little stock of groceries which R. L. Goss kept in the basement of the "old battery." There was then no post office in the place, the nearest one being at Montague City, but the milkman who came up in the morning was kind enough to bring a few letters or papers in his hat. If requested, and, in order to mail a letter the writer would start out and hunt up the milkman before he returned to "the city," or else he compelled to walk two miles to the post office. Just look at the change! In less than ten years millions of dollars worth of property has accumulated where nothing but scrub oaks and rocks were to be seen, and instead of a milkman's hat for a mail-bag we have a presidential post office, and five mails a day arrive from all points! And yet Turners Falls has only just begun to grow. Mr. Rist was first located in Riverside, but soon built a small shop on Fourth street, and subsequently the block in which he resides and carries on business, but he was again compelled to join the ranks in the march of progress, and the building above described was is result. He will occupy his new quarters about the 1st of April.

Joseph F. Bartlett, one of the most worthy citizens of Turners Falls, having conducted a successful business in this village for a number of years, early in the spring bought a lot on the corner of avenue A and Fifth Street, and began the erection of one of the finest blocks in the village, and in a few weeks it will entirely completed and occupied. The block is 50 by 80 feet, of brick, with a handsome marble front, and is three stories high. The first story is divided into two magnificent stores, the full depth of the block, one of which will be used by Mr. Bartlett for his own business—plants, glass and paper hangings, and the other he will rent. The two stories above are divided into four tenements, of very convenient arrangement, all of which were rented before the block was well under way. Campbell & Ha-

zelton were the contractors for the brick work and plastering; Geo. O. Peabody was awarded the wood work, and R.M. Starbuck & Co., the plumbing and roofing.

Dwight Kellogg, last spring, finished a brick block, 30 by 50 feet, three stories high, and an L 20 by 25 feet, on the corner of avenue A and Third Street. The lower story is divided into two stores, one of which has for some time been occupied by James A. Gunn & Co., grocers, and the other will soon be occupied by a dry goods man. The upper stories are occupied by Mrs. Hagar as a boarding house. Campbell & Hazelton were the contractors for the brick work, and G.A Moore did the carpenter work.

Geo. L. Manchester has built a 2½ story brick block, with granite trimmings, 25 by 50 feet, on Third Street. A roomy workshop is in the basement, a handsome salesroom on the ground floor, and there is a tenement above. The brick work was done by the day and Hitchcock & Farnsworth had the contract for the woodwork. J.F. Bartlett did the painting and glazing.

Ernest Bankwitz, has almost finished a very fine three story brick block, with granite trimmings, on Third Street. It is 25 by 38 feet, and contains a great many rooms, being arranged especially for a boarding house. Jeremiah Temple is the contractor for the wood work; Louis Cloutier did the brick work; William Niemes the plastering, and J.F. Bartlett the painting and glazing.

The Griswold Manufacturing Company put up six additional tenements to their big brick block, 120 feet long by 30 wide, and three stories high.

Fred Shirtcliff has built a green-house on his Railroad Street property, about 100 feet long, and put in steam heating apparatus.

P.O.D. Fitzgibbons has built a two story house, 22 by 25 feet, on Eleventh Street. John Thomas did the brick work, and John LaPointe the carpenter work. Mr. Fitzgibbons has also built a large barn in the rear of the house.

Adolph Morrison has built a brick house 25 by 30 feet, on Central Street. The building is two stories, with a finished attic. Geo. O. Peabody contractor.

The Montague Paper Company have constructed wood-sheds, four hundred feet in length, in the rear of their First Street tenement block.

Frank Cloutier has built a 2½ story brick double tenement house on Fifth Street. John LaPointe was the contractor.

Michael Shea is building a house, 25 by 32 feet, on the corner of L and Fourth streets.

An addition, 30 by 60 feet was made to the Catholic church early in the spring.

The John Russell Cutlery Company built a row of large wood-sheds, 400 feet long, in the rear of their Third Street tenement house.

Frank Roberts has built a 3½ story brick tenement house on L Street, 30 by 40 feet. John LaPointe was the contractor.

William Niemes is building a small cottage, 22 by 26 feet on Third Street, to be occupied in April.

Zephirin Foster, has built a two story brick house, 25 by 30 feet, on Third Street. Louis Cloutier was the contractor, and J.F. Bartlett did the painting.

The late Geo. L. Barton's homestead on Prospect Street was finished last January. It is a handsome, roomy, Swiss cottage, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country.

John LaPointe, on Second Street, has finished a two story wooden building, 23 by 33 feet, with slate roof, built by himself.

William Schuler has made a brick addition 30 by 17 feet, to his avenue A block.

Charles Reum has built a cottage on Ninth Street, near the school house.

Hitchcock and Farnsworth have built a sash and blind factory on avenue A and Tenth Street, and are employing a number of men. The building is 30 by 10, with an L 13 by 21, two stories high. In the rear they have lumber sheds 20 by 50 feet. The machinery in the mill is driven by steam.

The Town of Montague have built a very fine school house on G Street at a cost of \$2,773. It is 65 by 34 feet, one story high, and a tower 14 by 30 feet, the whole of brick, with slated roof. John LaPointe was the contractor.

Geo. E. Hartley has four cottages, either built or in course of construction, on a lot 110 feet square, on K Street. L. Hubbard was the contractor for one, and Jeremiah Temple for the others.

Geo. C. Lougee built an addition to his Fourth street block, 40 by 13 feet.

Mrs. O'Donoghue built a two-story-and-a-half brick block on Fourth Street, 26 by 35 feet, slate roof. John LaPointe contractor.

J. P. Morgan has made additions to his K Street stables, occupied by C. J. McCoy.

Patrick Coyne has built a blacksmith shop on Fifth Street.

J. W. Woodard has put up a small building on Fifth Street, which he uses for a harness shop.

Moses Vivier has built a small dwelling on G street.

Timothy O'Connell has built a small house on G Street. Geo. O. Peabody contractor.

John Crimmins, has a new dwelling on H Street.

Peter DeSottelle is building a two story house, 22 by 26 feet on H Street.

Joseph Moreau has built a large barn on H Street.

Thomas Welcome has a new house on I Street.

Jeremiah Sullivan has a new house on Eleventh Street.

John Owens has a new house on 11 Street.

Elijah Young is building a new house on 11 Street.

James Hartford has finished his [I] street house.

Dennis Rivet is building a house on 11 Street.

Patrick Bagley has a new house on [I] Street.

Patrick Calnin has begun to build a house 24 by 36 on 11 Street.

Chester N. Davis has begun to build a two-story double tenement house on Second Street, with a large barn in the rear.

A bridge was built over the canal at Sixth street. Geo. O Peabody was the contractor.

Patrick Kilnane, is building a house on 11th Street.

Michael Sullivan has begun a house on 11 Street.

Louis Clouchee, on Third Street, has built a two story brick house, 28 by [35] feet. Superintended the house himself.

Phillip Koskoba has built a 2½ story brick house on Railroad Street. Size 27 by 31 feet. Joseph Berard contractor.

Frank Roberts, on Fifth Street, is building a carriage shop, 40 by 20, two stories of wood.

John Jameson has built a large barn in rear of his K Street cottage.

Jacob Schempp is building on Ninth Street a two story frame dwelling 26 by 37 feet.

Herminigeld LaPointe, on Second Street, has under way a wooden building, 25 by 35 feet, two stories high. He does the work himself.

Joseph Sculley has built a two story house, 23 by 27 feet, on G Street.

John Shanahan has built a house, 22 by 26, on G Street.

The John Russell Cutlery Company built a small addition to their works for an inspecting room.

The John Russell Cutlery Company built a brick gasometer 32 feet in diameter, and introduced gas into their works using 600 burners.

The Griswold Manufacturing Company built a brick addition to their mill for a boiler house.

-C.J. McCoy had his hand badly burned while at work in the cutlery and erysipelas³ has resulted.

-A man named Willett, a burnisher in the silver-plating department at the cutlery, was pushed down a long flight of stairs by some unruly girls, Monday, and badly injured. He was carried home and Dr. Coy attended to him.

Feb.11

Lucas March, foreman of the grinding room at the cutlery works, while unloading grindstones from the cars, yesterday, had a leg broken by one of the stones which fell on to him.

Mar.10

Now that Greenfield has bent all its energies to successfully induce a little cutlery concern to locate within its limits, the shiretowners[sic] solemnly fold their arms in the sweet self-assurance that our magnificent John Russell Cutlery establishment has received its death blow.

January 5, 1881

-The first factory to use the power was the John Russell Cutlery Company, a concern that is known for the excellence of its goods to the utmost bounds of trade. Steadily has this establishment worked its way to the first of its class, under able management, and latterly its silver plated goods are becoming as famous as their steel blades. R.N. Oakman, Jr., is the manager of this corporation; E.P. Hitchcock, assistant treasurer; W.P. Dustin, sales agent; Frederick Clapp superintendent of shipping; David Hunter, foreman of the shops.

³ A severe skin rash accompanied by fever and vomiting and caused by a streptococcal bacterium.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company, referred to above, has been increasing their product considerably with the year. They were becoming cramped for room, and they have just occupied a new shop built this fall, 190 feet long, by 35 feet wide, and two stories high. This addition will give employment to more men, and who must have houses to live in.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company have built a shop for the pocket knife work, 190 by 35 feet, two stories high. Thomas Brothers had the contract.

Jan.26

The John Russell Cutlery Company have enlarged their silver-plating department considerably, added much new machinery, etc., and now they have one of the most complete establishments in the country.

Mar.2

A machinist, living in the village, employed in the cutlery at Turners Falls has walked to and from his work daily for several weeks, a distance of five miles.

Apr.13

-A local telephone circuit is about to be established, taking in this village and Montague City, with the following subscribers at present: George F. Adams, Dr. Coy, C.W. Hazelton, D.P. Abercrombie, at Montague City.

The John Russell Cutlery Co., the Montague Paper Co., the Turners Falls Paper Co., the Crocker National Bank, C.N. Johnson, the telegraph office, the railroad depot, I.A. Darling, George E. Marshall, and R.N. Oakman, Jr., of this village.

-Information comes to this office that nearly all the workmen employed in the John Russell Cutlery works who live in Turners Falls have signed a petition to the management praying that an hour's nooning[sic] be given them instead of half-an-hour, and the time for quitting work in the evening extended so as to make the day ten hours long, as now. The Greenfield workmen will of course object to the change, as they desire to leave early for their homes, and do not mind a short nooning as they bring their dinners. To the village workmen who go home to dinner, the half hour is quite scant.

May.25

-The Clark and Heald Machine Co. are building a "None-Such" water wheel for the Montague Paper Co., and another for the J. Russell Cutlery Co., of this place. They have also just sold one of their twin pumps to go to North Carolina.

-Assistant-Treasurer Hitchcock of the John Russell Cutlery Co. is about to build a fine house in Greenfield. What a pity such men as he could not be persuaded to come here and build a fine house, and grow up with the place.

June.22

The John Russell Cutlery Co. has shut down for a week or so to take their annual inventory and make repairs.

July.27

W. P. Dustin of the J.R.C.C. has been blessed with an addition of a girl baby to his family.

Aug.3

At the Annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co., the following officers were elected:

Treasurer, R.N. Oakman, Jr.
Ass't. Treasurer. E.P. Hitchcock
Clerk. Frederick Clapp
Sales Agent, William P. Dustin
Directors; Chas. T. Crocker, Fitchburg; Thos. Talbot, North Billerica;
B.N. Farren, Philadelphia; H.M. Whitney, Lowell
Jacob Rogers, Lowell; Chas. T. Stevens, Ware
R.N. Oakman, Jr., Turners Falls; D.C.G. Field, Lowell;
Moses Bulkley, New York

A semi-annual dividend of three per cent, was declared, and the company was found to be in flourishing condition.

Sept. 21

There are perhaps 200 hands employed at Turners Falls who reside at Greenfield, the majority of them going and returning on trains, while many walk over. Most of these are the better class of mechanics who own places at Greenfield, which they bought while in the employ of the John Russell Cutlery Company when that concern was located there. Greenfield merchants get the trade of this large number of families, which would be mostly turned the Turners Falls were there plenty of pleasant cottages at that place.—*Springfield Republican*.

January 4, 1882

**A Boom! Another Year's Growth—The New City Strides Along!
As Manufacturing Increases, So the Town Increases.**



View of Turners Falls from Fall River, with Mt. Toby in the back ground.

Another year has gone by, and we again take pleasure in giving a record of a year's growth of Turners Falls, which shows a vigor almost unparalleled in the history of rising factory towns in the state, notwithstanding the disappointment occasioned by the decision which prevented the addition of another fine Keith paper mill.

Had that project been carried through, as we all had hoped, the result would have been a boon to the place such as its great and wise projector, the Hon. Alvah Crocker anticipated at the return of good times.

Before the reader we spread a truthful picture of the new city, (which we have obtained through the courtesy of Clark W. Bryan, Esq., of the *Paper World*), in which is revealed a busy hive of money-making people, raised in what was but a few years ago a wilderness, by the magic wand of the manufacturer.

To manufacturing alone is the village indebted for its existence, and the rapidly revolving turbine has raised the price of land from ten dollars an acre to fifty cents a square foot, in a term of years not much exceeding a bakers' dozen. Although last year nearly one hundred houses were erected, this year the aggregate sum expended is much greater than in any year since the place was started.

The cause of this prosperity is easily shown—the expanding of the established manufacturing interests of the place, the investment of more money in machinery, and the employment of additional labor. The Montague Paper Company, Joseph Griswold, the John Russell Cutlery Co., and the Turners Falls Paper Co., have all done much to make the town grow and prosper. It was very amusing to see the *Springfield Republican* devote so much space to the business activity of Greenfield just because that town had invested a few thousand dollars in buildings while it dismissed Turners Falls with a few lines, in face of the fact that this town has invested more money in the year than all the rest of the county put together, we should judge.

The John Russell Cutlery Company

Treasurer R.N. Oakman, Jr., last year built up a building a couple of hundred feet long into which he arranged a pocket cutlery department by the first of the year. The south side of the canal building which was burned was entirely rebuilt and arranged for the expansion of the silver-plating department to cover four times its former capacity. Nooks and corners of their acres upon acres of flooring have been utilized gradually with the growth of the business during the year, and now the cutlery works throughout present such a busy scene which, in comparison, make the conventional hive of busy bees look like a funeral procession.

Feb.8

The John Russell Cutlery Company will begin about March to make its own paper boxes, and is fixing up rooms under the office. The machinery will be set up this week. The capacity will be about 3000 boxes a day.

Apr.5

The box making department of the John Russell Cutlery Company, is quite a help to the village, as it gives employment to quite a large number of young women at fair wages.

May.31

Agent W. P. Dustin of the John Russell Cutlery Co. brings his family from Cambridge this week and will occupy the Snow house on Main Street, Greenfield.

June.7

-Charles Campbell, son of Contractor R.B. Campbell, has become confidential clerk of treasurer R.N. Oakman, Jr., of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

-George E. Hartley is putting up a telephone line between the residence of R.N. Oakman, Jr., on Prospect Street, and his office in the John Russell Cutlery works.

June.28

The John Russell Cutlery Co. are taking annual inventory and making necessary repairs.

July.26

-The John Russell Cutlery Company has had a very prosperous year, and is employing to-day some 700 hands, besides having their concerns work for them. During the past year the company have begun manufacturing their own paper boxes, and are now doing their own silver-plating.

-One Boy Kills Another

Matthias Herre, a young German, employed in the metal department of the John Russell Cutlery Co.'s works, was fatally wounded in the abdomen, yesterday afternoon, by a butcher knife which was thrown at him by Daniel Sullivan, aged 15, also working in the metal shop.

There were numerous stories told as to the why and wherefore of the whole affair, but the story, as told by the wounded boy, is, that he, Herre, sent a boy after a pail of water, and after he had brought it to him, Sullivan asked him for a drink, which he gave him. Sullivan drinking three cups of water. Then he took a drink himself. Sullivan then asked for more but as he had already had one drink, and the other boys were waiting, he gave a cup to a boy named Stotz.

This made Sullivan mad; he left the boys around the water pail, went to his seat, and then picking up a butcher knife, which was lying on the floor, and threw it at him.

The wound proved fatal, young Herre having died this afternoon at four o'clock, and another boy, they are getting to be numerous, through momentary spite and anger becomes a murderer.

After throwing the knife Sullivan ran away, but was caught by policeman Keefe during the afternoon. He was arraigned before Trial Justice Dana, and in default of \$5,000 bail was taken to the Greenfield jail until Tuesday of next week for further examination.

Drs. Best and Deane were in attendance.

Aug.2

Damage by Fire and Water

Last night, about ten o'clock, the village was startled by the sound of the fire-gong on the Keith mill, as the alarm was at once recognized as an indication of fire in or about the mill.

The district alarm was instantly given, and the villagers, of all ages and sexes, ran with breathless haste to the scene.

The firemen of the mill were ordered to their stations, and lines of hose were laid from hydrants connected with fire pumps of the John Russell Cutlery works, Montague Paper Mills and the Keith Mills. The steamer was on the ground with steam up in a remarkably short space of time, but the course the mills were first to get water, not having to wait for steam.

Dec.20

Manager R.N. Oakman, Jr., of the John Russell Cutlery Co., has always been famous for his methodical business ways. He has just completed a system that shows his genius in mastering details by the aid of electric assistants.

He has placed in his office a magnificent clock, which is connected by electric wires with clocks in every department, so that only one time is known in the immense shops; at each the stations at which the night watchman must call on his rounds, there is a switch, and should the watchman neglect his duty in a single instance the electric tell-tale will at once record the fact that the clock, and also the negligence will be reported simultaneously at Mr. Oakman's private residence. Further electric wires connected with the clock ring a gong in the engine room at the proper second for the blowing of the working hour whistles.

January 10, 1883

A Year's Growth

For several years the **Reporter** has taken peculiar pride in recording in the first issue of each year, the history of the growth of the village during the year just closed, giving the minutest details.

The John Russell Cutlery Co., also, made outlays that increased the capacity of its works, while the Keith fine paper, and the Griswold Cotton Mill having already reached the limit of their buildings, were unable to make any considerable addition to their plants.

Feb.14

The John Russell Cutlery Co., R.N. Oakman, Jr., Wise & Ripley and Frank Gerald have been placed on the telephone circuit.

Feb.21

Agent W.P. Dustin, of the John Russell Cutlery Co. has put a telephone into his Greenfield residence.

May.23

Luther Graves was employed many years ago by the old Russell Cutlery Company and made the first dies used to swage bolsters upon knife handles, the work having been previously done by hand.

June.13

Manchester & Ward are replacing the aqueduct pipes leading to the John Russell Cutlery tenement block, with larger ones.

July.11

Kendrick T. Slate has been appointed paying clerk in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co., in place of N.T. Houghton who goes to Springfield to engage in the insurance business.

Aug.1

The John Russell Cutlery Co. are adding some fifty feet to the height of their factory chimney to secure a better draft for their furnaces.

Aug.7

The John Russell Cutlery Company having finished their spring water reservoir, have begun to lay a new three inch pipe from it to their mill. Manchester & Ward have the contract.

Dec.19

-John Cavanaugh, Jr., formerly a traveler for the John Russell Cutlery Co., has given up his position and will peddle cutlery.

-D.C.G. Field, many years ago manager of the John Russell Cutlery Co., has invested money in the cutler shop in Greenfield, and the firm is now Cutler, Lyons and Field.

Dec.26

Hiram O. Smith, for many years superintendent of the Lamson & Goodnow Cutlery Co., at Shelburne Falls, has been "captured" by the John Russell Cutlery Co., and he takes a position in the great works here on January 1st.

April 2, 1884

A few years ago the Montague Paper Company leased of the Russell Cutlery a building 290 feet long, with the right to buy it. The sale has now been made by the payment of \$50,000. The cutlery company are cramped for room, and would have been glad to retain the building for their own use, but the proviso of a possible sale was incorporated in the lease years ago, before the business assumed such large proportions. Having secured this property, the Montague company have made a permanent contract for additional water power with the Turners Falls Company, and have a 3000-horse-power privilege.

Aug.16

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles A. Stevens Treasurer - R.N. Oakman, Jr.

Assist. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Agent - W.P. Dustin

Directors - Charles A. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, B.N. Farren,

D.C.G. Field, Moses Bulkley, R.N. Oakman, Jr., W.P. Dustin.

Aug.27

Manufacturers & Businesses as Tax Payers

John Russell Cutlery Co. \$3812.50

Dec.17

The Clark machine Company are now making one of its largest sized fire pumps for the John Russell Cutlery Co.

January 14, 1885

Cutlery Strike

About fifty grinders left their work in the John Russell Cutlery Company's shops last week, and are yet out on what is mistakenly called a "strike."

