

which bought the farmers' surplus products, sold them off in Lower Canada or at Niagara, and paid him for them in goods. (There was very little money in the country at this time, except what the British Government sent out for paying the troops and supplying them with rations). The farmers teamed the produce which they had to sell, down the country roads or along the bay or river to the lake shore to the stores, and went home laden in exchange with new goods—clothes, hardware, kitchen utensils, crockery, etc., to delight the hearts of their families.

We may consider one of these early stores as typical. It was situated on the Prince Edward County shore of the Bay of Quinte about six miles west of Bath, and we are so fortunate as to have its bill of sales for 1797. The retail sales for the year amounted to about \$4000. Of this amount about \$1,400 represented dry goods, \$200 groceries, \$440 spirits, \$240 tobacco, \$58 crockery, \$170 hardware and nails, \$431 clothing, \$180 hats, \$110 boots and shoes, \$44 pots and pans, and \$20 books and stationery. From this list we can see that our ancestors were a severely practical people, with little desire for wasting time in book-learning. The books which the store did sell were either of a utilitarian nature such as account books, spelling books and almanacs, or religious books. A Bible was sold for about \$1.50, a Testament for 60 cents. It helps one to realize the dearness of foreign products—due, of course, to the great difficulties of transportation—when one is told that the cheapest tea in this store was 80c. a pound, and green tea ran up to nearly \$1.50. Such stores as this were a great benefit, as they took the farmer's products from him and disposed of them at a considerable distance—something which he could not well do for himself, though he would have had to do it, if the stores had not brought things in for him. This is another instance of the division of labor.

The war of 1812 naturally provided the farmer with a larger market. The number of troops in the country was greatly increased, and obviously that meant higher prices for the farmer's products. In the year 1812 the average price of grain in Montreal was about \$2.60 per bushel, and in 1813 and 1815 it was about \$2.18. This price naturally

dec
we
and
onl
men
and
was
acc
In
(Ca
hav
ash
wor
beg
rec
of v
for

S
rive
was
tha
Far
war
prob
kep
dec
Yon
may
repu
The
war
nota
from
spre
the
of o
onc
dist