

tion, at that time drawn from all Europe and every State in the Union, should exhibit such small variety in manners, customs, dress, or mode of life. Germans, Highlanders, French, English and Irish soon fused and became 'Canadian.'

Probably the war of 1812-15 is in good part the explanation of this; not merely because gallant resistance to successive waves of invasion had awakened a national spirit, but also because the high prices then paid for produce of every kind had stimulated industry as far into the backwoods as population had extended. Men who knew nothing of the horrors of the war, and who had no dread of its penetrating to their remote hamlets or clearings, rejoiced to get three dollars a bushel for wheat. Mr. Philemon Wright, in giving to a committee of the House of Assembly a detailed account of his experiences, from 1800 to 1823, in settling Hull, refers only once to the war, and his reference is entirely along this strictly pecuniary line of personal advantage. Here it is: "1813 . . . At the finishing of threshing the wheat, we measured 3,000 bushels; these 3,000 bushels cost me \$2,000, for which I was offered \$9,000, three dollars per bushel being at that time the common price, on account of the war. I must say it was the most advantageous undertaking I ever engaged in since I commenced the settlement. Having a clear profit of \$7,000, I continued to expend upon the farm." Under such circumstances the average farmer understood that loyalty paid. No matter where he had been born, he was sure to be an enthusiastic Canadian, and sure to entertain a kindly feeling for the Old Mother Country that poured out her sovereigns freely as water. The war might be justifiable or very much the reverse, in his eyes, but it was quite clear that the good prices enabled him to pay his labourers and improve his property. Is it wonderful that, when word came of peace having been made, a loyal Englishman naïvely wrote of it as "appalling news?"

Interesting, too, is it to learn that the founder of the Canada Company dreamed of that North-West Passage by land which Canada has at last made good. In the little office at York, he and his trio of trusted officers discussed plans for the present and dreamed dreams of the future. "There was an experimental farm; a way to utilize rapids for power; and, most glorious dream of all, to go by canal from Quebec to Superior, pass the notches of the