

LUMBERING IN SIMCOE IN THE EARLY DAYS

The Canadian Lumberman's annual number for 1922 is, as usual, full of matter of great interest, not only to those engaged in the lumber business, but to the general reader. Among the articles is one by Mr. W. O. Fisher of Barrie, dealing with lumbering in Simcoe fifty or sixty years ago. Mr. Fisher says:

Previous to 1880, several townships in the County of Simcoe, Ontario, were covered with a thick growth of large white pine. I remember the growth of timber which stood on the Township of Tossoronto, where pine trees two to three feet in diameter and larger stood so thickly that no undergrowth existed. On ridges they grew almost as thick as a stand of red oak. The land upon which this splendid timber flourished is sandy and, when the townships adjacent were settled by English, Irish and Scotch emigrants, the pine covered areas in the county were considered worthless and for that reason the timber was left for years in its original state. The pine and oak lands were offered at fifty cents per acre, with no interested buyers.

The adjacent Township of Mulmur which originally was covered with rock elm, maple, beech and other hardwoods, was settled by Old Country people, and the soil when cleared was found to be ideal for growing wheat and for general mixed farming. While these early settlers had no use for the pine lands for agricultural purposes, they were not averse to taking some of the choicest trees and hewing therefrom the timber necessary to build their barns and houses, as well as taking out sufficient logs for roofing, sheeting and shingles. Nothing but the choicest trees would be accepted.

In manufacturing the logs into lumber, the method applied was to hew two sides and line the sticks into one-inch lines. A pit was dug, skids laid across the pit, the flattened log placed and the work of sawing was done with a whip-saw. Very straight-grained logs were selected and shingles were riven from these by hand. Some of these old-time barns remain today, and the timbers that were erected fifty or sixty years ago are in a perfect state of preservation.

Some years after this small sawmills were erected. The equipment of these early plants consisted of one upright saw, known as a Moolay saw, usually driven by water-power. It is said in those pioneer days the sawyer in these mills could go to dinner after starting his saw in the log, return, and have a good smoke before the board would be cut off.

About 1878 Mr. Robert Laidlaw, now of Toronto, purchased one thousand acres of this timber for \$5.00 per acre and erected what was then considered an up-to-date sawmill with a capacity of about 25,000 feet per day. He sold this as a going concern to a firm in Hamilton, who, after it had the property, built a pole road through the limit to the mill. The pole road proved a success. Cars with two flanges on the wheel were used and with this equipment a team could haul more than it was possible to do on snow-roads with sleighs in the winter.

Skidding of logs was done with ox-teams. The driver, with the help of one man to cut trails, swung together fourteen loads. The same small gang with the oxen loaded them on sleighs during the winter season. Along the pole road, skidways were built and during the spring, summer and fall season, horse teams and trucks were engaged in hauling to the skidways accumulating logs in readiness for cars operating on the road.

Previous to the time this mill was operated there was a mill in operation at Tioga, owned by Mr. Depew of Rochester, N.Y. This mill, which contained two circular saws, had run night and day for several years. This was prior to the period when the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway, which ran from Toronto to Collingwood, had been in operation for years. The distance from the Tioga mill to Angus, which was the shipping point, was about twelve miles, and the method employed for delivering lumber to the shipping point was by means of a tramway, which gave good service.

The sleepers of the tramway were flatted Norway pines and the rails used were two by four hard maple. The tramway passed through the Depew limit but was never used as a log road until the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway was built, when, having no use for it as a means of hauling lumber, it was utilized for hauling logs to the mill. The power for the mill was obtained from the Pine River, and having a large pond, the greater portion of the stock was banked during the winter. Timber as large as 12 x 16, 50 to 60 feet long, and was sawn in this mill.

In the earlier days great quantities

ties of waney lumber and masts were taken off these lands. Old-timers say quite frequently as many as 50 teams with sleighs, loaded with waney timber and masts, would take their loads into Angus each day in the winter. This waney timber was conveyed to Toronto by the old Northern Railway and dumped in Toronto bay where it was made into rafts and floated through Lake Ontario down the St. Lawrence River to Quebec, at which place it was taken out of the water and gone over by expert hewers before it was loaded on sailing vessels for the Old Country markets.

On the pine plains and where Camp Borden now is, the growth was largely Norway pine, and in places the timber grew so thickly it was small and very tall and straight. Great quantities of these small Norway pine poles, five or six inches at the butt, and three or four inches at thirty feet, were taken out and used in building rafts of square timber. These were known as "Traverse Poles."

