

Even the making of chairs and tables was postponed until the "clearing" was completed.

1788 is known as the "Hungry Year" owing to the failure of the harvest. "Roots of all kinds, ground-nuts, butternuts, and beechnuts were eagerly sought. Buds of basswood, lambs-quarter, pig-weed, Indian cabbage, and other weeds were common diet. Game of all kinds, deer, rabbits and pigeons, was plentiful, but powder and shot were very scarce."

To add to these discomforts the supply of clothing was scanty. For some time after his arrival the Loyalist gentleman wore the fine raiment of more prosperous days, the frock coat, lined with velvet, white satin waistcoat, black satin knee-breeches, white silk stockings, and silver-buckled shoes. These soon gave place to humble, home-made garments made of coarse linen. The poorer people dressed in garments of deerskin.

The absence of schools and churches was the most serious drawback of this pioneer age. These appeared later with thicker settlement and better roads. Then "frolics" or "bees" for chopping and building became common, and later, "husking" and "framing bees." Venison, turkey, pies, "johnny-cake," and "pumpkin cake" were handled with dishes and spoons made of wood, which gave place later to pewter utensils.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica "Voyageur" is "The Canadian name of one of a class of men employed by the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies in transporting men and supplies, and, in general, in keeping up communication between their various stations, which was done exclusively in bark canoes, the whole region formerly under the exclusive control of these companies being almost everywhere accessible by water, with few and short portages. These men were nearly always French-Canadians or half-breeds."

"Such was the routine of our journey, the day, generally speaking, being divided into six hours of rest and eighteen of labor. This almost incredible toil the Voyageurs bore without a murmur, and generally with such a hilarity of spirit as few other men could sustain for a single forenoon"—so writes Governor Simpson in "A Journey Round the World."

It is difficult to obtain information about these men. The following extracts from Harmon's quaint "Journal" are of interest:

La Chine, April, 1800—"The goods intended for the interior or upper countries are here put on board of canoes. These canoes, which are constructed of the bark of the birch tree, will carry a burden of three and a half or four tons each; and are severally manned by eight