

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 5, 1896

Keweenaw Land Association Limited has settled seventeen disputes with homesteaders on the west side of Iron County. The homesteaders received cash payments for the pine timber removed by Keweenaw and clear title to their land which totaled 2,680 acres. The history of the disputed property, mainly located in northwestern part of the county, dates back to 1856 when the federal government made a grant of 16,000 acres to the State of Michigan to aid in construction of a railroad from Ontonagon to the Wisconsin state line. In 1866 a grant of 900,000 acres was made to the Lake Superior Ship Canal Company for construction of a canal from Portage Lake to Lake Superior in Houghton County. The property was foreclosed on in 1877 and in 1891 the Keweenaw Land Company was formed and took title to the property. The railroad was never constructed and homesteaders began taking up claims on the land under the belief the government owned the land. The entire disputed property should be settled in the near future by the pending court proceedings.