I left Toronto on the Great Western road, running from Toronto to Windsor, opposite Detroit, and as I remember the next train we met after leaving Toronto went through a bridge, causing such a great loss of life as to make it one of the worst accidents in this country at that time. I spent a day or two in Grand Rapids looking over the opportunity for lumbering and went from there to New Ago, by stage, and spent a day or two there. Found a man in New Ago from Glens Falls, N. Y., whom I had known. From there I went to Kalamazoo, took the Michigan Central back to Detroit, the Great Western to Niagara Falls, the New York Central to Rome, and from Rome to Ogdensburg by stage, and from Prescott, across the river from Ogdensburg to Ottawa by stage, reaching home after an absence of about three weeks. I had kept your mother advised by telegraph when I could, and by letter, but she, of course, as she always did, worried a good deal while I was away. After a day’s rest I resumed work at the Gatineau mills, satisfied that before attempting to go into the lumbering business in Michigan I ought to have more money than I had or knew where I could get it, and that I had better stick to my salary, which had been increased £1,500 a year, making $6,000.

REMAINED WITH THE GILMORES

One of the things I did in my second year with the Gilmores was to make what became a celebrated gang-edger. I had learned the necessity for a different method of edging lumber than by running it through on a small table and taking off one edging, then pulling the table back by hand and turning three inch plank over and taking off another edging. I conceived the idea, that, by having one moveable saw on a steel arbor, we could just as well have a rack or pinion on that table and drive it through by power, taking off both edgings at the same time. I got a millwright named Booth (now one of the largest lumbermen in Canada), to make for me a model. He did most of the work at night, in a small back room, where he had a bench and lamps. He and I made the model. On showing it
to Mr. Gilmore he was convinced it would work all right and told me to go to the machine shop in Ottawa that did work for them. I ordered five machines, three for the mills at the Gatineau and two for other mills, which proved to be a grand success.

A REJECTED OPPORTUNITY

The following winter Mr. Gilmore was in Quebec, and John Hamilton, M. P., of Hamilton Brothers, of Hawkinsburg, sixty miles below Ottawa, where they had large mills, met Mr. Gilmore and told him their millwright, a Mr. Lawler, had devised a great improvement for edging lumber, and that he was there with the model to make application for a patent. Mr. Hamilton told Mr. Gilmore something about the machine as he understood it, and Mr. Gilmore replied, "Why, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Lawler has no right to a patent on that edger; Mr. Ingram put three or four of them into our mills a year ago, and Mr. Lawler must have seen what he was working at in the machine shop at Ottawa, or he never would have gotten up a machine like that. He certainly saw one like that you have described in our mills." Mr. Hamilton replied, if that was the case, he could not have a patent, and he told Lawler that that edger was already in use, and that he could not have a patent on it. Mr. Lawler returned home in the spring, after our mills were started at the Gatineau, and came to see me. I had met him once or twice, once in Ottawa, and once at Hawkinsburg, at Hamilton mills. After looking over the mills, and as we were crossing the bridge between them, and were leaning over a railing at a point where I proposed putting in a resawing machine, he took a large envelope from his pocket and said to me, "Mr. Ingram, I feel that this belongs to you, instead of me." Asking him what it was, he said it was an application for a patent on that gang-edger. I told him I had no idea of getting a patent, that I had had it in use over a year, had it made in a machine shop in Ottawa, and that he had no right to a patent;