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Complying with Department's request as contained in the letter of instructions to me dated April 13, 1928, Number 30130-6, to visit and make an inspection of the northern portion of Lac Seul Indian Reserve #28, and on completion make a full report as to the manner in which Mr. C. W. Cox, licensee, conducted the logging operations last winter, season 1927-1928, also report as to the fire hazard which had been created, I proceeded to Kenora, Ontario, and received instructions from Mr. Frank Edwards, Indian Agent, to also scale ties or timber as taken out by the licensee; consulting with him fully the facts pertaining to this operation.

I arrived at C. W. Cox's main Camp, situated in the centre of the north-east portion of the Reserve, on Wednesday evening, April 18th. and for conformity and ready information will list my findings as follows:-

Clerk was gone; no records of operation.  
Foreman, with two men, staying in camp.  
There had been two camps in operation.  
Main camp- employing 100-110 men  
Jobber's camp, one mile south, employing 20-25 men.  
3-5 ton Holt tractors hauled on a ten mile haul.  
Period of haul about six weeks. February - March.  
Area cut over about six square miles.  
No burning of brush, only around camp.  
Period of operation November 1927 - March 1928.  
Hewn ties full extent of operation.  
Ties are not stamped.  
Cut about 140 boomsticks from Keewatin limit.

Merchantable ties on roads, not hauled	30663	Culls	725
" " not skidded	12753	"	490

A conservative estimate landed about 70000 -

At present, there are nine men in camp; the foreman, two tie makers, and six immigrants, who came in on April 21, 1928. Sent in by C. W. Cox to peel ties and to skid them to roads. All the rigging, sleighs, blacksmith outfit, cooking supplies; also four horses, etc., are left, and I understand it is the Licensee's intention to operate on a much larger scale on this Reserve this coming season.

The Jack Pine timber is rather small and faulty for to make it a good tie cut, and quite a number of trees are deceased with red and grey rot. This explains why such a large area was cut over, and when I was checking the ties all culls listed I deemed were dead culls- unmerchantable.

Without doubt, a dangerous fire hazard has been created, which will always happen when hewn ties are made in the bush, and I call special attention to this hazard because it covers a large area and is located in virgin timber. The two tie makers are there to watch camp all summer, and it is quite probable that the Serbians will help on the driving of the ties and loading of same at Hudson where they will be loaded by the Keewatin jack-ladder.

The camp is situated on the north side of a small lake, and the workings extend directly back of the camp to the eastern line and to about two miles west of camp. Nearly all the ridges worked on this last winter, although separated by small spruce swamps are

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7850, File 30130-5A)

P U B L I C   A R C H I V E S  
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