

## DISTRICT OF NIPISSING.

We take the following from the annual report of the Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands, as to the timber berths north of French River -  
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

4th December, 1882

SIR, - I have the honor to report that in obedience to instructions received from the Crown Lands Department, and dated July 14th, 1882, I proceeded to the field and made a survey of certain timber berths north of French River, that is to say, I ran the south boundaries of timber berths numbers sixty-seven, fifty-nine, fifty-one, forty-three, thirty-five, twenty-seven, nineteen and eleven; the boundary lines between numbers forty-three and fifty-one, between nineteen and twenty-seven between twenty and twenty-eight, and between twenty-one and twenty-nine. I also produced the line from the southeast angle of number eleven due east to strike French River, and ran a line due south from the south-east angle of number twenty-seven, to the township of Blair; the total number of miles run being seventy-seven miles ten chains. The lines were all run astronomically, and corrected from time to time during the progress of the survey, by observations of Polaris at its eastern elongation; the chaining was done with a Chesterman's steel tape.

I began my survey at the southwest angle of berth number sixty-seven, being a point on Salter's meridian line at the distance of sixty chains seventy-seven links south from his eighteen-mile post, and running due east astronomically, at five miles one chain and forty-two links, I established the southeast corner of timber berth number sixty-seven; six miles further on established the southeast corner of number fifty-nine; and made each succeeding berth six miles wide, excepting number twenty-seven which was made seven miles. From the southeast angle of number fifty-one I ran north between forty-three and fifty-one, to the southwest angle of berth number forty-four, where I found an old post marking the position of said southwest angle: this line between numbers forty-three and fifty-one came out eighteen chains fifteen links short of the six miles. The line between nineteen and twenty-seven, etc., came out on Salter's line sixty chains sixty links west of the post planted during the present season to mark the southwest angle of the township of Dunnet, and the boundaries between number twenty-one and twenty-nine came out twenty-eight chains fifty-two links short of the six miles. This discrepancy between the theoretical and the actual distance between Salter's line and the one run by myself is abnormally great, even after making due allowance for the considerable length of the lines and the general rough nature of the country. The result is, of course, that some of the included timber berths will have less than their normal area. This circumstance is, however, of comparatively small consequence practically, as from all I could gather from information received from persons evidently well acquainted with the region, all the timber has been killed by the fire which swept through some years ago. There is thus no pine nor timber of any other kind of any commercial value on the berths especially affected by the error in question.

I shall now describe as concisely as I can, the tract of country that came under my observation during the survey. The geological formation is the Laurentian as is well known. The rock is gneiss principally; on the south boundary of timber berths number twenty-seven, however, a few belts of syenite, or syenitic gneiss were observed. The gneiss is of the ordinary micaceous character, and in many places it is very distinctly foliated, presenting a regularly banded aspect. The rock west of the Wahnapitao River contains a larger proportion of felspar than the rock further east. Towards the west side of timber berths number forty-three the strike is about north twenty degrees east, and has changed to north thirty-five degrees west, a few miles further east. Along the lines between numbers nineteen and twenty-seven, etc., the strike is more nearly east and west, being north of west, and south of east. Everywhere the strata appears to dip at a high angle. Along timber berths numbers sixty-seven, fifty-nine, fifty-one, forty-three, thirty-five and

about a mile and three-quarters over upon number twenty-seven, most of the surface is rock, and is generally rough and broken and is quite unfit for settlement, containing as it does a very small percentage of arable land. The small areas of good land over the distance named, occur on timber belts number fifty-one and thirty-five, as shown in the field notes, and in small areas along the Wahnapitao River. East of this stream, all along number forty-three, and for a mile over upon number thirty-five, the country is almost totally barren of soil, the surface being almost exclusively occupied by barognoss rock, or mossy swamps. In going east, as a point one mile and three-quarters east of the southwest angle of number twenty-seven is reached a marked change may be noticed in the topographical features of the country; the surface becomes level, or gently undulating, the rocks appearing to have been by glacial action, planed down to a more or less uniform surface. This character of country prevails, with a few exceptions, as far east almost as Wolseley River, and north to Salter's base line.

From the point above mentioned, one mile and three-quarters east of southwest angle of number twenty-seven, as far east as almost to the end of the third mile on number nineteen, there is excellent land interspersed occasionally by small patches of rock cropping out. The soil is chiefly a brown clay loam of good quality. This tract of arable land extends south to the gorge of French River, but it is doubtful whether it extends very far to the north. To the east and to north of this tract of good land, as far as my survey extended, the land is rocky and unfit for settlement, the percentage of good land being very small.

