

were ill from the effects of their long journey, which they had made without a break, travelling by way of England, while we proceeded direct to Quebec.

I rough-built a boat and purchased various articles, including a gun, a stove (which had been used, but was strong, and which we kept seventeen or eighteen years and was afterwards used by my brother Jónas); a saw, and various other articles. I also bought two young pigs, but both died, for they did not thrive on their diet of fish.

The second group left on the twentieth of August. We three, in our tub-boat, followed a few days after, and caught up with the party at the mouth of the Red River. We had been favored with good weather that far, but at this point we were caught in a thunderstorm and the rain came down so heavily that I could scarcely keep up with the bailing. Nevertheless, I considered our small craft vastly superior to our boxes of the year previous, for I was able to steer it.

Towards evening of the following day we passed the Gimli party. Crowded in their boxes, or flat-boats, they looked most uncomfortable. All the other lake-craft had already proceeded north.

I had a brief conversation with the people, and then pursued my course to the west, along the sandy beaches. It began to blow from the north and I was compelled to seek shelter of the woods along the shore.

We put up for the night, and had a bad time of it, as on many another night, because of the flies and the wet. After another day's journey we arrived at Erlendur's place.

During the ensuing period, it rained often, so that the people who had not yet shelter suffered considerable discomfort.

I finished the roof on my house, and moved in about the twenty-third of September. I named the place Skógar (Woods). It was rightly named for the land was for the most part heavily wooded. The site on which the house was built proved rather wet, and the

house itself was never free from leakage.

The settlement began to grow up around us, two Johns to the south, one to the west, and other settlers as well. To the north was the school-section. All the settlers gave their farmsteads Icelandic names.

Jón, who called his place Laufás, proved an excellent neighbor. He was one of the best to do of the party on arrival, but he suffered heavy losses; his house burned down and he met with other mishaps. In addition, he had many to support. Thus, much of his substance filtered away. As a matter of fact, I relinquished my pre-emption in his favor.

Conditions were appreciably better in our part of the settlement during the second winter. I was able to get some supplies, including four bags of flour, and we were able to do a considerable amount of fishing. Elsewhere the small-pox raged, and many suffered, but the plague did not hit us hard.

Near the beginning of November, two flat-boats were stranded along the shore; one loaded with potatoes, the other with a variety of supplies, including flour. Consequently, we had mainly frozen and spoiled potatoes that winter, for the potato crop that summer had been rather small.

There was no milk, but we now had got on to the way of catching rabbits. an, also, I shot some ducks. We did not go hungry, but the food was not always inviting.

Now the task at hand was to cut boards with a cross-cut saw, an article which was possessed by few, and to clear the forest. Tending the nets took much time, especially for the single-handed. Then there was the interminable carrying, which played out completely those far from the lake, but was comparatively easy for those located near it. The lake continued to be the chief source of our food supply.

The winters were much more pleasant than the summers, because in the summertime all roads were impassable, and the fierce swarm of flies was scarce.