

ROCKEFELLER TOWN FACES ITS END

Railroad Now to Remove Station from Brandon, in Heart of His Adirondack Estate.

TWENTY FOLK LEFT OF 1,200

Lumber Mills, Homes, and Stores Under William Rockefeller's Hand Have Passed from Sight.

Special to The New York Times.

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., April 7.—The news that the New York Central wants to abandon the station of the New York & Ottawa Railroad at Brandon and that the road asked permission to do this of the Public Service Commission in Albany yesterday has reached Brandon, and the townspeople are disconsolate. There are only 20 of them all told, occupying four houses, that remain of the once prosperous village of 1,200 people.

Seldom do any of the twenty have occasion to use the railroad station; scarcely ever do they take a ride upon the trains, but the abandonment of the station which now is threatened marks for them the end of the long fight to preserve the town from destruction at the hands of William Rockefeller, whose big estate now surrounds it on all sides, and who, house by house, has bought up the homes and stores of the little town and razed them.

Patrick Ducey, a lumberman, built up the town. He created lumber mills, attracted home builders to the locality, and helped build the railroad. A church was established, schools were opened, stores and hotels built, and the place became a trade centre for a large territory.

The mills and the lumbering operations gave employment to hundreds of men. The community came to number 1,200 or more persons, and Brandon, the railroad station, was the point of exchange of a great volume of Adirondack business. Twenty years ago tourists bound for the St. Regis lakes, Paul Smith's, and the Saranacs arrived via Brandon. To the city man Brandon and its neighborhood was a fishing and hunting resort. To the lumber worker and the guide the town was the centre of social activities.

Each new house built by a woodsman or a merchant exceeded the previous effort in architecture and comfort. "Pat" Ducey's mills hummed night and day. The supplies of timber seemed endless; there was enough money; it was the heyday in the affairs of what at that time was one of the most important towns of Northern New York.

Entering into this life came William Rockefeller and his sons, fishermen, hunters, and campers. "Pat" Ducey extended to them the privilege of camping at Bay Pond, a few miles from Brandon, where there were trout and deer. The newcomers were delighted with the spot, and when Mr. Rockefeller found that he could purchase the Ducey tract he got an option upon it. The tract surrounded Brandon.

Then one day Mr. Rockefeller's agent bought for \$50,000 the tract for which \$75,000 had been asked, and immediately began the destruction of Brandon. Mr. Rockefeller became a power in the New York & Ottawa Railroad. He purchased village plot after village plot. Then at Bay Pond he built the great camp where the members of the Rockefeller family now gather in Summer. Mr. Rockefeller added to his purchases, and his holdings came to embrace 100,000 acres, completely surrounding the town of Brandon. He scattered the Ducey mills, closed his vast estates to all trespassers, and purchased houses upon terms that required their removal or destruction.

Presently wind-blown sand plots and wild grass and berry bushes overspread streets and cottage sites. People avoided Brandon; trains stopped less frequently at the town. The Post Office was abandoned and the community reduced to twoscore persons. The man who held out to make a home in Brandon or who sought to follow the trails and streams which always had been free, found the Rockefeller circle closed about him.

The purchase of the Ducey tract and the great forest which has been combined with it has been a profitable investment. The hemlock timber, which had never been cut, was marketed by Mr. Rockefeller, and the now houseless town and its environs will yield a profit ultimately in nature's reforestation of the denuded tracts. Mr. Rockefeller has said that investments of the character of his at Brandon will net 12 per cent.

Incidentally, the town of Brandon has been destroyed.

JUSSERAND SAILS FOR FRANCE

Ambassador Goes with Lighter Heart Since Tariff Dispute Is Settled.

The French Ambassador, Jules J. Jusserand, sailed yesterday with Mme. Jusserand on the French liner Lorraine. They will be gone about four months. The Ambassador expressed satisfaction over the tariff agreements between this country and his own.

"The situation is much brighter than when I returned from France a few months ago," he said. "At that time I was not in a happy frame of mind over the situation, though the French people were persistent in their belief that the good sense of the American people would lead to an understanding and amicable arrangements. Their faith has been justified, and the bonds between the two countries have been strengthened."

Someone asked the Ambassador whether Col. Roosevelt would have a good time in Paris.

"Certainly he will, everybody has a good time there," he replied with a smile.