Almost every manufacturing concern in the country has been obliged to reduce wages or shut up shop, and among the latest to revise their prices was the local cutlery company, driven to it by the action of every other competitor in the business.

A new scale of prices was arranged, averaging 5 per cent—some work being increased if anything—and when the first lot of men went for their work under the new prices, they got it into their heads that a 20 per cent reduction had been made, and they coaxed men out whose work had not been touched at all. They then attempted to "compromise" the matter, but there was nothing to compromise, and of course the management would not meet committees or any body of men. They have no hard feelings against the men, and have work for them or others at the prices which have been arranged, and which will be found by those desiring work fair and equitable.

Without any knowledge of what the prices are, the workmen have no cause for complaint whatever, and they would have not committed the blunder of crying before they were hurt had they not been led by some few rash men.

We think the men will sensibly go back to their work at once, and receive wages as they received in 1879-80. Of course it is hard for the poor workingman to submit to a reduction in wages, but he must do that or be thrown out of employment entirely.

Competition in manufacturing has become fierce, and when one concern reduces its price of labor for the purpose of underselling a competitor, all others must follow suit or shut up shop, as a ten percent advantage would annihilate the average manufacturing business in time.

Men remember when they earned large pay, and complain bitterly as they compare their earnings then with what they receive now. But they little know how much the manufacturers have had their prices reduced by competition. For instance, a dozen knives such as sold 12 years ago for \$12 per dozen now sell for \$3.00; in the printing business an article that was furnished 15 years ago for \$3.00 per 1000, now is furnished for 38 cents; and to every branch of trade reductions have been made as sweeping the burdens of which have to fall on all. It is a sad thing for workmen to do any act hastily, or be led by lager beer logic, when the question of pay comes up.

April.15

The Clark Machine Company has just made a large water wheel for the John Russell Cutlery Co., and is now making one for D.W. Ellis & Company's woolen mill in North Wilbraham.

April.29

The John Russell Cutlery Company are putting in a six inch tile sewer for their forty tenement block.⁴

May.13

The John Russell Cutlery Company began running full time on Monday, much to the joy of their help.

June.17

The John Russell Cutlery Co. will replace the water wheel in the trip hammer shop with one of Clark's scroll wheels made by the Clark Machine Company.

⁴ This would be the Third Street block.

Oct.14

The Turners Falls Company are laying pipes to take gas from the John Russell Cutlery gas works to illuminate their new building on the Avenue.

Nov.4

Treasurer Austin DeWolf of the Turners Falls Company is finishing up a building that is a credit to his company and an evidence that in such matters he personally has a broad mind for the execution of such an undertaking.

Nothing about the building from the foundation to the roof but commands the admiration of everyone. The basement wall are of the solidest description, lain in cement, the main walls, unusually strong, with proper air space and ventilating chambers, the floor-beams are of immense strength, and the floors are solid and substantial planks grooved and tongued, and water-tight, and covered with a top flooring of a fine quality maple. The roof is a substantial one with good pitch, and slated with the finest slate to be found.

Although the building is the finest structure of its kind in Western Massachusetts, built upon honor, by the best of workmen, with apparently no stint of money. But the arrangement of the building shows intelligence too often lacking when a public building is constructed.

The offices of the company are on the first floor, and are in every way models of convenience, but the part of the building which interests the public and in which they have a right to ask for conveniences, is the hall in the second story, and nothing could be suggested to make it more perfect.

A very wide entrance from the street opens to a staircase of double ordinary width, and at the landing the entrance to the main hall is so generous as to allow easy egress for a large audience, ensuring safety and comfort. On either side of the landing are dressing and cloak rooms for ladies and gentlemen, with permanent compartments in the ladies' room for warps of ladies, as well as suitable compartments in the gentlemen's room. In the ladies rooms there is a water closet and wash bowls with running water. These rooms are finished in ash, and lighted with gas, so as to be comfortable retiring rooms, instead of cold store rooms for rubbish as is often the case in public halls.

The main hall is magnificently proportioned for all users, and has a gallery capable of seating several hundred people. The stage is also a model of beauty and of generous size, being the entire width of the building and thirteen feet deep. The floor is of the most polished maple, and the entire room is finished in ash. The hall is high and the acoustic properties excellent. There is a perfect system of ventilation without opening windows, and double windows are on throughout, an improvement ladies dressed for the ball room will highly appreciate on a winter's night when compelled to sit near windows.

The building is heated throughout by two of Brown's automatic steam heaters, and by radiators at the sides of the building, and is lighted by gas from the works of the John Russell Cutlery Co. The fixtures, both gas and steam, were put in by Manchester & Ward, and are first-class in every respect.

The hall has been called "Patucket Hall." And will be dedicated by Manton E. Taft Post, G.A.R., on Friday evening, with a grand ball.

January 20, 1886

Although business did not really warrant it, the John Russell Cutlery Company advanced the wages of some of their help recently. Business in many other cutlery shops is at a stand still, and in several towns all hands are idle for the want of orders, good management keeps the Russell works fairly busy.

March.17

Louis Yetter while riding on an elevator in the cutlery works, the other day, incautiously allowed his foot to project beyond the edge of the elevator platform, and in passing through a floor his foot was caught, which resulted in several smashed toes. Dr. Best attended.

Apr.14

-The John Russell Cutlery Company are making arrangements to manufacture water gas⁵ for illuminating their works, in place of petroleum gas, such as they now use. The change will give them a much better gas, at a lower price.

-A company to supply the business portion of the village with illuminating gas is talked of. Should such a company receive sufficient encouragement there is no doubt it would be formed. We presume gas could be obtained, by such a company, from the gas works of the John Russell Cutlery Company, delivered to a suitable holder, at a reasonable price.

June.16

A patent for a combination boring and mortising machine has been secured by Ex-Senator Grinnell for H.W. Axtell of the cutlery.

June.30

The cutlery shuts down to-day for annual inventory and repairs.

July.7

The water from the river smells badly of late, and most of the drinking water is carried from the cutlery spring in pitchers.

July.14

Good News for Turners Falls

-There are many happy working men in this village to-day, and it is only a matter of wonder that this happiness has been so long delayed.

The John Russell Cutlery Co. has about 200 hands who live in Greenfield, and it has always been the policy to adapt the hours of labor, and for dinner, to suit these people, to the great inconvenience of the workmen who live in the village. In order to allow the Greenfield people to go home at half past five o'clock, the dinner time was cut down to a half hour, which was perhaps sufficient for those who carried dinner pails, but the men here who had homes had to run for dear life to their tables, half a mile away, gulp down their food like ostriches, and return with all haste, a proceeding that was enough to kill any man, or certainly sufficient to impair his usefulness as a workman.

⁵ Water gas is a synthesis gas, containing carbon monoxide and hydrogen. It is a useful product but requires careful handling due to its flammability and the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. The gas is made by passing steam over a red-hot carbon fuel such as coke:

The men were worn weary in the hope that they would not be tortured another sixteen years to accommodate the number who insisted upon living in Greenfield, but their hearts beat lightly to-day since they learned that Supt. Smith has announced the working time to be hereafter from 7 till 6, with an hour nooning. And the Fitchburg Railroad Company will have to run a train at 6.15 to accommodate those who must live in shiretown.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. paid their entire force of work people up to date on Saturday, clearing up everything preparatory to establishing weekly payments. corporations have decided to pay their help at different times in the week. The Montague Paper Co. paying Friday; the Keith, Monday; the Turners Falls Paper Co., Wednesday; the Cotton Mill, Saturday; and the Cutlery every day. This arrangement will be greatly appreciated by the merchants.

-The cutlery will start up Monday, in full force.

February 2, 1887

John Sullivan, employed in the cutlery, had one finger cut off while working around machinery yesterday, and the balance of the injured hand is badly used up. Dr. Coy dressed the wounds, and made the necessary amputations.

Feb.9

A Year of Prosperity

The past year, although nothing of the nature of a phenomenal boom, has been a prosperous and a healthy one for Turners Falls, and on every hand may be seen the evidences of thrift of the most marked character.

. . . The unfortunate fire which destroyed a portion of the Montague Paper Mill, necessitated the rebuilding of that structure at an outlay of over \$100,000 during the year. The John Russell Cutlery are now expending some \$25,000 in constructing new gas works, but we shall receive a further description of the improvement for a future occasion . . .

Feb.16

A man named Oeffinger, a grinder in the cutlery works, had his throat cut by the slipping of a large blade which he was grinding. The gash was an inch or two long, but was not serious.

Apr.27

Deacon Elmer D. Severance threw a heavy barrel out of a window at the cutlery shops a week ago and struck Andrew Shulda, a workman, who happened to be passing by. His head and shoulders were so badly injures that he will be laid up for some weeks. It may proven a costly piece of carelessness.

May.16

A fire originating in one of the blowers in an attic of the cutlery, yesterday, was speedily extinguished by the ample means at command, but the torrent of water did damage to the amount of several thousand dollars. The use of hand grenades⁶ proved their great merit

⁶ Water-filled glass spheres used to throw at fires to extinguish flames.

May.18

The John Russell Cutlery Co. have a row of trees in front of their Third Street block that they may well be proud of, and they are protecting them from the mouths of innumerable peddlers' horses by tree-boxes that look as if they would protect a tree in good shape, that is, if anything will save a tree in this village short of a section of boiler iron high enough to be out of reach of giraffes.

June.29

Russel Cutlery works shut down on Saturday for a two weeks' vacation, while annual inventory is being taken.

July.20

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company:

President - Chas. A. Stevens Treasurer - R.N. Oakman, Jr.
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Agent - W.P. Dustin
Clerk - Frederick Clapp Directors - Chas. T. Crocker, B.N. Farren, Chas. A.
Stevens, D.C.G. Field, Moses Bulkley
R.N. Oakman, Jr., W.P. Dustin

Oct..5

-Master Mechanic Axtell of the cutlery has invented a machine to grind knives which does the work of the most skillful grinders in a superior manner, at less cost, and with little manual labor by the operator.

-A young girl named Dunn got her hand caught in a belt in the cutlery, the other day, and was considerably hurt.

Nov.23

The silver platers from the cutlery had a private dancing party in Allen Bros. Hall, Monday evening.

Dec.21

At Shelburne Falls things look a good deal more promising than they did a year or two ago, for the big cutlery⁷ is now under the skillful management of R.N. Oakman, Jr., and W.P. Dustin of the John Russell Cutlery Company of Turners Falls.

May 2, 1888

Owing to the extreme high water, the cutlery works have not been running for three days. The back-water stopped their wheels. The paper mills were all affected by muddy water as well as by back pressure.

May.23

This week the N.E. Telephone Co. will complete their work in town, and the exchange will be running smoothly with 20 subscribers, as follows:

N.H. & H. depot, N.E. Fibre Co., Fitchburg depot, Dr. E.G. Best, F.I. Webster, Crocker Bank, J.F. Bartlett, F.H. Brown, Turners Falls Lumber Co., H.O. Smith, R.N. Oakman, J. Russell Cutlery Co., Turners Falls Cotton mill, Manchester & Ward, Fred Colle, Clark Machine Co., I.A. Darling, Dr. E.C. Coy, Keith Paper Co. and Thomas Bros.

⁷ The Lamson-Goodnow Cutlery Co.

May.23

An interesting game of ball was played at the Park grounds, on Saturday afternoon, between the Buffers and Burnishers of the J. Russell Cutlery. It was an even game from the beginning and won by the Buffers, 23 to 22. Umpire—Julian Holmes.

June.20

Last Saturday the Cutlery works shut down for a couple weeks to take inventory and give their help much needed rest.

July.18

The John Russell Cutlery Co., began last Saturday to quit work on Saturday afternoons at 5 o'clock, and will continue the arrangement indefinitely. The train will leave the cutlery at 5.10.

Aug.8

Ed Severance, who has been at work in Connecticut for a couple of years, has returned to town and is working in the silver plating department at the cutlery.

Sept.19

The John Russell Cutlery Company have made a contract with the long distance telephone company for ten minutes service each day between the factories here and their salesroom in New York. Mr. Dustin, who has charge of the disposition of the entire output, has been obliged to make very frequent trips to New York, but this new service will render many tiresome journeys unnecessary.

Oct.10

-The Hibernian Society have nearly completed the work of laying the two inch gas pipe from the cutlery to their new block. It was thought possible once to enter the old Turners Falls Company aqueduct pipes and shove the gas pipe along, length by length, and thus save the expense of ditching, but the old six inch pipe was found half filled with rubbish and sagged so that it was impossible to force the other pipe through.

-Annie Desmond, a little girl, had her hand caught in the elevator at the cutlery and two fingers were broken and her hand torn.

Oct.31

The John Russell Cutlery Company are making extensive repairs on their Third Street tenement block, and also some repairs to the roof of their factory.

January 9, 1889

Building Operations in the Vicinity the Past Year

. . . The John Russell Cutlery Company have spent tens of thousands of dollars in developing a fuel gas that has attracted the attention of the leading manufacturers of steel goods in the whole world, the success of which is of incalculable benefit to all extensive manufacturers of steel goods.

The Keith Paper Company have gone on in the even tenor of their way for a year making the best paper in the country, which they find a ready market for at a good stiff price, and were content with the erection of one stock house . . .

Mar.20

The John Russell Cutlery Company have begun to use the long distance telephone to New York, and find it a great convenience in their business. It comes high, but it is a money saver in the end.

May.1

The silver platers and the buffers of the John Russell Cutlery played ball yesterday, and the buffers won.

May.22

An Important Business Change for Turners Falls

A transaction in business circles of more importance to Turners Falls than anything that has happened in a decade, occurred last week when Warren P. Dustin, Esq., purchased the stock in the John Russell Cutlery Company, held by R.N. Oakman, Jr. Esq., a block of magnitude representing upwards of \$100,000.

Mr. Oakman took hold of the management of this great establishment some fifteen years ago, when it was at a low ebb financially, and to-day it is the most extensive cutlery works in the world, and prosperous as no other concern of like character in the country.

One of the great reasons for those remarkable success was the foresight of Mr. Oakman in selecting Mr. Dustin as an associate in the conduct of the great business. Mr. Dustin was brought up from youth in the cutlery business, as a salesman for one of the leading houses in the state and traveled the country over time and again, had a personal acquaintance of untold value, had studied the needs and necessities of every section of the country, even to the peculiarities of sections of individual states, and in early manhood stood at the head of a class of business men possessed of indomitable perseverance coupled with rare intelligence and foresight, and before he was long out of his teens he commanded a large salary than any other man representing a Boston house on the road.

A magnificent physique, with perfect health, he was simply a marvel of energy and endurance, and a happy disposition that made friends at every turn, success could not be avoided, and he was always forehanded financially as well for himself as for others, and Mr. Oakman's native shrewdness soon discovered the need of such a man in placing the institution in the fore front of the manufacturing industries of the country, and thenceforth the product of the mill was marketed by Mr. Dustin, and with such a master hand in control of the life giving spring of old established institution made such strides as it never knew before, and for a decade the factory has been adding strength to its great and well earned name, and to-day no brand of American goods is such an honor to the soil as the name of "Russell."

Mr. Oakman and Mr. Dustin were a strong team together, but ill health made a diversion necessary, and Mr. Oakman retires with the respect and confidence of all his associations, and Mr. Dustin takes on additional burdens of care, with large investments of stock, with the case born of confidence in his ability to command success in any undertaking in which he might engage.

A man who has from boyhood traveled in one straight track, and that leading to honor and success, in whom the most unlimited confidence is bestowed in all classes, a democratic man whose only distinctions of caste are right and wrong. Mr. Dustin will as-

sume the management of this great corporation with the hearty sympathy of the entire village.

Mr. Oakman moved to Greenfield some years ago, and has consequently drifted away from the affairs of the village, and personally he has not been so well known since he eschewed interests in the place which were once dear to his heart, while Mr. Dustin has grown more attached to the village and its people, and it seems to-day he surpasses all others in his loyalty to local institutions, and this trait cannot but be a source of gratification too every large stockholder in any of the institutions here, however lightly others have viewed the matter. Mr. Dustin's sympathies certainly forebodes no ill to the village or its capital.

Mr. Dustin has few equals an executive manager, has a great habit of sailing in no water that he has not the soundings of, is a man with whom to-day is always to-day, who allows no promises to be made by any one that cannot be kept, and who will always command the allegiance of subordinates, because they know he will never allow a living soul to break faith if he can avoid it.

Mr. Oakman has extensive interests in the gas process developed in the works of the cutlery co. here, and in company with other capitalists will engage in an undertaking that promises great riches with not a time of the cares incident to the details of his office as treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

May.29

-At a meeting of Directors of the John Russell Cutlery Company, held yesterday, R.N. Oakman, Jr., handed in his resignation to take effect June 1, and W.P. Dustin was appointed Treasurer.

-We have in this village thirteen corporations, making paper, leatherette, machinery, cutlery, cotton, peoples shoes, etc., etc., with abundant established back of enterprise, and everything that even started here has been a success if not a mint. This town won't stand anything like adversity, and must insist on success.

June.12

The John Russell cutlery works will shut down Saturday to allow the annual inventory to be taken.

June.26

John Russell Cutlery Company shut down for a two weeks' vacation, expected to start up on the first of July. A gang of men has been kept busy night and day making the needed repairs in the works, and changes in the flume of the Montague Paper Company, which is connected with the flume of the cutlery, but with all the rush they find it impossible to start up the big cutlery works before the 9th of July.

July.10

-The John Russell Cutlery Company have begun to make extensive repairs on their tenement block on Third Street, which will be much appreciated by their tenants. All the entrances will be improved and made to be protected from the weather. New stoops of granite and proper proportions will be put in, and the upper tenements will all be supplied with hard wood floors.

-The cutlery repairs were not all made until six o'clock Sunday evening, when the water was let into the canal. On Monday morning the works started up with a large force of

hands. The repairs have been quite extensive this season. Many things have been done looking directly to the comfort of the workmen, notably the supplying of an individual closet for every employee where clothing and personal effects may be snugly and safely kept.

July.17

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - C.A. Stevens Treasurer - W.P. Dustin
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - Frederick Clapp
Directors - Charles A. Stevens, B.N. Farren, Charles T. Crocker.
George F. Fay, W.P. Dustin, D.C.G. Field, Moses Bulkley

The following resolution was adopted before adjournment.

Resolved. That in accepting the resignation of R.N. Oakman, Jr., as director and treasurer of the company, the stockholders desire to express their appreciation of his ability and experience in the management of the affairs of the company.

Aug.7

-Hiram O. Smith, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has leased the house of R.B. Campbell on Prospect Street for a term of years.

-Elmer D. Severance, foreman of the plating department of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has been ordered by his physician to change his business, and has resigned. He will go west.

Oct.9

The John Russell Cutlery Company have gone back to the old fashion of working till six o'clock on Saturdays, instead of five. When there is work to be done Mr. Dustin believes in having the men doing all they can, and an hour's time amounts to much among 700 people. The cutlery was never in a healthier condition since its organization, and more money is paid to the help than ever before. The merchants have reason to feel happy at so much steady work for their customers, and every day sees an old bill settled up.

Oct.30

The John Russell Cutlery Company will close their works on the afternoon of election day, so that all the voters may have ample time to attend to their duties of citizenship at the polls.

January 15, 1890

-The John Russell Cutlery works has this winter employed more hands steadily than any time since it was in existence. Treasurer Dustin like nothing better than to keep his workmen steadily employed.

-About two hundred and fifty of the cutlery people were laid up with colds, yesterday, and the other mills are short of help.

May.14

The shoe shop and the cutlery base ball nines played a game on the South End grounds, Saturday afternoon with the shoe shop the victors by a score of 15 to 12.

June.11

The John Russell Cutlery Company will shut down their shops on Saturday of this week for the annual inventory, which will be completed in two weeks.

July.16

Annual Meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Company

These officers were elected:

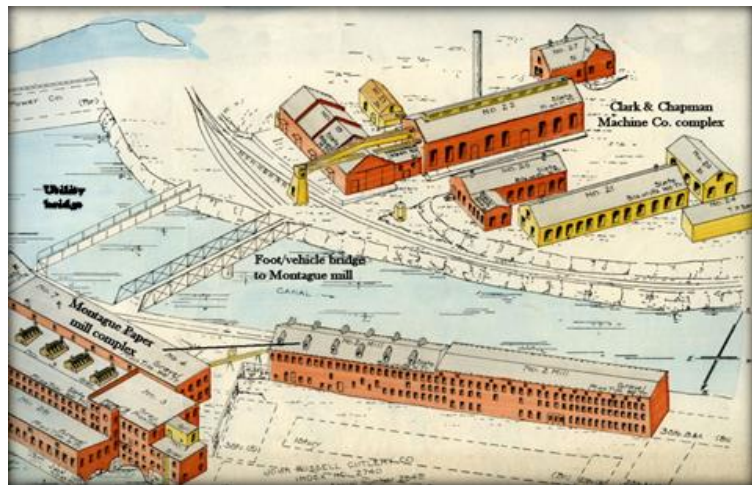
Directors - Charles A. Stevens, Ware; Charles T. Crocker, Fitchburg;
B.N. Farren, Philadelphia; Moses Bulkley, New York;
George F. Fay, Fitchburg; W.P. Dustin, Turners Falls

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock; Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Aug.6

Sad Drowning Accident

James Martin, aged 17 years, a son and support of widow Martin who lives on Canada Hill, was drowned in the Connecticut River last Saturday. He worked in the cutlery and walked over the logs to the island to swim at noon and then being in a hurry to get back *he jumped from the race way bridge in rear of the Montague mill on the bank wall, he missed his footing and fell into the race way and thence carried to the river.*



Sanborn fire map 1906. Added descriptions (black text) e.g.

