

dred and twenty years since the first settlers were set down in this section. One hundred and twenty years this fall. I think it was in 1783 the surveyors came up from Quebec with a few advanced explorers. They went around this Bay and spied out the land and found it was indeed the Promised Land for those who had been compelled to leave the farms and comfortable homes across the lake on the Hudson River. They were quite satisfied with this section.

In the early spring of 1784 they came into this country, which was then in primeval forest, covered densely along all these rivers and upon the shores of the Bay. From 1784 to the beginning of 1904 is just one hundred and twenty years and the agricultural development of this section which will correspond also with the agricultural development of some of the sections of this Province, has been one of very great progress and interest. If you pick up one of our text books in history at the present time and look over it I doubt very much if you will find anything that would refer to that development. You will find a great deal about the various wars that have taken place; the first war of conquest; perhaps a little about the settlement of the original settlers on some of these lands; find a good deal about the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837 and the Fenian invasion, and a little about our Legislative enactments, but I do not know that you will find anything in any of our histories said in regard to the development of the people just such as you are, the men who have made their living out of the fields and the forests and the orchards of this country; and after all it is in the history and development of the people just such as you are that the true history of this country should

be made. It is all very well to understand about the keen struggles that have taken place for maintaining possession of this country but it has always seemed to me that that unwritten history of the common people, of the agricultural classes, of the great laboring classes, after all, is the true and genuine history of a country. (Hear, hear) I have said it is just one hundred and twenty years since the first settlers were located around this Bay. When the surveyors came in they started at Kingston and the first township there was surveyed and called No 1, and then came No 2, 3 and 4; then they crossed over into Prince Edward County and numbered the others and came around the head of the Bay to the Indian Reserve below here, and in all they surveyed eight or ten townships, and for many years these townships went simply by their number, and townships No 1 and 2 and so on later on were given the names that they bear to-day. If you take from 1784 when these first settlers came in here and hewed out their little clearing and built their log houses and set up what few family possessions they had brought with them — if you take thirty years from that it will bring you down to 1814. Thirty years is a generation. So that from 1784 to the close of the War about 1814 we have the first generation of settlers, in this section, and the agriculture of that period must have been of a very crude form indeed. After the trees were cleared away so that they could sow small patches of grain you can easily see there was practically nothing left to be sent to market except the trees that had been cleared away; so that for the first generation of the first thirty years of the settlement the two main articles that the farmers had to send to market consisted of timber