

THE TORCH IS PASSED

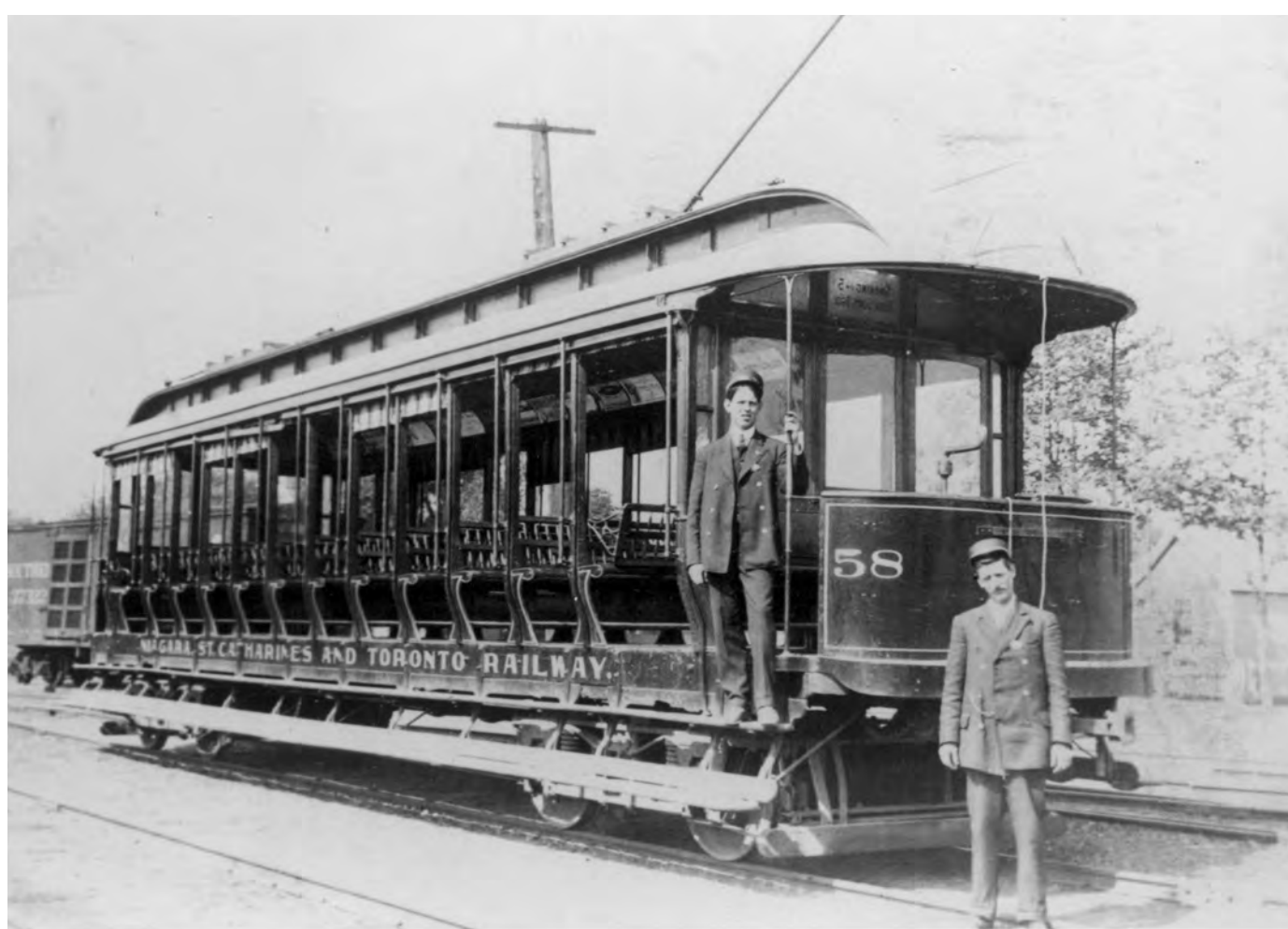


The Buckingham - 1886.
One of Crossen's first dining cars

James Crossen died suddenly in 1890 at age 65, the active leader and sole proprietor of a prosperous manufacturing company with an enviable reputation as shown by these "In Memoriam" excerpts from the *Cobourg Saturday Morning Post* and the *Toronto Globe* (Crossen Family Collection):

It is not saying too much that the cars turned out of Crossen's Car Works are ranked amongst the best in use upon this continent.

Nearly every railroad in Canada, large and small, has drawn some of its rolling stock from Cobourg, ..and the beauty and elegance of finish have never been excelled in America - but of these facts the travelling public are themselves quite well aware.



With James' son William now in charge, **the Company was reorganized as the Crossen Car Manufacturing Company of Cobourg**. Orders from the CPR declined during the 1890s and the new Company had to rely more on orders from smaller railways. A new market developed with the emergence of electric radial lines with about sixty street cars built for cities in Ontario and Quebec.

Twice in the 1890s the Company ventured into Newfoundland, not then a part of Canada. Crossen employees were sent to the island and set up shop there, manufacturing both freight and passenger cars at a time when the railway across the island from St. John's to Port aux Basques was being completed.

With the new century new customers appeared, including the Canadian Northern Railway (which ran right through Cobourg), the Temiskaming & Northern Railway, and the Central Ontario Railway (running north from Trenton). Business continued at a high level.



The Trepassey, built for
the Newfoundland Railway

