

A Trip to Rainy River.

Fort Frances, July 20.—Last Saturday evening, with grip in hand, I stepped on board the steamer Edna Brydges for a trip to Rainy Lake and Seine River, to revisit that region and note the progress being made in mining development since my first visit four years ago. I am not egotistical, but I must say I felt a tremor of pleasure creeping through my system at the happy anticipation of going over my old stamping ground of four years ago, noting the changes I expected to find, from the fact that I was in part instrumental in bringing the present conditions of things about. Allegorically speaking, I call the credit of putting up the finger board on the Little American mine, that showed the way to the great gold fields over in the Queen's domains. In May, 1893, I grub staked a prospector and started him for Rainy Lake, with instructions to explore the Minnesota side of the lake, and search diligently until he had found something good that would excite and interest the people of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, and convince them of the existence of gold at their very threshold. My connection with mining and exploring at the Lake of the Woods, and the difficulty we experienced in trying to get in American capital and interest for the two years previous convinced me something had to be done, as those people were skeptical of our riches, and the law protecting a miner and prospector in his rights. In about three months my prospector reported to me from Fort Frances by letter, and also sent me a bag of samples, showing free gold, about 60 pounds of rock, part from the Little Canada on the Canadian side, and a part from the Little American. These names I applied to the mines, as both were small islands, situated one on each side of the boundary, and about four miles apart. I at once put on a crew of miners to open up both properties; selected some samples, and proceeded to Duluth to secure a title for the Little American, and also to negotiate a sale. I succeeded in finding a purchaser, and sold to him and his associates for \$10,000. The deal was closed in September, and the following February a townsite was laid out and called Rainy Lake City, with no other developments being made other than those on the Little American and Little Canada. Prospecting followed on both sides of the line, although the snow was four feet deep. Considerable land was taken up on the Minnesota side, but the disreputable law in force, known as the timber and vice act, framed for the benefit of lumbermen and land attorneys, afforded an opportunity for contesting claims, and in consequence every claim located was being contested for the benefit of the land attorneys, who overran the land office and grew fat by a system of blackmail carried on and legalized for their use. In the spring it was found that nearly all the land claimed on the American side was worthless; that the mineral belt tilled out near the Little American, where the formation changed. This, together with the knowledge that the young province of Ontario possessed a liberal mining law, and the right to acquire land, and protection for all, caused the trend of prospecting to lead up the Seine River and Manitoba Lake which spreads over 150 miles north and east. On this trip I

shall have to confine myself to Rainy Lake and the Lower Seine River, these being the localities I am most interested in seeing developed. Our boat left the wharf at 8 o'clock sharp with about thirty passengers and forty tons of freight on board. The night was pleasant, with a bright starlight that together with a fine display of aurora borealis threw sufficient light on island and lake to define their outlines, and make up for the absence of a moon. I took great enjoyment sitting at the stern of the boat. I turned in about 12 o'clock and slept soundly until we reached the river, about 4 in the morning. The water was much higher than I ever saw it before, and what was sand, reef and marsh when I last saw it was now covered with water to a depth of eight or ten feet. The recent rains in Northern Minnesota had swollen the tributaries and caused a high stage of water in Rainy river. It swept nearly all the docks along the river, but did little other damage. The farmers of Rainy river have made but little progress in the past four years. Only a few clearings can be termed farms, the others being little patches of triangle shape. The great drawback of the district is the absence of a railroad. At Emo, about thirty miles from Fort Frances, some progress has been made towards the upbuilding of a city. A large sized hotel has been built, capable of accommodating about 150 people, and they now have about thirty or forty guests, mostly farmers looking up land in the district. There is also a fine big saw mill and arrangements are being made for the erection of a flour mill. Messrs. Stewart and Lockhart are the enterprising gentlemen who are responsible for all this improvement. We arrived at Fort Frances about 8 p.m., where a delegation of habitants who were not too tired came down to see the boat land. The people of Fort Frances always seem to have a tired and languid look about them. The grass growing in the street would indicate as much. About 500 feet of board trail, it could never be called sidewalk, is the only mark of prominence. The old ramshackle buildings erected during the construction of the canal of twenty-five years ago, look like sad remembrances of a dead past. The location of Fort Frances is the prettiest spot on the continent. When the old inhabitants now occupying it are gathered to their fathers and the beautiful green grass like a carpet covers the little mounds that will mark their last resting place, then will Fort Frances spring into prominence and become a city. With its natural advantages, being situated at the head of the finest river on the continent, having eighty miles of magnificent agricultural land lying to the west of it, the richest gold field bordering on the east and north and the greatest water power on the continent, no town or city in America possesses advantages like it, yet the people are entirely indifferent to it all. I leave for the Seine river tomorrow and will write a full account at the mines. C. M.

