

he Nerepis road to Fredericton was very heavy, and took all the profit out of his contract.

These early settlers lived in a very primitive fashion and their lives were hard. They resided in log houses, most of them of small size and very scantily furnished. In the inventory of Deacon Jonathan Burpee's estate, the total value of his furniture is put down at £5 7s. 8d. It consisted of four bedsteads, two tables, two large chairs, ten small chairs, and a looking-glass. There were also two chests and a pair of andirons. There is here a total absence of articles of comfort, to say nothing of luxury. There do not appear to have been either carpets or rugs in this rich farmer's house. There was no such thing as a couch or sofa, and the chairs were no doubt of the old-fashioned straight-backed pattern, so as to be as uncomfortable as possible. Our ancestors seemed to have looked upon it as wrong to be comfortable. There are people even now who act on this principle, but they are very much in the minority.

Kitchen stoves had not been invented one hundred and thirty years ago, and all the cooking for the family had to be done at an old-fashioned fire-place. The great feature of a fire-place was its capacity for consuming fuel without giving out any heat. A quarter of a cord of wood might be burning in the fire-place while the people at the back of the room were freezing. The kitchen utensils of Deacon Burpee consisted of three iron pots, an iron kettle, two iron pans, a frying-pan, a gridiron, a toasting-iron, and a brass kettle. Cooking at a fire-place was done under the greatest difficulties, the heavy pots having to be lifted on to and off a crane which stretched across the fire-place. To keep one of these huge fire-places in fuel in cold weather took no small part of the labor of one man. Meat had to be roasted before the fire and bread was baked in a bake-kettle—a large pot with a flat bottom and cover. This was placed among the hot ashes and covered with large live coals from the fire. Wonderful results were obtained from this primitive system of cookery, yet it was wasteful as well as laborious.

The food of the people in those days was neither varied nor abundant. In the Maugerville settlement a good deal of corn was ground and it was regarded as the staple crop. We do not grow corn in New Brunswick now, because it can be produced more cheaply elsewhere, but some farmers in Maugerville grew it in large quantities about the