

# CNR Ice-house At Capreol *Jan 21* A Busy Place

## SPECIAL TO THE STAR

CAPREOL — During the past week, the CNR ice-house was the scene of busy activities. The Pelican Lake Ice Company, of Sioux Lookout, Ont., under the supervision of William and Chester Carlbom, filled the ice-house.

With a fleet of seven three-ton trucks and 62 employees, the ice-house was filled in a record 6½ days. The operation was extremely well organized.

The first step is cutting the ice with a power-driven saw. Long strips of ice are cut length-ways and then cross-ways.

Each block is approximately three feet long, 12 inches thick and 16 inches wide.

The power saw does not cut right through the ice because the blade cannot come into contact with any water.

A man with a hand saw cuts through the remaining few inches.

By pike pole, the ice is kept going along. A chiseler keeps all ice blocks apart and a man shovels slush off any ice. Then, by means of a large hook, 10 to 12 blocks of ice are pulled onto a platform which can accommodate four trucks at once.

From here, the ice is transported to the ice-house and lifted in by means of a cage.

Inside the house, Indians pack all the ice. According to a reliable source, they are the best ice-packers in the business. An example of the efficiency is the delivering and packing of 500 tons in six hours. Each block of ice weighs approximately 600 pounds. On account of this efficiency, the Pelican Lake Ice Company now has contracts with the CNR and CPR.

After an ice-house is filled, the task of covering all ice with sawdust remains and this is done by a power shovel. As for the Pelican Company, their ice season ends in March and for the remaining nine months, most of the employees leave for different occupations.