

Cutting timber was under the control of the superintendent of forestry. "Permits to cut were granted only to actual settlers within fifty miles radius of the nearest reserve boundary line and only to those settlers with an insufficient supply on their own homestead. This must all be of a specified quantity and type. Timber cut without permits was seized by the rangers and double duties charged. If these were not paid the timber was sold at public auction. Only portable saw mills were allowed, mill owners received permission to utilize tracts of timber, the trees to be cut must first be marked by rangers."

Following the act of 1906 a general inventory of the Riding Mountain Reserve was made under the direction of Jas. R. Dickson, assistant inspector of forest reserves for Canada. Art Bickerstaff preserved one of the original copies of this survey.

Three excursions were made into the reserve, the first in the summer of 1906, starting at Dauphin under the charge of H. C. Wallwin. In spite of an extremely wet season with almost impassable trails, 337 square miles were covered.

The following year, 1907, was even wetter. Under H. D. Ross a party entered the reserve west of McCreary and attempted to work toward Clear Lake. Progress was impossible; the group returned and chose for entry a point south of Kelwood.

"We managed to cover one hundred and seventy square miles in spite of difficult conditions. The terrain was hilly, miles of wagon road had to be cut and several cordwood bridges were constructed. Added to our many vexations were millions of mosquitoes which retained their tenure from June to September."

The season of 1908 proved more successful. J. R. Dickson assumed charge and led a party of eleven, starting at the village of Ochre River.

"We followed the Ochre River Trail to Clear Lake, a distance of about forty miles, working the trail on both sides. Lack of interior trails forced us to go west by way of the Galician settlement bordering the south side of the reserve, enter the Birdtail Valley, along Russell, Fisher and Gamblez trails."

The party covered about six hundred and sixty square miles that season, mapping and studying as they surveyed, for a total of one thousand, one hundred and sixty-seven square miles for the three years.

The object of this three-year survey was "to learn the quantity of timber remaining; to map the existing trails, water courses