

WE UNDERSTAND...

May 29, 1824

*Providence Patriot*

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We understand that there has been a general *turn-out* of the workmen in the manufactories in Pawtucket, for three days past, on account of the proprietors lowering the wages since the passing of the tariff bill, and reducing the time hitherto allowed at the several meals. All the factories except one have been shut up during the time.  
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WE HAVE RECEIVED...

May 29, 1824

*The Beacon*

We have received a variety of communications from Pawtucket, purporting to be accurate statements of the transactions in that village the last week—which at present we must decline publishing. We cannot conceive that it would be productive of any good to give publicity to the private feuds of individuals; perhaps such a course would redound to the injury of those who consider themselves aggrieved.

We hope that the existing difficulties will be amicably settled, and that our fair friends, will return to their employment, and find themselves hereafter rewarded with good treatment, and liberal wages.

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THE PROVIDENCE PATRIOT...

*The Spectator*, June 1, 1824

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## RIOTS AT PAWTUCKET

First reported May 31, 1824

Reprinted in the *Baltimore Patriot*, June 1, 1824

The citizens of Pawtucket have, for a few days, been in a state of excitement and disorder, which reminds us of the accounts we frequently read of the tumults of the manufacturing places in England, though unattended with the destruction and damage usually accompanying those riots. The present depressed state of the cotton manufacture, on which the village principally depends for its support, has occasioned much anxiety in the minds of the manufacturers, and, the prospect being gloomy and unpromising, they concluded that something must be done to compete successfully with the country manufacturers; who, generally, by working their mills more hours in a day, than has heretofore been usual in the village, and procuring weavers at lower wages combined with other advantages, have been able to manufacture at a less price. On Monday last there was a meeting of the manufacturers, which was generally attended, and an agreement made to run the mills about an hour longer, and to reduce the wages of those who worked by the piece, after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June next, about 20 per cent. When the laboring part of the community learned the result of the meeting, they very generally determined to work only the usual hours; and when the bell rung to call them to their employment, they assembled in great numbers, accompanied by many who were not interested in the affair, round the doors of the mills, apparently for the purpose of hindering or preventing the entrance of those who were disposed to accede to the resolution of the master manufacturers—no force, however, was used. The female weavers assembled in parliament to the number, it is stated of one hundred and two—one of the most active and most talkative, was placed in the Chair, as the meeting, it is understood, was conducted, however strange it may appear, without noise, or scarcely a single speech. The result of the meeting was a resolution to abandon their looms, unless allowed the old prices. On Wednesday evening the workmen and other assembled in a tumultuous manner, visited the houses of the manufacturers shouting and uttering insulting language, and broke a window in one of the mills. No great damage however was done. The next the day the mills were stopped and have not run since—a comparative stillness now reigns—and it is to be hoped that the people will return to a sense of propriety—satisfied as they must be, on reflection, that the prosperity of the community can never be promoted by riot and tumult.

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On Wednesday evening a tumultuous crowd filled the streets, led by the most unprincipled and disorderly part of the village, and made an excessive noise—they visited successively the houses of the manufacturers, shouting, exclaiming, and using every imaginable term of abuse and insult. The window in the yellow mill was broken in—but the riot, considering the characters of those who led, and the apparent want of all reflection in those that followed, was not so injurious to property and personal security, as might have been reasonably apprehended. The next day the manufacturers shut up their gates, and the mills have not run since—a comparative stillness now reigns—and it is to be hoped that the people will return to a sense of propriety—satisfied as they must be, on reflection, that the prosperity of a community can never be promoted by riot and tumult.

*Journal.*

A FIRE WAS DISCOVERED...  
*Providence Gazette* - June 2, 1824

**A fire was discovered early yesterday morning in Walcott's stone factory in Pawtucket, which was evidently the work of an incendiary. Seven bales of cotton, near the window through which the fire was put, took fire, and the bagging was entirely consumed on most of them.**

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WE ARE HAPPY TO LEARN...

News from Providence, June 3, 1824

Reprinted in the *Portland Gazette* on June 8, 1824

**PROVIDENCE, June 3.**

**We are happy to learn that the ferment at Pawtucket has subsided and that the mills generally, are in operation. An attempt is said to have been made to set fire to Walcott's Factory.**

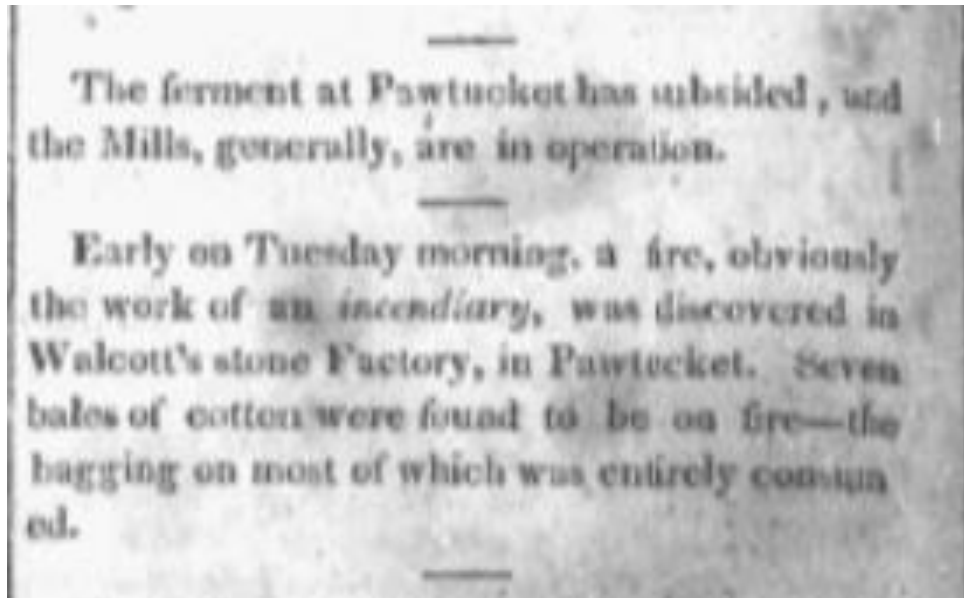
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THE FERMENT AT PAWTUCKET...

*Rhode Island American*

June 4, 1824.



The ferment at Pawtucket has subsided, and the Mills, generally, are in operation.

Early on Tuesday morning, a fire, obviously the work of an *incendiary*, was discovered in Walcott's stone Factory, in Pawtucket. Seven bales of cotton were found to be on fire—the bagging on most of which was entirely consumed.