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edible after bread. Fresh meat, in country parts, was, at some seasons, a comparative luxury. Veal was obtainable in spring, mutton in summer, and beef or pork in the fall or winter, while poultry was generally marketed as soon as possible after the fattening stubbles were exhausted. Fancy groceries were actual luxuries. I have seen imported currants sold at "three yorkers," 37½ cents per pound, and raisins often commanded a "quarter." Tea was dear, although duties were low, and frequently brought a dollar, and Coffee, cheaper in proportion, was more freely used. Native fruit was cheap. Peaches were bought of the tree in the Niagara district for 25 cents a bushel, apples had little commercial value, unless dried, and cherries could be had, away from the towns, at 25 cents "a tree," the purchaser picking off the fruit. Ale and beer were obtainable of drinkable quality, in town, but little of either reached country parts. Cider was more often used, the most desired being "frozen," so that the watery element was eliminated, and a very potent intoxicant produced. Whiskey, the common drink of the country, could be had at the numerous distilleries, by the barrel, at 16 and 20 cents the gallon, and there were few bees, loggings, and raisings, at which it was not more freely dispensed than water, and there was a prevalent opinion that it was much more wholesome. Venison, now a luxury, was a common article of food in many sections, and obtainable at three or four cents a pound. Wild pigeons, pheasants, or partridges, wild duck and quail were offered at figures which would be startling to people with modern ideas of value. Maple sugar and molasses were as common an article for "trading" transactions in country stores as home made straw

hats, butter, dried apples, timothy seed, socks, whittled butter ladles, and axe helvies. Dwellings were more advanced, probably, in proportion to the age of a settlement, than food or dress. While the majority of houses were of logs—the first building material used by the settlers in a wooden country—frame buildings rapidly superseded them in older settlements, and preceded the more substantial erections of brick and stone which now so liberally deck the landscape in many of our farming districts. There was not much of what is termed architectural beauty or even variety, but then as now solid comfort was the distinguishing feature of Canadian homes. The open fire-place in the living room, the huge back-log, the piled up fire on winter nights, which often afforded light as well as warmth, held undisputed sway before the growing scarcity of fuel made the dark and frowning cook stove a sad and unavoidable necessity. That fireside was a home institution from which men and women of fifty years since grudgingly cast loose; and many look back with regret to the day when the andirons kept in place the crackling logs, and the griddle, swung over the blazing or evening fire, sent forth sweet music to the hungry crowd of boys and girls, as the sizzling lard or chunk of fat pork made it ready for the batter whence came those steaming buck wheat cakes, of cinnamon brown on either side, and which, piping hot, were food for gods or hardy backwoodsmen. Fifty years back, the cattle on the hills, the sheep in the meadow, the hogs in the beech woods, the cows in the corn, and the horses and oxen at the plough, were further apart from their successors of to-day than aught else that Canada has brought forth. But few paid attention to breed or pedigree. The