

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XIX.
NUMBER 12

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER, 1898

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

A YUKON SAW MILL.

In the early days of the Klondike rush, the crafts constructed for conveying gold seekers and their supplies down the lakes and the Yukon river to the heart of the gold fields at Dawson City were of the most primitive and crude design, and it is said that a number of the wrecks in the canyons and rapids are accounted for on these grounds. With the advent of saw mills the conditions were somewhat changed. The Mining Record furnishes the accompanying illustration of one of these mills, together with the following comment :

A local company, incorporated in Victoria in January, and known as the Victoria-Yukon Trading Company, sent 30 men, in charge of one of their directors, Mr. M. King, a well-known and experienced coast logger, to Lake Bennett, and in the face of most tremendous difficulties a complete saw mill equipment, weighing altogether in the neighborhood of 200 tons, and including a 40 horse power engine and boiler, was transported over the pass a really remarkable feat, considering the then conditions of the trail, horses and men having to make their way through soft snow in many places many feet deep and up hill at that, dragging and carrying loads which would be trying enough on the level. At length, as is generally the case, pluck, perseverance and patience were rewarded, and by the middle of March the party arrived at Lake Bennett. The work of installing the machinery was commenced forthwith, and within two weeks from that time the steam whistle startled the silence of that grim north country, and a steam saw mill was in full operation on the shore of Lake Bennett. Needless to say, the mill could hardly keep pace with the enormous demand for lumber that immediately followed, for although prices would seem terribly "steep" to coast builders, to the prospectors, who with enormous labor had previously been obliged to whip-saw every foot of timber required for their boats, the saw mill charges appeared wonderfully moderate. Many, however, preferred to purchase boats or barges ready built at the mill, and so the company found it necessary to send from

Victoria a small army of competent ships' carpenters and boat builders, who received as much as fifteen and twenty dollars a day wages for their work ; but then boats sold never far short of a hundred dollars. This year already hundreds of craft of all sizes and shapes have been turned out from the Lake Bennett mills, and the industry promises to become a very important one.

ACCIDENTS FROM SMALL SAWS.

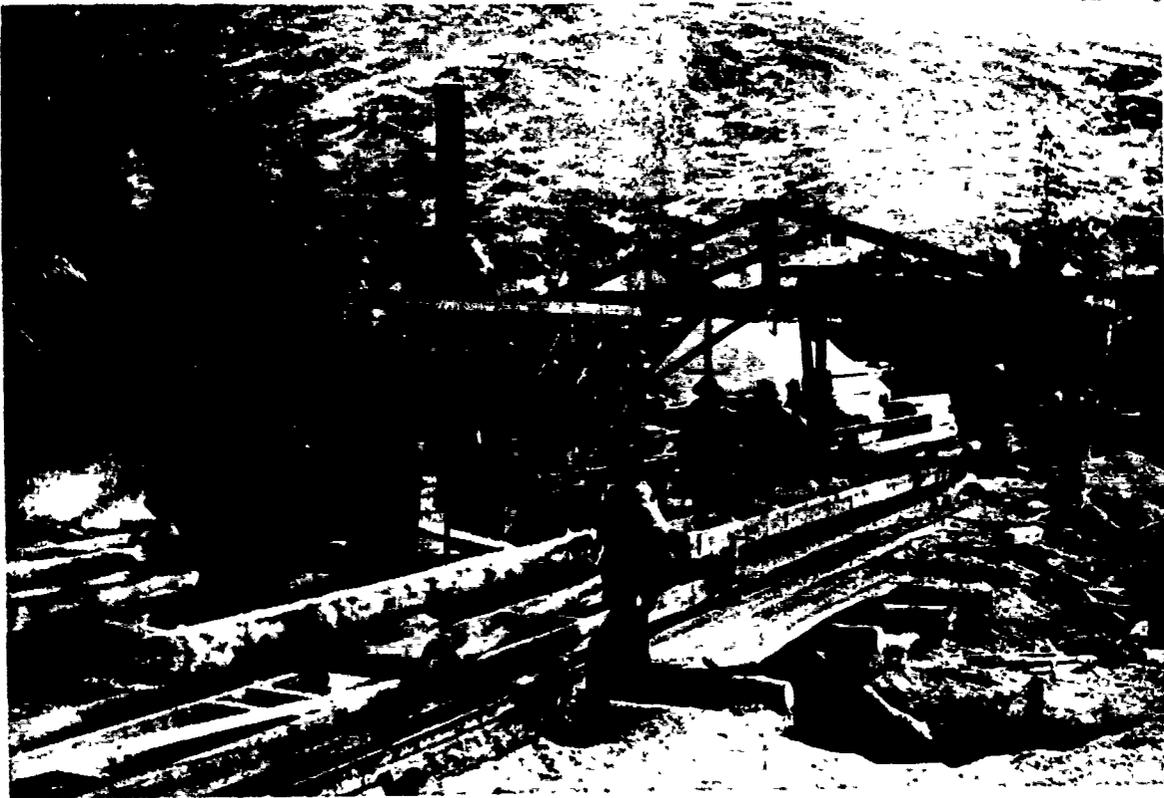
It is not a matter of surprise that so many accidents occur in saw mills, planing mills and other wood-working plants where rough lumber is cut up and finished. Indeed, it would

