

track from Rat Portage to Prince Arthur's Landing, in anticipation of that portion of the road passing into their possession.

In October, 1881, a Mr. McCarthy, an engineer in the employ of the contractors, who had been appointed Crown Timber Agent at Rat Portage, notified parties cutting ties on the lake to desist. It does not appear that his notice received any attention from the parties employed by Short or Lewis, or that any other parties so engaged ceased cutting for more than a brief period.

During the fall and winter of 1881-2 a large quantity of timber was cut at various places on the lake and on the line of railway east of Rat Portage, and there is reason to believe no dues whatever were paid on a considerable portion of this timber, and that some of it was shipped west and disposed of in the Winnipeg market.

In December, 1881, a new development of the liquor troubles occurred. A Dominion Magistrate named Brereton caused the arrest of a constable named O'Keefe for treating his (O'Keefe's) friends with seized liquor, held in his possession while awaiting an order for its destruction. O'Keefe was convicted, and fined \$100 and costs, which he paid. Immediately afterwards he lodged a complaint with McCarthy, the contractor's engineer, who, in addition to being Crown Timber Agent and Postmaster, was an acting Stipendiary Magistrate of Manitoba, that Magistrate Brereton had done precisely as he (O'Keefe) had done, viz.: treated his friends with seized liquor; and O'Keefe applied to have the conviction quashed on the ground that he (O'Keefe) held the liquor by virtue of his office, and that the giving away of a portion of it was simply an act of indiscretion, to be dealt with by his employers. Brereton also claimed that he had lawful possession of the liquor, and stated that he saw no harm in "giving the boys a drop." Both parties went to Winnipeg to seek redress, and the *Winnipeg Times*, of the 6th January thus alluded to the cause of trouble:—

"The arrival of a number of persons from Rat Portage last night enables us to throw some light on the reported maladministration of justice in Keewatin a short time ago. It would appear that Mr. Rideout, of the Rideout House, Rat Portage, had four barrels of beer *en route* to his place on Christmas eve, in bottles, which were packed in barrels, in direct violation of the liquor law of the territory. The host, fearing trouble, thought the best plan was to acquaint Chief of Police O'Keefe, and trust to his clemency in the matter. He, however, made a miscalculation, for the moment the officer of the law was made aware of the fact he had no alternative but to seize the liquor, which he did, and had it removed to his office. He notified Mr. Rideout of the seizure, supposing that person would come to claim it, whereupon he would lay an information against him for importing the liquor. Mr. R. prudently refrained from claiming it. Then Mr. O'Keefe notified the contractors, Manning, Macdonald & Co., and Stipendiary Magistrate McCarthy, of the seizure, and, pending developments, held on to the beer till the following Thursday, when he received orders to destroy it. In the meantime two or three bottles of beer had been taken from the barrels, and abstracted by two or three visitors in Mr. O'Keefe's office on Christmas day. This having transpired, it was made the ground for an action against O'Keefe for having liquor in his possession, upon which he was arraigned and fined \$100 and costs. The officer claims that it was a piece of sharp practice upon the part of the magistrate to gratify the wish of his friend Rideout, and he still holds that he had a right to have the liquor while under seizure in his custody. The chief thought to himself that it was a long lane that had no turn, and he remembered that on the 14th day of December last he had seized a quantity of whiskey that was passing over the C. P. R. east, and it was placed for safety in the express office at Rat Portage. In the interim Stipendiary Brereton dropped around, made free with the