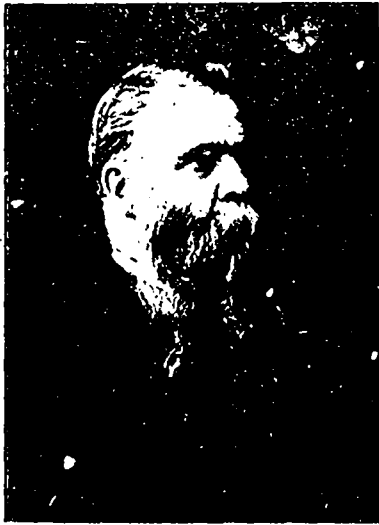


### ONTARIO CROWN TIMBER AGENTS.

SUCH are the relations existing between crown timber agents and lumbermen that no apology should be necessary for placing before our readers the accompanying portraits and particulars of the gentlemen to whom is entrusted the supervision of the cutting of timber in Ontario. The portraits appearing herewith do not represent the complete staff of crown timber agents, several photos not having come to hand at time of going to press. These we hope to make subjects of the engraver's art in our next issue.

MR. J. B. MCWILLIAMS.

Located at Peterboro', and having charge of the Midland division, is Mr. J. B. McWilliams,



MR. J. B. MCWILLIAMS, Peterboro'.

who is also superintendent of woods and forests for the entire province, which appointment was made on the 15th of May, 1894. Mr. McWilliams may be said to be a thorough Canadian, his father coming to Canada from Ireland when only eight years of age and settling in the county of Peterboro'. He was born in the township of Belmont in the year 1845, and removed with the family to Peterboro' in 1857, being educated at Norwood and Peterboro' grammar schools. At the age of nineteen years he launched into business on his own account, conducting a successful carriage-making trade for seven years, employing eighteen hands. In 1869, owing to ill-health, he disposed of his business and accepted the position of deputy-sheriff for the county of Peterboro', and three years later, in February, 1872, was appointed crown timber agent for the Midland division, a position for which he was well fitted, having obtained an early training with his father, who was an extensive lumberman in the pioneer days of the province.

Although not aspiring to public honors, Mr. McWilliams has filled a number of offices in the gift of the municipality. In 1877 he was elected a member of the town council, was a director of the Agricultural Society for 1885 and 1886, and in the latter year was appointed Justice of the Peace. He was elected to the School Board by acclamation for four successive years, then retiring, and at the last municipal contest was again elected to the town council by the largest vote ever polled in the town by any candidate. For fifteen years Mr. McWilliams held the position of County Master of the Orangemen, and has also been Deputy Grand Master and Grand Director for Ontario East. His name has been frequently

before the Liberal conventions as candidate for the House of Commons and local legislature, but he has refused to accept the honor. Mr. McWilliams served in the Fenian raid as a member of the old Peterboro' Rifles, and many an interesting incident can he relate.

MR. WM. MARGACH.

Mr. Wm. Margach, who has charge of the Rainy River district, was born in Scotland in 1837 and came to Canada when twenty years of age. He entered the service of the Ontario government in 1879 as superintendent of colonization roads, and was appointed crown timber agent for the district of Thunder Bay in August, 1882, being transferred to district of Rainy River in 1888, with headquarters at Rat Portage.

The boundaries of the district under Mr. Margach's able management extend from Hunter's Island to the north of Minnesota, thence along the international boundary to the north-west angle of Lake of the Woods, a distance of 200 miles, thence north along the western boundary of Ontario to English river, 100 miles, easterly along same river to the eastern end of Lake Seul, 200 miles, and thence south to south-east end of Hunter's Island. In this territory there are large quantities of red and white pine, which is manufactured at Rat Portage for the western market. There are large quantities of pine on the height of land and on the small rivers not yet sold on account of the distance from market. This objection, Mr. Margach claims, would be overcome by the construction of a railway to the south of the C. P. R. But pine is not the only valuable timber to be found in this district, as there is probably no part of the province of Ontario where such large quantities of spruce exist. For a distance of 80 miles along the Rainy river, with a depth of 10 miles, the land is largely covered with spruce and poplar timber, while along other rivers spruce is also to be found in large quanti-



MR. WILLIAM MARGACH, Rat Portage.

ties. These rivers furnish immense water powers, which at no distant date will be utilized in the manufacture of pulp. About half of the territory is covered by water, and many of the lakes abound in fish. As the population of Manitoba and the Territories increase, Mr. Margach looks for a marked improvement in the lumber trade of that section. There is now large quantities of ties taken out for the C.P.R., probably about 500,000 each season, as well as stove bolts for the Lake of the Woods Milling Co.

MR. HUGH MUNRO.

The territory known as the Thunder Bay agency is under the supervision of Mr. Hugh Munro, whose headquarters are at Port Arthur. It extends from a line running north from the mouth of the Michipicoton river to a point near Fort Henley, on the Albany river, thence west to a line running from the east end of Hunter's Island north to a point between Lac Seul and Lake Joseph, the Albany river being the northern boundary and Lake Superior and the international boundary the southern. The area is probably over 60,000 square miles. The principal timber in the district is spruce, with areas of Norway and white pine, which as far as known would amount to 250,000,000 feet B.M. Owing to the



MR. HUGH MUNRO, Port Arthur.

depression in the lumber business, the amount cut of late years has not exceeded five million feet. The territory north of the C. P. R. track is yet unexplored, either for timber or minerals.

Mr. Munro was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the year 1833, and came with his parents to New York city in 1836, attending the public schools until apprenticed with a firm of artificers in marble, for whom he became foreman. For a time afterwards he studied medicine, then went into business in New York as a member of the firm of Dillanay, Foster & Co., sculptors and artificers in marble, and in 1858 engaged in general contracting, but owing to ill-health was compelled to give up the business. He then removed to Canada, settling in West Zorra, where he taught school for several years, afterwards devoting his attention to farming. In 1863 Mr. Munro was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the county of Oxford, and in 1882 received a similar appointment for the district of Algoma. In 1872 he was appointed Clerk of Works under the late Archibald McKellar, afterwards holding a similar position under the late Alexander McKenzie. Owing to political changes his services were dispensed with, when he removed with his family to Texas, where a partnership was formed to survey, explore and assay minerals. While there he was induced to associate with a Galveston company to go to Mexico to explore and purchase mines; made examinations of various mines, but was compelled by ill-health to resign his position of managing superintendent and return to Canada. He was reinstated in his former position by the late C. F. Fraser in 1882, and was in Rat Portage during the transition period. In May, 1889, he was transferred to the Crown