

the material for splendid bay grounds, when reclaimed from the tide; but this involved labor and much of it. The forest afforded a fine sight, but, to the new settlers eye, the sight of fields was much finer, and before a forest could become a field, there was much work to be done. But our ancestors did not come here to be charmed with the sight of forests, or disgusted with that of mud flats. They had work to do that left little room or time for mere sentiment. First, their seed was to be put in the ground. The season was already late enough, but before they could prepare such ground as was above the tide-level and free of forest, for a crop, the season was far advanced. Then a great drought occurred. The seed sown in dry ground was followed by a crop, which made its feeble appearance on the surface only to be withered by a fiery sun. Later on came severe frosts. The crop was largely a failure, and the stout hearts of the settlers must have quailed when they thought of the coming winter and how little preparation they had been able to make for it, but they had no time to repine. They had now their houses to build. Fortunately this was not a tedious business. A few trees chopped down and cut into lengths, then hewed and piled on each other, gave the four walls required. Poles, surmounted with bark, made a roof—places for windows and doors were sawed in the walls—and a chimney was soon improvised. A square framework of sticks, plastered inside with mud, gave all the flue that was required, while a huge opening below offered a fire place large enough to warm and light the apartments with logs felled at the door. Fodder for the cattle during the winter was secured by mowing and curing the salt grass which grew on the higher mud flats. When this was safely stacked\* the settlers went to work to repair the old French dykes. Fortunately for them, the remnants of the dykes were there to show them the nature of the work to be done. They had

had no experience, in their old home of the devices required to draw sustenance from land below the level of the sea, and must have spent much unnecessary labor, as indeed did the French before them, in erecting the immense mounds which, in those days, were thought necessary to ward off the tide. However stout hearts, and strong arms they had, and, with the old dykes repaired and secured, they could, notwithstanding their loss of crop, look forward with hope to the next season when the seed could be sown in due time. Meanwhile the Government had come to their relief, and had lent them 600 bushels of corn to tide them over the winter, to be repaid at a future day, if demanded. This was at the rate of five bushels per head of the inhabitants, and was a most seasonable aid.

We need not pursue the further history of the infant settlement. The people were industrious, frugal and honest, and soon thrived, as men, with these qualities, will always thrive.

We catch a cheerful glimpse of the young community, as it existed five years afterwards, from a letter of the Lieutenant Governor of the day, sent to the Secretary of State. He writes:

"The Townships of Truro, Onslow, and Londonderry, consisting in the whole of 664 men women and children, composed of people chiefly from the North of Ireland, make all their own linen and even some little to spare to the neighboring towns. This year they raised 7,524 lbs. flax which will probably be worked up in the several families during the winter."

It is worth while quoting an additional passage from this Despatch, to show how the Government of that day regarded the policy of promoting domestic manufactures among our people. Governor Francklyn, after stating how busily the people were employed in the art which they had probably brought with them from the great seat of the flax industry in the North of Ireland, apparently fearful that the jealousy of British manufacturers might be aroused

\*See Governor Belchers letter to the Lords of Plantations under date of Nov. 1761.