

And judging from present appearances, one plantation may produce two or three cwt. an acre the other a dozen or fifteen, and perhaps more. The old adage, "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," holds generally good, particularly in hop growing, a business that has not been profitable either in Canada or England for the last two or three years. If, however, a loss is inevitable, good management will always reduce the loss to a minimum.

I will only add that I had the pleasure of spending a day with Mr. J. B. Marks, formerly of Kingston, but who now resides, during the summer months, near Brighton. Some of your readers will remember Mr. Marks, when he took an active part in the early management of the Provincial Association of which he was once President, and may think that he has been removed in the course of nature from the scenes and duties of the present life. I found him, however, though having nearly completed his ninety-third year, with almost as clear a mind, and certainly with as generous a heart, as when he took a public part in Agricultural matters, evincing still a warm interest therein, as well as in old friends and associates. What a salutary lesson does old age teach to all, especially to the young, "When it is found in the way of righteousness."

Yours truly,

Bureau of Agriculture, }
Toronto, July, 12, 1870. } GEO. BUCKLAND.

PHILOMEN WRIGHT.

Mr. Wright's spirit of enterprise was something remarkable. As early as 1797 he began his explorations in Canada. He made several visits of exploration, and carefully examined both sides of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers, from Quebec to Hull. In 1799 a thorough view of the land, front and rear, at the latter place, proving satisfactory, he decided there to make a settlement.

On the second day of February, 1800, Mr. Wright left his native town, Woburn, Massachusetts, bound for his new home in Canada. His company consisted of five families, including his own, 25 hired men, 14 horses and 8 oxen. Seven sleighs carried the human freight, besides tools and provisions required for the enterprise. This little army moved forward, and in eight days reached Montreal. After a short stay there, they proceeded westward, lodging at night with the *habitués* till they reached the foot of the Long Sault. Here they were obliged to cut their way through the bush to the Head. The depth of the snow rendered the task more difficult, and at night they had to camp as best they could. In due time the head was reached, after which the rest of the journey was performed on the ice, the travellers seeking the river banks only for camping purposes. 7th of March, the courageous little band arrived in Hull, and took possession of their future home by felling the first tree, in which all who

could use the axe took part. Mr. Wright made rapid strides in clearing and building. Land was cleared yearly by the hundred acres. In farming his success was remarkable. In 1813 he harvested three thousand bushels of wheat, then worth three dollars per bushel; the cost of this crop was only \$2,900. Threshing the produce of one acre, he found the yield forty bushels. Mr. Wright built mills, manufactured lumber, cultivated flax, and aimed to build up a place which he then imagined might rival Montreal. He was the first to take timber down the Ottawa to Quebec, in doing which he had to feel his way in descending the Long Sault, and in exploring the unused waters of the North Channel, which he successfully did.—From "*Scenes in the Life of a Canadian Pioneer*," in *New Dominion Monthly* for August.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE RIDEAU CANAL.

In 1827 Col. By passed up to commence the Rideau Canal. This costly work made no small stir on the hitherto quiet Ottawa. The embryo town, bearing the Colonel's name, grew apace. The construction and trade of the canal, the fast settling of the surrounding country, and the increasing extent of the lumber trade, united to push Bytown rapidly forward. An interesting incident connected with the first flight of locks ascending from the Ottawa, is the fact that the renowned Sir John Franklin laid the foundation stone. Sir John, happening to pass on one of his overland trips northward, was assigned the honor. Lady Franklin, when in Ottawa, in 1861, was shown the stone her lamented husband had laid so long before.

During the progress of the canal, the demand for farm produce was great, and prices ranged high.—The settlers along the river felt the benefit. Clearance improved rapidly; settlers came in fast; and those previously located improved in circumstances. The blessing of a day school was added to the Sabbath school. A church, receiving frequent additions, watched over by Mr. Edwards, was exerting a beneficial influence on the whole community.

The necessity for manual labor, on the part of Mr. Edwards, being lessened, he devoted his time more fully to ministerial work. Not having been hitherto formally designated to the charge of a church, he was, in 1831, ordained. About that time an Act was passed in Upper Canada, to enable other than Episcopal and Presbyterian ministers to marry. Mr. Edwards took advantage of the law, and supplied a want long felt. Previously, candidates for wedlock had to make long journeys, or content themselves with the services of a magistrate.

Many amusing anecdotes might be told of the doings of some J. P.'s, in early days, in the back woods, both in their style of tying matrimonial knots, and administering justice. Nice points of law were not studied; in fact some of their worshipers were a law unto themselves. One of these, an old officer, who had served under Wellington and loved dispatch, would put up a notice on a Saturday, stating "This is the first, second and third time of calling," and marry the couple on the following Monday. Any case in the whole calendar, civil or criminal, he would take hold of—breaches of promise, or cases