

Coal & R. R. Co., then lightered to West Bay for shipment abroad. The Messrs. Fisher had one steam mill burned, which they are having repaired for next season.

William Adkinson, Mapleton, has a steam portable saw mill in the woods sawing for Harris Hunter, who has the contract for supplying all the lumber and pit props for the Cumberland Coal & R. R. Co., Springhill, besides which he will get out in the neighborhood of one million feet of deals which are shipped from West Bay, via C. C. & R. R. Co. to Parrsboro.

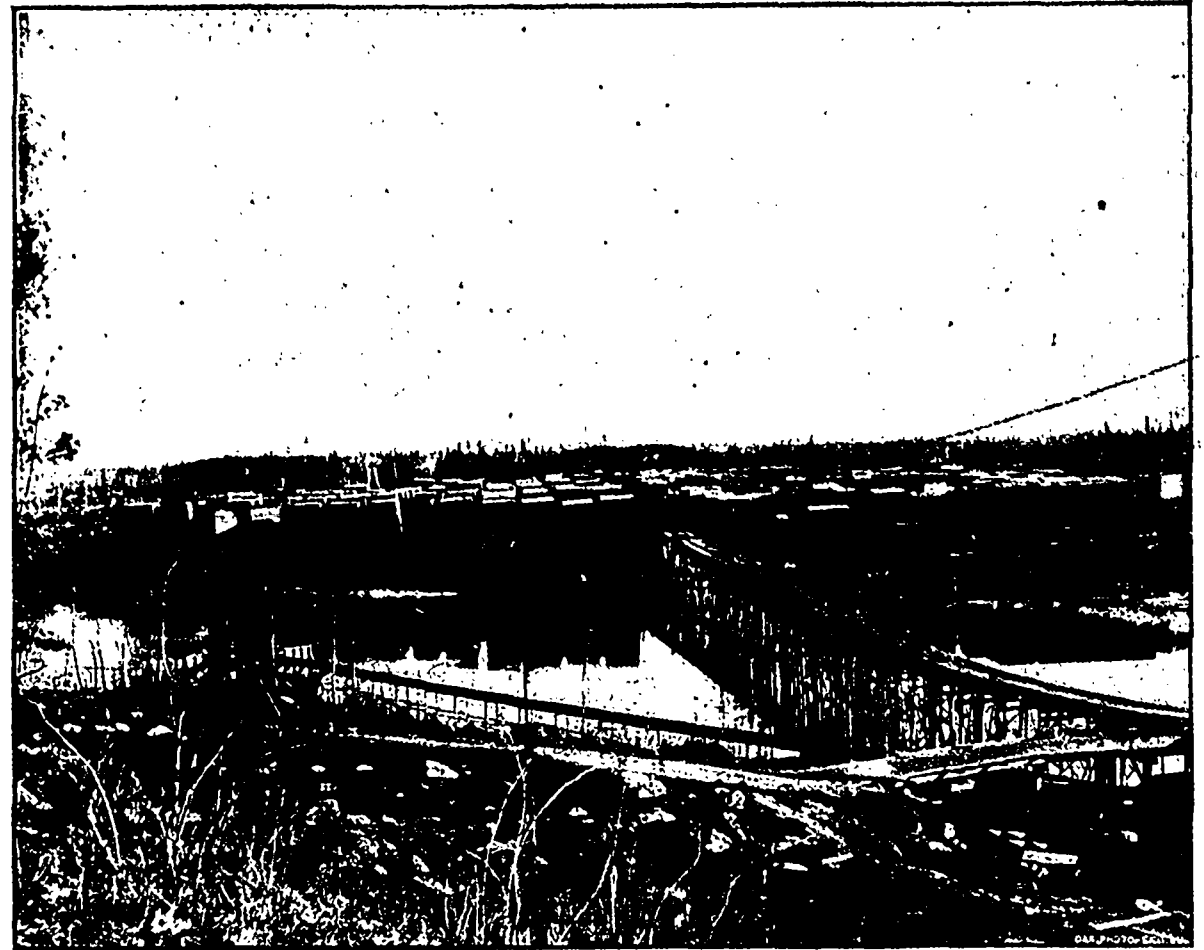
Joseph Lodge, Mapleton, has a water power circular saw mill, but does not intend operating this winter. The mill is for sale. Mr. Lodge intends devoting his time to farming.

Wm. Brown, Mapleton, has a water power gang mill in which he saws yearly from three-quarters to a million feet of deals. He intends adding a rotary for next year, and will increase his output somewhat. His deals also go via C. C. & R. R. Co., and are shipped from West Bay.

D. Harkness, Joggins Mines, has two portable saw mills in operation, in which he will saw two million feet of deals, which will be shipped from Joggins in schooners to Grindstone, where large vessels load for any foreign port. Mr. Harkness finds ready sale for his boards in the rapidly growing mining town, and he also furnishes lumber and pit props to the Canada Coal and R. R. Co., who operate the Joggins Mines. From his long experience in portable saw milling Mr. Harkness knows just how to run a mill for profit.

LUMBERING AT RAT PORTAGE.

AMONG the growing industries of Rat Portage, Ont., is that of lumbering. The history of this industry may be said to date from the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, though operations were previously carried on to a limited extent. That road, however, made an outlet, and opened a market in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, which promised great results, and for a time lots of money was made in the business, but as usual under such circumstances, too many embarked in it, it became overdone, the country did not fill up as anticipated, and prices went down. A succession of bad crops made



PILING GROUND OF THE ONTARIO AND WESTERN LUMBER CO. AT RAT PORTAGE.

matters still worse, and only a big crop, in 1887, saved many of the lumbermen from bankruptcy. Things were again prosperous till 1892, when keen competition had so extended credits and reduced prices that the lumbermen of the district resolved to amalgamate, limit the output, keep down expenses and economize in every possible

way. That is how the Ontario and Western Lumber Co., Ltd., came to be formed.

"The Combine," by which the new company came to be known, embraced the following companies which were then doing business at Rat Portage: The Western Lumber Co., the Minnesota and Ontario Lumber Co., the Safety Bay Lumber Co., Cameron & Kennedy, and Ross, Hall & Brown. The amalgamated concern found itself with a stock of 100,000 feet of lumber and logs. They suspended all operations in the woods during the winter of 1893-94, and endeavoured to work off their stock, but met with keen opposition from the Minnesota lumbermen, and the result has been that much of the stock taken over by the amalgamated company was sold at an actual loss. Last winter was also an off year, so far as logging operations in the woods are concerned, but this season, though lumber is sold cheaper than ever in the Northwest, the company is encouraged to send men into the woods, and now have five camps in operation. Though prices are low, possessing the very best of appliances they are enabled to do business at a profit, and can look forward hopefully to the future.

The company operates the five saw mills at Rat Portage, and in addition manufacture mouldings, brackets, balusters, sashes, doors and all kinds of building material, from kiln-dried lumber. They have just completed a well equipped sash and door factory, and have a very complete box factory, where all kinds of packing cases are turned out. One of the most interesting machines in the latter is for printing, by means of which any kind of matter may be printed on the boxes. They also deal in railway ties, telegraph poles, cedar posts, etc. The company owns vast limits in the Rainy Lake district, and gives employment to about 500 men. They also purchase



ONE OF THE ONTARIO AND WESTERN LUMBER CO.'S MILLS AT RAT PORTAGE.