

limestone was available. With limestone and wood then in abundance in this locality and competition sharp, many a bushel of lime was sold for five cents; and not infrequently dinner for purchaser and team was included.

With the scarcity of wood which now exists and better transportation facilities, so that supply may be more easily and cheaply obtained elsewhere, but a faint remnant of the industry now remains.

Clearing Land.

Old and young of the households found abundant work, when other labors permitted, in clearing up the land, piling up and burning the logs and odds and ends which escaped the first burning, repiling and firing the embers, chinking up and around and urging on the devouring element to consume the huge pine and other stumps. With the aid of the light of the fires this work was frequently extended long into the night.

From such work all returned so covered with smoke and grime as to more nearly resemble ebony Negroes from the banks of the river Congo than any of the Caucasian race.

A coarse but substantial and satisfying meal was then disposed of, then to humble and restful beds of straw or corn husks, and up and at it again with the earliest dawn for days and weeks together. Few there are who now can realize, and fewer will ever know by experience, the extent and severity of the exhausting labor, approximating that usually performed by the ox and the horse, which was necessary, and which was uncomplainingly and ungrudgingly given to subdue the forests, to gather the great boulders and stones into walls and huge piles, and to give to the Eastern Townships the fertile and attractive farms of to-day.

Crops of potatoes, corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, beans and the like were worked in at first between the stumps and stones and cultivated and harvested by hand. The spade, hoe and grub-hoe did duty for the plough and harrow of later years, and the scythe, sickle, and hand rake for the mowing machines and horse rakes of to-day.