

was five miles down-river, the lumber being carried thence in a water-slide 30 inches wide and 15 inches deep, the water running into it from the dam and filling it a little more than half full. It took a large force of men to handle the lumber at the piling ground and keep the water-slide from jamming and throwing the lumber out, which made it necessary to stop the mill temporarily until the slide was cleared. In some places there were ravines of twenty to thirty feet, which made it a very serious matter to pick up the lumber, the slide having some very short curves, frequently causing jams. I said to Mr. Gilmore that I could remedy that trouble by straightening some of the curves and making the slide a battering-slide, or in other words, four inches wider at the top than at the bottom, in which case, if the plank lapped by each other a little, and formed a stoppage, the water would rise in the slide and liberate the lumber so it would move on.

#### WITH THE GILMORE COMPANY

I looked the situation over and decided to accept the offer of Mr. Gilmore of £1,000 Halifax currency (\$4,000) a year. He told me, in talking about the mills they had, that I would be expected, in a general way, to supervise the management of all of the mills. One mill was at Trenton, on the River Trent, nearly 200 miles from the Gatineau mills; another was on the Blaunch river, about twenty-five miles down river from Ottawa, or Bytown; another was a few miles further down, at Buckingham; another on the North Nation river, and another on the South Nation river, but the latter mills were not large. They also had a mill at Wolfe Cove, Quebec, and another at Indian Cove, Quebec. These latter mills were used for making needed repairs on their vessels for shipping their sawed lumber and hewed timber to London, Liverpool and Glasgow. He said I would be expected to go to each mill occasionally, as it might seem to them advisable. They had a large wholesale store for distributing point in the city of Ottawa, and a store at each of

the other plants. The store at Ottawa supplied their timber operations on the Ottawa and its tributaries above Ottawa. They got out a large amount of square timber that was hewed and rafted to Quebec, where it was taken into vessels for London, Liverpool and Glasgow. They also shipped large quantities of timber from New Brunswick, where their firm was known as the Gilmore & Rankin. Their firm name at London, Liverpool and Glasgow was Pollock & Gilmore, and their ships carried flags marked P. G., which the sailors said stood for "poor grub." The company had about six hundred vessels on the Atlantic and carried their own insurance.

When I went to the Gatineau mills I boarded with the son of the millwright, whose name was Petrie. He lived in one of the company's houses and two maiden sisters did the work. They were very Scotch, and there I got my first lesson in oatmeal porridge, which they made very thin, and for breakfast always had oatmeal porridge, some toast, and coffee. I ingratiated myself pretty well into the good graces of the son and the sisters, and occasionally took your mother there to spend a day or two with them. Afterwards Mr. Gilmore found out, and I presume through me, that his head-bookkeeper, of whom he had a good opinion, was drinking too much, and that his assistant bookkeeper, a young man from a good family in Ottawa, was also drinking too much, and that his head man at the piling ground was given to drinking too much. Mr. Gilmore came to the mills frequently and would sometimes stay over night with the old agent, an old Scotchman of whom he thought a good deal. Sometimes he spent his evenings with me, in a room in a wing connected with the store and office, and he suggested to me one evening that I put a couple of bedrooms in that wing, finish them up in such shape as I would like to have them, and that he would put in a library for me. He thought by that means I could have an eye on the help which he was afraid must in the end result in their being discharged, for when their work was done, at night, and the of-

office closed, they frequently went to a small village within half a mile of the mill, and would return to the store, where they had rooms, or to the house of the head bookkeeper, pretty well filled up, or under the influence of liquor. I fitted up the two bedrooms in good shape, with necessary furniture, and a sitting room and library were also put in.

I made it a point when I first went there to go home, to Ottawa, Saturday night, and return to the mill Monday morning. By the way, Mr. Gilmore volunteered to furnish me a house in Ottawa, also to keep my horse, or horses, as I saw fit to drive, at his own stable in Ottawa, which was back of the wholesale store, enclosed by a high wall, with a big gate which was kept closed; and when I came back I drove to the big gate, and rapped, and the hosler would take my horse, or horses. I usually reported at the office as soon as I got there, if I was there before it closed. I went to the city sometimes during the week and would get back to the mill after dark. On one or two occasions I found the bookkeeper and his assistant and the man from the piling ground having a high time, with bottles of whiskey and glasses galore in the room. It did not take me long to put a stop to that, and as they soon found it was uncertain when I went to the city what time I would be back, whether the same night or the next morning, that practice was soon broken up. (For your information, but not for others, I will tell you who those men were. The head bookkeeper was Mr. Keith, father of Tom and Lex Keith of this city, and husband of Mrs. Agnes Keith. The assistant bookkeeper was John Chitty, as bright a young man as I ever saw. The head man at the piling ground was Frank Donnelly, a right good man, but with the habit of drinking too much when he got a taste.) In order to have a better influence over Mr. Keith, at Mr. Gilmore's request, I changed my boarding place to Mr. Keith's house, and it was a pleasant place for me. His first wife was a very pleasant woman, and they had two sons.