

The Petoskey Record Wed 5-25-1887

A Letter from Mr. Hampton with Regard to Removing to Petoskey.

TO THE PEOPLE OF PETOSKEY- Mr. Bontecou has given me considerable free advertising in the RECORD from time to time; but although the advertisements were interesting and well written, I was not always entirely satisfied with them. Consequently I have purchased space this week to say a few words for myself. You have perhaps heard it rumored that I have been contemplating removing my paper from Harbor Springs to Petoskey, and it is in regard to this that I wish to address you.

Time and again within the last two years your leading and influential citizens have urged me to come to Petoskey and identify myself with your interests. So many citizens have expressed an earnest desire that I should be one of you, laboring with you for the prosperity and advancement of Petoskey, so complimentary have been the expressions in regard to the assistance I might render you, and so encouraging have been the voluntary offers of support, that I have found it difficult to disregard such flattering appreciation.

I have always worked earnestly and sincerely for the interests of Harbor Springs, and were I to continue to make that my home I should fight for Harbor Springs against the world. But I have been convinced that it would be very much to my advantage to remove to Petoskey, and I should have done so before this had not been that I could not afford to throw away a certainty for a chance.

I have never denied that I would be glad to live in Petoskey, for a man who says that he would not like a home in your beautiful and enterprising town, thereby shows that he lacks good sense. I have always been impressed with Petoskey's natural advantages and the beautiful location; but above all, in my estimation, is the energy, the push, the liberality, the public spirit of your citizens. Enterprising and public-spirited citizens will push a town anywhere; while selfish, narrow-minded and fossilized business men will blast the prospects of the most favorable location.

It is a pleasure to work with men who are willing to do their share towards advancing common interests, realizing that whatever benefits the community is a benefit to them, and who do not hold back for fear a competition may derive more advantage than they do. This is the principal reason why I desire to make your town my town, your interests my interests.

Many of your business men, appreciating the fact that good wishes are encouraging, but that they will not need pay help and buy paper, have already pledged substantial support, and I am encouraged to believe that others will do likewise. And now I ask every citizen of Petoskey who feels like welcoming me as a fellow citizen to extend me the right hand of fellowship with \$1.50 enclosed for the paper one year. Left handed men can use their left if they prefer, so long as I do not get "left" on the subscription.

The paper will hereafter be the size of the RECORD, and as I am paying for this space I do not hesitate to modestly admit that it will be a *much better paper than the RECORD*, and Brother Bontecou will assure you that no better recommendation is needed than this.

My political opinions are well known. They are my honest convictions, and are not for sale. I have made great personal sacrifices for them, and would not repudiate them under any considerations. But so long as my political associates have an able advocate in the *Democrat* and republicans are generously patronizing the *Independent* I do not consider it necessary or proper for the paper to discuss party politics. I shall do my best to make the *Independent a live newspaper, a wide-awake local paper, and the advocate of Petoskey and the interests of her people*, leaving party squabbles to the RECORD and *Democrat*. I have decided upon this course after mature deliberation, and shall abide by it until I find that I am mistaken.

As it will be impossible for me to personally solicit your subscriptions, I have made arrangements by which you can subscribe with W.F. Lawton, at the postoffice, or with Charles Lusk, at the bank.

Hoping for a better acquaintance in the future, and that you may find me not quite so black as Bontecou's imagination has sometimes pictured me, I am

Very truly yours,

C.S. HAMPTON.