

they came; and any ideas they had could develop but slowly in a country where the physical conditions of acquiring a mere living were so hard and exacting. The incoming immigrants from the British Islands were in a different condition as they came from a home-land where higher educational institutions had long been established. However, in their case, even, the higher education was mostly confined to the higher classes of the people, while the education of the middle and lower classes was poorly and somewhat unsystematically provided for. And as it was mostly the latter two classes that came to Canada, their advent did not much improve matters in an educational way. But enough of the higher and educated class did come to leaven the whole and to produce an effect in due time.

And thus it was that the educational system of Upper Canada from 75 to 80 years ago was a poor thing indeed. And when we consider the completeness and comparative fullness of the highly organized system which we have in this year of 1916, we have much reason to feel not only satisfied but proud of what we have accomplished in three-quarters of a century.

Seventy-five years ago the writer was a small boy five years old who lived on a farm some eighteen miles from the city of Kingston. The surrounding country was wild and largely forested, and it was not an unusual thing to hear the howling of wolves during the cold wintry nights.

The facilities for acquiring an education, even a very elementary one, were decidedly poor, although they cannot be said to have been wholly neglected. The country school was not carried on under any fixed system, as there was in those days really no fixed system. When a school was to be opened some interested person—it might even be the intended teacher—went around amongst the people of the district and solicited contributions towards opening a school for a certain length of time, it might be for three or six months or for the whole year, although there was usually no school during the harvest time, when children could be usefully employed in the fields, or in the wintry season of deep snow and unbeaten roads. The country school house was usually built of logs, and was sup-