

than the said assigned limits on which, up to 1880, they had paid no dues to the Government.

I have been informed that Mr. R. J. Short, who has been largely engaged in cutting ties for the Syndicate for the last two seasons, recently secured from the Dominion Government a fifty-mile timber limit at Turtle Portage in the Lake of the Woods, outside the twenty-mile limit claimed by the Canada Pacific Railway on each side of the track, and that several parties are now engaged in cutting ties and saw-logs thereon. I am also credibly informed that while Short's right to cut at Turtle Portage is recognized by the Crown Timber Agent at Winnipeg, it is denied by the Deputy Minister of the Interior at Ottawa, who declares that no limit has been granted to any person. According to information recently furnished by Short to the *Winnipeg Sun* newspaper, he had 160 men in the woods in January, and was constantly adding to the number. In gangs of forty they operate in much the same manner as Ontario lumber gangs. Choppers get \$30 per month and board, and hewers \$50. Up to the twenty-third December, 125,000 ties were taken out, besides a large number of telegraph poles. The ties were principally red and white pine and tamarac, which are much harder than similar woods growing in Ontario, and are said to be as durable as cedar. Of logs 5,000,000 feet have been dressed already, and Short expects to have 10,000,000 before the season is over.

I am also informed that Messrs. Macdonald & Shields, of the Section B contract, have engaged a number of parties to cut timber this season in various directions, chiefly, however, on the line of railway and within easy access to their saw mill at Eagle River, and that they calculate on an out-put of about 6,000,000 feet this spring.

One of the large lumber companies, having limits on the lake, found a difficulty in procuring the requisite number of men to work in their shanties during the present winter, and was approached by a party who holds a permit from the Dominion Government for cutting two million feet, and asked whether the Company would buy from him several million feet of logs which he expects to have ready for shipment in the spring. I do not know whether the offer was entertained, but there is no doubt about its having been made. This party is now operating on the lake, and while his alleged permit only allows him to cut two million feet, there is reason to believe that he had far exceeded this quantity before he went to the woods in December, though the Crown Timber Agent at Winnipeg professed to think otherwise.

Another firm having limits or a permit to cut timber on the lake is that of Bailey, Bulmer & Co., who have large parties operating this winter, at or near the Big Traverse, some forty miles south of the railway track. Bailey claims to be a relative of the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture. His partners are sons of Mr. Henry Bulmer, of Montreal, who was a candidate for Montreal West at the last Dominion election. I cannot learn whether this firm has a permit or a limit. The general opinion is—and it is borne out by collateral facts—that Bailey, Bulmer & Co. have a sort of roving commission to cut timber where they can find it, and that this commission is contained in a letter from the Hon. Mr. Pope. But whatever the nature of their authority, it is sufficient to satisfy the Crown Timber Agent at Winnipeg, who recognizes their right to cut. This Company have several parties now on the lake, and it is expected they will float in logs early in the spring calculated to produce from nine to twelve million feet of sawn lumber.