

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

May 16, 1896

A state of war exists between competing timber companies as to the control of the log driving dams on the Fence River. It has been reported that through the malicious work by persons, two dams were destroyed along the river which is used to float 15 million board feet of logs to eventual market for sawmills at the mouth of the Menomonee River. The gates of were pulled and then broken off and allowed to float away. The loss of water and other damage will delay the log drive considerably. A large crew of Hamilton-Merryman (aka Fence River Improvement Co.) is now guarding the dam sites. The Fence River Logging Company's crew of sixty men attacked the 25 men guarding the dams and finally captured and destroyed the structures. The Hamilton-Merryman Company operates the upper dams while the Fence River Logging Company controls the lower dams with both companies wanting to use the river for driving purposes. The Hamilton-Merryman Timber Company is estimating a loss of \$10,000 and has initiated legal action against the Fence River Timber Company for the damage done to their operations.