

factory. This was possibly the greatest thrill experienced by the settlers, when the first Railway train laying steel reached there in the fall of 1896. The school children from Birchdale school, hurried down the Railway grade toward Scotia to get a first glimpse of the track laying crew.

Lumbering has always been the main industry of Kearney. In recent years some had high hopes of it becoming a mining centre, but nothing of any real value materialized. Lately, too, since the improvement of roads, and travelling facilities, the tourist industry has flourished. As we mentioned the first mill operated about 1890, and by the late John Labay. The chair factory was called the "Munn Lumber Co." and was operated by the youngest McGill son, Tom. It is interesting to note the price the farmers got for their logs, 50¢ for a clear birch log 16 ft. long, and not less than 14 inches in diameter, or about \$5.00 per thousand board feet to-day worth much, much more. In 1908 the chair factory was destroyed by fire. Other industries operating on this site were, saw mill by the Canada Pine Lumber Co; a Charcoal plant, operated by Standard Chemical Co. and the present plant of Merritts.

The present mill operated by the Thomson Lumber Co, was formerly owned and operated by the Shortreed Lumber Co. There is also in Kearney, a mill which turns out bucket bottoms, operated by Mr. Anderson.

For many years Mr. A. J. Woodruff operated a Blacksmith shop. The shop