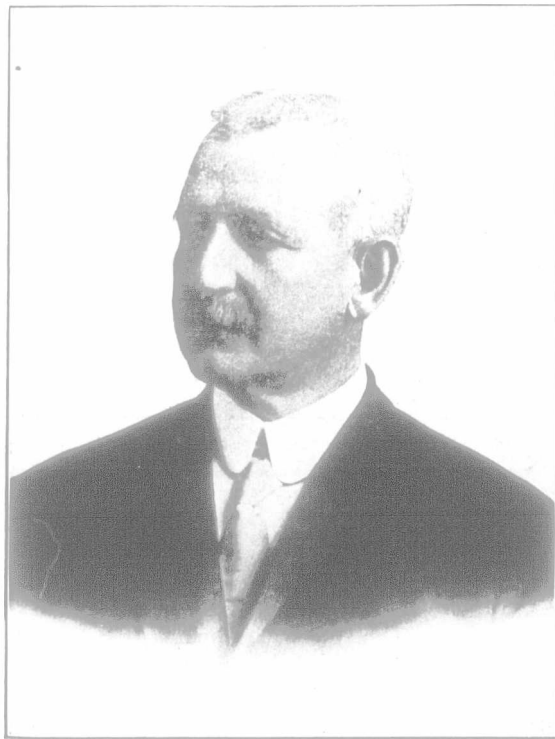


wealth of the Dominion than any other series of water courses in the land.

About 1815 a Mr. Story built a sawmill on the Ottawa; and it is stated that when the man in charge "gigged" back the carriage for a fresh cut he would sit down on the log and eat his dinner, which would be about finished when the cut was done. Robert Gourley in his "Statistical Account of Upper Canada," published in 1818,



W. G. CLARKE, Lumberman of Bear River, N.S.

mentions that sawmills of the best construction were in operation on an island in the Ottawa River opposite the higher part of Hawkesbury Township, on a scale superior to that of any other in the province. "The business seemed to be carried on with great spirit, about fourscore people being employed in the works on the island." A regular export trade had grown up from Hawkesbury after the pioneer activities of George Hamilton in 1811.

In 1823 there were nine sawmills existing in the Ottawa district. In 1826 the City of Ottawa, was covered with bush and had only one house on the present site of the Upper Town. By 1831, the date of the completion of the Rideau Canal, it had about one hundred and fifty houses. Thereafter it grew rapidly, and Hull, the original centre became practically a suburb.

The governors of Upper Canada, who in some cases had been given elaborate instructions concerning a survey that should be made prior to the cutting of timber by settlers, gave practically no attention to these instructions, mainly for the reason that the forest resources seemed inexhaustible.

Development in Legislation.

The earliest steps to secure a revenue from the forests on Crown lands were taken in 1826, when a system was inaugurated on the ungranted land of the Ottawa River valley under which any one who desired to participate in the lumber business should pay certain dues, approximately 2 cents a foot. A diameter limit of 8 inches (square timber) was imposed, and for all but sticks under such dimensions a double charge was made.

In 1827 a surveyor general of woods and forests was appointed in Upper Canada, whose duties were to survey

the forests in the Province and state what timber areas should be maintained for the use of the Home Government. Timber which was not needed for the navy was sold at an upset price on condition that it should be cut within nine months and paid for within fifteen months. Official scalers were appointed to act under these regulations. The system, however, was very loose owing to the fact that political favorites and influential men were able to secure large grants of land, and it was therefore more customary to receive the land in fee simple than to pay dues. The returns for timber licences in Upper Canada in the year 1827 amounted to \$360. The practice of granting to the licensees vast quantities of timber with indefinite boundaries and the consequent disputes among the lumbermen were coupled at this time with another abuse of taking the notes of Quebec lumber shippers in lieu of the bonds of the original licensee. This involved a payment to the government long after the timber was sold in Great Britain, and further meant that in bad years practically no money was received by the government.

Following the Rebellion of 1837-38, and Lord Durham's report in 1840, an improvement came in the method of alienating timber. Prior to this time many hundreds of millions of acres of land had been sold outright because lumbermen saw that it was cheaper to buy the land than to pay dues upon it. Licenses were issued for a limited period and the option principle was thoroughly established. Further legislation, embodying the limiting of licensees to a certain length of frontage on a river was passed in 1842 and 1846, and in 1849 the Legislative Assembly took up the matter of the renewal of licenses and the establishment of a minimum cut upon the lumbermen cutting. There had been a tendency to over-production, which danger was dealt with in the year 1849, when the Legislative Assembly appointed a select committee to enquire into the lumber trade. The committee recommended that the deposit system should be abolished and that ground rents should be charged.



R. H. CAMPBELL, Dom. Director of Forestry

First Licenses.

Following immediately upon this was the first Canadian timber license legislation. The guiding principle of this