

CHAPTER IV.

I finally found after some eighteen years that I had gathered the weight of the timber in the immediate vicinity, and thought it advisable to look elsewhere for a better field, when I discovered a water power and mill site offered in Muskoka, on Lake Rosseau, for sale. Another one of my wife's brothers who had returned from the United States, suggested that we go up and look at it; he too was a lumberman. He and I started to Muskoka which was then more of a wilderness, tourist retreat, and place of outing, than anything else, other than lumbering. Windermere was our objective; the outlet of the River Dee was our spot. We reached the point and had a conversation with the owner, and before leaving, I made him an offer to purchase, which he declined. I said "When you get ready, come down to my home; that is my figure," feeling in my own mind that I was not very particular whether he accepted or did not. However, in the course of a week or ten days, the owner of the site came to my house in Tara and offered to accept my terms. I again went with him to Muskoka, made a further examination, and closed the bargain. The following winter or spring, I went to the spot, took one of my sons with me, and made timber for a mill, erected the mill in the early spring, and cut considerable stock that year. The following year I placed my son-in-law, J. R. Boyd, and my oldest son, William E., to purchase logs and get the place in shape so that we could continue properly and purchase a stock. I forwarded the money requisite, and they purchased and cut a considerable stock of logs for the coming summer. In the early part of the coming year, as soon as it was suitable to go to sell my lumber on Lake Rosseau, I had got through cutting what stock I had at the old home. I went up to the new mill to sell the stock that was being cut, and during that time my oldest son said: "Father, I do not