A search was at once begun for his body but without success, and the diver searched for him all day Sunday but gave up the search with little hope. On Monday a river man found him lodged between the logs not far from where he fell, with his neck broken. Medical Examiner Coy viewed the remains.

Sept.10

Miss Hattie Barnard of Montague City, is employed as copyist in the cutlery office.

Sept.24

A number of the grinders at the John Russell Cutlery who have been striking went to Unionville, Conn., on Monday, where they have obtained employment in a cutlery there.

April 22, 1891

The lightning struck the Catholic church in this village last week, and knocked off a few slate. It also struck lightly the cutlery works, and an elm tree opposite the residence of Cecil T. Bagnall at Montague City was shattered.

⁸ This article is primarily for the reference to the race way and its bridge at the Montague mill. This is the first reference to that area of the Montague mill that I've come across. e.g.

Apr.29

The John Russell Cutlery Company are erecting a large spring water tank on their lot on the upper side of the canal, and will demolish the old one that has seen its best days.

May.6

Henry A. Axtel, of the John Russell Cutlery Works, has been granted a patent on a grinding machine that will successfully grind knives without being a member of any union.

May.22

Superintendent of Streets Adams has a gang off men at work grading down First to the Avenue. With First Street completed, sidewalk and all, and Canal Street to the cutlery steps, the upper part of this village will be receiving some of its due attention although tardily.

May.27

The John Russell Cutlery Company has removed their small sheds on the upper side of the canal on account of the new street row building.

June.10

The cutlery company have sheathed their big iron spring water tank, and painted it bright red, not suggestive of pure spring water.

June.24

Lucas Raw, while unloading grindstones at the cutlery works, yesterday, one of the big stones fell upon his leg and broke the limb. Dr. Best set the fracture.

July.15

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles A. Stevens, Ware

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

E.P. Hitchcock, Assistant Treasurer

Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Directors - Charles A. Stevens, W.P. Dustin, Turners Falls;
Charles T. Crocker, Fitchburg; George F. Fay, Fitchburg;
Moses Bulkley, New York; B.N. Farren, Montague;
D.C.G. Field, Northampton

-Caterer D.F. Ripley served dinner to the John Russell Cutlery stockholders in Patucket Hall yesterday.

Sept.2

John Eppler of Greenfield lost a little finger under a trip hammer in the cutlery, Monday.

Nov.11

A.L. Whiting, for many years employed as an expert temperer at the cutlery works, gives up his place and goes to his old home in Worcester.

Dec.2

The cutlery was the only factory on the canal to shut down all day Thanksgiving.

March 16, 1892

When First Street is finished, and sidewalks land, the traveling public has been promised a little station at the cutlery steps, which will be appreciated on rainy days.

Apr.13

The John Russell Cutlery Company shut down their vast works, yesterday, in honor of the memory of the deceased President and Treasurer, W.P. Dustin. Assistant Treasurer E.P. Hitchcock, Clerk Frederick Clapp, and Superintendent H.O. Smith went to Ware to attend the funeral. They were accompanied Treasurer Charles W. Hazelton of the Turners Falls Company, and Cashier D.P. Abercrombie of the Crocker National bank.

Apr.20

Miss Hattie Barnard, of Montague City, has returned to her desk in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co., after a severe illness of six weeks.

June.15

The John Russell Cutlery Company shut down their works on Saturday for two weeks, to make the usual repairs.

July.20

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company for the ensuing year:

President - Charles E. Stevens Treasurer - W.P. Dustin Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock
Clerk - Frederick Clapp. Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Ware; Charles T. Crocker, Fitchburg; B.N. Farren, Montague City; D.C.G. Field, Greenfield; Moses Bulkley, N.Y.; George E. Fay, Fitchburg; W.P. Dustin, Turners Falls.

July.21

In accordance with the requirements of the fifty-eight hour law,⁹ the cutlery shops shut down at 4 o'clock, Saturday afternoon.

Sept.14

Workmen are laying concrete walks on both sides of the Avenue from Second Street to First Street, and along First Street to the cutlery works. This is the most important improvement the village has yet seen, as over one thousand persons will go over the walks three or four times a day, and at present the great army of workmen at the cutlery have no other convenient way to get to the factory except by trespassing on the land of C.D. Whitaker & Son, and this will soon be shut out from public travel. The town has been very negligent in this matter these many years.

Sept.28

-The John Russell Cutlery Company are putting in a substantial new flight of steps leading from First Street to the canal level. When finished the railroad company will put up a waiting shed for the accommodation of passengers taking the train at the cutlery steps.

-J.F. Bartlett is repainting and renovating the big cutlery block on Third Street, and replacing the windows with new ones of four lights.

Oct.12

The John Russell Cutlery Company have completed their new flight of steps leading from First Street to the Canal level, and they are a great improvement over the old ones. A first class concrete walk now extends from the Avenue to the works.

⁹ In the 1800s, many Americans worked seventy hours or more per week and the length of the workweek became an important political issue. The 58 Hour Law was enacted to allow workers more leisure time.

Oct.26

The Cutlery Company are making over \$1000 worth of repairs on their Third Street block.

Dec.14

A false alarm of fire was given Wednesday morning, which called out the fire department to the cutlery shops, where their presence was happily not needed.

January 11, 1893

Frederick T. Slate, who has been paymaster at the cutlery for over ten years, has resigned and goes to the Towle Manufacturing Company¹⁰ of Greenfield. W.R. Long takes his place.

June.14



Russell Cutlery grinding room. c.1893 *e.g. archive*

Cutlery Repairs

Superintendent H.O. Smith of the John Russell Cutlery Company is the busiest man in town these days, with numberless forces of men making repairs in all parts of the great works. All the heavy machinery is being reset, and foundations that were any way yielding have been made solid as the everlasting hills, with tons of rock cement. As many of the workmen as possible are given employment in the various repair gangs.

-The Cutlery Company are putting in a granite curbing on front of their Third Street block and will make a concrete sidewalk seventeen feet wide. With magnificent shade trees, and such a walk, it will be a pleasant block for workmen to be found anywhere.

June.21

-John Hill, for about 20 years Superintendent of the jack-knife grinding-room in the Russell Cutlery, died at his home on the Greenfield Road Thursday. He was a skillful cutter, and was open-handed and generous, never refusing to bear more than his share of the burdens of his less fortunate comrades.

-The Cutlery shops will start up again on Monday.

July.5

Treasurer Dustin of the Cutlery Company, after putting in fine broad asphalt sidewalks, sodded the sides, with stone curbing, from the cutlery up to the Avenue, decided to turn their lot into a thing of beauty, and in consequence, he had it graded up, seeded and sodded, making a delightful and attractive spot, and already causing many passers-by to ex-

¹⁰ Towle Silversmiths is an American silver manufacturer.

claim "what a pity the town has not more men with the brains, energy and public spirit of W.P. Dustin."

July.26

-At the meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Company, last Wednesday, the following officers were elected:

Charles E. Stevens - President; W.P. Dustin - Treasurer; Asst. Treasurer E.P. Hitchcock

Frederick Clapp - Clerk;

Directors - Charles E. Stevens - Ware; Charles T. Crocker - Fitchburg;

George F. Fay - Fitchburg; B.N. Farren - Philadelphia

W.P. Dustin - Turners Falls; D.C.G. Field - Greenfield

Jonathan Bulkley - New York

-Some prices have been equalized in the cutlery shop which will allow the company to put some goods on the shelves in order to give employment to their people. The state of business is such that the whole establishment could with safety be shut down, and it will be quite lucky for then town if the workmen do not lose their heads in such times as these.

Aug.23

Business Taxpayers

John Russell Cutlery Co. \$6045.00

The John Russell Cutlery Company have at last been forced to close their factory three days a week, owing to a lack of orders, and the impossibility of placing goods on their shelves with any certainty of future profit.

Aug.30

The cutlery shops will not start up again until after Labor Day. If business is then as dead as it is now, the doors will be kept closed still further. The whole country has refused to buy goods, and won't pay for what they've had, in every line of trade, so there is absolutely no encouragement for manufacturers to do anything.

Sept.20

The Cutlery works shut down at half past four, Saturday afternoon, and for some time the custom will be maintained.

Sept.27

The cutlery shops were shut down on Friday and Saturday of last week.

Oct.11

John C. Ast, for a number of years employed in the ivory department at the cutlery works, has moved to Greenfield where he takes a position with the A.F. Towle Co. at the silver works.

Oct.18

The John Russell Cutlery Company have replaced the wooden steps to their Third Street block with substantial ones of brick and stone.

Nov.1

The John Russell Cutlery Co. now close their shops at 4.30 p.m. every day.

Nov.8

The Cutlery foot ball[ais] eleven and a team from the High school, played a game on Goddard's grounds, yesterday. The cutlery eleven won, the score being 4 to 0. As usual, on such occasions, there were innumerable quarrels and disputes and profanity.

Nov.29

The John Russell Cutlery works have reduced the working hours of their force to seven per day. Work begins at 8.15 and ends at 4.15. By doing this there is no need of using gas.

January 3, 1894

The cutlery works shut down in all departments, last week Thursday, until tomorrow, when work will probably be resumed.

Jan.10

The cutlery works resumed working seven hours a day last Thursday, after being shut down for a week.

Jan. 24

The John Russell Cutlery Company's shops, which have been running on seven hours time, now run 8½ hours per day, and shut down Saturdays.

Apr.18

The cutlery works will shut down to-night for the rest of the week.

June.6

The John Russell Cutlery Co. shut down its works, last Friday night, for about a month.

June.27

-The works of the John Russell Cutlery Company will start up Monday, and will run 8½ hours a day and six days a week. This will be good news to many.

July.18

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company:

President - Hon. Charles E. Stevens

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock

Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, B.N. Farren, D.C.G.

Field, George F. Fay, W.P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley

Aug.15

Many of the cutlery employees were out Saturday, owing to a break in the water wheel.

Aug.29

D.W. Murphy hurt his knee badly while at work in the cutlery, Wednesday.

Sept.12

and the cutlery works shut down all day Saturday in order to give the rivermen a chance to get the logs over the dam and through the sluices.

Oct.10

-Martin Zimmerman, an employee at the cutlery, had his wrist badly cut last week.
-Andrew Switzer, an employee at the cutlery, was struck by a piece of steel, Monday, while taking it from a car, and received a severe cut near the eye.

Oct.17

Michael Leary, a gas fitter in the cutlery works, was recently badly burned by the ignition of gas from a leaky source. He will be laid up for some time.

January 2, 1895

Montague Paper Mill

The Montague Paper Company has spent \$35,000 or \$40,000 in repairs, and in bringing their machinery up to date, so as to be able to hold their own safely in the fierce strife for business which the hard times have been the means of augmenting.

. . . The floor of the mill that was once part of the cutlery plant. Was found to need repairing, and the old pitch roof had to be replaced with a flat factory roof. These repairs imperative, and about the last needed to completely modernize the plant, it was decided to displace a 76 inch Fourdrinier machine that had been in operation over twenty years, and put in an up to date machine of a capacity of 118 inches . . .

Apr.17

Every 25 Years Often Enough

Superintendent Hiram O. Smith of the John Russell Cutlery Company has had an anxious time for the past few days with a large portion of the lower stories of the factory under from one to two feet of water.

All work will be suspended for a week and the expense of cleaning out tons of mud and repairing miles of belting will be considerable. But this is not Mr. Smith's first experience in floods. He was on duty in the Lamson & Goodnow Cutlery works in '69 when the torrent carried away that factory, together with the dam and all its belongings.

This freshet is but a heavy dew in its destructiveness alongside of that memorable avalanche of water, mud, factories, bridges, rocks and everything movable on the North river in Colrain.¹¹

Apr.24

The cutlery works started up again on Monday after a week's shut down.

May.15

Some one without much business sense remarked about election time that he hoped license would not again be granted as a means of drawing or keeping trade.

Many now look on in sorrow at the crowds of home people going over to the shiretown to buy drinks and lugging some great bundles of goods. When the cutlery shut down the other day, not one of the crowd was to be seen on our streets, but every mother's

¹¹ In the years following the war Greenfield became a railroad center, and the fortunes of Colrain began slowly to decline, hastened in 1869 by a disastrous flood, which washed away much of the industry concentrated along its streams, as well as many of the roads and bridges in the town. Some industries never recovered, and farmers struggled when their best bottom land was covered in sand and debris. The town was forced to raise taxes to repair the roads and bridges. <http://colrain250.blogspot.com/p/history.html>

son of them went where the beer flows openly. And where are the farmers' teams that habitually bought traders to this village? Ask at the stores in Greenfield.

There is no denying the fact that it is much pleasanter to the eye to be without the offensive guzzler and the busy growler, but it is at the expense of different pocket-books that theory would suggest. When the electrics begin running, business here will be slaughtered for a season.

May.29

Troops of Turners Falls people went to Greenfield on Friday, to attend Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The cutlery shops were closed all day as so few workmen put in an appearance that it was no object to keep the works running.

June.5

Julian Holmes, the very efficient salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company, is at his Riverside home spending a month's vacation.

June.12

The cutlery works closed Sunday night, for the usual summer shut-down.

July.3

The cutlery works started up again last Monday morning, after three week's shut down.

July.17

The John Russell Cutlery Company Officers

President - C.E. Stevens	Treasurer - W.P. Dustin
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock	Clerk - Frederick Clapp
Directors - B.N. Farren, Turners Falls	C.T. Crocker, Fitchburg
D.C.G. Field, Greenfield	W.P. Dustin, Turners Falls
C.E. Stevens, Ware	Jonathan Bulkley, New York

Aug.21

Charles Franz of Greenfield met with a severe injury at the cutlery works on Wednesday afternoon. While working his arm was caught between a pulley and the wall and then flesh was burned to the bone, as it was some time before the arm could be released. It may be necessary to amputate the member.

Aug.28

Charles Franz of Greenfield whose arm was so severely injured in the cutlery works two weeks ago, had it amputated midway between the wrist and elbow, this morning. The work was done by Drs. Best, Deane and Twitchell.

Oct.9

About twenty of the employees of the cutlery company who live in Greenfield have quit riding the electric cars and have gone back to the Fitchburg road for service. The smoking cars of the steam road are appreciated by the workmen on the cold mornings.

Oct.13

Lucas Bippus, who is employed in the sawing room of the cutlery shops, met with a severe accident while at work, Friday. A piece of wood which he was sawing flew from the

saw and struck him in the face. The blow was so severe that he was rendered unconscious and his face was badly bruised.

January 8, 1896

The extreme cold, Monday, and anchor ice interfered with the mills running. The John Russell Cutlery Company was shut down, Monday, and some of the paper mills were unable to run.

Mar.4

The cutlery works and the mills were shut down all day Monday and Tuesday, but started up again this morning. The grinding room of the cutlery works was several feet under water, and the basements of the other mills were also flooded, but no serious damage was done anywhere.

Apr.15

The John Russell Cutlery Company commence to-morrow on an entire change in their fire protection service pipes and add four two-way, two three-way and one four-way hydrants. Some of the trenches will be through solid rock which will require considerable blasting.

Apr.29

-This good weather and the river falling, is enabling the John Russell Cutlery Company to make rapid progress with their improvements and we are authorized to state, that their entire works will be started next Monday.

-The high water in the Connecticut river has delayed work on the trenches for the new water mains for the fire services at the John Russell Cutlery works.

June.10

The John Russell Cutlery Company has shut down for annual repairs and inventory.

June.24

The John Russell Cutlery Co., will have their annual inventory and repairs completed this week, so as to start work on Monday morning.

June 23, 1897

The John Russell Cutlery Co., having made their repairs, will start their works tomorrow morning.

July.7

The cutlery shop and the mills shut down Monday and yesterday.

July.14

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Company will be held at the company's office, on Wednesday, July 21, at 12 o'clock.

July.21

John Russell Cutlery Company Officers

Clerk - Frederick Clapp; Treasurer - W.P. Dustin; Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock
Committee of Three Stockholders to Employ [?] - Frederick Clapp, E.P. Hitchcock, H.O. Smith

Directors - B.N. Farren, Montague City C.T. Crocker, Fitchburg

D.C.G. Field, Greenfield
C.E. Stevens, Ware

W.P. Dustin, Turners Falls
Jonathan Bulkley, New York

Sept.22

George Holden, master mechanic at the John R. Russell Cutlery Co., is very ill with acute Rheumatism.

February 9, 1898

Mr. Dustin has in the poorest of times given the help at the cutlery work when there was no sale for goods, putting them on the shelves against future orders. However, business has been such that he feels compelled to lay off a few men until orders come in.

Apr.20

The village enjoyed Patriot's Day by simply loafing, being too cold to ride wheels, play ball or take a walk. The news mills and Keith fine mill had to run full time to keep up with orders, but the cutlery and cotton mills were down. The stores were closed most all day.

May.18

The cutlery shut down Saturday for inventory taking.

June.8

The cutlery will finish their inventory and repairs this week and start their works on Monday morning.

July.6

The cutlery works shut down two days for the Fourth—one day to celebrate it and another to get over it, we presume.

July.20

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens Treasurer - W.P. Dustin
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - Frederick Clapp
Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, B.N. Farren,
D.C.G. Field, W.P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley

Aug.3

Charles Foster, who is employed in the cutlery shops, met with a double accident, last Thursday. While at work, he accidentally cut his hand quite badly. He walked into another room, and while in the act of making an application to his wound, he suddenly fainted and fell to the floor with much force, striking on his head and face. He received several bumps and bruises by the fall.

Sept.7

Thomas McCabe was formerly employed by the John Russell Cutlery Co and is now in the Army.

January 29, 1899

Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the cutlery, will spend Thanksgiving with his mom and sister in Boston. He will make a short trip on business and return to the factory before planning a long trip.

Feb.25

Miss Mary Severance is assisting in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

April.12

On Monday, the John Russell Cutlery Company began running their shops nine hours a day. Everybody is happy.

May.31

The cutlery works shut down, Saturday night, for two weeks for inventory and necessary repairs.

June.14

The John Russell Cutlery Company started its work Monday morning after taking the usual time for making necessary repairs including a boiler for the gas plant.

July.12

The cutlery company closed its works to-day, in order to give the employees a chance to visit Buffalo Bill's Wild West. The electrics carried a great number of people.

July.19

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company for the Ensuing Year

President - Charles E. Stevens of Ware Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Assistant Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk Frederick Clapp

Directors -Charles E. Stevens, B.N. Farren, Charles T. Crocker, D.C.G. Field, Jonathan Bulkley, W.P. Dustin.

Aug.2

Fred E. Perry of Riverside has been appointed by the John Russell Cutlery Company as traveling salesman in the middle and southwestern states, and started on his first trip this week.

Aug.30

An enterprising Jewish junk dealer¹² has been engaged in a novel and rather risky occupation of late. Some twenty years ago, the cutlery company threw a lot of worthless old iron into the river back of their works. The company had tried to sell the metal for next to nothing and even were willing to give it away to anyone who would cart it off, but they couldn't dispose of it any way, so it was dumped into the river. There it has lain undisturbed ever since.

Recently the aforesaid Jew thought he might as well have it, and so for the past couple weeks, he, with a couple assistants, has been engaged in reclaiming the iron from its watery burial place.

He built a raft on which he loaded the metal after he had laboriously succeeded in fishing it out, and poles it down the river to a good landing place. The work was very trying and it is doubtful whether the game is worth the candy.

¹² This "junk dealer" turns out to be Michael or Peter Blassberg. They established a junk dealer business in Turners Falls at the above time. Eventually, they were to have yards at Turners Falls, at the west end of First and Second streets and in the "Patch" along 10th Street. Julius came later. Their business terminated in the late 1960s. I could tell some great stories about "Blassie's". *e.g.*

Sept.13

Beginning to-day, every department in the works of the John Russell Cutlery Company, will run ten hours per day, and six days in the week. Girls will work 58 hours weekly. This is good news to the employees of the shops, and everybody is happy.

Sept.27

Fred A. Perry, traveler in the middle west for the John Russell Cutlery Co. is home for a few days visit after a two months' trip.