The line going south from the southeast angle of timber berths number twenty-seven, to the south channel of French River, passes over nearly level or gently rolling land all the way, interrupted of course by the north channel of the stream last mentioned. The soil is a clay or sandy loam of good quality.

The timber plan indicates the distribution of the various kinds of timber. It is thus seen that the greater part of my line passed through a burnt country, the fire having gone over some parts a second time. The fire first appears to have occurred about fifteen years ago. Over this burnt country all the timber has been killed, and the burnt district extended as far as the eye could reach north of the line along the south of timber berths fifty-one, forty-three, etc., up to Salter's base line, and from information received from the Indians, I am led to believe that there is very little if any green timber, except perhaps towards the northwest, near Wahnapitao River and close to Salter's base line. Over some parts of this burnt district there has been very good pine, as is evidenced by the dead trees still standing; the prevailing timber has been white birch, poplar, balsam and cedar; there is now a young growth of small poplar, white birch, red cherry and willow coming up. In reference to the portions of my survey covered by green timber, I may say that the only place where pine of much value was seen, was between the Manzenazing River and the second mile post on the south boundary of timber berth number fifty-one. The trees, however, are rather under than over medium size, and much of the timber was valueless for lumber under present circumstances. Near the southeast corner of timber berth number eleven there is a small grove of very good pine, and farther west, between that and Wolseley River, there are some groves of white and red pine; the trees, however, are of small diameter, although of thrifty growth. In the green woods along the south boundaries of numbers sixty-seven, and fifty-nine at various points, scattering pine occurs among the other timber; there is some also at different points around Tyson Lake.

Besides the pine, the other kinds of timber seen were white birch, balsam, poplar, cedar, hemlock, maple, black birch, yellow birch, basswood, ironwood, black ash, etc. Between the south boundary of timber berth twenty-seven and French River, and along the line running south from southeast angle of number twenty-seven, to the south channel of French River there is some very fine timber, hemlock, black and yellow birch, maple, basswood, etc. Around

Tyson Lake there is much hemlock, hen lock, balsam and cedar. The Wahnapitao River is a fine stream with an average width of about one hundred and fifty feet; it is broken by numerous rapids, but is still a fine river for floating rafts. The water is good and palatable, although of the dark color common to the streams of the country; among the fish found in it are the black bass, pike, pickerel, etc. The Manzenazing River is a stream of sufficient capacity for floating sawlogs, although those that lumbered upon it some years ago, found it advisable to erect dams across it at several points between Collins' Inlet and Tyson Lake. Mullin and Pictou Rivers, as far as my observation extended, might each be described as a series of narrow lakes connected by a small stream broken by many rapids, and capable, perhaps, during a freshet, of floating small sized sawlogs. These streams flow in the direction of the strike of the strata, through grooves formed by the erosion of a stratum softer than those on either side of it. Wolseley River is a stream large enough to float timber at any season almost; it has numerous expansions along its course. The water in all the streams crossed, except the mere brooks, was dark coloured, although sweet and wholesome. Tyson Lake and Manzenazing River contain pike and black bass.

Partridges abound in the woods, and some prairie chickens were shot in the brule north of French River. I saw numerous traces of bear, red deer and moose.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN McAREE,  
Provincial Land Surveyor.

## THE NORTH WEST.

The Winnipeg Times says:—The industry of manufacturing lumber will no doubt be for a long time to come a large and increasing one in the Northwest, where towns and cities spring up and increase so rapidly, necessitating large supplies of lumber for building purposes. For some time past the quantity of lumber manufactured has been doubling every year, and next year the ratio of the increase will probably be still greater. A Times reporter yesterday called upon a prominent lumber man in this city, and obtained from him some information as to this industry.

"What are the principal lumbering firms in the Province?"

"The principal dealers having offices in the city are the Rainy Lake Lumber Company, J. R. Sutherland & Co., Dick, Banning & Co., the Winnipeg Lumber Company, D. E. Sprague and Brown & Rutherford. Outside the city the principal dealers in the Province are the Keowatin Lumber Company, at Rat Portage, and Walkley & Burrows, of Selkirk."

"Where are the logs cut?"

