

Rat Portage Lumber Co.

THE COMMERCIAL VISITS THE MILLS OF
THIS COMPANY AT RAT PORTAGE.

The oldest and probably as yet the most generally important industry of the Lake of the Woods is that of lumbering. Being the only available source of supply of pine (in Western Canada) for the treeless prairie of Manitoba, the manufacture of lumber was early commenced on the Lake of the Woods, and quite a number of mills were erected and operated. The sole survivor of the various companies once engaged here and at Norman is the Rat Portage Lumber Co., which owns two plants at each point. No. 2 planer was burned this winter, but will probably be replaced. With each of the other mills there still is a complete planing mill. No. 1 mill has two band saws and a gang, No. 2 and

A side industry as it might be given, though it is one of considerable importance and growing magnitude is the sash and door factory which is in very large quarters near No. 1 planing mill. It has now a capacity of 100 doors and 250 windows per day, having almost doubled its output in the last year by the addition of more machinery. The machinery is all specially made, of most approved type, and is constantly being added to. It is in charge of C. A. Moor, formerly of Brandon, Man., and some 20 or 25 men and boys are employed. The requirements of the trade keep the staff constantly busy to keep up with orders, and it is quite possible that eastern or imported stock will be practically shut out. This winter they are bringing B.C. cedar down to manufacture doors, etc. To give an idea of the size of transactions; the firm imports their glass direct from Belgium and have now standing a \$10,000 order for May delivery.

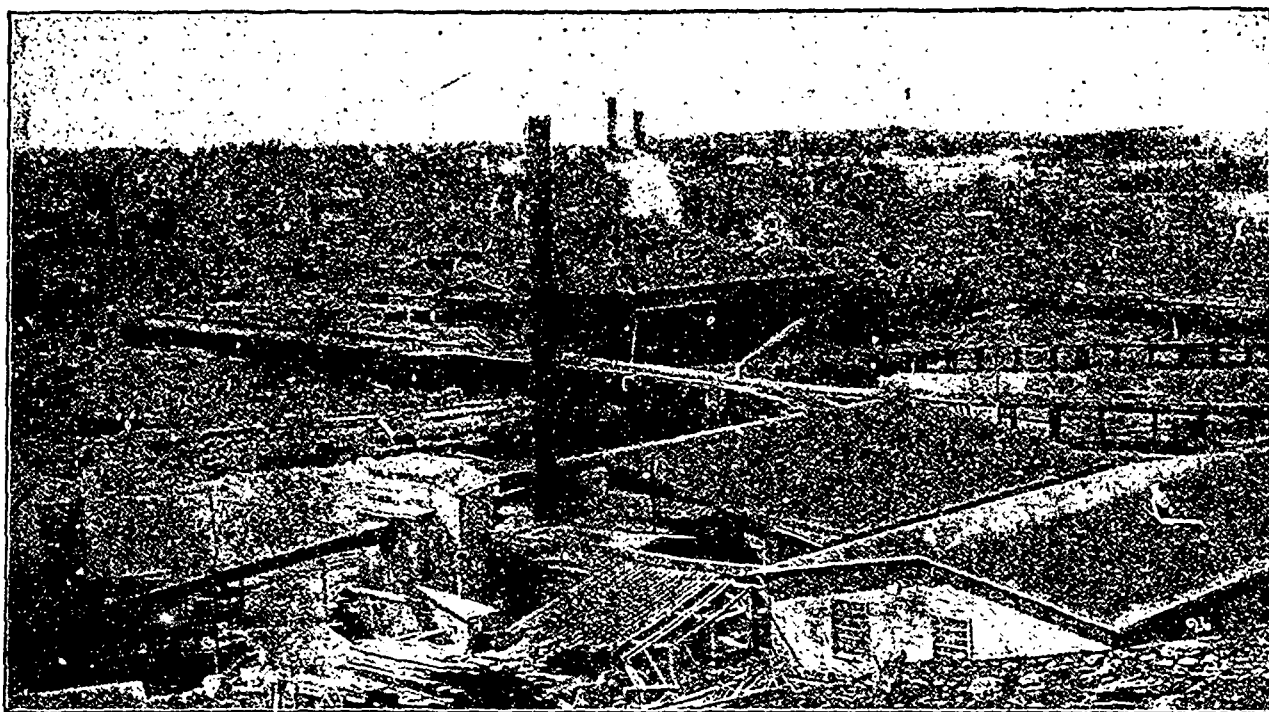
house in Winnipeg. This business is in charge of J. C. Graham as manager. A large stock of sash, doors, mouldings and other finishing material, manufactured at the factory at Rat Portage, is carried at the Winnipeg branch, and the large business already worked up, has fully justified the move of the company in extending its business in this form to Winnipeg.

Successfully Launched.

A WINNIPEG FIRM SUPPLYING THE
KLONDIKE TRADE.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser has the following reference to the new packing house established in that city by the Parsons Produce Co., of Winnipeg:

To anyone unacquainted with the wholesale provision trade of this city



PART OF THE RAT PORTAGE LUMBER COMPANY'S PLANT

NO. 1 MILL

NO. 1 PLANING MILL

FACTORY

No. 4, a circular and a gang saw each and No. 3 a circular saw. At No. 1 mill is a large box factory as well as the planing mill. The amount of timber worked up into lumber each year is enormous running away up into the millions, and yet at times the company finds it hard to keep up with orders from the growing trade of the west. The logs are cut principally on Rainy Lake and tributaries. To bring them to Rat Portage down Rainy River and the rapids, the Rainy River Boom Co. handles the logs for a fixed charge and after they are all down the company's steamers tow them across the Lake of the Woods. Many of the logs are cut on contract and settlers on Rainy River are able to find employment during winter months. During the sawing season some 400 men or more find employment in the several mills and yards of the company, and at present about 700 hands are employed, mostly in the woods.

The officers of the company are D. C. Cameron, president and manager, Wm. Robertson, secretary, and J. E. Young, cashier. In conversation Mr. Robertson remarked that the company's purchases of produce, which are all brought from Manitoba, were a good sized item. "For instance," he said, "this winter for the supply of our winter lumber camps we have shipped from the west 1 car of butter, 2 cars bacon, 3 cars cattle, 4 cars dressed beef, 15 cars oats, 30 cars of hay," besides groceries and other supplies bought through Winnipeg dealers.

Next summer the company expects to cut 36,000,000 feet of lumber. About 40,000,000 feet of logs have been taken out this winter, and a small quantity of logs are on hand at the mills to begin operations on in the spring, before the new cut can be got in.

Last fall the company opened a branch wholesale sash and door ware-

a visit to the premises recently acquired by the Parsons Produce Co., in the Commercial block, Columbia avenue, will give them an insight into the vast extent of import and export trade that cannot but surprise the uninitiated. The premises comprise the general counting house, manager's office, and a large ware room on the ground floor. The second floor contains the sausage and lard manufacturing and storage rooms, while in the spacious basement the pork-packing and dry salting business, into which the firm has recently entered is carried on. Immediately adjoining is the smoke house, which is capable of turning out 500 cured hams every twenty-four hours.

A News-Advertiser representative recently paid a visit of inspection to the establishment, over which he was shown by the energetic manager, Charles Milne. At the time of the visit, in the pork-packing department, there had just arrived a carload of