Oct.11

-W.P. Dustin, treasurer of the cutlery Co., is having his rooms in the Farren House refurnished in elaborate fashion, having everything done to further his personal comfort.

-Edward I. Milke of High Street, Greenfield, who is employed in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works . . .(illegible e.g.)

Nov.8

The large gear which was broken in the John Russell Cutlery works last Saturday has been in use some thirty years. Two new gears are being cast in Holyoke, so the part of the works that is shut down will no doubt start up next Monday.

Nov.15

The large new bevel gear for the cutlery works, to replace the one which broke last week, arrived yesterday. A large number of men were temporarily put out of employment on account of the break.

February 14, 1900

A Polander had his hand badly gashed in the cutlery works, recently, by an accident.

Mar.14

-Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. has returned from a southern trip.

-F. A. Perry, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. who has been south and west has returned home. He has been suffering from a hard cold for about 3 weeks.

-Superintendent H. O. Smith of the John Russell Cutlery Co., who is in the sunny south for his health is improving, but will be absent several weeks more.

April.4

F. A. Perry, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company has been home from a western trip.

Apr.25

-The cutlery company were unable to run their works on Friday and Saturday, owing to the high water.

-Patriot's Day passed off quietly. The cutlery shop was closed all day, and the stores closed in the afternoon. The morning's rain made the sun all the more attractive in the afternoon.

5.23

-W. P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company paid for the transportation of all the help who attended the funeral of the late H. O. Smith.

May 30

The John Russell Cutlery Company have shut down their works for repairs and inventory. A new gear is being put in.

June 13

-Treasurer Dustin has been promised that the new gears for the repairs in the cutlery shall arrive Friday, and if all goes well everything will be in readiness to start Monday morning. The cutlery will run nine hours and a half hereafter—about the limit allowed by law for women and minors. It would be impossible to sort out one class, however much men might want to work ten hours.

-A slight change in the time-table of the Turners Falls branch of the Fitchburg road took effect Monday morning. The train now leaving at 6.03 and the John Russell Cutlery at 6.15, will start from the station at 5.38 and leave the cutlery at 5.45 to connect with the train for the east leaving at 6.05.

June 20

The cutlery started up Monday morning, after being delayed a week longer than anticipated by the repairs demanded.

July 4

Calvin L. Butler, machinist at the cutlery has probably had for that company the longest period of consecutive service than any other employee. His service dates back to 1857, several years before John D. Kelleher, who recently died.

July 11

The Fourth brought misfortune to one youth who lives in the Russell Block on Third Street. While he was sitting on the doorstep, his brother thoughtlessly threw alighted cannon cracker from the second story window. Unhappily the cracker exploded directly in front of the unsuspecting boy's face with disastrous results. His face was horribly torn and burned and he was unconscious for a long time.

July 25

The John Russell Cutlery Company shut down its works, Saturday, in order to make some necessary repairs.

Sept. 19

The John Russell Cutlery works shut down Wednesday, to give its employees an opportunity to attend the Pocumtuck Valley Association Filed Meeting in Riverside.

Oct. 3

Charles E. Stevens of Ware, (Pres. of the John Russell Cutlery Company) is an excellent man to represent the Republicans of the 2nd congressional district as pres. elector.

Nov. 7

-Yesterday was a great day for football. A game was played on Goddard's grounds in the afternoon, between the second High school team and an eleven from boys employed in the cutlery. The latter won 15 to 0. Another local eleven went to Greenfield and played with an eleven there and were defeated 10 to 0.

-J. A. Holmes, traveling salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company is spending a few days in town.

Dec.5

Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company. has started on a trip south.

Dec.19

Thomas Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. is back from a 10 weeks trip, expected to remain until early January.

January 2, 1901

The cutlery employees enjoyed a New Year's holiday yesterday.

Feb.13

A grindstone burst in the cutlery works Monday. A big piece flew through the window and though there were plenty of workmen about, fortunately nobody was injured.

Apr.24

There was no special observance in town of Patriot's Day. All the mills and cutlery works ran, but stores closed at noon, and the public schools had a holiday.

May.1

James Velandar, known locally as "Big Jim," a grinder in the cutlery, has got into the habit of taking more toddy than even his giant frame could carry, and his folks have made frequent complaint about his dissolute ways. Finally the officers put him in the cooler, and Justice Dana deciding that he was a common drunkard, Jim was given the whole three months to get up a purely water appetite.

June.19

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down, Saturday, for annual repairs.

July.3

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works started up, Monday morning, after the annual two weeks shut down.

July.10

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. will be held at the office of the company, on Wednesday, July 17, at 1.15 p.m.

July.17

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - C.E. Stevens

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock

Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, B.N. Farren, Charles T. Crocker,
W.P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley, D.C.G. Field

July.31

Miss Nellie Dwyer of Greenfield, forewoman of the box shop at the Russell cutlery works, had an operation performed at the Farren Hospital last week.

Gazette & Courier will be shown in **Green** tint

Aug.10

Thomas B. Ross, who has been foreman of the wrapping room in the John Russell Cutlery works for a number of years, has been promoted to traveling salesman. Mr. Ross will soon start on the road traveling west of Chicago, Ill. John Yauch will succeed Mr. Ross as foreman of the wrapping room.

Sept.11

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down today in order that the employees might fully enjoy the big Walter L. Main Circus.

January 1, 1902

Thomas B. Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. has been home from a trip.

Mar.5

The cutlery works and the mills were compelled for the most part, to suspend operations Monday and yesterday, because of the high water. All started up again this morning, the water having fallen considerably during the night.

Mar.26

Fred Perry and Thomas B. Ross, salesmen for the John Russell Cutlery Company are home from their trips.

Apr.9

W. P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Co., wife and family are enjoying a season of vacation at Atlantic City and Old Point Comfort. Mr. Dustin is a very busy man, but occasionally takes a short holiday.

June.4

The John Russell Cutlery Company works will shut down Thursday night for the balance of the week, thus giving the employees a two days holiday.

June.11

Fred A. Perry, traveller[sic] for the John Russell Cutlery Company is home for the summer vacation.

June.18

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works, shut down last week for annual repairs.

June.25

The John Russell Cutlery Company works started up again yesterday morning after the annual shut down.

June.14

The John Russell Cutlery Co. has shut down for its annual inventory.

June.21

Thomas P. Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company is home from a western trip.

June.28

The John Russell Cutlery started up Tuesday after its annual inventory.

July.7

July.22

-E. P. Hitchcock, Ass't Treas. of John Russell Cutlery Co., is enjoying his vacation at Brant Rock.

-Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. is home for months' vacation.

Aug.5

William H. Long, paymaster for the John Russell Cutlery Company, is taking his vacation.

Oct.1

The John Russell Cutlery works were shut down, Thursday, for the cattle show. A large share of the employees and a great many other Turners Falls people attended the fair.

Nov.18

The exterior woodwork on the John Russell Cutlery Co.'s block on Third Street has been repainted and the appearance of the building considerably improved.

January 6, 1904

The John Russell Cutlery Company works shut down Thursday night for the rest of the week in order that the employees might enjoy New Year.

Jan.27

Julian Holmes of the Cutlery works has returned from a southern trip. While on the train in Alabama he met Jas. S. Richardson, formerly a manufacturer at Montague.

Mar.11

E.P. Hitchcock, assistant treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company, is confined to his home in Greenfield on account of a fall he received in the works. He bruised his forehead, dislocated a finger and sustained a general shake-up.

Mar.16

A Horrible Accident

-The John Russell Cutlery works was the scene of a horrible accident at about half past ten Saturday morning, when Valentine Greisbach, Jr. of Park Street was caught in the shafting and received injuries from which he died about nine o'clock Saturday night.

Mr. Greisbach was foreman of the pocket knife shop at the cutlery works, got up on a ladder to sew a belt. While at work, in some way, no one knows just how it happened, he had the misfortune to get caught in the shafting, which was making some 120 revolutions per minute. Before the belt could be stopped the unfortunate man had been twirled around several times. He was badly burned and received other severe injuries. He was removed to the Farren Hospital where he died that night.

Mr. Greisbach was nearly 39 years of age and had been employed in the cutlery works for many years. He was a valuable man in the pocket knife shop and was well versed in his trade. He was popular with his employees and his acquaintances, and his sudden and shocking end is mourned.

-The John Russell Cutlery Company works were closed all day yesterday, on account of the funeral of Valentine Greisbach.

Apr.13

Thomas B. Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. is on a ten weeks western trip.

Apr.20

Miss Edith Stewart of Greenfield has been added to the office force of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

June.4

Fred Perry, traveling salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company has returned from a southern trip and will rest up a month or so.

June.8

The John Russell Cutlery Company works closed last Saturday for the annual shut down of two weeks for making repairs and taking inventory.

July.6

Treasurer W. P. Dustin of the John Russell Cutlery Co. spent the Fourth in the White Mountains with his family who are spending the summer there.

July.13

-Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E, Stevens, Ware Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles F. Crocker, B.N. Farren, W.P. Dustin,
D.C.G. Field, Jonathan Bulkley.

-Julian A. Holmes of the Cutlery Co. is home for the summer vacation. He will spend much of his time at the Country Club and enjoy steamboating on the river.

Aug.3

The River Man Getting a Move On

The log drive has been very slow coming down the river this summer on account of low water and the rivermen are quite anxious about the delay in getting the logs to the mills.

George Van Dyke is personally looking after affairs this year, and will be here in a day or two to watch the progress of the logs over the dam.

Two gangs of men will be put to work at once and the sluicing of logs will be continuous night and day. The Franklin Electric Light Company have been engaged to erect a couple of arc lights at the falls, so as to give ample light for the night workers. There is a better run of water at night on account of shutting down of the cutlery and cotton mills after 6 o'clock.

Aug.24

The moulder's¹³ union held a clambake in Forest park, Sunday.

Nov.9

Julian A. Holmes voted and started off south with his cutlery samples yesterday. He will be gone a couple of months.

Nov.23

The Burglars of F.I. Webster's Store Caught.

Deputy Sheriff C.A. Davis has known to almost a certainty ever since the burglary was committed in F.I. Webster's store who the parties were. He had good clues almost at once, but the parties escaped as soon as the Reporter printed the notice of reward. He has

¹³ The "moulders" may have been foundry workers from the Russell Cutlery.

e.g.

kept tab on them ever since, following their every move since they escaped to Canada. They are Fred J. White, aged 22, and Xavier Bouffard, aged 18 years, French boys. The latter was a cutlery worker, and was fairly thrifty, with some money ahead, but the White boy was a shiftless fellow. They made a haul of about \$200 worth of guns, rifles, knives, razors, etc., and when suspected departed for Canada.

Several Turners Falls people might have secured the rewards had they possessed wit enough, as the stolen goods were offered right in town, and hints were given that pointed to the right parties. When they got back to the States, and settled in New Haven, Sheriff Davis went down and pounced on them.

In the lock-up, the White fellow was searched and a pearl handle knife and razor were found on his person, and both were identified as the property of F.I. Webster, as the private marks, known by all the employees of the store, were still on the goods, in hieroglyphics, unknown to any one else.

Bail was furnished the Bouffard young man as soon as he arrived in town, but the White fellow went to the lock-up. Both pleaded guilty, and were bound over to the grand jury.

March 8, 1905

W. P. Dustin, Treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Co. has returned from his trip to the southern country.

Mar.15

The bartender's team defeated by 52 points the cutlery team at the Vladish bowling alley, last week, Tuesday evening.

Mar.29

There was a bowling match last week Wednesday evening at the Vladish bowling alleys between a team from the cutlery and the paper makers. The match was won by the cutlery team by 26 points.

Apr.5

The high water in the Connecticut made it necessary for the cutlery works to shut down Saturday morning for the day.

Apr.12

-Fred A. Perry, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company, who has been home from a trip, has started out on another.

-Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company, has returned from an extended business trip to the south and will be home for four or five weeks.

May.31

-Some automatic sprinklers are being put in the John Russell Cutlery Company works by H.G. Vogel & Co. of New York.

-The dry bridge on Prospect Street is being thoroughly repaired. O.C. Hitchcock has a gang of men at work replacing the heavy timbers under the floor and making other repairs about the bridge. The sewer pipe from Prospect Street has been connected at the lower end of Fourth Street where a new piece of sewer has been put in to care for waste water from John Russell Cutlery and the International Paper Company springs.

June.14

The John Russell Cutlery Co.'s works shut down Saturday, for the annual stock taking and repairs.

July.5

H.G. Vogel & Co., have about completed the work of installing automatic sprinklers in the John Russell Cutlery works.

July.12

Mr. B.N. Farren

The decision of Mr. B.N. Farren to retire from the active interest in many of the large corporations in which he has been interested for a term of years passing the average life of man, prompts the writer to say a few words of the gentleman he has known well for many years.

The brief resolutions of the corporations from which he retired, must necessarily record only the sorrow of parting.

Mr. Farren is the last one of the original stockholders to retire from active participation in shaping the policies of the companies. He came to Turners Falls before the dam was built, with that sterling man, Colonel Alvah Crocker, the business giant of the Commonwealth of those days. Colonel Crocker was on the commission to construct the Hoosac Tunnel. Mr. Farren had come up from Pennsylvania, where he had handled engineering successes, to take a contract on the tunnel construction. As the proverb has it—"it takes a god to know a god"—so it takes a business genius to know his kind.

Colonel Crocker and Mr. Farren became associates and friends. The land was spied out, and the first man consulted with the problem of engineering was Mr. Farren.

The cutlery works were the first thought of Mr. Farren, took the contract to construct the vast plant, and also the canal. He took stock in the company to encourage its establishment here. He was one of the first to put up money to start a ground wood pulp mill here, the Volter process imported from Germany. From that mill all the improvements in the manufacture of all wood paper have sprung, and George E. Marshall was the genius to uncover the germ that has developed into one of the greatest industries of the age. Mr. Farren built that mill too. Then followed the Montague mill, in which Mr. Farren was a stockholder.

A machine shop was needed, and of course Mr. Farren's pocket book was touched again.

The hotel was a necessity, and the Farren House came into existence. He was also a stockholder in the Keith mill, in fact, he was interested in about everything that ever existed in the manufacturing line, (except of course the Griswold corporations, whose interests lie in other directions entirely.)

Mr. Farren was always a helper. In a thousand ways his good offices have been exerted, but always in such a quiet way that the world has known little of the good deeds. Many a struggling business man has owed his resultant's success to the kindly offices of Mr. Farren.

He was always a shrewd business man, inclined to be conservative may be, but of that class that proves the worth of a proposition by its success. He has lead a universally

Steamed Plum Pudding in Brandy Sauce
Assorted Cake
Strawberry Short cake with Cream
Neapolitan Ice Cream, Chocolate Fruit Jelly,
Edam Cheese, Fruit, Assorted Nuts, Coffee, Cigars

The dinner was a very happy social affair. Mr. W.P. Dustin made a neat speech, expressing his personal sorrow that Mr. Farren, his friend and counselor of so many pleasant years, had reached that point in life when he considered the laying down of business cares a duty. He knew that every man must be his own judge when that time shall come, but lamented the fact. Mr. Farren in his usual graceful manner, expressed his sorrow to lay down business cares for association's sake, but he felt that his years and experience in the business world, were sufficient excuse for longer delay.

Aug.2

H.G. Vogel & Co., of New York, have finished their work of rearranging the automatic sprinklers in the John Russell Cutlery works. The improvement over the old style sprinklers is very great in factories where pipes were apt to freeze in winter. The present system keeps compressed air in the pipes through cold rooms, backed by the water supply. Should a fire occur, the fusible plug is opened, the compressed air is released, to be followed by the water at high pressure to flood the rooms.

Dec.16

Thomas B. Ross and J. A. Holmes, salesmen for the John Russell Cutlery Co. are home for the holidays.

Dec.23

J. A. Holmes will leave for the south on a business trip for the John Russell Cutlery Co. after the holiday.

February 14, 1906

J.F. Shirtcliff got his hand caught in a saw, at which he was working, in the cutlery, last week, and lost the top of one finger, while the other two fingers were badly lacerated.

June.6

The John Russell Cutlery Company works will close Saturday for the annual inventory and repairs.

July.4

W. P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Co. is with his family in the White Mountains over the Fourth.

July.11

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens of Ware	Treasurer - W.P. Dustin
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock	Clerk - Frederick Clapp
Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, D.C.G. Filed, Jonathan Bulkley	

Aug. 22

-Fred A. Perry of the Cutlery Company, who travels in the middle west, was taken sick on the road and spent a little vacation in a hospital. He is all right now and on the road again.

-Joseph Gosselin, while at his work in The John Russell Cutlery Company works. Monday afternoon, accidentally got some fingers caught in a machine and badly hurt.

Aug.25

Julian A. Holmes is home from a southern trip for the John Russell Cutlery Co.

Oct.31

Miss Elsie Hitchcock of High Street has taken a position in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

Dec.19

Fred Haussler who has been employed in the Cutlery Works has become a conductor for the Connecticut Valley Street Railway Company.

January 2, 1907

The John Russell Cutlery Company closed their works yesterday and to-day, so that the employees might duly celebrate the advent of this new year of grace.

Feb.6

Walter Roberts of Montague City, while at his work in the cutlery, the other day, was overcome by gas and had to be carried home.

Apr13

Thomas B. Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co. is home from a western trip.

June.12

-The John Russell Cutlery Company works closed, Saturday, for their annual shut-down of two weeks, for inventory and repairs.

July.10

Officers of John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens, Ware

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Assistant Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock

Clerk - Frederick Clapp

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, D.C.G. Field,

W.P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley, B.N. Farren

-The Hotel Grand Trunk served an elaborate dinner to the stockholders of the Turners Falls Company and of the John Russell Cutlery Company this afternoon.

July.17

Walter Severance, who has been superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery works for some time, has resigned his position and gone on an extended vacation. Walter H. Roberts has been promoted to the position of superintendent, and Frank Putnam takes the position of assistant superintendent.

July.20

W. L. Severance, who has been superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery works for a number of years, has resigned and gone on an extended vacation. Walter H. Roberts has been appointed superintendent and Frank Putnam, assistant superintendent.

Aug.7

Miss Dora Ripley has taken a position in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

Oct.2

W. H. Roberts, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Co., who has been incapacitated for work for over two months by rheumatism, has greatly improved and has resumed his duties.

Nov.6

Peter Egger, aged 57 years, employed in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, died suddenly Sunday at his home on K Street.

Nov.13

The John Russell Cutlery Company works started on a nine and a half hour schedule, Monday, work now ceasing at 5.30 p.m.

Dec.25

The John Russell Cutlery shut down Saturday night not to start until after the holidays. The shut down will afford an opportunity to make necessary repairs and take account of stock, and re-arrange the gas plant. Had not a slump in business come to the whole country the extra work would have been done nights.

January 1, 1908

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works will reopen Monday morning, after a shut-down of two weeks.

-Walter H. Roberts of Montague city, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Company, is seriously ill with Typhoid Pneumonia.

Jan.29

Joseph Crouse, while at his work at a forge in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, had the misfortune to burn his face and right hand, but not very seriously.

Feb.5

The John Russell Cutlery Company works closed down, Saturday night, for a week or more, in order that a new gas generator might be installed and other needed improvements can be made.

Feb.19

The John Russell Cutlery Co.'s works resumed operations, Monday, after a four-night's shutdown, during which a new gas generator was installed and other improvements and repairs made.

Mar.11

Beginning Monday, March 16, the John Russell Cutlery Company will go on a nine hour schedule, work ceasing at 5 o'clock instead of 5.30 p.m. as at present.

Mar.25

The cutlery shut down last Saturday to connect with the new gas generator. Most of the forging and tempering is done in gas furnaces, a very much better process than with coal.

Apr.8

The John Russell Cutlery Cp., works were closed two days the last week, in order to make necessary repairs on the gas plant.

Apr.22

The John Russell Cutlery works shut down, Thursday night and reopened yesterday morning.

May.6

-A new concrete sidewalk has been built from the Hotel Grand Trunk to the steps approaching the John Russell Cutlery Company works.

-The John Russell Cutlery works closed Wednesday night for the rest of the week, starting up again Monday morning.

June.10

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. will close tomorrow night for the annual two weeks shut down for inventory and repairs.

-Thomas B. Ross, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company, is home from an extended western trip.

-Julian A. Holmes, traveler for the John Russell Cutlery Co. starts today on a short midsummer sales trip.

July.1

Narrow Escape From Drowning

-Nelson Miller, a 14 year old Riverside boy who lives at Mrs. Fletcher's, had a narrow escape from drowning, Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock. The lad was in bathing near the mouth of Fall river, and not being familiar with the currents of the Connecticut, he got into trouble.

He tried to swim to the second island, where the current, which is very strong at that place, pulled him through the sluice used by the log drivers.