"The logs are obtained from the shores of the Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg, while some of the dealers import from the United States. The Rainy Lake Co. have 125 square miles of limits on the shores of that lake. Dick & Banning own 100 square miles on the Lake of the Woods. Walkley & Burrows, Brown & Rutherford and Stubbs Bros. each own 50 square miles on Lake Winnipeg. D. E. Sprague has a limit on the Rosseau River. J. R. Sutherland & Co. and the Winnipeg Lumber Company buy their logs from the States, the stuff being delivered in booms on the Red River."

In reply to a question from the reporter, the interviewer said the capacity of the principal mills is as follows:—Winnipeg Lumber Company, mill at Winnipeg, about 75,000 feet. J. R. Sutherland & Co., mill at St. Boniface, 100,000 feet. Rainy Lake Lumber Co., mill at Fort Francis, twenty million feet per season. Mill at Rat Portage, ten million per season. Dick, Banning & Co., mill at Rat Portage, 50,000. Walkley & Burrows, 25,000. Dr. Sprague, 25,000. Stubbs Bros., 20,000. With the exception of the Rainy Lake Co., these figures represent the capacity per ten hours. The total capacity per ten hours is about half a million feet.

"How many men are employed at those mills?"

J. R. Sutherland & Co., employ about 100;

the Rainy Lake Co. 300; Stubbs Bros., Brown & Rutherford and Walkley & Burrows, each 150; Dick & Banning 75; the Winnipeg Lumber Company 100; Dr. Sprague 50; or a total of a little under 800 men.

"Then there are the lumbermen?"

"Yes, I suppose that each of the above firms with the exception of those who import their raw material, would employ about double the number of men in the woods that they do in the mills."

"Henceforth," said the gentleman interviewed, in reply to a question from the reporter, "there has been a great deal of lumber imported, but now the lumbermen here are in such a position that they can supply the demand themselves, and they will soon be able to undersell the Minneapolis dealers."

"Is there any likelihood of lumber becoming any cheaper?"

"It will be cheaper for those who can buy wholesale or in large quantities, but it is probable that the retail prices will never be very much less. Those who have been buying in Minneapolis will now be able to buy here just as cheaply, and this being the case it will be to their advantage to purchase here, the importation of lumber is becoming less every year."

"Could you give an idea of the quantity of lumber cut during the past few years?"

"Next year I believe there will be placed on the market about 125 million feet. The quantity last year was 40 millions, and this was about double the product of the previous year."

"Who are your principal customers?"

"Contractors and builders, in this city, in Portage la Prairie, Brandon and other places as far as the end of the line, and in the country west and south. Most of it is used for house-building purposes, and there is some manufactured into bridge timber and fencing."

"Are there good facilities for floating the logs?"

"Yes, as good as can be found in the world."

"What pay do lumbermen receive?"

"About \$35 a month on an average. Some first rate men can get more than this, and the pay of a foreman is, of course, considerably higher."

## BUSINESS AT BOSTON.

The Boston correspondent of the *Northwestern Lumberman* writes as follows under date of Feb 1:—Since my last letter the thermometer has been bobbing around anywhere between zero and 60 degrees above; one day so cold and blustering that out-door work had to be given up, and the next day so warm that overcoats had to be unbuttoned to insure comfort. This variable sort of weather generally upsets business, and, on the whole, trade is rather quiet. I have not met a yard man as yet but that expresses the opinion that the spring trade will soon start up, and a great amount of lumber will be used. I think the trade is more and more coming to the conclusion that prices will not drop; that is to any material extent. Some of the coarser grades may be shaded in price, as is always the case where there is an over supply, but fine common and better will, in all probability, remain firm. Certain dealers are always afflicted with a chronic mania for running down prices. I can't conceive what the object can be for any person to use his best endeavors to break down prices, especially when they are not exorbitant. For the last year prices have not varied enough to prevent any yard man from selling "short," and getting out with a fair profit. At the same time, customers who have placed orders for future delivery, have had them filled acceptably. If prices had dropped how would it have been? All those orders would have been cancelled, and much trade lost in consequence. As a rule, I notice the parties who are always talking about prices dropping are either small buyers, with equally small ideas, or that class who are always finding fault with grades. The most reliable dealers we have in Boston are satisfied with present prices, and, when in want, buy like men, and do not go around the market besting down the price on a two-horse-load of lumber, and figuring if they need more of the same grade they can buy the balance of the same cut cheaper. I believe the trade are becoming disgusted with