

Pioneer Tribune Article

May 28th, 1884

A Couple of Hours At Thompson

On Monday last our reported, in company with D.W. Lewis, made a visit to the above named village and found that many improvements had taken place there since his last visit. Several new houses has been erected; a hall, in which to hold meetings is near completed. The firm of S.H. Davis & Co., of Detroit, have established an extensive fish depot on the dock and now employ 25 or 30 men; two tugs and many small boats; the fish is brought in, frozen and packed in refrigerator cars and every other day several car loads are shipped East on the Remora. This firm has got the fishing business down to a perfect system and now are enabled to lift 21 miles of net each day.

At the office of the Delta Lumbering Association, we clasped hands with E.T. Slayton, General Superintendent, and our old friend and former correspondent, W.W. Kelly, now attending to the books. Mr. Slayton, being also Supervisor of that township, was busy presiding over the deliberations of the Board of Review; but as no one came in to "kick" about the valuations of property, Mr. S has time to answer our many questions, which he appeared to take pleasure in so doing. From him we learned that early next week the road would be completed from there to the 9 mile lake and that it would be a good one when done, that a new schoolhouse would be erected this season in or near the village; that two liquor establishments had given bonds and that so far there were no violations of the law reported. He did not say it, but we are satisfied that his administration is giving general satisfaction.

Mr. Kelly then volunteered to "show us around" and in doing so gave us an opportunity to see many things that did not exist there one year ago. Changes had been made in the mill, another circular saw had been added, another boiler put in; so that now it is one of the liveliest and best arranged mills we have seen for a long time. Logs are continuously coming into the mill and the lumber as continuously going out on cars to the docks. These logs are brought on cars from where the trees are felled; a distance of over five miles, a locomotive, under the charge of that prince of engineers, J.A. Robinson, drawing nine cars, making six trips a day. The Company have walled in with substantial docks a pond of several acres into which the logs are thrown and from there the mill gets its raw material to manufacture into lumber. When the lumber is run on to the dock it is well piled ready for shipping. While we were there the Starke was taking on a load the Phalow came in and Capt. Thompson wanted her located instanter. The most of this lumber is sent to the Chicago market. The work of the Company has been to build more substantial docks than in former years and the result is a good harbor. While looking around we espied E.L. Thompson, of Detroit, President of the Association and had a few moments chat; he is as lively and as full of business as ever. We are glad to know that he will bring his family up to spend the warm months in one of the beautiful cottages of that village. The Company have another mill, under the charge of Joseph Walsh, near Seney, from which lumber will be shipped by way of St. Ignace. The men we found in command at Thompson, all of whom seem to be the "right men" etc., were friend Slayton, on the lookout for the interest of all; J.H. McClennen, Superintendent of the mill; J.L. Jewell, manager of the boarding house; Mason in the store and Kelly supreme ruler over books, time and cash. There were several other gentlemen that would have been interviewed had we not found them too busy to talk. We saw much and we learned more, that made us fee that the visit was a profitable one. As we now have telephone convection with that place, our readers will year all the news of that locality up to the hour of going to press twice a week.