

year 1770. David Burpee, whose diary has been preserved, grew fifty bushels of corn in the year 1775. The price of corn varied from four shillings a bushel to nine shillings. Wheat was not much grown in New Brunswick at that time. Much of the grain was ground in hand mills—a slow and laborious method, but the only one available where there were no grist-mills near the settler.

Wages were low in New Brunswick before the time of the Loyalists. The ordinary rate was two shillings a day, but 2s. 6d. was given where the work was more laborious than usual, such as mowing, farming, hoeing corn and raking hay. Women servants received 10s. a month, or £6 a year. As the currency used was that of Massachusetts one sixth had to be deducted to bring it to New Brunswick currency, so that £6 was only equal to \$20 of the money of Canada at the present time. While wages were thus low everything that had to be purchased in the way of clothing was costly. Cotton goods cost about ten times as much then as they do now. The ordinary dress of both men and women was homespun. Sheep were kept on every farm for their wool. This was carded and spun by hand, and woven into cloth on a hand loom of which there was one in almost every home. Flax was also grown and spun on these little old-fashioned wheels which are now in such request as curiosities. Every farm was capable of producing the ordinary clothing and bedding of the people who lived and worked upon it. But the converting of wool and flax into clothing was laborious and placed a good deal of work upon the women of the farm from which they are now free. The men might shear the sheep and heckle the flax but the carding, spinning and weaving had all to be done by the women.

Most of the men wore leather breeches, a garment which, however durable, could hardly have been comfortable. But every man who aspired to respectability aimed to have one good suit of broadcloth, which was expected to last him for twenty years. In the note of accounts of David Burpee we have the particulars of a suit which he purchased for himself in 1777. There were 3½ yards of broadcloth at 20 shillings, 3 yards shalloon at 4 shillings, buttons, trimmings, etc., the whole amounting to £4 16s. 3d. After the tailor had been paid this suit probably cost David Burpee £6, or as much as he would be able to earn in ten weeks by working for others at the current rate of wages. This fact will serve to show the great difference in the