He reached the back of the cutlery works and clung to a rock. The watchman in the Montague mill saw the boy's sorry predicament and notified the men who were at work, whereupon Louis Barnard and John Cocking put out with a boat to Nelson's rescue, and he was brought to land none the worse for his narrow escape from a watery grave.

July.8

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles W. Stevens Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin

Asst. Treasurer and Clerk - E.P. Hitchcock

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Warren P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley,
Bernard N. Farren, Charles T. Crocker, David G.C. Field

-The John Russell Cutlery Company works resumed work, Monday morning, after their annual shut-down.

-Walter H. Roberts, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, has moved from Montague City into Mrs. Ryan's house on Central Street.

July.29

Drowned in Canal

An unusual drowning accident was that which occurred yesterday afternoon at about three o'clock, when Graydon Bagley, aged 16 years, was drowned in the canal while bathing. The Bagley boy was one of anywhere from 25 to 50 boys who were disporting themselves in the canal near the Turner Falls Cotton mill. The lad could swim, it is said, and any number of the boys who were in the water could swim, too, but despite that fact the boy went down and failed to come up, and it was about 15 minutes before he was missed.

The lads were in the habit of jumping off the roof of the storage shed near the cotton mill, into the water. Yesterday, young Bagley jumped off, waved his hand as usual, but failed to come up. There was no outcry or struggle on his part and none of his companions suspected at the time what had happened. One boy is supposed to have seen young Bagley sink and fail to rise, but he thought it was all fun and said nothing.

Then attempts were made to recover the body, the boys diving. William Berry aged 17, finally located the body and brought it to the surface. The canal is only eight or ten feet deep at this point and it seems doubly pathetic that the lad should have gone to his doom while there were so many about who could have rescued him. Nobody knows how it all happened. It may be the boy was seized with a cramp.

He was the son of Mrs. Mary Bagley of Fourth Street, and she is a widow. Beside his mother, he leaves a younger brother. The Bagley boy had been employed in the John Russell Cutlery works and was a boy of good character and well liked. He was a member of the St. Mary's Temperance Society who will have charge of the funeral which will take place to-morrow morning from St. Mary's church. He was a member of the Hibernian Cadets. Services will be resumed at the Baptist church next Sunday after a two weeks vacation.

Aug.5

The Minds That Led the Way to Cheap Newspaper. (truncated article *e.g.*)

In these times when newspaper publishers are fighting all kinds of paper trusts, real or fancied, in an endeavor to get news-paper for less than cost, when the paper makers of the east are on a strike against real or fancied grievances, it is well to tell some stories as to the rise and development of the paper industry.

The men controlling the water power here happened by chance to be led by that great business man and paper maker, Alvah Crocker. With a power to develop industries had to be secured.

The first impulse was to get the John Russell Cutlery works of Greenfield, and this was secured by Wendell T. Davis, a Greenfield man, and intimate and legal advisor of the Russells. With a suggestion from Mr. Davis and leading enthusiasm of Col. Crocker, the cutlery works were transferred and of course Mr. Crocker's business associates, such as J.C. Ayer, Benjamin F. Butler, Thomas Talbot, and other men of means and manufacturers, were drawn into the enterprise.

B.N Farren, the leading railroad contractor of the day, a business companion of Mr. Crocker, the father of the Hoosac Tunnel and all railroad connections, was soon found to

be the ideal associate in the development of Turners Falls, and at once took his position as the real leader in all its great enterprises . . .

Oct.7

The John Russell Cutlery Company ran six days last week, the first time for a long while it has run on full time.

Oct.14

Louis J. Barnard has taken the position of foreman of the repair gang of woodworkers in the John Russell Cutlery works.

Oct.28

Someone scaled the picket fence between the cutlery works and the Montague mill, the other night, and began throwing stones at the windows of the mill. The fellow escaped when someone came out of the mill.

January 13, 1909

-Considerable work in the way of painting and renovating has been done in the Russell Cutlery during the past two or three weeks.

Feb.3

The John Russell Cutlery Company closed its works last Friday night until this morning.

Mar.3

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down Saturday noon until yesterday morning.

Apr.14

-There have been many fake reports circulated during the week purporting that the John Russell Cutlery had been sold. There is absolutely no truth in these reports and it is surprising that this gossip keeps starting with absolutely no foundation.

-The John Russell Cutlery works were shut down from Saturday noon until Tuesday morning.

Apr.21

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down Saturday noon but resumed operations on Monday morning.

May.5

For Abatement of Excessive Tax

Yesterday was entry day in the Superior court and several cases were entered in the office of the clerk. In the case of the John Russell Cutlery Company of Turners Falls against the inhabitants of Montague, the company is a petitioner for an abatement of taxes. The petitioner says a true list of all its real and personal estate subject to taxation was made out and carried to the assessors and sworn to. The taxes were paid under protest, and now the company seeks relief from the court.

May.19

Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting on Monday afternoon was one of the most remarkable ever held in town, and has got a whole lot of folks to set up and take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. Daniel F. Daly was elected Moderator.

Hon. Joseph F. Bartlett offered a motion to reconsider the business transacted under the article in the warrant of the April special, meeting, relative to the State highway on the Montague City road. The moderator voted the article in the warrant out of order, and would not entertain the motion. The chair wanted to know how the article got into the warrant, and whether it was put in by some one who voted in favor of the original motion, before he would put a motion to rescind a vote.

Mr. Bartlett was positive, from long experience in town affairs, and in legislative bodies, that the ruling of the chair was wrong, and untenable in any way, and felt obliged to leave the hall in self respect. Mr. Abercrombie, also well versed in town affairs, as an officer, and as moderator, could not urge the moderator to accept the only apparently logical view, and withdrew.

There was an article in the warrant aimed to compel the owners of the cutlery block to put in water closets, at great, and many think needless expense. This was correct, as that article seemed to be all regular and perfectly legal, not requiring the tag of the originator to make it in good standing.

The article relating to the sewer on Canal Street was passed over, the meeting evidently thinking one article was glory enough for one day.

Note: Canal St.; Article 5. To see if the town will vote to construct a sewer on Canal Street, make an appropriation for same, or act anything therein. e.g.

The John Russell Cutlery Company offer their block of forty tenement houses for sale cheap. The company never desired to own such real estate. They were compelled to put up the block to house the people they brought here to start their factory. There were no other houses here. The block is a good one, in fine repair and is much better than like structures in other mill towns. The street in front is well shaded and attractive. What was done to help house a good class of people for the benefit of the town, without hope of financial gain, has been the source of much annoyance to the voter who has nursed or cultivated a grievance against somebody or something.

May.26

Ed Shanahan of South End, while at his work in the cutlery, last Thursday, cut his hand on one of the knives so that several stitches were required to close the wound.

June.9

The cutlery works will be shut down to-night for annual inventory and repairs.

June.23

Repairs having been about completed, the cutlery will start up next Monday morning.

Sept.8

Man Dropped Dead at His Work in the Cutlery

Jessie L. Miller, aged about 50, a single man, whose home was in Greenfield, dropped dead at his work at a triphammer in the cutlery, from heart disease. Dr. Messer was instantly called but life was gone.

Sept.15

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens Treasurer - W.P. Dustin
Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - E.P. Hitchcock
Directors - Charles E. Stevens, W.P. Dustin, Charles T. Crocker,
Bernard N. Farren, Jonathan Bulkley, David D.C. Field

The joint dinner of the Turners Falls Company and the John Russell Cutlery Company was served at the Hotel Grand Trunk, to-day, at two o'clock, and Landlord O'Keefe did himself honor in a spread that left nothing to be desired, one of the best dinners ever served in town, for which he was complimented highly by the out of town guests. The best of fellowship prevailed at the dinner, and was enlivened by splendid off hand speeches by Mr. Griswold, Mr. Crocker and others.

Sept.22

-Frank L. Putnam, who has been assistant superintendent of the cutlery for some time, has resigned to take a position in Connecticut. Mr. Putnam is a graduate of the Worcester Technical School. He will soon go to Southbridge.

Oct.6

-Frank G. Bitzer of Third Street has given up his work in the John Russell Cutlery Co. and will devote all his time to his insurance business.

-Ralph Jernberg, who has been employed by the John Russell Cutlery Company for several months as boss of the forging department, has resigned and returned to his home in Worcester.

Oct.13

By the blowing out of a plug from the gas main at the hardening and tempering department of the cutlery Saturday afternoon, two men were overcome by gas to an extent that it necessitated their removal and treatment by a physician. Some time had elapsed after the accident when the men were overcome, and they supposed all danger was passed.

June 1, 1901

Annual dinner of the Keith Paper Co.

. . . A company was at once organized, and a host of friends with capital were invited to develop the proposition. The John Russell Cutlery Company were induced to come from Greenfield and quadruple the size of their plant, and that was the first mill on the stream. Capital was subscribed for by the enterprise of Mr. Crocker and his friends . . .

June.8

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works close to-night for the annual inventory and repairs.

June.29

The John Russell Cutlery works, which have been closed for inventory, resumed work Monday morning.

July.6

Harold Smith, who has been a cost man at the John Russell Cutlery Co. works for a number of years, has resigned his position and left town. Mr. Smith decided upon a change of occupation and will take a course of study to fit himself for certain branches of teaching.

Aug.17

Earl Pervere of riverside, an employee of the John Russell Cutlery Co., severely injured his fingers while at work last Monday.

Sept.21

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens

Treasurer - W.P. Dustin

Asst. Treasurer - E.P. Hitchcock Clerk - E.P. Hitchcock

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Charles T. Crocker, Jonathan Bulkley,
W.P. Dustin, D.C.G. Field, B.N. Farren

Sept.28

Annual Dinner of the Turners Falls and John Russell Cutlery Companies

The Annual Dinner of the Turners Falls Company and the John Russell Cutlery Company, jointly, was held at the Hotel Grand Trunk on Wednesday last, and was partaken of by some twenty-five guests, a few outside friends accepting invitations to join the stockholders in the festivities of the social board after the transactions of the business meetings had been completed.

The table was drawn out to occupy a straightaway course clear across the main dining room, clear through the door of the private dining room, giving the guests ample elbow room, and plenty of power to their elbows.

It was a pleasant gathering of busy business men of various walks in life, but having common interests in being investors in "something else," something now so common with the American people who not so fondly cherish the old idea of putting all their eggs in one basket, even if possessing unlimited time and opportunities of watching the basket.

At the northwest-by-north end of the table sat Charles E. Stevens of Ware, long time president of the John Russell Cutlery Company, succeeding his illustrious and well beloved father of pleasant memory of the older generation. On his right, Warren P. Dustin, Treasurer and managing director of the original cutlery works of America, and one of the most astute cutlery men at the game, having won his position in the trade handsomely before he was out of this teens, his well handled weapons being brains, tact, good nature and above all the capacity for hard work.

Around them sat the cutlery stockholders, enjoying the good things of life, among them the venerable D.C.G. Field, on Gen. Butler's staff during the far off unpleasantness, and later one of the cutlery company's treasurers, when the redoubtable or bully boy Benjamin, with an eye that made caricaturists rich, was a stockholder.

At the south-east-by-south end of the table sat the representative of the new blood and vim of the rejuvenated Turners Falls Company, Philip Cabot of Boston, young, ener-

getic, tactful, a capitalist, and a representative of conservative yet active and aggressive capitalists, his every look, action and word an index to business on business principals, and a guide to inevitable success.

Nearby sat the stately man of capital, his every look and motion pointing to solid commercial undertakings, and his stately old colonial name, Winthrop Coffin, of Boston, seeming to confirm every visual impression of the solid backing he might bring to any legitimate enterprise of magnitude.

Nearby sat Charles S. Davis, an active, wiry, rather young capitalist of Boston, whose profession and practice of the law enables him to watch his many investments with a vantage ground not possessed by less favored investors of money in solid blocks. Around the table sat the stockholders, hit or miss, in social intercourse, together with a good sprinkling of invited guests, leaders in the other corporations.

The new director of the Turners Falls Company, Joseph W. Stevens of Greenfield, a very able financier and business man, was unavoidably absent.

Landlord O'Keefe of the hotel is entitled to a great deal of credit for an elaborate dinner of a dozen courses, as good as one could wish, the best of food, well cooked and admirably served, which went to show that Turners Falls while famous in many ways, has not lost its reputation in the hotel line, well established over 36 years ago by G.T.C. Holden, who afterward made his great skill known nation wide, beginning to develop his art in that same dining room.

Nov.16

Miss Cora Holmes will have apartments at the Grand Trunk Hotel this winter. She has been visiting her brother, Julian Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company, of the same place.

January 4, 1911

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works started up this morning after a few days' shut down on account of taking inventory.

Jan.11

Charles T. Crocker died; he was a Director of John Russell Cutlery Co.

Apr.19

Louis Barnard, who has been head carpenter for the John Russell Cutlery Co. for several years, has resigned and will work at his trade in Greenfield.

May.31

The smokestack on the works of the John Russell Cutlery Company is to be repaired, heightened and put into first class shape. Contractor James H. Thomas has a force of men at work erecting a staging. Part of the stack is to be pulled down and rebuilt.

June.7

The John Russell Cutlery Company shut down Saturday noon for the annual shut down of a few weeks to make repairs and take inventory.

June.21

The John Russell Cutlery works having completed the most urgent of the repairs will start up the works on full time next Monday morning.

July.5

Joseph Hyde of Riverside, while oiling some machinery at the cutlery, got the oil can caught in such a way that the spout was driven through his hand. Dr. Messer dressed the wound, which is considered dangerous on account of the fact that blood poisoning may develop. Just now he is doing well.

Aug.2

Walter Roberts is Superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

Aug.17

-Treasurer W. P. Dustin of the Cutlery Co. came from his summer home in New Hampshire with his 2 daughters in their fine new 7 passenger touring car.

Sept.20

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Charles E. Stevens Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin

Asst. Treas. & Clerk - E.P. Hitchcock

Directors - Charles E. Stevens, Warren P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley,
Bernard N. Farren, David D.C. Field

-Leland F. Doton of riverside, who has been employed at the cutlery works for the last nine years has got through.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works are shut down for to-day and to-morrow on account of the county fair.

Oct.4

William Long, of Greenfield, who has been bookkeeper and paymaster at the John Russell Cutlery Company for over 16 years, has resigned. He will take a similar position elsewhere.

Oct.11

Martin Schneider of Third Street, who entered the employ of the John Russell Cutlery Company when he was in his teens, as office boy, has been promoted to the position of paymaster to succeed William J. Long, resigned.

Oct.14

Marriage of Charles Early of John Russell Cutlery Co.

January 3, 1912

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works closed down last Thursday night and reopened this morning so that the help could celebrate the holidays according to their taste.

1.24

. . . Brought here to look the ground over, Mr. Farren saw an opportunity to get in on the ground floor. He took a contract to build the little bit of canal from the bulkhead to the cutlery works, that were coming from Greenfield. The country at that time was as poor as war could make it, and money for any enterprises had to be got by hook or by crook. There were no millionaires in the whole land, and mighty few people had much beyond the day after to-morrow's breakfast, except in their head or in the future somewhere out of their mind.

Mr. Farren took the contract to excavate the canal and took stock in the company¹⁴ in the same deal. The cutlery company wanted foundations laid for their very extensive works, "the greatest in the world" as planned, and Mr. Farren took stock in that company and the contract to build the walls. He made one hand wash the other very nicely, taking the cut to make the fill, and the work of both was done simultaneously . . .

. . . Governor Thomas Talbot was interested in the Cutlery from the first, with the Ayers, Gen. Butler and other Lowell people. Governor Rice was interested in the Keith mill, and both knew the great ability of Mr. Farren to carry out any great undertaking, so when the State found it necessary to arch the tunnel with brick, it was natural that Mr. Farren should get the job . . .

. . . New steel bridges will be put over the canal at the Griswold mill, the lower suspension bridge crossing, the Keith mill and at the cutlery works.

. . . Rector Goss, who had a finger in every pie, bought the old bridge and demolished it. While the bridge was building a ferry was conducted at a point a few hundred feet below. Mr. Farren put in the foundations of the cutlery, but the superstructure was contracted to Rector Goss and George O. Peabody. Mr. Peabody got scared at the undertaking and Mr. Goss gladly released him, but gave him the woodwork to superintend. The railroad bridge was not yet built and the timbers for the cutlery were framed on the Deerfield side of the river. W.R. Farnsworth and E.E. Barnard worked on the frames there . . .

1.31

-President Charles Stevens of the John Russell Cutlery Co., having become paralyzed, the Directors met last week and chose D. C. G. Field, president pro tempore.

2.15

-Mr. Dustin rounds out 50 years in business. W. P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Co., entered upon his 51 st. year in the cutlery business Monday. He is still hale and hearty, and can be found at his desk in the office almost every working day in the year, beginning before 7:00 in the morning. His friends wish him many more years of activity and good health. A few years ago Mr. Dustin bought a fine farm in New Hampshire and it is his custom to spend Sunday there with his family during the summer months.

2.28

Mr. Dustin Rounds out 50 Years in Business

W.P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company, entered upon his 51st year in the cutlery business Monday. He is still hale and hearty, and can be found at his desk in the office almost every working day in the year beginning before 7 o'clock in the morning. His friends wish him many more years of activity and good health.

4.10

The John Russell Cutlery Company works were shut down, Monday, that help might celebrate Easter Monday.

5.1

¹⁴ The Turners Falls Company.

Christian Zimmerman of First Street has left the employ of the John Russell Cutlery Company and taken the position of night watchman for the Turners Falls Company succeeding Dennis Rivet.

5.22

A Portrait of John Russell

This present writer feels keenly the few minutes allotted him to tell a story of human interest.

Treasurer W.P. Dustin has just hung on the walls of the office of the John Russell Cutlery Company, over the desk of Assistant Treasurer Edward P. Hitchcock, who has spent a life time in the service of one of America's greatest manufacturing industries, the life sized oil portrait of the founder, John Russell, the first man to make cutlery in America, the first man to improve the process of manufacture, and the first man to drive the Sheffield English cutlers from the market by the superiority of American goods and the methods of making them.

That was in 1834. This portrait was painted at the instigation of his son, Frank, who married Isabella Clapp, a daughter of Henry W. Clapp, the financial partner of Mr. Russell. The portrait of Mr. Russell is a fine one, representing him at the prime of his life, sitting in his accustomed red skull cap, looking backward over his many business triumphs and forward hopefully to the preservation of a name worthy of a great product.

The portrait was given to his widow, and was left in the care of Belle Russell, Frank's widow, top pass finally to the John Russell Cutlery Company. The house of the late Isabella Russell on Franklin Street having been sold, the family deemed it best to remove the portrait at once to its resting place, a fitting home after eyes of all members of the immediate family had been dimmed in the course of nature to the pleasure of its presence with them. And the meaning of that portrait to all that has made America what it is to-day!

Relying on a good memory, the [Reporter](#) would say that John Russell was born in Greenfield in 1797, and the present writer wrote his obituary in the last week in December, 1874, with Fred'k Clapp as mentor.

Mr. Russell was a watch and clock repairer in early youth, and we fancy he met Henry W. Clapp on New York on his way south to seek his fortune. Be it as it may, Mr. Clapp with ample means came to Greenfield to retire with a large fortune, and soon became a partner of Mr. Russell when the latter came back from the south to establish the first cutlery works in America.

A chisel factory was started on Green river, and Mr. Russell's brother, Nathaniel, educated for the ministry, we believe, became associated with him. Their main aim was to make table cutlery of the quality that had made Sheffield famous for centuries. Sheffield disputed the right of the Russells to compete with them, and flooded this market with goods at cut throat prices. This and the panic of 1837¹⁵ nearly put a finish to the American industry, but the trade unionism of England killed the English goose with the golden egg.

¹⁵ The Panic of 1837 was a financial crisis in the United States that touched off a major recession that lasted until the mid-1840s. Profits, prices, and wages went down while unemployment went up. Pessimism abounded during the time. The panic had both domestic and foreign origins. Speculative lending practices in western states, a sharp decline in cotton prices, a collapsing land bubble, international specie flows, and restrictive lending policies in Great Britain were

Mathew Chapman, a Sheffield cutler with brains and muscle sufficient to hold his own at the manly art of self defence, came to Greenfield and took charge of the Russell shop.

The English trade unions would not allow machinery to be used in the manufacture of cutlery goods, and so the Russells put in drop hammers, swagging machines, die cutters, to replace the old hand anvil and hammer, and in a short time America was granted a right to live and make its own knives and forks, thanks to a pig-headed unionism that had not yet advanced to the point of robbing themselves of their own bread and butter in the larger and freer atmosphere of unspoiled America.

In 1869 the cutlery works were removed to Turners Falls, and buildings measuring 2000 feet in running length were required to house the largest cutlery works in the world, with a product unexcelled in quality or variety by any smaller concern in existence, and under the personal management of W.P. Dustin, a cutlery merchant for a life-time, the business is a faithful to the old traditions as when it stamped its impress on America's business character three-quarters of a century ago.

