

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 Hawkesburg, 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 Hawkesburg, 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;

that if I would get a patent I must take the oath of allegiance in Canada, which I had no idea of doing. "Well," he replied, "the best thing you can do is to get a patent on it, for it is a great invention." But I was foolish enough to let it go.

The year after I put the gang-edger in the Gatineau mills I had occasion to go to Glens Falls and there heard a good deal about the mills at Sandy Hill, particularly about a large mill, and I was curious to see it, and went there. They were sawing many spruce logs and were using the old fashioned edger. I told the millwright, whom I had met before, what I was using at the Gatineau mills. He was an ingenious fellow, and the first thing he did was to file a caveat for a patent, sending his model to Washington, but before a patent was issued he became sick and died. A Mr. Folsom, the machinist at Sandy Hill, knew what the millwright was working on, and negotiated with the widow for the patent, in case he secured it, which he did. By that time I was here in Eau Claire, and having had one gang-edger made at Watertown, N. Y., had it in operation in our mill here, and had ordered another for the mill of Chapman & Thorpe on the Eau Claire river. Mr. Folsom learned that I had an edger here before his patent was granted and came to Eau Claire, staying a day with me at the mill and at my house, and thus obtained a full history of the machine—when I had made it in Canada, when I had made one in Watertown, N. Y., to use here, etc. and tried to buy me off; said he would make an iron frame, complete gang-edger and give it to me to use in our own mill, or to sell, and finally, as an extra inducement, offered to give me a royalty on all the machines that would be used in this state if I would keep out of the way and give no information in regard to the invention if appealed to. I told him he didn't have money enough, and could not make machines enough, to hire me to do a thing of that kind; that he didn't have any right to a patent, and that the quicker he dropped the matter the better. But he was bullheaded and commenced suit against parties in Muskegon who had learned

from Mr. Tarrant, in charge of the Chapman & Thorpe mill, about this gang-edger, and had begun to get them out for the Michigan mills; and then the Stearns Company of Erie, Penn., got track of it and began to make a gang edger, each edger somewhat different from the other. But the main thing was a collar, or sleeve, that one or more saws could be put onto that could move on a feather or key in the mandrel or arbor of the edger when the edger was in motion. That they could not get by. That was absolutely essential, hence Folsom thought he had the first right, and the contention resulted in lawyers from Muskegon and Erie being sent here to take my depositions, as to when I made the first edger, when I made the one brought here, how long I had been using it, etc. That gang-edger had very little resemblance to the gang-edgers of the present time, but the great essential was the sleeve that could move with saws on it when the arbor was in motion. If I had been wise enough, or had acted upon advice received and obtained a patent, it would have been worth to me anywhere from fifteen to twenty or thirty millions of dollars.

#### AN EAU CLAIRE BREEZE

In the last year I was with Gilmore & Co. Mr. Dole, who was with Hamilton Brothers, fancied he wanted to go into business for himself and talked to me a good deal about it, and one day he said he was going to take a trip to the Mississippi river and see what was doing in lumbering. He went to St. Paul and met parties who had heard something about a boom in Eau Claire, and who gave him the name of the man who was booming the town, Adin Randall, and advised him to work his way back east through this country, which he would have to do by stage from St. Paul, through the woods to Menomonie, and from Menomonie here, the stage coming here once or twice a week. Mr. Randall persuaded Mr. Dole that this was one of the best towns for lumbering in this or any other country and showed him a little portable mill he had down near the canal.