

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## MR. J. WILLIAM WILLISON.

THE Dominion Government have appointed Mr. J. William Willison, of Toronto, as Crown Timber Agent for the Yukon district. On Monday, February 14th, he left for Vancouver, where he expected to join his assistant, Mr. T. D. McFarlane, of Brandon. Before this time they have, perhaps, sailed for Dyea, and will enter the interior by either the Chilcoot or White Pass route.

The development of the gold resources of the Yukon country has created a large demand for lumber, and it is the intention of the Department of Interior, through its agents, to ascertain the extent of the lumber supply. Mr. Willison will proceed first to Lake Bennett, where the government has already sold a few timber berths, whence he will journey to Lake Lebarge, near the junction of the Teslin and Lewes rivers. Fort Selkirk, at the junction of the Lewes and Pelly rivers (only 170 miles from Dawson City), will next be visited. Here he will turn south and go down the Teslin river and lake to the terminus of the proposed new railway.

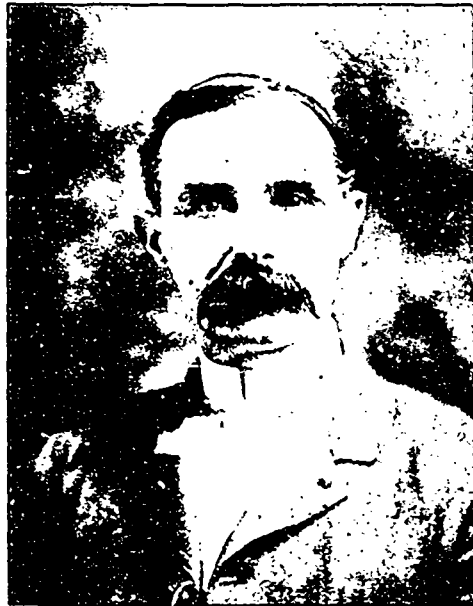
On the banks of the many rivers which are tributary to the Yukon, there are known to exist considerable timber areas. Mr. Willison will look hurriedly over the ground, ascertain the character and value of the timber, find if any poaching is going on, set the law in operation, and report to the government. As all the rivers referred to empty towards Dawson City, the logs will in the natural order of things be rafted to convenient points near that metropolis, where large saw milling plants may be erected.

The appointment of Mr. Willison is one which gives general satisfaction, his while past experience is certain to secure for the government good results. He is not only one of the best timber experts in Canada, but a man eminently qualified for the complicated duties of administering the law and investigating the timber resources of the country.

About twenty years ago Mr. Willison came to Canada, a young, ambitious Englishman, and went to work in the lumber shanties of Mr. John Stewart, north of Orillia. There he determined to learn the business thoroughly, and devoted his energy to study in that best possible school. When Mr. Stewart went as explorer for the Rainy River Lumber Company he chose Mr. Willison from among his old employees as his assistant. The experience of those pioneer lumbering operations will prove invaluable in the Yukon, for Mr. Willison has travelled back and forth through the Rainy Lake and Rainy River district by dog team, has slept out with the thermometer away below zero, has made many long journeys on snowshoes, and has become accustomed to "roughing it" under most onerous conditions.

The new appointee has had the full round of experience, shanty building, felling timber, haul-

ing, boom building and river driving. In summer he went into the lumber mills, where he passed through all the technical graduations of work, from tail sawyer to double edger, filer, sawyer, and eventually manager. He left the employ of the Rainy River Lumber Company to take a position with Macdonald & Shields, a lumber firm operating on Vermillion Bay, east of Rat Portage. With a jobber under that firm he had the direction of many important contracts, among them the getting out of 3,000,000 ties for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Willison also went into contracting on his own account, getting out supplies for several firms, among them Mather & Co., of the Keewatin Mills. His experience included extensive prospecting



MR. J. W. M. WILLISON,  
Crown Timber Agent for the Yukon District.

for timber for many jobbers and mill owners, and a season in the mills of Bulmer & Co., of Keewatin. When the Northwest rebellion broke out he was completing a contract to take out piles for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He went to the Northwest with the Rat Portage contingent of the 91st Winnipeg Battalion, under Col. Scott, and as senior color-sergeant and acting sergeant-major was distinguished as an excellent disciplinarian.

After the rebellion Mr. Willison came back to North Orillia and accepted a position with Drinkwater Bros., who had extensive limits on the North river. With that firm he had charge of the work of getting out logs and of scaling or measuring the logs taken out by contractors and jobbers. He had direction of much of their engineering work, including the construction of the big dam on North river, and his business management extended from the purchase of standing timber to the sale of sawn lumber. As manager and foreman of the saw mill he had an experience of exceptional value in estimating the

capacity of logs and standing timber. Measuring logs in the bush and estimating their contents in sawn lumber according to established rules is a familiar operation, but few cullers or scalers have the advantage of afterwards verifying all kinds of measurements and all kinds of timber by the practical test of the sawmill.

During the boom in Orillia Mr. Willison had a remunerative position as salesman with Drinkwater Bros., in which capacity he supplied a large part of the lumber used in those active building operations. All the leading men of the town speak highly of his knowledge as a lumber expert, as well as his business ability. The firm of Thompson & Dunn, with whom he had his first experience as a scaler of logs, express the highest appreciation of the value of his services.

Being thrown largely upon his own resources early in life, Mr. Willison was deprived of the opportunity of securing a good education, which he found in later years to be a great detriment. This prompted him to seek a position in Toronto, where the advantages of night schools could be obtained. The position of superintendent of the Massey Manufacturing Company's lumber yard was then vacant, and it is sufficient to say that out of some eighty applications that of Mr. Willison was accepted. Besides having charge of the lumber yard, carrying from four to five million feet of hardwood in stock, he also had the superintendence of all the raw material. While in that position he had business relations with many of the leading lumber dealers of Canada. To fit himself to enter a field which he then had in view he attended school five nights a week, and was given first prize for shorthand at the west end Y.M.C.A. After four years' connection with the Massey Manufacturing Company he decided to enter the open profession, and has been for two years a member of the reportorial staff of the Toronto Globe.

Mr. Willison has always enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his employers and the respect of those with whom he has had business relations. The many testimonials which led the Interior Department to secure his services are from the leading lumbermen and lumber dealers of the province, from the Massey Company, and from others aware of his special qualifications as an expert.

In his new field of labor we wish him that success which his energy and ability merit.

## HE APPRECIATES ITS VALUE.

Mr. Cornelius Degraw, of Strathroy, writes: "I am a subscriber to the CANADA LUMBERMAN, and cannot compliment you too highly on the value of the paper to all lumbermen."

It is stated that in the Forestry building at the Centennial Exposition at Nashville, Tenn., 45 different kinds of hardwoods were exhibited in one collection, all from one Tennessee farm.