SAVINGS BANK TRANSACTIONS.

The transactions at the Dominion Government savings bank for the month ending July 31st were: Deposits, \$26,413.00; withdrawals, \$17,532.62. Deposits exceed withdrawals by \$6,880.38.

NEW U. S. TARIFF.

Washington, July 31.—The comparison of the present tariff law with the Wilson act authorized by congress has been completed. It was made by Charles H. Evans, who has been engaged in the same capacity in the preparation of all the tariff bills with which congress has dealt since 1872. The comparison is made in rates expressed in ad valorem terms between the present law and the Wilson law. The statement places the average duty rate under the new law at 34.66 per cent ad valorem, as against an average of 40.10 under the Wilson law, the averages being figured upon the basis of values in 1896. The schedules show the following increases in percentages: Chemicals from 23.53 to 30.07; wools and woolens 97.62 to 86.54; silks from 46.96 to 53.41; earthenware and glassware 35 to 52.47; metals 38.11 to 49.24; sugars 40.94 to 74.16; tobacco 109.06 to 121.90; agricultural products 22.44 to 38.42; spirits 61.54 to 68.3; cotton manufactures 42.75 to 52.33. Some of the increases expected in revenue are as follows: Chemicals from \$5,619,239 to \$8,423,084; earthenware and glassware from \$8,006,839 to \$12,303,148; metals from \$13,196,416 to \$17,487,482; wools from \$605,749 to \$2,439,536; sugars from \$29,910,703 to \$54,207,642; agricultural products from \$7,727,614 to \$14,587,601. The estimates are based upon the supposition that the value and volume of imports will remain the same.

INLAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS.

The inland revenue collections in the Winnipeg district during the month of July were as under:

Spirits	\$ 9,140.59
Malt	105.39
Tobacco, manufactured	210.88
Tobacco, raw leaf	339.40
Cigars	747.00
Methylated spirits	415.64
Licenses	805.00
Petroleum insp. fees	30.55
Total	\$11,794.35

TIMES IMPROVING.

Bradstreet's has a long article under the heading "A Turn in the Tide," predicting prosperous times. The article sets out in the following fashion: The beginnings of a ground swell of revived demand were pointed out in Bradstreet's last week, and while there is no boom in any part of a line, there is a general and widespread increase in consumptive request in staple lines.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON.

Vancouver, Aug. 3.—The huge run of salmon on the Fraser river continues and all the canneries have placed a limit on the number to be taken from each boat. The fishermen usually only make one drift and catches of 200 and 300 fish are quite common; 654 fish were caught in one drift on Monday night. Large quantities of salmon are being salted and as a result salt has jumped in price from \$11 to \$35 per ton.

It is reported that representatives of a large English buyer of salmon now on the Fraser river are investigating into the manner in which the salmon are put up, in order to see whether there is any truth in the reports of uncleanness. Special inquiries are being made into physical condition of Chinese employes and white employes. It is hoped that as a result of the report, Chinese labor may be dispensed with.