

in the daytime. An Indian pilot of a steam tug carrying passengers, went out in charge of the craft while in a state of intoxication. One of the passengers objected, with the result that the captain threatened to put him off the boat for interfering with his (the captain's) duty. Complaints were rife among the lumber mill owners, whose operations were suspended sometimes for weeks together, through there being no check on whiskey selling. The mills of the Keewatin Company were shut down from no other cause, and similar trouble occurred at the mills of the Rainy Lake Lumber Co., at Fort Frances. At the latter point, an outlaw named Connors, had established a whiskey shop on the American side of Rainy River, procuring his supplies overland from Hallock in Minnesota. Afterwards he procured his supplies direct from Winnipeg, and no attempt was made by the Dominion officers to intercept them at any point or to arrest him, though he frequently appeared on Canadian territory. The Company, therefore, employed a constable of their own, and he was sworn in by the Police Commissioner. Shortly afterwards, Connors was arrested on a charge of breaking jail at Rat Portage, brought over the Lake and confined in the lock-up while his case was being enquired into. Later, he was released on bail by order of Judge Dubuc of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, himself in \$2,000 and two sureties of \$500 each. It was reported at the time that the Police Commissioner accepted verbal bail, and that no documents whatever passed; it is certain that Connors promptly made his way into Minnesota, and that neither of his bondsmen has paid, nor intends to pay, one cent on account of his escape.

While this system was carried on, and the whole time of the Commissioner and constables was engrossed with the liquor traffic, robberies and other offences committed in the shanties on the line of railway, were of frequent occurrence, and hardly an effort was made to arrest and punish the perpetrators. If, by any chance, an arrest was made and the offender was brought in, he was sometimes permitted to remain in the lock-up for days without examination.

In April, 1882, it became known that large quantities of firewood, telegraph poles, piles, saw-logs and ties had been drawn out to the shores of the Lake of the Woods and to the north bank of Rainy River, for floating to Rat Portage in the spring and shipment by the C. P. R. westward. Some of the parties cutting claimed to have had permits from the Dominion Government, or from individual Cabinet Ministers; others from the Syndicate; while others had, apparently, been cutting without any show of right whatever.

This timber was brought in during spring and summer, and the process of shipment continued until late in the fall. The new Crown Timber Agent at Winnipeg, whose appointment relieved McCarthy from acting in that capacity, was reported to be active and vigilant in ordering the seizure of all cord-wood and small timber cut in or near Rat Portage without licenses, but the same activity and vigilance was not extended to the wholesale appropriators on the Lake, nor did it seem possible, with the machinery and aid at his disposal, for him to exact dues on all the timber cut within the territory.

Towards the middle of June, 1882, the Premier and Attorney-General of Manitoba paid a visit to Rat Portage, ostensibly on a pleasure trip. Opportunity was had on this occasion for interviewing and inducing leading citizens to petition the Manitoba Government for a charter of incorporation as a municipality. It was known, beforehand, that the people of the village would gladly avail themselves of any assistance in this direction,