John Russell had retired some years before the removal of the works, but Mathew Chapman continued as Superintendent for some time. Nathaniel Russell, we believe went to Washington, where he took a position better than preaching. He was the father of Charles P. Russell who naturally drifted into manufacturing, as a partner in the Wiley and Russell Manufacturing Company.

6.5

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down last night for the purpose of making the annual repairs and taking inventory.

6.19

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works will start up next Monday morning, June 24, after their annual shut down.

7.10

-Gottlieb Haigis, for 40 years a resident of Turners Falls, had been employed by the John Russell Cutlery Co. ever since he came to America.

-Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company:

President -Hon. Charles E. Stevens, Ware, Mass.

Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.

Asst. Treasurer and Clerk - Edward P. Hitchcock,. Greenfield, Mass.

Directors - Hon. Charles E. Stevens, Warren P. Dustin,

Jonathan Bulkley, N.Y., David C.G. Field, Greenfield, Mass.

Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg, Mass.

-August Johnson of fourth Street is foreman of the Burnishing Department of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

all to blame. On May 10, 1837, banks in New York City suspended specie payments, meaning that they would no longer redeem commercial paper in specie at full face value. Despite a brief recovery in 1838, the recession persisted for approximately seven years. Banks collapsed, businesses failed, prices declined, and thousands of workers lost their jobs. Unemployment may have been as high as 25% in some locales. The years 1837 to 1844 were, generally speaking, years of deflation in wages and prices.

8.14

Harold H. Ray, clerk at the Crocker National Bank, and Martin Schneider, paymaster at the John Russell Cutlery Co., are at Lake Sunapee, N. H. for their vacations.

8.21

W. H. Roberts, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Co. has gone to Trout Lake, Province of Quebec in Canada to spend his fortnight's vacation.

9.11

August Johnson of fourth Street is foreman of the Burnishing Department of the John Russell Cutlery Company.

10.9

The Building Up of Towns

A small portion of this lengthy article references Turners Falls. It will be given here. *e.g.*

. . . It occurs to very few men that it is a tremendous task bring in doubting candidates for factory sites and town lots by the scruff of the neck, as a policeman would a darky[sic] caught in the act of stealing a watermelon, and few ever consider how really few communities have grown into considerable manufacturing centers, except for the germ inherent in the spot, and still fewer consider the everlasting good and permanence that might result if more loyalty were shown to what they have, with an earnest desire to cultivate what is latent at home.

Everything Turners Falls has in the way of manufacturing came from loyalty of its own moneyed interests to the place. Every dollar in the cutlery was put in by men, or friends of men, owning the water and land, the old pulp mill the same; the Keith mill the same; the new mill to give the young men a chance; the cotton mill by a nearby friend of the town, and the earnest solicitation of another friend, Col. Crocker. Had not local boys, the Marshall brothers, put up the newest paper mill, in all human probability Mr. Esleeck would not be making paper here to-day. The machine shop was put where it stands by local money for local people.

10.23

-Jacob Strobel of Fourth Street, a long time employee of the John Russell Cutlery Co., while at his work in the saw room Monday, cut off the index finger of his left hand. Mr. Strobel has worked on a saw nearly all his life and this is the first mishap he has had.

-Julian A. Holmes, salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co., intends to take a rest from business this winter and will pass the cold weather in the sunny South where he proposes to live the simple life.

11.6

Mitchell Provost, formerly of this town, but who has been employed in a cutlery works in Northampton, has taken a foreman position with the John Russell Cutlery Co., and will move his family back to Turners Falls before long.

January 15, 1913

John H. Roberts of Montague City, one of the oldest employees of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has resigned his position in the die making shop, and will retire from active life. Mr. Roberts went to work for the company while it was located in Greenfield in

1863. He has had charge or has helped in establishing about every piece of machinery in the plant. He is a most skillful machinist, and the finest dies have passed through his hands in the making. His son, Walter H. Roberts is Superintendent of the cutlery.

3.5

Miss Elsie Hitchcock, who has been employed in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co., for several years, has resigned, in order to accept a position in Greenfield. Her successor is Miss Louise Killelea of Central Street, a graduate of Turners Falls High school last year.

3.19

Little Boy Drowned

Thursday, just before noon, Humphrey Green, a little nine year old boy of Third Street, was drowned. He fell into the river just above the dam and was carried through the head gates of the canal and drowned. His body was recovered at the upper gate of the John Russell Cutlery company's plant shortly after the accident but all efforts to resuscitate the lad were in vain.

The little fellow lived with Mrs. Eden who keeps a boarding house on Third Street. Thursday at 10 o'clock he was sent to the post-office and it was supposed he would return straight home. Instead he went along the canal playing with a dog that belonged to one of the neighbors and finally he got above the dam and went out on the boom which is rigged up there to keep the driftwood from going into the canal. He was seen playing on the boom, throwing things into the water, but suddenly the dog began to bark violently and the little boy was not seen.

Mistrusting that something was wrong, Mr. Cresap, the superintendent of the Bates Rogers Co., ran out and down along the canal, finally finding the body caught on the gate.

The little fellow's nearest relative is an uncle, George Cooper of Greenfield. His parents live in New Haven, Ct., but he had lived at Mrs. Eden's for the past six years.

4.2

Warren P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company, who was for a long time a director in the Crocker national bank, and retired, as he did from other corporations, because of a desire to be relieved of cares that seemed needless to him at his time of life, has been pressed into service again as a director in the bank, owing to the death of F.I. Webster making a vacancy on the board.

4.23

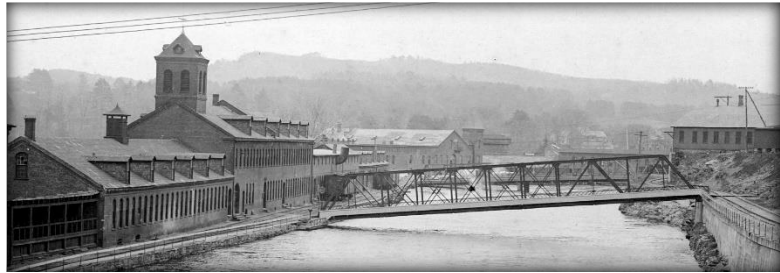
Christian Yetter, aged 34 years, died at his home on Fourth St., Saturday afternoon after a lingering illness. Mr. Yetter was born in Greenfield but had spent most of his life in Turners Falls. He was a former employee of the John Russell Cutlery Co. Besides his aged mother, he leaves an aunt, Mrs. Christian Schick.

4.30

Lucas Bippus of Chestnut Street, foreman in the saw-room of the John Russell Cutlery Company, was painfully injured last Friday morning, while at work, by being struck by a rock which had been blown through the window by a blast on the new canal. A piece of glass from the window pierced his hand and the rock struck him in the leg, injuring it badly, although no bones were broken. He was taken home and is not yet able to work.

5.21

The Eastern Bridge and Structural Company of Worcester, who have the contract for building the new bridges over the canal, have finished the one leading to the John Russell Cutlery Works, and will start on the Sixth Street Bridge at once. This is the last bridge to be built at present.



Russell Cutlery bridge, looking east.

The Keith Paper Co. have had a handsome gold lettered sign bearing their name, placed at the head of the bridge leading to their mill.

6.4

Christian Stotz of K Street, who has been employed in the shipping department of the John Russell Cutlery Company for several years, has gone to work for F.N. Conant & Co.

6.11

The John Russell Cutlery works shut down, Saturday night, for the annual inventory and repairs, and the help are enjoying the vacation.

6.18

The cutlery works will finish its repairs and start up Monday morning, June 23, excepting the forger and tempering shops. It is expected to complete the repairs in forge and tempering shops in three days afterwards.

6.25

Laborer Killed

Paorta Neomarta, an Italian, aged 35 years, in the employ of Bates & Rogers Co., who came to this country about a month ago, was killed Sunday afternoon while at work on the new canal near the John Russell Cutlery Works. Water in both canals was drawn off Sunday to make necessary repairs due to a break that filled the new canal before completion, and Neomarta had his skull crushed by a stone that dropped from a shovel being hoisted by the aid of a derrick. He leaves a brother-in-law in Turners Falls. The funeral was held from St. Mary's Church Monday morning.

7.2

The Turners Falls Fire department was called out in a hurry last night shortly before nine o'clock, for a blaze in the John Russell Cutlery Co. block on Third Street. A lamp burning in the third story of one of the tenements in the block was turned up too high and set fire to a curtain nearby. The fire was quickly put out with little damage.

7.9

Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

President - Jonathan Bulkley, New York Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls
Asst. Treasurer and Clerk - Edward P. Hitchcock, Greenfield

Directors - Warren P. Dustin, Jonathan Bulkley, Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg,
David D.G. Field, Greenfield, Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls

8.13

Miss Catherine Schuhle of Third St. has resigned her position in the **Reporter** office, and has returned to her former position with the John Russell Cutlery Co.

8.20

-Walter Roberts, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Co. has gone into camp at Trout Lake in the Town of Marston, Quebec.

-Miss Smith, chief clerk in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co., is spending her vacation in Gloucester.

-Miss Welch of the clerical force of the Cutlery Works is spending her vacation at the seashore.

8.27

"The Southern Darky's Philosophy" by Julian A. Holmes, traveler for the John Russell Cutlery Co., has been over most of the South for over twenty-five years, and he has always been more or less interested in the colored brothers.

January 3, 1914

Dennis J. Murphy, foreman in John Russell Cutlery Co., married Miss Caroline Seiles.

June 13, 1914

Adolph Vlach, employed at Cutlery, married Alme Berthiaume.

1.14

Annual Meeting of the Crocker National Bank.

. . . President D.P. Abercrombie has been one of Montague's leading citizens ever since the town began to take on growth as a manufacturing centre.[sic] At first he was with the Millers Falls company when the little hamlet of Grout's Corner began to show signs of life, and find its place for itself on a map other than a railroad folder. He was about the first selectman to represent that region, as George Hance, of the F.I. Webster Co., was the first selectman to represent the new Turners Falls. R. N. Oakman, Jr., was the first cashier of the Crocker National Bank, and when he took the position as treasurer and manager of the Cutlery Co. he was succeeded for a short time by Mr. Sewall, from Lowell, a brother of the Montague blacksmith. When Mr. Abercrombie was appointed, he moved to Montague City and then to Turners Falls. Mr. Abercrombie was always considered one of the most level-headed financial and business men we ever had in town, a man of notable culture and presence, with charming dignity of manner under all circumstances and conditions of surroundings. For many years he was distinguished as about the only college bred man in town in business.

2.18

An oil stove smoked this morning in the Cutlery block. An alarm was sounded from box 23. The wick was turned down and "all out" was joyfully sounded inside of a few minutes.

6.3

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works shut down, Friday night, for the purpose of making the annual repairs, and for taking inventory.

6.24

The John Russell Cutlery Co. completed the making of their annual repairs today, and the works will startup to-morrow morning.

7.1

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works started up full force last Thursday after the annual shut-down for repairs and inventory.

-Adolph Vlach of Third street lost the sight of one eye Monday, when a sharp piece of steel thrown by one of his fellow-workmen in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, struck him in the eye, destroying the ball of the organ. He was removed to the Farren hospital and a specialist from Springfield was called in. It is feared that the sight of the other eye will be destroyed also. The accident is particularly sad, at Mr. Vlach is a young man. He was but recently married and had just started in housekeeping.

7.8

Annual Meeting of John Russell Cutlery Co.

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. was held to-day, when the following officers were chosen:

Directors - D.C.G. Field, Greenfield, Mass. Jonathan Bulkley, New York. Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg, Mass. A.R. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass. W.P. Dustin,

Turners Falls, Mass, Treasurer and Clerk - W. P. Dustin. Assistant Treasurer—A. R. Dustin.

It was entered on the records that the stockholders of John Russell Cutlery company express their deep regret that Mr. E.P. Hitchcock, after over fifty years of loyal and faithful service, feels that it is advisable to give up active cares, and has relinquished the office of assistant treasurer, which he has held for so many years.

7.8

Adolph Vlach, the cutlery workman, who lost the sight of an eye last week, had the eye removed in order to save the sight of the other. The operation was performed in Springfield.

7.15

Turners Falls Will Take Care of all Stayers

. . .Although houses and tenements are scarce in Turners Falls, let not anyone for a moment suppose the village will not be in a position at a moment's notice to house all families desiring to settle here permanently. The continuing cry of scanty tenements has given everybody a wrong impression of Turners Falls, its people, and the ability to cope with any condition that may arise, and that instantly. The writer has seen about every brick laid in Turners Falls, and knows full well the enterprise of the people back of all the corporations here. When the cutlery came there were no houses to shelter its workmen, and the corporation was compelled to build the 40-house block on Third street . . .

July 18, 1914

Edward D. Hitchcock relinquished post of ass't. treasurer after 56 years with the cutlery firm. In 1858 he entered New York Store and remained 4 years under N. E. Russell. He returned and for about 30 years was ass't. treasurer.

9.30

-The passenger bridge over the canal to the cutlery works has been demolished to allow the core to be taken out of the canal by the contractors. The Montague mill bridge has to be used by the cutlery employees until the work on the canal is finished, when a substantial new bridge will be erected, similar to the one at the Montague mill.

-The "old cutlery" building of the Montague Paper mill of the International Paper Co., in which is one of the big Fourdrinier machines, is having a new roof put on, the old one having rotted out.

10.7

-Several suits were entered in Superior court this week, the most important being that of Charles A. Reynolds, administrator of the estate of the late Robert F. Reynolds, vs. the John Russell Cutlery company, damages of \$12,000 being sought for the plaintiff's intestate, which is alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the employees of the defendant.

10.21

-Julian A. Holmes, southern traveler for the John Russell Cutlery Co., has returned from his trip, and will remain until after election, when he and his wife will go to their southern home in Frogmore, on the South Carolina coast. They close their High street home here every winter.

12.15

The United Construction Co. of Albany have nearly finished the bridge over the canal near the John Russell Cutlery Co. works. The contractors will commence work on the new I street bridge immediately after the arrival of the material. The abutments are finished and some of the grading.

June 16, 1915

The John Russell Cutlery Co. has shut down for annual repairs an inventory.

6.23

The John Russell Cutlery company, having finished their inventory and repairs to-day, will start up to-morrow to make goods again.

7.14

Meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

At the annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. held at the office of the company to-day, the following officers were elected:

President - Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls. Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls. Asst. Treasurer - Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls.

Clerk, Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls

Directors: Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls,
Jonathan Bulkley, New York City, Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg, Mass.

8.11

E.L. Page the New Cotton Mill Assistant Superintendent

Following the death of Superintendent Sumner, of the Griswold cotton mill, E.L. Page, the long time bookkeeper and confidential man, goes to the head of the office, and Martin Schneider, having served an apprenticeship of 10 years in that most excellent business school, the John Russell Cutlery Co.'s office, from office boy to paymaster, goes into the Griswold office as bookkeeper. Thomas Lonergan, for many years a very faithful foreman for the Griswold's, father and son, and a cotton manufacturer in skill and judgment, takes a more responsible position as general supervisor of manufacturing and equipment, practically the mechanical engineer of the mill.

June 28, 1916

Julian A. Holmes, very efficient traveling salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Company for 35 years, has resigned and will take a well earned rest.

7.12

-New Assistant Treasurer for the John Russell Cutlery Company

At the annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co., held at the office of the company this morning, the following officers were elected:

President - Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.

Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.

Asst. Treas. - Alex. McL. Rowland, New York.

Clerk - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.

Directors - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.; Jonathan Bulkley, New York; Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg, Mass.; Albert R. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.; Alex. McL. Rowland, New York.

The new assistant treasurer and director of the company has long been the manager of the office of the J. Russell Co. of New York, and is an exceedingly well informed man in the manufacture and sale of cutlery, in the prime of life, and a live business man from sun to sun. He has attended annual meetings of the company only semi-occasionally heretofore.

-Albert R. Dustin of New York, president of the John Russell Cutlery Co., came up last night with Assistant Treasurer Alexander McLeod Rowland, to attend the annual meeting of their company. and both went back to the incessant business grind this afternoon.

8.23

A New Bridge Between Turners Falls and Greenfield

Agitation is now on for a new bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield to replace what is known as the "lower suspension bridge." That a new bridge is needed there is no doubt. The present bridge is too low and is a danger point at two railroads and the canal. Higher up the hills on both sides could be vastly improved in grade. The first suggestion is for a cement bridge. If a cement bridge is to span the river, it would be well to have the construction under the supervision of other than too up-to-date young men just out of technical schools. Consultation with engineers who have known the vagaries of the Connecticut river for a half century would add much to the peace of mind of mill owners. Any

obstruction to the flow of water by unusual piers might be a serious matter. Twice in the knowledge of the writer have ice jams occurred in the spring of such serious consequences that the destruction of the Keith mill and Cutlery was feared.

The lower, stories were flooded very seriously. With much of an obstruction at the point where the bridge now is might invite serious disaster. Young men are not apt to "winter and summer" on engineering problems learned from books. The elder Joseph Griswold lost a mill on the judgment of an engineer who persuaded him that water wouldn't run up hill. The levels showed him that by no possibility could harm come from water below the mill. The freshet came, with an ice jam, and the mill went out. This testimony by Mr. Griswold was listened to by a committee of the legislature, and the charter for a dam at Montague City was refused largely on the strength of it. The engineers when building the dam at Vernon told to an inch on paper where the set back would come. When the water was set back it could double discount the engineers' story.

-Eugene Paulin of L Street, while at his work in the John Russell Cutlery Company works, last week, caught his hand in a machine, and bruised it badly.

8.30

Frank Cadran, who has been employed by the John Russell Cutlery Co., has gone to Springfield to work.

9.13

Andrew Schneider, who for 24 years has been day watchman at the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, has resigned.

9.27

[The Cutlery Block is Sold](#)

The cutlery block on Third Street, a substantial, well kept up brick building of forty tenements has been sold to Frank H. Snow of Greenfield, at the price set by Mr. Dustin when the property was put on the market.

The passing of ownership would seemingly be a matter of little moment, but it is not. The whole structure carries a good deal of sentiment, from the day it was erected until the deeds of transfer were passed and the cold cash handed over.

When the John Russell Manufacturing Company decided to move from Greenfield to Turners Falls to be the first users of water from the newly constructed dam and canal, there was not a building available to house workmen, and the first step made was the erection of a substantial brick block extending nearly from Avenue A to L Street. The block was divided into twenty houses, of two tenements each, with substantial fire walls between, each extending from cellar above the roof. There are two and a half stories and a Mansard roof with dormer windows front and rear. The building was vastly superior to anything of the kind commonly used for mill employees. Forty families came at once to fill it, and none but cutlery workmen's families were allowed to occupy it, much as the desire was by outsiders who couldn't obtain a roof at any price.

Of late years the employees have made homes of their own, so that half of the tenants now are workers in other mills. This fact impelled Mr. Dustin to sell the block, as his business is wholly manufacturing, and he had no particular desire to suffer the pains and penalties of housing people under modern desires of tenants expecting very much more

than they are willing to pay for under the "sanction of society." We fancy Mr. Dustin would have had a sentiment in keeping the block had there been a sympathetic vein in the village in maintaining that which was imperative in the early days of manufacturing here. The constant demands of outside meddlesome people for the modernizing of everything to a point of confiscation, made all early made buildings a target for all who didn't pay for them, and thus many have gone out of original hands.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Dustin, the life and soul of the cutlery works, has been the most loyal manufacturer the village ever had. He has been intensely interested in everything that would benefit the town. He has been one of the very few manufacturers to make his home here, going so far as to compel his own family with independent means to pay their taxes here. A thorough cutlery man from youth, one of the highest priced men selling cutlery on the road, with a perfect, knowledge of both ends of the business, he came here, and with his true knowledge of the business, and foresighted business instincts, bought an interest in the company, and soon put a losing proposition on its feet to ever afterwards pay modest but well earned dividends

Many times the late Joseph Griswold told the writer that he considered Mr. Dustin had a marvelous mental grasp on both the manufacturing and selling ends of the cutlery business, and that he considered Turners Falls fortunate in the possession of men of such caliber—conservative to the degree of safety, and enterprising enough to accomplish all good ends without a fatal tendency to chasing wild cats. So as Mr. Dustin gracefully grows older, he cuts out a sentiment that is not apt to be shared in the hustle and bustle of modern life that talks in the millions and lives in air castles.

March 14, 1917

- The John Russell Cutlery Co. works Started on a new time schedule, Monday, in order to give the help Saturday half holidays. The works now run ten hours till six o'clock p.m., for the first five days of the week, and close at noon, Saturdays.

4.4

Warren P. Dustin, treasurer of the John Russell Cutlery Company, has, notified the committee on recruiting for Franklin county that all employees of the company who enlist in the service of the country will have their positions retained for them and will be put back at work at once when their term of service expires.

