# THE RAINY RIVER TIMBER DIFFI-CULTY.

For the past few days a number of American loggers have been in town, and it appears they are endeavoring to close arrangements with our local lumbermen to take out American logs for the various mills here during the coming winter. Last year it will be remembered that our mill men had considerable difficulty in getting permits until late in the season, and which delay put them to a great expense in getting out the logs. This was due to their not being able to make the necessary improvements last fall, and which necessitated it being done in the spring, and as a result the mills have been idle half of this season. In fact last winter's cut is only now coming in, and the mills have been shut down a greater por-tion of this summer. This has resulted in a very great loss to the town.

The Government has now a sale of timber berths advertised to take place in Toronto on October 1st, and should the lumbermen here have to wait until this date before knowing what limits they will have to work, or whether they can purchase or not, it simply means a repetition next summer of this year's experience, or the other alternative of their making contracts with the American loggers, which means a loss of \$100,000 to \$123,000 to our town, which would all be spent in the States instead of here as before, besides leaving some 800 men idle. The supplies required for camps also amounts to about \$100,000, a large portion of which is purchased in Rat Portage, and this also would be lost to the district.

This is a very serious condition of affairs for Rat Portage and this end of the district, and the Government should at once take some steps to put these limits in a shape, so that the lumbermen will not be so seriously inconvenienced as they were last year. All the improvements needed to bring out their logs next spring requires to be done this fall, so that advantage can be taken of the high water when the snow goes off, and if no permits are issued, or arrangements made for the lumbermen here this year, they will be placed in the same position as this summer, causing a serious loss to themselves, and more particularly to our town, unless they close arrangements with the American loggers for their supply, which might answer their purpose, but would result disastrosly for the public.

We understand that the lumbermen intend petitioning the Government to grant permits in order that they may get to work at once, and we trust that in the interests of the town the prever of their petition will be granted immediately, as the Government have already realized a good price under the permit system for their timber.

A representative of THE LUMBERMAN on seeing the above called upon the Hon A S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and found that gentlemen with the petition above referred to before him. "I have just returned to the city," said the Commissioner, "and while I have seen considerable in the papers regarding the difficulty complained of by the lumbermen in the Rainy River district, I have not as yet had time to examine into the matter." "Do you think that any concession will be made to the lumbermen by the Government?" was asked. "That I cannot say at present, but if after leoking into the matter we find any change in our present plans desirable it will certainly be made. I have invariably considered the interests of the lumber trade in all matters affecting limits, and will endeavor to act in justice to them in the present instance. Beyond this I can say nothing at present." The permit system has been in force during permit system has been in force during the past two years, and the Government does not wish to longer continue it. This is the first sale that has been announced to take place in the Rainy River country, notice of which was given during the last session of parliament. The Commissioner assured our representative that the Government would much prefer to hold these him is for some time to come, but as the lumbermen seemed anxious to buy they were accord-ingly being put up. It is to be hoped that some amicable arrangement will be carried out whereby the lumbermen will be able to conduct their operations with-out being forced to buy American logs for next seasons cut. Doubless before another week transpires a solution of the difficulty will be arrived at.

### FIRE RECORD.

FIRE RECORD.

On the morning of August 15th the large planing mill and lumber yard owned by Messrs. Scott & Cross and located at 34 Hayter street, Toronto, were totally destroyed by fire, together with all the machinery, tools and material in process of manufacture. The damage in the mill and yard will amount to about \$10,000, and is insured in the City of London Co. for \$1,800. The factory was one of the largest in the city, was of modern structure and, as usual, contained material of a highly inflammable character. A number of dwelling houses adjoining were also demolished. molished.

A fire in the lumber yards of Killaby & Kennedy, at Lindsay, Ont., on Aug. 17th, occasioned a loss of about \$1,200, fully covered by insurance.

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