Regarding the oak to which I have referred, much of this was sawn into car sills 4 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 33 ft. 6 in., as well as other smaller sizes and shorter lengths. This was used by the C. P. R. in the erection of cars at their shop in Perth.

The sawmills in those days ran summer and winter; the hours of work being from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour for dinner. Wages were \$18.00 per month and board; married men \$28.00 per month and free house.

In this particular locality the event of the year (and this was the only event in those days) was the 12th of July. The old Hamilton and Northwestern Railway would run excursions on those days to Alliston, Collingwood or wherever the demonstration was held. The equipment supplied the celebrants for their excursions consisted of one wheezy, wood-burning locomotive. Attached to this were box-cars with planks arranged around the inside for seats, and sometimes when box-cars were scarce, flat cars would be used. On these, in addition to the plank seats, a stout railing of the same material was built around the cars to prevent the human cargo from spilling on the right of way. This precaution for safety was not as necessary on the outward-bound trip as it was on the return journey.

Squirrel whiskey was dispensed in those days at five cents per drink, or six or eight treats for twenty-five cents. A fair-sized tumbler and a full bottle were placed before the prospective imbibers and the dispenser of the fluid obligingly looked the other way while patrons poured out their doses. Those "boys" would go away for the day with \$1.00 and would return at night with a jag that held them for a year.

Yet there were other events during the winter months; that is, the old-fashioned dances that would occasionally be held, where the man with the strongest voice would be selected to "call off." Those old-time lumberjacks when the exhortation came to "swing your partner" could do it with a will.

I mentioned that the hours of work were 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. This entailed rising in the morning at 5 a.m. The man first down had the pleasure of breaking the ice on the bucket of water that was provided for the morning ablution.

The menu was seldom changed and consisted principally of fat pork, potatoes, bread, and sometimes, not always, butter. This was washed down with strong tea and sometimes milk. Occasionally, but not often, sugar was on the table. Perhaps once a week soup would be provided for dinner. No orchestra was needed, as those "boys" showed their appreciation of this liquid refreshment in no silent manner. It was apparent to all without words. The act of inhalation was their simple testimony of its goodness and a stringed band of instruments would have no chance with that crowd of soup-swallowers.

The stately pines of Simcoe are gone. The sand that produced those trees remains as also do the blackened, charred stumps. The soil that grew those wonderful denizens of the forest remains idle, unfit for agriculture. To what better purpose could it be used than to grow a second crop of pine? The old dam on the Pine River is no more and the stream that filled the mill-pond, then known as a river, is today only a small creek which flows into the Nottawasaga River, the latter eventually emptying into Georgian Bay.

BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICES
Rev. E. Cameron, B.A., B.Th., Pastor.
Sunday, October 22, 1922
11.00 A.M.—Christ's Gifts to His Church.
7.00 P.M.—Why Not Save Fuel and Close all the Churches for the Winter?

PEOPLE WILL TALK

We may go through the world, but 'twill be very slow
If we listen to all that is said as we go;
We'll be worried, and fretted, and kept in a stew,
For meddling tongues must have something to do.
People will talk.

If quiet and modest, 'twill then be presumed
That your humble position is one you've assumed.
You're a "wolf in sheep's clothing," or else you're a fool,
But don't get excited, keep perfectly cool.
People will talk.

If generous and noble, they'll vent out their spleen,
You'll hear some one hint you're selfish and mean;
If upright and honest, and fair as the day,
They'll call you a rogue in a sly, sneaking way.
For "people will talk."

And then, if you show the least boldness of heart,
Or a slight inclination to take your own part,
They'll call you an upstart, conceited and vain,
But keep straight ahead, don't stop to explain,
For "people will talk."

If threadbare your coat, or old-fashioned your dress,
Some one, of course, will take notice of this,
And hint rather close that you can't pay your way.
But don't get excited, whatever they say.
People will talk.

If you dress in the fashion, don't think to escape,
They'll criticize then in a far different shape;
You're ahead of your means, or your bills are unpaid.
But, mind your own business, and keep straight ahead,
For "people will talk."

