

thick is firm enough for a man to walk on without sinking more than four inches into it, it is fit for use. You then take some straw, or beaver hay, and chop it n about 4 inch lengths, on every shovel full of mortar you shake a handful of this litter, which is for the double purpose of drawing the water out of the mortar and preventing it from cracking. When you think you have got enough to build your wall 4 feet high, you commence by taking off the last shovel full (each shovel full removes its own share of litter) in your hands, roll it on the litter so as it will be evenly covered or mixed with it, strike it with force on a heavy plank, or slab, or large stone if you have one convenient, until you get it to the shape you want it. For the lower part of a chimney the walls should be 18 inches thick. For this your pieces should be of the same length as the thickness of your wall, and whatever width is most convenient, either 4 inches 6 or 9, and then either 4, 3 or 2 bricks will cross one, and make a complete band. By laying them on carefully and pressing them firmly together, you will make a wall that will last longer than any wooden house that ever was built. After the wall reaches the height of 4 or 5 feet a wall of 6 inches thick will do, when you mould your pieces to the size most convenient. From 4 to 8 days by a man who is well acquainted with the work, will build a chimney in any common house or barn, and had such a practice been pursued in the County of Bruce, it would have saved thousands of dollars, as well as heart-aches.

Then there is another advantage the fire-place has over a stove, in the article of candle light. With a tolerable supply of dry light-wood \$2 worth of tallow would do in the year for candle light, whereas unless they sit in total darkness less than 6 or 8 dollars don't do with a cooking stove.

Again there is the wood. It does not take so much in bulk, but it takes far more labor to chop wood for a stove, than for a fire-place, and if the house is not very close, which is seldom the case in the "bush," the stove is burned out in the fourth or fifth year, and in many cases before it is paid for.

The next article we come to is the plough, and although he would be considered a bold man that would deny the fact of a plough being a useful implement in agriculture, yet there are many who have got them here on "tick," who had as much use for them as a fire of Madagascar has for a pair of skates.

One acre of new cleared land is worth 3 acres of or called plowed land, for the simple reason, that the land is not plowed; to be sure the plow and team are in the field and are driven round through and among the stumps, but the work bears no more resemblance to plowing than a fresh chopped fallow does to a well laid floor. But he has a vague notion that it must be plowed, he has seen good second crops obtained by plowing, and he don't see why he should fare worse than his neighbour. Now although the land is uniformly good, yet there are many different kinds of soil from the solid pavement of boulders and small stones, with a slight mixture of vegetable mould, to the finest sand, with 18 inches of the same mould on the top of it, and from the stiff white clay in the black ash swale, to the loam that you could sift through a cheese cloth.

But our Bruce farmer classes all alike, all get the same usage, go through the same process. That is by those that do all on the credit system. We have some as good farmers as there are in any part of Canada, but what can they do among such a crowd that will do nothing but wait. They will wait till the swamps dry up and then they wont need draining. They wait till the roots and stumps rot before they attempt to level the cradle knolls formed by the roots of trees blown down. After cropping the land until it is worn out, they let it run wild until it recovers itself again. They petition to have their land reduced in price from \$2 to \$1 an acre, although they would not think from \$10 to \$16 a cent more than the value were they selling out. When their petition wont be heard, they wait till the times get better or the government changes.

All this time the industrious settler is trying to do all he can, he removes all obstructions off his land in the shape of fallen timber, old rotten logs, opens surface drains, levels all knolls, and does every thing in his power to render his land capable of being sown early. In the year 1858, which may be termed the destitution year, men of this description had as good crops as ever they had. Two of these came under my own notice, one was a piece of spring wheat, on a piece of flat land with some vegetatable mould on top, which was well dragged in the first week of April. The yield was about 30 bushels to the acre. The other farm was a clay loam; the part of it that was tilled in the way I describe was a field in which there was a light