7.11

At the annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. held at the office of the company to-day, the following officers were elected:

President - Albert R. Dustin, New York City
Treasurer - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.
Asst. Treasurer - Alex McL. Rowland, New York City
Clerk - Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.
Directors - Albert R. Dustin, New York City
Warren P. Dustin, Turners Falls, Mass.
Alex McL. Rowland, New York City
Jonathan Bulkley, New York City
Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg. Mass.

8.15

Suicide by Drowning

Stanley Macikoski, a Pole, aged 45 years, committed suicide, yesterday afternoon, shortly after one o'clock, by drowning. He jumped from the Keith mill bridge into the canal, first removing his hat and coat, and though he was pulled out very soon by workmen engaged in relining the canal, and first aid was administered, life was extinct.

Several persons saw the act and gave the alarm. Macikoski was a native of Russian Poland but had lived in this town for about 15 years, being employed by the John Russell Cutlery Co. as a grinder. He is spoken of by those who knew him as a quiet, hard working, respectable, steady man of good instincts and habits. He had a family in Russia, living in the path of the latest drive of the Germans after the retreating Russian army. He had heard nothing from his family for some time and the fear that they had become war victims so preyed on his mind that he decided to end his life.

Medical Examiner Twitchell viewed the body and it was removed to C.E. McCarthy's undertaking parlors on Third Street.

11.14

The Y.M.C.A. Red Circle Campaign

The local committee includes the following: Karl F. Miller and Thomas P. Frawley for the Keith mill; W. H. Ray, Jr. and A. W. Potter for the Turners Falls Power & Electric Co.; H. McC. Knickerbocker and W. H. Croft for the Esleeck mill; E. L. Taber for the McLane Silk Co.; E. L. Page for the Cotton mill; W. H. Roberts and J. Louis March for the John Russell Cutlery Co.; Wm. Argy for the Montague Machine Co.; W.L. Salmon and Joseph W. Hosmer for the International Paper Co.; B. F. Hinckley for the Hinckley Mfg. Co., and Wallace A. Marston and William A. Burnham for Montague City. The business men of Turners Falls will be called upon by Joseph A. Harlow, Michael Blassberg and Walter J. Rist.

January 9, 1918

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works did not run, Saturday, because of a shortage of coal, but started up Monday morning. Local consumers are fortunate in that there has been no acute shortage of fuel.

1.16

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works were compelled to shut down last night because of lack of coal.

1.23

The Five Day Shut-Down Hits Turners Falls

In compliance with orders of the federal fuel administrator, which descended on the country like a bombshell, last Thursday, the local plants affected by the order promptly closed down Thursday night, for the five day holiday, and resumed operations this morning. Those plants in Montague and elsewhere which operate by hydro-electric power were not compelled to close. The John Russell Cutlery Co., who were compelled to shut down two days on account of shortage of coal before the general five-day shut-down order was issued, were allowed to run Friday and Saturday by special permit, as they have an urgent

government contract, and they also were allowed to run on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The federal order summarily stopped all paper making in town, the Keith, Esleek, International and Millers Falls Paper companies all being affected.

2.6

Car-less and Mail-less, but not Snow-less

-. . . People using the trolley cars to go back and forth to work have been compelled to take enforced vacations during tie-up on the electric road, or, where dire necessity compelled, have "hoofed it." With such bitter weather as has prevailed since Monday, it has been a physical impossibility for many to resort to the primitive mode of travel in vogue since time immemorial, however willing the spirit might be, though there are numerous cases being told of, of almost superhuman efforts put forth by men and women who felt compelled to be at their posts. Miss Dwyer of Greenfield, forewoman of the box shop at the John Russell Cutlery Co., and one of the most faithful and conscientious employees any concern was ever fortunate enough to employ, walked to work yesterday morning, from her home in Greenfield and lived to tell the tale, and to prove that the spirit of heroism and a keen devotion to duty is something that has not vanished off the earth, however pessimists may shout to the contrary . . .

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works had to shut down this noon, because of lack of coal.

2.27

-Frank Gessing of Third Street had a finger on the right hand badly crushed Saturday in a knife press while at work in the John Russell Cutlery Company works.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works have been shut down all this week so far, because of lack of coal. A car of coal en route to the company was commandeered by the government, and so the company has been compelled to shut down again till the greatly needed fuel arrives.

3.6

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works resumed operation Monday morning, after having been closed an entire week because of the lack of coal.

4.10

The John Russell Cutlery company works are running until 6 p.m. five days a week and shut down Saturdays at noon during the summer months.

7.10

Annual Meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

The annual meeting of the John Russell Cutlery Co. was held to-day, but was adjourned for a month without electing officers, owing to small attendance of stockholders. Warren P. Dustin, the most eminent manufacturer of cutlery in the country, a stickler always for quality, as was the founder in 1834, having suffered much from ill-health for the past few years, has been prevailed upon by his family to relinquish active management of manufacturing, and consequently the company to-day elected Mr. Dustin's right hand man of sales in New York Alexander McL. Rowland to the position of manager of the works here and he will take up the duties immediately. Mr. Rowland is a cutlery man, born and bred, in the prime of life, and of a decidedly genial disposition. His aim now, as it has al-

ways been, will be to promote the success of America's oldest cutlery manufactory, famed from its inception for goods which all Americans could buy, sell and use with pride.

July 13, 1918

Warren P. Dustin, treasurer and manager of the John Russell Cutlery Co., has turned over the active managership of the business to Alexander McL. Rowland, sales manager of the N.Y. office, as ill health during the past few years had made it advisable for him to relinquish some of his responsibility. Mr. Rowland is a cutlery trained man and takes over the management at a time when there is an opportunity for growth on account of war conditions.

7.31

-Miss Dora Ripley is with the John Russell Cutlery Co. office force.

-There are a number of cases of Measles among children in the Cutlery block on Third Street and the measles card adorns numerous doors.

8.7

Miss Elsie Hitchcock of High Street is substituting in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co. during the vacation period.

8.28

New Officers of the John Russell Cutlery Company

At the annual meeting August 28, 1918, 9.30 a.m., by adjournment from July 10, the following officers were elected:

Directors: Philip Cabot, Boston, Mass. Alvah Crocker, Fitchburg, Mass.,
Chas. W. Hazelton, Turners Falls, Mass., Alex. McL. Rowland, New York.
Fred C. Abercrombie, Turners Falls, Mass.

President - Philip Cabot, Boston, Mass.

Treasurer - Alex. McL. Rowland, New York.

Asst. Treasurer - Charles E. Hazelton, Turners Falls, Mass.

Clerk - Kathryn H. Welch, Turners Falls, Mass.

The list of officers indicates a complete change of ownership, the present stockholders being almost entirely stockholders in the Turners Falls Water Power Company. Mr. Dustin sells all his stock and retires on account of ill health and advancing age. The prediction is made that with new blood and vigorous management, the old cutlery works will lose none of its prestige, and may increase to double its size in a few years.

9.17

Expert men are taking a complete inventory of all the physical property of the John Russell Cutlery company. Nothing will escape count, measurement, or value.

9.25

A new flag staff has been placed on the tower of the John Russell Cutlery works, and Old Glory will float over the busy work people hereafter.

10.2

An Optical Illusion

The knife weather-vane on the John Russell Cutlery tower has been removed to make room for the flag pole. The vane has been refinished, and will be put on the tower over the silver plating shop. There has been much speculation as to the size of the knife emblem, and many wide guesses have been made. The vane was refinished by John Alber, and he gives the **Reporter** the following figures:

The whole length is 5 ft. 1 inch.

Length of blade, 3½ ft.

Width " " 8¾ inches.

Handle is 19 inches x 4 inches.

Many guessed the "knife" was under two feet.

10.30

The new management of the John Russell Cutlery Co. voluntarily granted their employees a ten per cent increase of wages last week.

January 22, 1919

Edward Welcome, who has been machinist for the Millers Falls Co., has left there and taken a similar position with the John Russell Cutlery Co.

3.19

Lieutenant Wright of the John Russell Cutlery company has moved his family into one of the apartments of the Martineau block on Park Street.

4.3

Charles Stenard of Montague City Road, who has been employed by the John Russell Cutlery Co., is now clerking for H.F. Seller, the clothier.

6.17

The John Russell Cutlery Co. plant now closes Saturday afternoons during the summer, The change commenced the first Saturday in June.

6.25

Keith Paper Co. and Cutlery Co. Employees to Cross Bats

Much interest is being taken in the baseball game which will be played on the High school grounds on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, between a team composed of employees of the John Russell Cutlery Co. and the Keith Paper Company employees. Both sides are putting in some strenuous practice and an interesting game is expected.

There is a movement on foot to start a shop baseball league and play a series of games as was done here several years ago, and the baseball enthusiasts are in hopes that Saturday afternoon's game will be the forerunner of others. Shop leagues in other places are successful and tend to promote good fellowship, clean sport and good natured rivalry.

7.2

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. employees baseball team and the Keith mill employees crossed bats on the High school grounds, Saturday afternoon The cutlers defeated the papermakers, by the score of 16 to 5.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. works are closed this week for inventory and repairs.

7.9

New Industry in the Vacated Hinckley Cutlery Shop¹⁶

The Hinckley Manufacturing Co. has been absorbed by the John Russell Cutlery Company, by the ex-change of shares. Part of the machinery will go to the old established concern, and part to the new axe concern in the vacated factory. The hands employed in the Hinckley concern have gone to the Russell works.

Defeated by Millers Falls

The John Russell Cutlery Co. employee team played the Millers Falls team a Millers Falls, Saturday afternoon, and were defeated, 9 to 8. It was a nine inning game and Derosier and Lakowski were the battery for Turners Falls.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. employees baseball team will play the Colrain team on the High school grounds next Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. In a previous game, the Cutlery team won, but Colrain expects to turn the tables this time.

7.23

Millers Falls vs. Cutlery

A big and interesting ball game is scheduled to take place on the High school diamond Saturday afternoon, at three o'clock between the John Russell Cutlery Co. team and Millers Falls.

The well known star, "Dug" Smith and Orombie will be the batteries for the Millers Falls team and Derosier and Laskoski will be the battery for the Cutlery team.

-The ball game between the Esleek mill team and the John Russell Cutlery Co. team, played Saturday afternoon on the High school grounds, was won by the cutlers, by the score of 13 to 0.

7.30

Cutlery Team to Play Rosary Athletics of Holyoke

The John Russell Cutlery Co. team will cross bats with the Rosary Athletic club of Holyoke, at the High school grounds on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, and a rousing game is expected. This game will surely be played as the management has Holyoke's assurance that they will be on hand. Derosier and Laskoskie will be the battery for Turners Falls, and as the Rosary Athletics are a strong and well known team who will put up a good game, baseball fans will be sure to enjoy themselves.

The Cutlery team strongly regret that the much anticipated game with, Millers Falls last Saturday did not take place, but It was not the home team's fault, as the Cutlery team were all ready to play and even went to Millers Falls to bring over the opposing players. Unfortunately the Millers Falls pitcher was unable to play that day and the weather was bad, beside, so the Millers Falls team decided not to come over.

8.20

First Class Base Ball

The John Russell Cutlery base ball team is giving the best base ball sport the village has had for many a day. The team has the best of sportsmen and good management. The club will play the Millers Falls nine here on Labor Day morning and at Millers Falls in the afternoon.

¹⁶ See Hinckley Manufacturing at the end of this document. *e.g.*

Last Saturday the cutlery nine played a rather strong game with the Ashfield nine at Ashfield, and were defeated 1 to 9. Desrochiers had but two hits, while the Falls boys picked five from Ashfield's crack twirler. The home team plays Gardner to-day at Gardner.

On Saturday, the cutlery nine plays Brattleboro, at Brattleboro.

8.27

Base Ball Events

Last Wednesday, August 20 the John Russell Cutlery Co.'s team of Turners Falls played Gardner at Gardner. This was a good game right through. Desrosier for the Cutlery pitched big league ball, having seven strike outs to his credit and three hits, three times at the bat. Laskoski, the catcher, is a coming star and worth while watching. Gardner on the other hand has a strong team and played a good ball game. The game was called at the ninth inning on account of darkness. Score 3 - 3.

The only disappointment for the Cutlery team was the abuse after the game Bottles, stones and turf being a big hit. There was no attempt made to stop this trouble and one of our cars received severe damage. We might say that the Cutlery team played in good sportsmanship all through the game only to receive abuse after the game.

Last Saturday, the John Russell Cutlery Co. ball nine played Brattleboro in that town, score 3 to 1, in favor of the Falls boys. Derosier for the Cutlery pitched big league ball, having a no hit game to his credit. It would have been a no hit, no run, game only for one bad error on the part of the left fielder. Laskoski behind the bat also worked in fine style, getting all foul flies within reach. Eppler at first base also starred, played a big league position. The balance of team worked to advantage.

Saturday, Aug, 30th Ashfield play here. They have a fast team which the last game played with them will indicate. Cutlery team is playing better every game and the management would appreciate every effort put forth by the citizens of this town. If you want to see a good fast ball game come to High school diamond, Saturday, Derosier will pitch for the home team, along with the other regular players.

9.3

Base Ball Event

Last Saturday the Cutlery nine got away with the crack Ashfield team with a score of 6 to 2. The field was so wet that it was impossible to play fast ball. Derosier pitched fine ball under the conditions, and he also made the first homer run this season on the high school diamond.

On Labor Day, the Cutlery nine played Millers Falls on the home grounds in the morning, and won, 4 to 2, in which good sporting event Hanley made a clean getaway by driving the chocolate coated tonic pill into right field for a four bagger. Derosier showed up in good form again, and deserves a lot of credit for his work. Lascoski is always there behind the bat for Derosier. They make a fine battery.

In the afternoon game at Millers Falls, the Cutlery boys ran up against a stiff proposition. Not only did they have to face the "Big Dug Smith Bugaboo" but umpire as well, who certainly was bound to see that the Cutlery would not get away with anything that belonged to them, if he had to shut his eyes to do it. It was so ridiculous that he even called four strikes for balls, and the opposing batters were openly amused at the decisions made

against the Cutlery team. The boys do not claim that they could have beaten Dug Smith, but it would have been a stiffer game if a real umpire had been on the job.

As it was more comedy than base ball the crowd naturally enjoyed the fun. The Cutlery team admit that Dug Smith struck out 15 of their men, and the umpire did not give them anything, but without these handicaps, the Cutlery team proved in the morning game that the Millers Falls infield and outfield have nothing on the Cutlery nine. Derosier pitched both games and pitched well. His support was excellent from all his team mates, and it would do injustice to mention any one player, as all played real base ball both games.

Next Saturday the Cutlery team will play the Athols at Athol, and they hope to take a large crowd along to keep our athletic boys in good heart for a corking good game.

9.10

Local Base Ball News

The J. Russell Cutlery ball team went to Athol last week and had a fine game with the Athol town team. It was clean base ball from start to finish, and was anybody's game to the last put out, when the score stood 2 to 1.

The J. Russell Cutlery baseball team play their last game on the home grounds, Saturday, when they will entertain the Brattleboro star nine, or be entertained by them with a rattling good base ball story. The public should not fail to see a comforting game of ball.

9.17

Local Base Ball

The fine playing local ball team—the J. Russell Cutlery nine—will play the B. & M. Giants at the Deerfield River Park, Greenfield, on Saturday, at half past three. The Cutlery boys having been playing first class ball with the beat teams of this section all summer, and will meet the Giants at Greenfield with confidence of victory, or a commendable try for it. It is hoped that many local fans will follow their team to the ball grounds, and root for success which often comes from judicious encouragement. They have a team worth while now—and if good encouragement is on the field the boys will have a pride in doing their best.

9.24

John Russell Cutlery Company Base Ball Team Champions of This Section

Last Saturday, Sept. 20, the John Russell Cutlery Co. nine played and defeated the fast B. & M. Giants in what was supposed to be a championship game of this section. The Cutlery were not in full strength having lost their first baseman and center fielder, but substitutes acted in real manner although being strange to the Cutlery team plays.

The B. & M. considered the Cutlery nine not to be in their class but from what happened Saturday, even with the Big League pitcher, Woods, they found out that the Cutlery team are their masters. It is to be understood that the Cutlery do not claim the championship but the game was advertised to that extent, and therefore, accordingly after winning the game Saturday consider themselves champions.

The play was not as good as the Cutlery have formerly exhibited but was good enough to defeat the Greenfield aggregation.

Paddy Ryan, who umpired, deserves credit for his work as he handled the game in big league style.

Derosiers and Laskoski, batteries for the Cutlery, were not in first class condition but worked fine under the circumstances. Woods, who pitched for the B. & M., was hit hard. After what we expected to see of him he had nothing on Derosiers.

Score, Cutlery, 7; B. & M. Giants, 6 – 11 innings.

Town Real Estate Transfers

Turners Falls Power & Electric Co., to Joseph Nash, et al., copy of writ of Land Court. Thomas F. Harrington to Edmond S. Alexander, on road from Montague Center to the Meadows. John Nash, et al., to Turners Falls Power & Electric Co., writ of Land Court. Alice A. Merriam to Ruth S. Gunn, on High Street at Turners Falls. Turners Falls Power & Electric Co., to John Russell Cutlery Co., agreement.

10.1

John Russell Cutlery Co. Team Prove to be Champions Once Again

Saturday, September 27th, at Greenfield, the John Russell Cutlery company base ball team of Turners Falls once again proved to be masters of the B. & M. Giants. This game was the rubber and it was any team's field. Therefore it was necessary for the coin to be flipped but it took the B. & M. management fifteen minutes to decide whether they would flip or flop.

The game was the best display of fast ball exhibited this summer. Both pitchers worked hard but Derosier, it must be said, is far superior to Woods. He has now proved it in both games.

The Cutlery deserve the word "Champion" which they now hold. The infield of the Cutlery played ball, accepting every chance. Smith (Butch) played fast and smooth game at second and showed that he has the goods on all the second basemen in these parts. Brazeau held down the third as usual; the outfield showed good fielding too. Laskoski was there as usual as the backstop. Hanley who played right field, won the game Once two men were on in the fourth and he hit what looked to be an over the fence wallop, but it was good for two bases, bringing in two runs.

The B. & M. Giants were simply outclassed both in fielding and hitting and should now be satisfied that "Clark's Colts" are champions. Ryan and Shouler umpired the game in first class style and deserve a whole lot of credit for their services.

A purse of \$200 went to the Cutlery team as winners of this decisive game and everyone of the Turners Falls fans and players is happy. The most delighted man, probably, is Manager W. R. Clark of the Cutlery team, who has displayed remarkable efficiency and executive ability in bringing up his team and turning them out champions in their first season. Mr. Clark's indomitable enthusiasm, energy, and determination to have the Cutlery baseball players as good as the goods they turn out in the factory—the best in their class—is largely responsible for the cutlers splendid showing on the ball field, and he is entitled to a big slice of the credit. His bard work and masterly leadership have produced enviable results.

10.8

Baseball Club Holds Banquet

The John Russell Cutlery Co. baseball club finished the season by holding a very enjoyable banquet at the Mansion House in Greenfield last Saturday evening, Oct. 4. Offi-

cials of the company and members of the club were present. Speeches and music were contributed by everyone in turn and the party broke up at 11.15 p.m.

The club has had a very successful year, and everyone present, including the company officials, are satisfied with the results of the team this season and are looking forward to more athletic sport this fall. The boys cleaned up the Greenfield aggregation, and this has been a source of much gratification.

-The baseball game between the John Russell Cutlery Co. team and the Shelburne Falls Tigers on the High school diamond, Saturday afternoon, resulted in defeat for the cutlers, by the score of 7 to 4.

-F. A. Perry, traveler for the John Russell Cutlery Co., has returned from me of the longest trips he ever made through the middle West and South. He spends a good deal of his time visiting his grown up family in their homes, here and n Greenfield.

10.15

Millers Falls and Cutlery Champions to Clash

Millers Falls having challenged or disputed the John Russell Cutlery baseball team's claims to being the champions of this section, the knife makers are going to give the Millers outfit a chance to take the amateur championship from them.

The game will be for championship honors also a purse of \$200.00.

Millers no doubt have a strong team and this should prove to be the best game of the season. It was a toss whether the game would be played here or in Millers Falls and the luck fell this way. The game will be played at High school diamond, Turners Falls, next Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. Everybody should prove by attending this game that it will be worth while to run baseball next season.

10.22

The Russell Cutlery baseball team was defeated by the Millers Falls team, Saturday afternoon on the local diamond in the game for a purse of \$200, by the score of 10 to 2.

11.4

Mrs. Fostina A. Allen, and two daughters, Misses Elizabeth and Ruth, left yesterday to spend the winter at Orange City, Florida. Mrs. Allen has rented her house to C. A. Eaton of the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, who will move into it from the Baptist parsonage on Maple Street which he and his family have been occupying.

