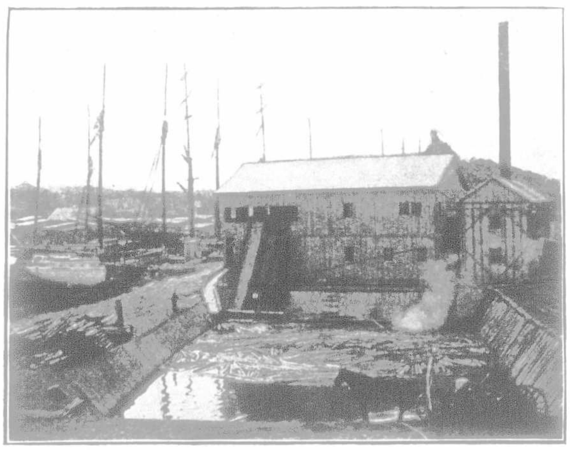
legislation was that a license holder as long as he complied with the conditions of his license should be secure against the competition of rivals. It lessened the danger of reckless over-production and the wasteful methods which have been for all time such a bane to the lumber industry. The first ground rent was fixed at 50 cents a square mile in addition to the dues, with the condition that the rent should be doubled during every year the limits remained unworked. There was also a condition that saw logs cut for export were made liable to double charges.

In 1854 a committee was appointed to review the whole question of timber regulation. There had been considerable trouble over the cutting of timber under pretense of selling it by men who, under the regulations of the day, were required to pay down one-tenth of the purchase price of the land. Having cut out the timber,



Davison Lumber Co., Rossing Mill, Springfield, N.S.

on many of the richest parts of Ontario, they would refuse to pay the other nine instalments, and would abandon the tract. This evil worked against the interest of the government, of the bona fide settler and the lumberman, besides throwing the country into great danger from forest fires on account of the wasteful methods of logging and the consequent slash.

This committee also discussed the matter of the export of square timber, which had been very large in preceding years, but which, it was felt, was working a great disadvantage to the Canadian forests through the waste which was created in the hewing of the product. Since reciprocity between United States and Canada all natural products including lumber had been adopted in 1854 the whole lumber trade had materially advanced. It was thought, however, that it would be well to increase the more carefully manufactured product through reducing the dues of the government on sawn lumber. However, the square timber trade declined through natural causes.

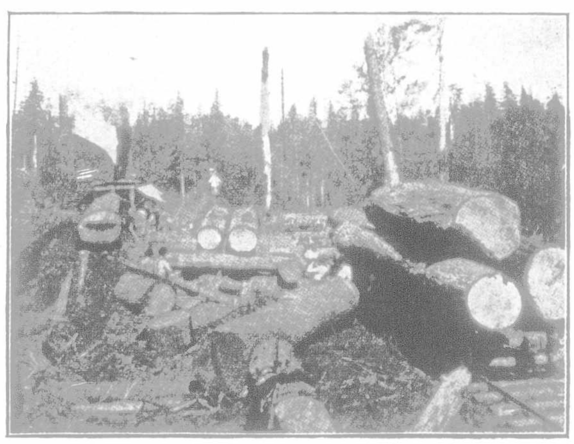
The committee had also to decide whether the method of opening forest lands as adopted by the United States, or the Canadian procedure was the better. Under the former method lands were sold to the highest bidder at an upset price of $1.25 an acre, and the arguments advanced in favor of the system by American lumbermen were that the land was put quickly under taxation and the timber was carefully cut owing to the fact that the lumberman could pick his own material. The objection raised by Canadians, however, was that the lands passed too quickly into the hands of capitalists or companies (particularly since lands on which there was no bidding were sold at the upset price, and there was no limit to the amount that any man could hold), and that the dues would amount to vastly more for the timber alone under the stumpage system than could be had for a clear title to land, timber and all, as was the case across the line.

It is to the credit of the Canadian lumbermen and other citizens appearing on and before the committee that they, not only, endeavored to restrict monopolistic holdings of natural resources, but at this time brought forward the idea of modern forest administrators that fires could and should be prevented, and that conditions for an annual crop of timber from a forest managed along the lines which were then being put into force in the advanced administration in Europe, could be brought about in Canada. The main objection of the lumbermen to the existing methods of protection from fire was, that settlers, whether honest or unscrupulous, could go into timbered areas and cause great destruction through the carless handling of their clearing fires. Herein was recognized the principle which is gaining greater and greater scope today, that lands that are fit for agriculture should be used in such manner and that those which are fitted for timber production should be reserved for that industry.

Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley.

The Ottawa valley controlled the attention of timber traders for the reason that rafts of square timber could be taken with great ease to Quebec. Those who followed Philemon Wright in his settlement on the Ottawa were attracted by the size of the timber and its ease of exportation rather than by the closeness to settlements which prompted many men in the Ontario peninsula to begin their businesses.

The valleys of the rivers flowing into the Ottawa were soon discovered to be rich in timber, and settlement began. In 1828 Col. Peter White founded Pembroke, and shipped many rafts to Quebec. Soon after this the Buckingham mill, on the Lievre, fifteen miles below Ottawa was opened by Thomson and Company. In 1834 the Hon. George Bryson began operations on the Coulonge River, just above Ragged Chute. In 1852, J. R. Booth entered the timber trade at Ottawa. In 1853 Alex. Fraser, whose sons subsequently founded the Fraser Lumber Company, began operations, as did also the Hon. Erskine Bronson, who built the first sawmill which shipped lumber from Ottawa to the American market. For twenty years the Bronson mill averaged 50 million feet annually, a tremendous cut in those days.



Logging in British Columbia

The Gatineau, joining the Ottawa River just opposite the present capital, began to pour down immense wealth in timber. In 1853 James MacLaren, who had entered the business in 1836, leased a sawmil at the mouth of the river and manufactured extensively. Subsequently, in 1864, he purchased mills and timber limits on the Lievre, near Buckingham, which have produced a large portion of the Ottawa Valley timber.

In 1854 Ezra Butler Eddy estbalished in Hull the plant which has since grown into the largest match, pulp, paper wooden ware and fibreware factory in America.

The Madawaska was first exploited in 1850-1860 by Wm. Mohr, Wm. Mackey, both famous lumbermen, and Dan McLachlan, whose firm, McLachlan Brothers, has averaged a cut of 60,000,000 feet annually for the past