would never attempt such a trick. As long as he is afraid of moving machinery, he is pretty safe from accidents ; but after a long experience he loses all fear, becomes careless and gets hurt.

It is true that many accidents are chargeable to the owners, operators or foremen. Often machines are not properly arranged on the floors, and placed in positions that greatly increase the liability to accidents. In such cases the owners or operators are liable for damages for accidents that may occur.

In this country the law gives a person who is hurt through the neglect or carelessness of his employer the right to bring suit for damages for any amount of money he may choose, and jurors generally sympathize with

the poor man who is hurt and also necessarily thrown out of employment, at least temporarily; but our laws make no provision to force employers to place their machines in such positions and to protect them in such a manner as to reduce the danger of accidents to a minimum. In England they have official factory inspectors who visit the plants using machinery, periodically in person ; and if they find a machine is "dangerous," they serve a written notice to that effect on the foreman, proprietor or other proper person, and a heavy penalty attaches to



SAW MILL AT LAKE BENNETT, IN THE YUKON DISTRICT.

be a great surprise if none occurred, or if they were of rare occurrence only. Of the accidents recorded in the daily papers as occurring in wood-working plants, by far the greater number are caused by the small saws used for various purposes. Doubtless most of these accidents are due to the negligence or carelessness of the employees ; at least that is the opinion of the writer, after considerable experience and observation. It is curious, but more accidents from this cause happen to hands with more or less experience than to new beginners. A long experience with rapid-moving belts and machinery induces a carelessness that amounts to a contempt for the known dangers. It was a favorite trick with the "Mohawk Dutchman," the champion scroll sawyer, to rub the ball of his thumb on an oil stone or greasy bearing, and remove the grease clean by passing his thumb repeatedly against the rapidly moving scroll saw. A new beginner

operating that particular machine until it is made to comply with the requirements of the Factory Act. Recently a law has been enacted requiring a hood, or a "fence," over all circular saws. The law has been much discussed of late in the British lumber trade papers. The trouble is to provide a hood, or fence, that will protect the operator and at the same time detract nothing from the efficiency and capacity of the saw. Several styles have been invented, and doubtless one will be devised that will be satisfactory to the employers.—Southern Lumberman.

A large saw mill is being constructed at Lake Temiscouata, Que., by James Miller, of St. John, N. B., and D. A. Huntley, of Parrsboro, N.S. The mill, which will begin operations next spring, will have a capacity of about 15,000,000 feet of lumber during the summer season. The firm have a gang of men in the woods now getting out logs.