

to have asked the Lord "to bless all lawyers with short lives and peaceful deaths, take them all home to Heaven and not trouble the world with any more like them." Some, I fear, would even feel disposed to select a region said to possess a different climate from that named by the petitioner for the future home of at least a portion of the legal fraternity.

The excitement caused by the action of the Government regarding the reserves calmed down after a time and the settlers resumed their work. As we had few visitors matters became very dull and monotonous, a state of things which did not suit me, and soon growing tired, I was glad to avail myself of anything offering a change. It happened that Boyd had on hand a quantity of fish, which would probably not all be required for home consumption. I determined to send several loads of these, which were packed in half-barrels, out by the Garafraxa road to the older settlements, and employed a number of ox-teams with their drivers, for the purpose, accompanying them myself in order to attend to the disposal of the cargoes should the caravan succeed in forcing a way through. For the first twelve miles we met with no difficulty, but from that on to the Maitland River we had to cross a succession of open streams and swamps. Between wading and floundering, however, we managed to get through in safety. It is true our speed was not of a very high rate, but we considered it good under the circumstances. So far as the teamsters and myself were concerned we had quite a jolly time of it, but I fear that the poor patient oxen failed to derive any great amount of pleasure from their share in the enterprise. Our train attracted considerable attention as we passed through the older settlements, which was not surprising in view of the odd appearance we must have presented. Our sleighs were constructed without any iron. A curved

piece of wood, resting on the necks of the oxen and held in position by an ordinary ox bow, formed the yoke, the ends of which extended on each side of the ox so as to allow the sleigh-shafts to be attached thereto. We went through Fergus to Guelph and thence through Eramossa and Erin to Ballinafad where, having disposed of all the fish, I sent the teams home. I remained with my brother Thomas, who was in business in that place, and assisted him in his collections. It was then nearly the end of February. The weather was very severe, each day seeming colder than its predecessor. The snow was over three feet deep on the level, and the roads were so badly drifted that it was difficult to travel. This continued throughout the entire month of March, with no change for the better, and as might have been expected under such circumstances, food became scarce and starvation among cattle general from Kingston to Sarnia. Few succeeded in saving their whole stock and many lost all through sheer starvation. Empty barns surrounded with cattle, some unable to rise, others standing with their backs in the form of a rainbow and shivering with cold, was a common picture. Colonel Talbot had fifty head shot rather than see them starve to death. How the farmers contrived to put in their spring crops with their teams in the state to which they must have been reduced, I did not wait to see, as I was glad to escape from such scenes of wretchedness and misery. About the middle of April I left for home, carrying a pack of some forty pounds. During the winter the road through to the Maitland (now Mount Forest) had been kept well broken and so far I found the tramping fairly good, but from that on to McCauley's Beaver-meadow (distant thirty miles) it was quite different. The snow still covered the entire surface but was melting fast under the influence of a bright sun. All the hollows being filled with water but conceal-