

IN 1855 the western wheat belt was in the Genessee Valley; from thence it has gone westward until it has reached the Pacific Ocean, to be confronted with competition from Siberia and Argentina.

In 1855 the Soule and the Club Wheats were the principal varieties; the Fife and its numerous successors were practically unknown.

The farmers then delivered their wheat to the mills on the understanding that they could, at any future date, claim payment at the current prices of the day of payment; many of them conveyed their wheat long distances so as to receive the increased prices, consequent upon the lessened cost of transportation of flour to eastern or southern markets.

The use of oxen for hauling and ploughing was general, because the stumps and stones in roadways and fields made steadiness safer than quickness.

Most of the buildings in the country parts were of logs and erected at "Bees," by which gatherings stones were cleared from lands, crops were threshed, trees were felled, and roads and bridges were constructed.

Whisky was thirty cents a gallon. It was freely used—sometimes abused and abusing; sometimes excused by the exposure to cold and wet and the prevalence of fever and ague which caused calomel and jalap to be kept for sale in all country stores, whilst boneset tea was a common household remedy; yet even in those days there were births, marriages and deaths, and general contentment. In Montreal, and on the lines of the Grand Trunk, there were many deaths from cholera.

The Crimean War raised the prices of wheat, causing general prosperity amongst the farmers, many of whom sent their sons northward and westward to acquire lands at lower prices than then prevailed in the older settlements or which are even now obtainable.

The school laws were too generally dodged by the payment of inadequate salaries to third-class teachers; religious meetings were in many localities veritable angel visits, few and far between.

From ox carts to wagons, then to spring seats to lumber wagons, followed by democrats, which in turn gave place to buggies, now deposed by automobiles as the oxen have been superseded by electric motors; all of which changes have not "healed a passion or a pang entailed on human hearts."

Many of the issues of the leading newspapers now contain references to "after the war," which good time we trust is not far distant.