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CROWN LANDS OF ONTARIO.

THE annual report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, recently issued, states that the total revenue from woods and forests for the fiscal year of 1897 amounted to \$1,327,140.08. Of this \$190,918.90 was on account of bonuses and \$54,166.62 on account of ground rent, leaving the net revenue from timber dues, etc., \$1,082,054.56.

The revenue from timber dues was larger than was expected at the beginning of the year. The accounts for timber dues accrue due in the month of December subsequent to the winter in which the cutting takes place, and are paid more or less promptly, according to the condition of the trade. The output of saw logs, etc., for the winter of 1895-96 was the largest in the history of the province, representing the sum of over one million dollars for timber dues alone. These dues did not become payable until December, 1896, and a considerable portion of them would not be paid until the year 1897. Owing to the continued depression in the lumber trade and the uncertainty prevailing as to the re-imposition of an import duty on sawn lumber passing into the United States, it was expected that payments would not

be made so freely and punctual as usual; consequently the estimate of revenue from woods and forests was not increased in proportion to the large increase in accruals. When it became evident that an import duty would be imposed on lumber passing into the United States, heavy purchases were made for that market, and some of our own lumbermen shipped their lumber over there and piled it up, this action being taken in advance of tariff legislation, the object in both cases being to escape the duty. The sales improved the financial position and consequently larger payments were made than was looked for, the result of which has been the increased revenue collected from timber dues.

For some time past, says the commissioner, there has been considerable excitement over the discovery of gold in the region lying north and east of Lake Wahnapiac, and large numbers of prospectors and miners had flocked into the townships of Kelly, Davis, Rathbun and Scadding. These men had spent considerable money in developing the prospects which they had discovered, and in order to render them valuable and make sale of them they had been pressing the department for title. The department had been averse to opening these townships for sale, lease or settlement because the pine timber had not been sold, and it was feared that in clearing, etc., fire would be used to such an extent that bush fires would certainly ensue and the pine timber would be destroyed. Early last spring the department was very strongly pressed to allow titles to issue, and so pronounced did the

ter, the showing was as good a one, so far as the price was concerned, as any previous one.

STATEMENT OF TIMBER CUT.

The area covered by timber license is 16,400 acres. Following is a comparative statement of the principal kinds of timber cut during 1896-97:

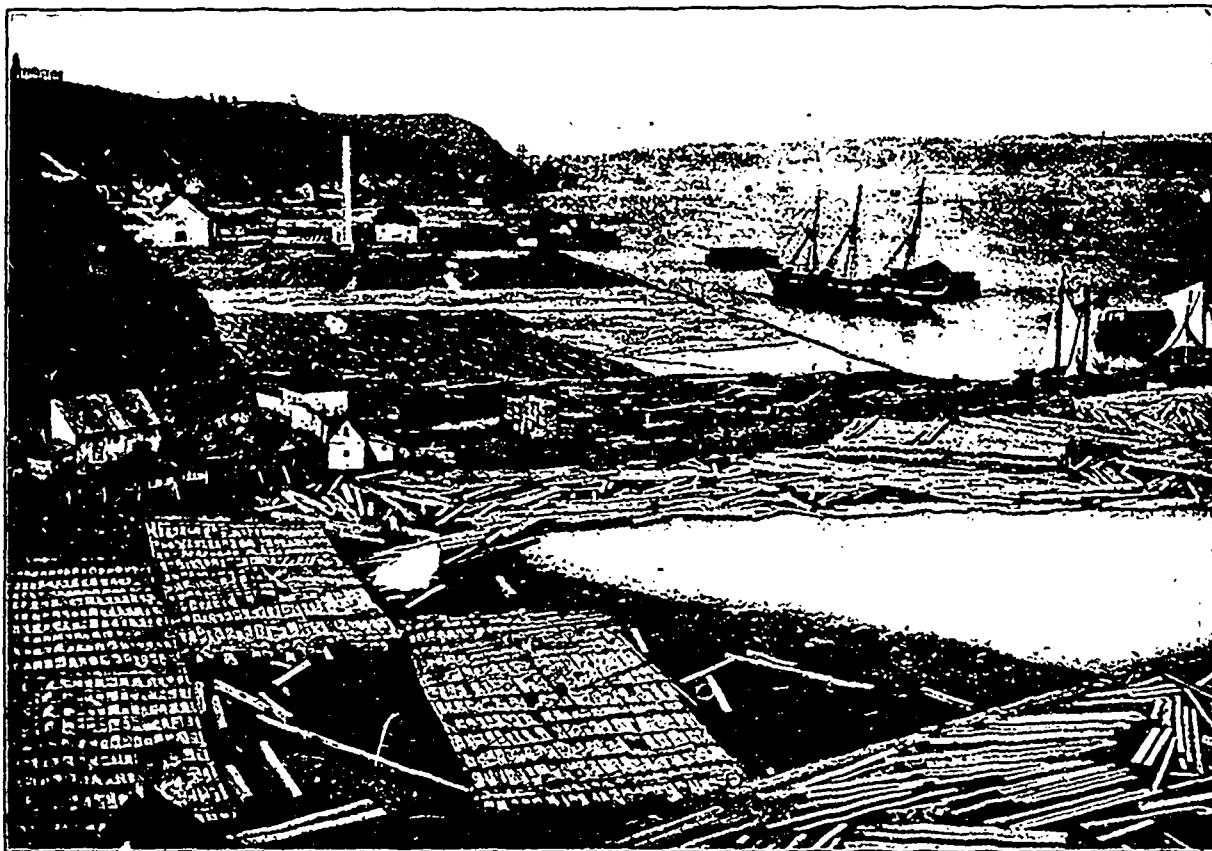
Pine saw logs	477,716,448 feet B. M.
Other saw logs	8,742,710 " "
Boom and dimension timber, pine	20,847,717 " "
" " " " other	706,880 " "
Square timber, white pine	1,977,400 cubic feet.
" " " " birch, ash, oak	28,000 " "
Cedar	254,144 lineal feet.
Railway ties	278,985 pieces.
Telegraph poles	591 " "
Stave and shingle bolts	1,416 cords.
West India staves	7,700 feet.
Pulp wood	46,338 cords.

By surveys made it was ascertained that there

were to be found, in the township of Burwash, Nipissing district, white pine, red pine, balsam, spruce, cedar, tamarac, birch, poplar, maple, oak, black ash and elm, the last three in small quantities; in township of Cherriman, small poplar, birch spruce and balsam; in township of Jennings, second growth poplar, birch, spruce, tamarac and pitch pine on the high lands, and willow and alder on the low; in township of London, scattered white pine, small poplar and pitch pine; in township of Curtis, district of Algoma, cedar, tamarac, maple, birch, bal-

sam and spruce, the latter found in large quantities suitable for pulp wood; in township of Harrow, small jack pine, white birch, poplar, maple, beech and hemlock; in eastern part of township of Tupper, bird's eye maple, white and black birch, with small quantities of balsam and spruce; in township of Sanford, spruce, tamarac and small pine; in township of Zealand, Rainy River district, poplar, spruce, birch and cedar.

All the lumber mills in Washington are now running full time, and the increase in output will be greatly in excess of last year. During the past two months the shipments of lumber amounted to 1,050 carloads, against 780 for the same period last year. The shipments of cedar shingles during two months were over 1,200 carloads. The Alaskan demand for lumber is great, over 10,000,000 feet having been shipped this spring.



TIMBER COVE NEAR QUEBEC.