11.11

Turners Falls Celebrates

The first anniversary of the signing of the armistice, and the formal "welcome home" for our service men, was celebrated by Turners Falls, yesterday . . .

. . . Other good floats were those of the Esleek Mfg. Co., effective in red, white and blue, and that of the John Russell Cutlery Co., which represented an old fashioned hearth or fireside with the old folks at home, in contrast with the boys in the trenches among the sand bags. The Girls' Club float decorated in white and green was also beautiful . . .

. . . The prizes were awarded as follows; Floats:

Honorable mention to the Turners Falls Power & Electric Co., Esleek Mfg. Co., Girls' Club, Turners Falls Cotton mill and John Russell Cutlery Co. . . .

January 7, 1920

Always Muddling the Facts

The out of town newspapers have recently paid the Hinckley Manufacturing Company had combined with the John Russell Cutlery Co., which isn't a fact. One half the things printed in outside newspapers are wholly wrong, or twisted to an amazing extent. So long, as newspapers use reporters who have no business sense or knowledge of affairs, there will be the everlasting muddle of publicity. So long as they confine their endeavors to Mr. and Mrs. items of social import they will be reasonably safe.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. Works shut down Wednesday night for the rest of the week, to take inventory and make repairs.

1.14

Frank Zajac, a grinder at the John Russell Cutlery Co. works, was seriously injured Thursday afternoon, by the bursting of a grinding wheel, pieces of which hit him in the head.

1.28

Cotton Mill's Great Victory

The Turners Falls cotton mill bowling team under the captaincy of Dominic Paris, defeated the strong Cutlery team last Monday evening at the American House alleys by a margin of 16 pins. The superior bowling of Captain Paris was the reason for the victory along with the slump of Captain Peck of the Cutlery team.

Captain Paris sends out a challenge to all shop teams of the town for a series of games.

2.4

John Russell Cutlery Company Under New Ownership and Management

At a meeting of the Directors of the John Russell Cutlery Company held on Tuesday, February 3, 1920, Lewis D. Bement of Framingham, Mass., was elected President of the company. Mr. Bement was for over twenty years connected with Dennison Manufacturing Company of Framingham, Mass., both in its plant and its sales departments and comes to the Cutlery company with an experience in the progressive merchandising and manufacturing methods for which the former company has an international reputation.

Shortly after this country entered the world war, he was appointed a member of the American Red Cross Commission in Italy, where he was actively engaged in relief work until recently. After returning from abroad he came to Turners Falls in the interests of the John Russell Cutlery Company. Mr. Bement will move his family here as soon as he can find a home for them.

The present officers of the Company are:

President, Lewis D. Bement Vice President and Asst. Treasurer, Alex. McL. Rowland
Treasurer and Clerk - Charles E. Hazelton

Directors: Fred C. Abercrombie, Turners Falls Lewis D. Bement, Framingham,
Charles E. Hazelton, Turners Falls George W. Lawrence, Greenfield

Alex. McL. Rowland, Westfield

The capital stock of the John Russell Cutlery Company which was purchased somewhat over a year ago by interests associated with the Turners Falls Power & Electric Company has now passed into the hands of the present management, represented by Lewis B. Bement and Charles E. Hazelton.

The John Russell Cutlery Company has gained and maintained an enviable reputation for the highest quality cutlery and the present owners and management will continue to operate its plant with that end in view. Within the past year the factory has been electrified and many improvements in plant and equipment are being made as rapidly as possible. With the introduction of more modern facilities, the plant is adequate to care for the added business which has already come to it, and can be expanded to take care of the increases which are sure to come as time goes on. Turners Falls should feel well satisfied in seeing the pioneer of American cutlery manufacturers developing along lines that make for a bright future in its industrial growth.

Shoe Store Sold Out

Martin Neipp & Bros. who have conducted a shoe store in the Bartlett block for several years, have sold the stock of goods to the G. W. Lathe Shoe Company who will conduct a sale on the premises.

The elder Mr. Neipp will retire from active business. He was once a foreman at the John Russell Cutlery Company's shop, and later was with a cutlery factory in Chicago. He returned to Turners Falls to engage in the shoe business. He was once selectman and held other positions, which he filled capably. Mr. Neipp plans to go to Germany in the summer. George Neipp, the son, thinks of adopting a farmer's life as better for his health.

The Cotton Mill Bowlers Lose the Laurels

After winning two consecutive games from the John Russell Cutlery Company team, Captain Paris' strong Cotton mill team was badly defeated by the International Paper mill team at the American House bowling alleys, Monday evening, by twenty-four pins.

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. plant was closed yesterday afternoon out respect for the late Warren P. Dustin whose funeral took place at Cambridge yesterday, all the work-people given pay for the lost time.

3.17

Internationals Win and Lose

The International paper mill bowling team defeated the East Deerfield round house team at the American House alleys last Thursday evening in a very exciting game. Care was the high scorer of the evening. Pinfall: International, 1225; East Deerfield, 1156.

Friday evening the International took on the John Russell Cutlery's best five and were defeated by 30 pins.

Owing to the inability of the John Russell Cutlery players not being able to keep behind the foul mark was the handicap the International couldn't overcome.

Dori Hamlin was the high scorer of the evening with 270 and was also highest single firing scorer with 124.

This games makes the two teams even for the honors and it is the Internationals' desire to meet, this same team again with a good reliable referee.

The score: John Russell Cutlery, 1258; International 1223.

3.31

The John Russell Cutlery Company factory has taken out, the last water wheel having completed the system of electrification from the power plant at Montague City

4.7

Turners Falls Building Loan Assn. Effects Organization

The Turners Falls Building Loan Association has been incorporated, and at a meeting Monday evening organization was effected with the following officers:

President - Wallace B. Marston Treasurer - Waldo T. Ellis

Clerk - Elwyn L. Taber

Directors - J.W. Ballard of the Turners Falls Cotton mill;

Irving T. Esleeck of the Esleeck Mfg. Co.

Louis Bement of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

Frederick A. McLane of the McLane Silk Co.

W.B. Marston of the Keith Paper Co.

H.A. Moody of the Turners Falls Power & Electric Co.

C.W. Schuler of the Montague City Rod Co.

Albert R. Smith of the Keith Paper Co.

E.L. Taber of the McLane Silk Co.

-Andrew Luippold of Third Street completed 40 years of continuous service with the John Russell Cutlery Co. last week. The company has a large number of veteran employees, many of whom went to work in the factory when in their teens and men who have been onto the job for from 30 to 50 years or more are not infrequent in the plant.

-Denis J. Murphy of High Street, who has been employed for about 30 years by the John Russell Cutlery Co., left the company's employ last, week. Mr. Murphy has been foreman of the wheel room for many years and has been very popular with his associates.

-C.A. Eaton, efficiency expert for the John Russell Cutlery Co., for about a year, has resigned.

4.14

Dennis J. Murphy of High Street, until recently employed by the John Russell Cutlery company, is now working for the Goodell-Pratt Company in Greenfield.

5.12

-Andrew Ledwinski, an employee of the John Russell cutlery company, had his hand badly hurt one day last week by catching it in a press. It was found necessary to amputate his thumb at the Farren hospital.

-Peter Doran, janitor in the Turners Falls grade schools, has resigned. He will be succeeded by William V. Reum of Ninth Street, who has been employed in the John Russell Cutlery Co. works for many years.

-Walter Roberts, superintendent of the John Russell Cutlery Co. works for a number of years, and a long time employee of the company, has resigned, having taken a similar position with the International Silver Co. of Florence. Mr. Roberts and family will make their home in Northampton, planning to move there about July 1.

6.30

The John Russell Cutlery Co. works closed Saturday, for two weeks to take annual inventory and make repairs.

7.7

The pocket knife assembling department of the John Russell Cutlery Co. resumed work last Thursday. All of the other departments resumed operations yesterday and to-day. The making of repairs progressed more rapidly than was expected, so the shutdown was shortened.

7.14

The John Russell Cutlery Co. is further increasing its equipment by the installation of additional electric tempering machines.

11.17

The pocket knife department of the John Russell Cutlery Co. began Monday running on a three days a week schedule. About 100 employees are affected.

12.1

The Keith Paper Co. and the John Russell Cutlery Co. plants shut down, Wednesday night, for the rest of the week.

12.22

-The John Russell Cutlery Co. plant will shut down, Friday, for two weeks By the bursting of a gas pipe in the yard of the John Russell Cutlery Co., Thursday morning, a number of employees working in the neighborhood were temporarily overcome by the fumes.

-Columbia lodge of Hermann Sons, winners in the recent card tournament, were entertained at supper, at Greenfield, Thursday night, by the losers, the Greenfield Lodge of Hermann Sons.

-Contractor James H. Thomas and George Starbuck & Sons are making the extensive repairs now under way on the Hotel Grand Trunk.

-Edward Petruski of Eleventh Street, an employee of the John Russell Cutlery Co., injured his foot while at his work recently.

May 4, 1921

Lawrence Killelea has resigned his clerkship at the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

5.25

Fred A. Perry, travelling salesman for the John Russell Cutlery Co., has returned from a trip through his Southern territory, and is spending a few weeks with his daughter, Mrs. Herbert Alvord of Riverside, and family.

6.29

The John Russell Cutlery Co. plant shut down, Thursday night until July 11th, for the annual inventory and repairs.

7.20

Miss Dora Ripley is in the office of the John Russell Cutlery Co.

10.12

Canal Wall Being Repaired

The Turners Falls Power and Electric Co. started, Monday morning, making extensive repairs to the wall of the canal, and has a large force of men engaged, working three

shifts, eight hours, each, to push the work along as rapidly as possible. The water was drawn from the canal Sunday, and it will probably be a week before it can be let in again. In the meantime; all the mills on the canal are shut down for lack of power, or else are operating only in a limited way with auxiliary power.

The break in the wall was first discovered Friday evening, at a point near the bridge of the John Russell Cutlery Co. The next day it was found that serious conditions were developing, and the Turners Falls Power and Electric Co. with commendable promptness, energy and thoroughness, immediately took steps to handle the situation. The break occurred



Canal wall at Russell Cutlery. Repairs are being made to the break in the wall. *e.g. archive*

at a point which has always been known to be weak, owing to natural conditions, which have taxed the skill of all the engineers to cope with. Trouble of a minor nature has developed at this point in other years.

The accident, if it had to occur, could not have happened at a more opportune time. Help is plenty, owing to general business depression, and the repairs can be made now with a minimum of

inconvenience and loss.

This is the first time in years that it has been necessary to let the water out of the canal, and the present operations, especially at night, when the canal is illumined by great arc and search lights so that it is almost as light as day, is being watched with interest by numerous spectators.

-Frank P. Douglas, who has just returned from a few years residence in Clearmont, Wyoming, has resumed his former position in the box shop of the John Russell Cutlery Co. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas have reopened their house on Central Street, while Mr. Parks and family, who have been occupying it, hare moved into the next house, owned by Mrs. Abbie C. Batten.

12.7

The bowling match held last night at the American House alleys, between the John Russell Cutlery Co. team and the International Paper Co. ended with the latter victors, by 15 pins. The town team will play Greenfield this evening here.

January 18, 1922

Community Service Industrial Basketball League Formed

The Community Service Industrial Basketball League was formally launched at a meeting held last Thursday evening. Six teams are in the league: The Esleeck Mfg. Co., the Montague City Rod Co., the Griswoldville Mfg. Co., the McLane Silk Co., the International Paper Co., and the John Russell Cutlery Co. The first games were played last night between the Esleeck Mfg. Co. and the Montague City Rod Co. and between the Griswoldville Mfg. Co. and the McLane Silk Co.

Games will be played at Hibernian Hall every Tuesday and Thursday evenings until April 1, at which time a silver loving cup will be awarded the team winning the largest percentage of games played.

As a number of other teams beside the industrial teams desired to enter this league, The basketball committee of the Community Service council has decided to open an independent league to include any teams not eligible to the industrial league.

Jan.25

Much interest is being shown in the Industrial Basketball League games, conducted by the Community Service Council. Last night, the Montague City Rod shop vs. International Paper and the McLane Silk vs. John Russell Cutlery five, furnished the sport.

Feb.1

-The McLane Silk mill defeated the Esleeck Manufacturing Company, 26 to 9, and the Montague City Rod shop defeated the John Russell Cutlery team, 30 to 14, in the Industrial League games in Hibernian Hall, Thursday night.

-The All-Casey Five will play the colored All-Stars of Springfield at Hibernian hall to-night.

Feb.8

John McDonough, employed by the John Russell Cutlery company, got several cuts about the face and hands from a belt which flew off the machine which he was operating Thursday afternoon.

Apr.12

The Montague City Rod Co. five won the basketball championship of the Community Service Industrial League, when they defeated the Cutlery team in the final game, last week. The rod makers won n games during the season and lost 4. The McLane Silk Co. five stand second in the league, winning 9 games and losing 6.



Codicil.

Excerpts from [The Turners Falls Reporter](#)

The Hinckley Manufacturing Company

Supplement to the Russell Cutlery history (1872-1922 *e.g.*)

(ref. New Industry in the Vacated Hinckley Cutlery Shop 7.9.1919 J. Russell history)

June 14, 1916

Important Meeting of the Board of Trade To-Night

There will, be an important meeting of the Board of Trade at the new Town Hall on Fourth Street, to-night, which should be attended by every member, as it will be an enthusiastic gathering, Benjamin B. Hinckley, a former cutlery manufacturer in Northampton, who has been studying manufacturing conditions in Turners Falls for a year or more, proposes to start a company, with a factory here, for the manufacture of cutlery specialties. The prospectus issued by the manufacturers' committee of the Board of Trade, composed of gentlemen who know the facts and are willing to be spongers for the enterprise, tells the vital part of the story, and it will be up to the attendants at the meeting to decide how much stock they will subscribe for to assure a new industry for Turners Falls.

PROSPECTUS OF THE HINCKLEY MANUFACTURING Co.

This contemplates the formation of a Massachusetts Corporation for the manufacture of cutlery specialties, etc., in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, with an authorized capital stock of \$50,000, of which \$25,000 will be common stock and \$25,000 preferred stock.

The formation of this Company will center around Benjamin B. Hinckley of Northampton, Massachusetts, as President and General Manager, who has spent his lifetime in the development of cutlery business. The Directors and officials of the Corporation will be intimate and personal acquaintances of Mr. Hinckley, and also men from your own community who are ready to associate themselves with Mr. Hinckley in this enterprise.

The Hinckley Manufacturing Company proposes to issue, approximately, \$30,000 of capital stock, of which \$15,000 will be common stock and \$15,000 preferred stock. Mr. Hinckley and his personal acquaintances agree to take \$15,000 of this first issue of \$30,000, 51% of which will be represented in the common stock.

There is offered, therefore, to the public in this community, \$15,000 of common and preferred stock, which will be sold on a basis of share for share of the common and preferred stock.

Preferred shares may be subscribed for separately, but common shares must be subscribed for with an equal number of preferred shares.

Fractional shares will not be issued. Both the common and preferred stock will be issued at \$100 par value.

The preferred stock will be preferred as to dividends, which will be accumulative on and after January 1, 1918, on a basis of 7% per annum.

Common stock will not bear any rate of dividend until the dividends are paid on the preferred stock.

The profits in the business of the nature in which Mr. Hinckley wishes to start upon are substantial, and should increase with the general development of the business.

Upon the completion of the financing necessary, and organization of this Corporation, a new building, 60 x 130, will be erected for lease to the Hinckley Manufacturing Company.

The Manufacturers' Committee of the Board of Trade of Turners Falls have investigated this proposed organization of a Corporation for the manufacture of cutlery specialties, etc., and believe its source of information to be reliable.

We, therefore, recommend to the Board of Trade of Turners Falls that they use every resource for the proper financing and development of this proposed concern.

PORTER FARWELL, Chairman

FRANK W. HANCE, Secretary

GEORGE STARBUCK

JAMES H. THOMAS

WALTER H. RAY

FREDERICK A. McLANE

FRED C. ABERCROMBIE

Manufacturers' Committee, Board of Trade of Turners Falls.

August 23

The Hinckley Manufacturing Co.

The Hinckley Manufacturing Co. of this town has been incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts to make cutlery. The authorized capital stock is \$50,000. The incorporators are Benjamin Hinckley of Northampton, Frank W. Hance and W. H. Ray of Turners Falls, and George L. Hinckley and Thomas S. Childs of Northampton. The erection of a factory will be started at once, to be located at the South End. The product will be specialties in cutlery. Benjamin Hinckley was in the cutlery business with his father in Northampton, and saw a good deal of the development of special ties in the three little works in that town. One of the most valuable specialties developed in Northampton was a hollow-handled knife ready for the platers of hollow steel handle without a seam.

October 4

Thomas Brothers are getting along well with the new cutlery building for the Hinckley Manufacturing Co., on Tenth Street, near the canal, the walls being up and the rafters for the roof being put in position. It will not be long before manufacturing will be started.

November 22

The Hinckley Mfg. Co.'s new factory is about completed and some of the machinery is being installed.

January 1, 1917

Officers of the Hinckley Manufacturing Company

The annual meeting of the Hinckley Mfg. Co., Turners Falls' newest industrial enterprise, was held this morning. The following officers were elected:

President - B.B. Hinckley Treasurer - W.H. Ray Clerk - F.W. Hance

Directors - T.F. Childs, F.W. Hance, B.B. Hinckley, G.L. Hinckley,

W.B. Marston, W.H. Ray

Work on the building and the installing of the machinery is coming along on schedule time.

March 7

Hinckley Mfg. Co. to Begin Operation

The Hinckley Mfg. Co., Turners Falls' newest manufacturing enterprise, expects to begin operation next week. Manager B.F. Hinckley has a force of men at work cleaning up and getting the machinery in working order, and expects to begin the making of table cutlery next week. Plenty of business is in sight and about .20 men will be employed to begin with more being added as necessary.

May 2

-The Hinckley Manufacturing Co. have just made their first shipment of manufactured cutlery, and the product will now be pushed on the market as fast as it can be turned out.

July 9

New Industry in the Vacated Hinckley Cutlery Shop

The Hinckley Manufacturing Co. has been absorbed by the John Russell Cutlery Company, by the ex-change of shares. Part of the machinery will go to the old established concern, and part to the new axe concern in the vacated factory. The hands employed in the Hinckley concern have gone to the Russell works.

July 9, 1919

A New Way to Make Axes to be Done in This Village

The Hoff Axe Works of Newark, N. J., will locate here in the factory building on Tenth Street vacated by the Hinckley Company. The product of the coming concern, axes and small tools, will be made under a patented process demonstrated to investors hereabout by Mr. Wood while on visits to his brother-in-law, Mr. Pierce of Riverside. It certainly was shown to be a marvelous process, whereby a common spike would make a keen razor blade. Mr. Hoff is said to have bought the patent out right. Mr. Wood was in town a short time ago, and may have blazed a trail for Mr. Hoff to New England's greatest waterpower.

September 3

Hoff Ax Works Ready for Work

The addition and stack of the Hoff ax works have been completed and they are now getting in the raw material for manufacturing, A new siding has been placed near the works for convenience in shipping, and they expect to be doing business very soon. They have been delayed by slow shipments of necessary materials. Many things needed to fit up the place have been delayed in transit or because the makers were unable to fill orders on time.

December 24

The fire department was called out at 1.30 o'clock, Friday morning, by an alarm from box 52, for a blaze in the plant of the Electric Steel Products Co. (the Hoff ax works) at South End. The new motor fire truck was quickly on the spot and the flames were put out without much damage.

January 7, 1920

Always Muddling the Facts

The out of town newspapers have recently paid the Hinckley Manufacturing Company had combined with the John Russell Cutlery Co., which isn't a fact. One half the things printed in outside newspapers are wholly wrong, or twisted to an amazing extent. So long, as newspapers use reporters who have no business sense or knowledge of affairs, there will be the everlasting muddle of publicity. So long as they confine their endeavors to Mr. and Mrs. Items of social import they will be reasonably safe.

January 28

-Samuel Couture of Fifth Street has taken an office position with the Electric Steel Products Co.

April 21

The Hoff axe works, occupying the defunct Hinckley manufacturing company's building at south end are adding new equipment, including a monster fifteen ton drop hammer, capable of dieing[sic] out their celebrated axes with speed I once thought impossible. Contractor Charles Park of Greenfield put in the massive foundations for the monstrous machine and set it up to execute the giant's work expected of it in these days when nothing but the punch counts.

July 21

The Electric Steel Products Co., manufacturers of axes, have closed their foundry, pending the installation of an electric steel melting furnace. The business will be expanded and when operations at the foundry are resumed the making of steel castings will be included.

July 13, 1921

A conspicuous new sign now identifies the factory of the Electric Steel Products Co. at South End.



Electric Steel Mfg. Co. 1919. The former Hinckley Mfg. Co.

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