FATHERS CERTAINLY ARE FUNNY
Fathers are the funniest things—
When a girl her fellow brings
Home with her, they're not like mother;
She looks pleased. Somehow or other,
Dad acts very different from her;
Very nearly scares your fellow
Red and white and green and yellow—
Shakes his hand but wears a frown,
Looks him up and looks him down.
Acts as though he scented danger.
Like our bulldog with a stranger.
Hangs around the house or yard.
Seems to sort of keep on guard.
Like his daughter was his money—
Fathers certainly are funny.

Fathers are the funniest things—
When you're married, when the rings
On your finger, when you're keeping
House and come to mother weeping
All about a little spat
You and hubby have been at,
Mother always sympathizes;
But your father sort of sizes
Up the situation, then
Says, "Now, you run home again,
Stop your crying, stop your fussing
I don't blame the boy for cussing"
Always takes the fellow's part!
Hope to die and cross my heart
When your man you've married,
honey,
Fathers certainly are funny.

WHISKY-MAKING IN CULROSS
(Walkerton Telescope.)
License Inspector White, Provincial Constable Blood and three outside officers conducted a "still" hunt out in Culross on Tuesday. Al "Winkie" Smith's in Tinkertown, they located a whisky-making plant.

"Winkie" wasn't at home when the officers called but when he is located he will receive a pressing invitation to appear before Magistrate McNab. The officers found a barrel of whiskey-mash on the farm of Neil McDonald, concession 14. McDonald was arrested and brought to town where he was released on bail. He will be tried by Magistrate McNab next Wednesday.

SLID DOWN ROOF, BUT UNHURT
(Thornbury Herald.)

Jack Carroll had an experience the other day that was a hair-raiser while it lasted and made him think of the things he had done and other things he had left undone. While laying a roof out at Mr. Irwin's, in some manner he lost his footing and commenced sliding down with a little more speed than was comfortable. Upon reaching the edge of the roof he caught hold of the eaves-trough and hung there until a ladder was secured and put under him, relieving him from his perilous position.

ONE WAY TO GET AN EDUCATION

Some time ago, writes a subscriber to The Youth's Companion, I was travelling in Europe with a young lady who lived in a small town way Down East in Maine, and who was more generally informed in the history, literature, art and music of the countries we visited than those who had lived in and had the advantages of a large city. "Where were you educated?" I asked. "I was brought up in my home town and on The Youth's Companion," was her reply. And the same liberal education is in The Companion for anyone who will seek it. Try it for a year and see.

The 52 issues of 1923 will be crowded with serial stories, editorials, poetry, facts and fun. Subscriptions received at this office:
1. The Youth's Companion—52 issues in 1923.
2. All the remaining issues of 1922.
3. The Home Calendar for 1923. All for \$2.50.
4. Or include McCall's Magazine, the monthly authority on fashions. Both publications, only \$3.00.
THE YOUTH'S COMPANION,
Commonwealth Ave. & St. Paul St., Boston, Mass.

Subscriptions received at this office. Lots of men who started out in life with a hoe are now going back to the land with a mashie niblick.—Toronto Star.



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PARRY SOUND MINISTER HUNTS O. T. A. OFFENDERS

The Baptist ministry has provided a License Inspector who has become a terror to O.T.A. offenders. It is a very rare week John Atkins, called Tommy Atkins by his friends, and Spracklin, Jr., by his enemies does not land some violator of the Ontario Temperance Act. Provincial Officer Charles H. Knight and Mr. Atkins make a good team. Their latest capture was that of Alfred Parton, a well-to-do resident of Mill Lake, on whose premises was found a well-

equipped still for the manufacture of illicit whiskey, and two 60-gallon barrels in which were a hundred gallons of mash and a quantity of manufactured liquor were also captured. Parton was fined \$500.00 under the Excise Act and \$200.00 under the Ontario Temperance Act. Mr. Atkins' territory is in the Parry Sound District.

Queen's has some 275 students. Well, what more suitable university for 275 queens to come to?—Kingston Standard.

New Idea In Tooth Treatment

For many years scientists have been endeavoring to evolve a really effective method of cleansing and polishing the teeth, but credit is now given to The Nyal Company Limited, of Windsor, Ont., for having discovered the perfect dentifrice.

This new product is called NYAL PUMODENT—the modern Tooth Treatment, and consists of a Polishing Cream and a Tooth Paste in one package. The Polishing Cream contains powdered pumice and other special polishing ingredients which keep the teeth clean and bright, while Pumo-Dent Tooth Paste prevents acid mouth and similar conditions which cause tooth decay.

Price 50c. per pkg.

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