

dwelling, and all beds were then of the old high post style held together by a bed cord made tense by a lever or bed wrench, were trundle beds which were drawn out upon the floor for use at night. These were often supplemented by bunks which were folded up and used as seats during the day and evening.

Difficulties of Travel.

There was then in all Canada not a single mile of railway, and turnpike roads were well nigh impassable, especially during the spring and fall when nearly all travel was practically at a standstill, and when distant journeys would be more readily undertaken on horseback or on foot than with a team. At such times when it became necessary to go to the grist mill the grain was bound upon the horse's back and the owner trudged alongside leading the animal.

In many cases the roads were but the sinuous ways improvised through the forests by lumbermen for hauling out timber, logs, and wood, and which, by continued use and improvement, have become the public highways of the country.

The territory being substantially a forest it was perfectly natural that lumbering operations, peeling hemlock bark, shav- ing shingles, and the like, would be the principal occupation of the people for many years succeeding the earliest settlements. While large quantities of lumber was cut and exported to the United States the price paid therefor was so low that only the most valuable and easily obtained was thus utilized.

There being then no railways for transportation or rivers available for this purpose the expense for hauling logs from a distance to the saw mills, and the lumber over very poor roads to Lake Champlain, was so great, that little or no margin of profit was left to stimulate the industry or reward the efforts of the more enterprising who engaged in such business. Nevertheless, it was a sight fifty years ago to see the procession of teams,—twenty, thirty, forty in line,—all heavily laden with lumber going to Missisquoi bay, and later to the mouth of Pike river, from the different saw mills to the north and east, whence