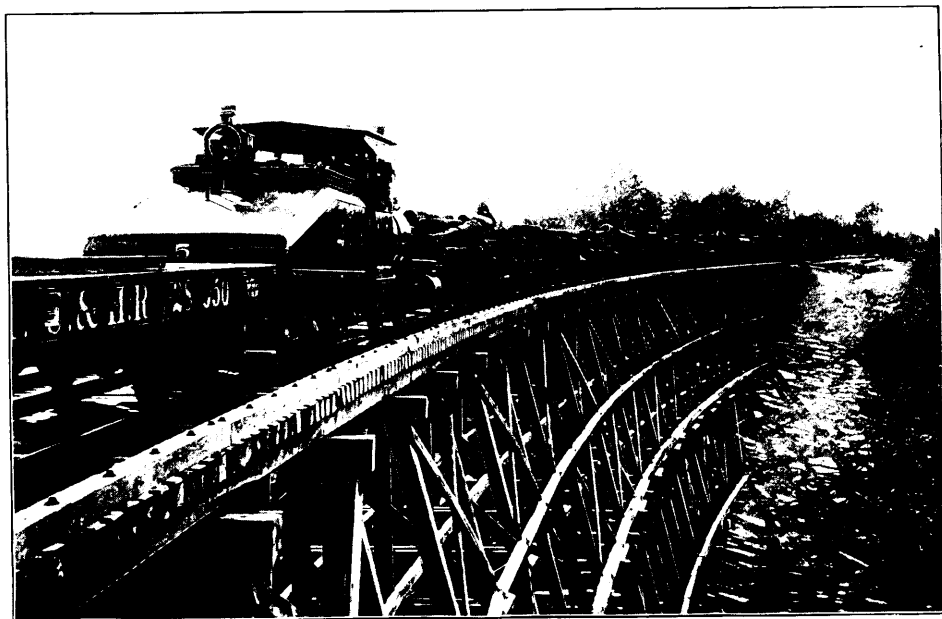




AN ALGOMA CENTRAL LOG TRAIN ON THE ROOT RIVER BRIDGE.

good, but to be inspired with a sure confidence that their town had a future was better. He believed the canal as it stood to be worth the money, and having bought it he immediately proceeded with construction. Disappointment number one quickly followed. "In our simplicity at that time it seemed to us that we had simply to go on, construct the dam, establish the water-wheels in place, and that all the manufacturers in the world would come there to seek for power. We made the first investment and began the work, but we were disappointed in applications for power, and before our construction was entirely completed we had decided that we should have to go still further than the original development of the water power into its actual utilization." In other words, as no manufacturer applied for their power, they had to become manufacturers themselves; and to do so successfully, they had to study carefully the natural resources of the country. So great and varied has Mr. Clergue found these to be, that Algoma is to him another word for opportunity. "In my opinion," he says, "after a residence of over five years in Algoma,

and the expenditure of over five million of dollars, and with fifteen million dollars more available for investments in the same undertakings, there is opportunity for a population in Northern Ontario equal to that of Southern Ontario, equal in number, equal in prosperity. You have only to go and follow the example we have set at Sault Ste. Marie. . . . Perhaps one per cent. of the whole forests from the city of Ottawa to Rat Portage may consist of pine trees. My personal judgment is that not one per cent. of all the forest growth in Ontario is pine; and yet the people of Ontario think their only asset is pine forest. The remainder of the timber can, step by step, and by proper degrees, be reduced to the uses of mankind almost as profitably, and perhaps quite as profitably, as the pine trees themselves." Pointing out that they could not profitably transport logs from the Georgian Bay against the current of the St. Mary's River, and that they had to look to the watershed of Lake Superior for their supplies, he found there that of all the woods growing in that region, the birch, the maple, the hard elm, the tamarac, the spruce, the balsam, and