

The Petoskey Record Wed 7-1-1885

A Nasty Newspaper Man.

Last week one E.B. Russell representing the *Grand Rapids Eagle*, spent some days in Petoskey. Soliciting subscriptions for his paper. He found the *Grand Rapids Democrat* with very respectable list, *Telegram* with a smaller but a vigorous and growing constituency, and the Detroit dailies with lists aggregating 300. The circulation of the *Eagle* was substantially *nil*, and Russell spent much time and wind, in a vain endeavor to induce our citizens to drop a live newspaper in favor of the antediluvian sheet he represented. Failing to make an inroad on the lists of the other papers, and failing to impress anybody with a sense of his personal importance, Mr. Russell swelled up like a disgruntled toad, and betook himself to Traverse City. From thence he sent the remarkable letter which appeared in the *Eagle* of last Saturday; a letter for which for spiteful malice, ingenious mingling of truth and falsehood, willful misrepresentation of facts, and obvious intent to injure this community because Petoskey people did not see fit to subscribe for the *Eagle*, is not paralleled in decent journalism. His article is full of covert insults to Petoskey people which are not worthy of notice; but to show the shameless mendacity of this man Russell in assuming to deal with facts, we quote a few sentences:

“I have mentioned the air of thrift, the busy atmosphere of the town (Traverse City). I would not make invidious comparisons (oh!) but the difference between this town and Petoskey (he evidently had struck a subscriber or two) which I left this morning struck me forcibly. At Petoskey which clams 2,800 population pretty nearly the whole interest save the Rose Lime Kiln, Husted’s Planing mill, and the Agate works like those of F.M. Boss, centers in earning for summer visitors, in stores, hotels, and boarding houses- of the last number is legion.”

Now the lying of Russell in the above is plain, direct, and malicious. He intended to convey to the people abroad, the impression that there is no enterprise here, and explicitly states that which he knew to be a lie, viz: that capital invested in manufacturing was confined to Rose’s Lime Kilns, Husted’s planing mill and the agate grinding shops. This falsehood was intended to injure Petoskey, for the purpose of gratifying his personal malignity and spite. He neglected to mention a large new shingle mill for the manufacture of cedar shingles; McManus’ saw mill for soft and hardwood lumber; the hardwood mill for Mosher Bros; the stave and heading works of Mr. Seibert; of Blood Bros, whose “pins” have the call of the market, all over the country; the only wooden

cork lined faucet factory in the country, of L. Bauerle, which is months behind its orders. The wooden bowl factory of Mr. Frank Winsor; the large roller flouring mill of Hankey & Rigg which uses nearly all the wheat raised within 30 miles and buys many thousands of bushels in Chicago, and runs 18 hours out of the 24 nearly the year round; the flouring mill of Ingalls now temporarily closed but soon we hope to be running; one foundry and two machine shops; a \$30,000 tannery in process of erection which will consume 10,000 cords of hemlock bark per annum, and the Petoskey Lime company which is opening up the sandstone and limestone quarries on the south shore of the bay and rapidly developing their valuable property. Besides these patent facts, a little inquiry would have given him the information that one of the largest manufacturers of wood pulp in the country is in active negotiation for power for his plant.

Times are hard in Petoskey, but no harder than in Traverse City, or Grand Rapids, or anywhere else; and the merchants and business men of Petoskey can show as clean a record in paying their debts as any other town in the state, If the Grand Rapids *Eagle* proposes to blackmail Petoskey business men into giving it support by sending out an insinuating liar like Russell to write down the town, it is making a first class mistake.