

vide these for themselves, seed to sow on their clearances and such implements of husbandry as were required: each received an axe, a hoe and a spade. A plough and one cow were allotted to two families; a whip-saw and a cross-cut to every fourth family; and even boats were provided for their use and placed at convenient points of the river. These were of little use to them for a time, as the first year they had no grists to take to mill, and the long Sault Rapids lying between them and Cornwall, whence they received their rations, it was found to be a very difficult matter to bring them by water. In many cases the settler went thither in the fall or in the winter and dragged up on the ice by the edge of the river as much as he could draw on a hand sled, a distance of 25 miles; and we are even credibly told of one who in a similar manner went to Montreal and returned dragging behind him an iron pot wherein to cook his potatoes. At this time they had the choice of but two mills, they were literally placed between two extremes, Gananoque above or the Cascades below, equidistant about 60 miles. They took their wheat in boats and canoes, which the Indians now taught them to make, to one of these places, several parties joining together to take 40 or 50 bushels at a time with 5 or 6 men to work the boat, stemming the rapids of the Coteau and Long Sault, or the Du Plat and Galouse.

These and innumerable other difficulties met and surmounted by the early settler might well put to the blush his less hardy descendant, before he utters the now frequent complaint of *hard times*. There being ample employment on the settler's farm, yet uncleared, for all his sons, there was little inducement for them to think of setting up for themselves. As a matter of consequence the lands they had drawn were of little value to them. In the meantime U. E. rights became a staple article of commerce and were readily bought up by speculators, almost as fast as they came into the hands of the rising generation. A portion of what remained were soon resold in payment of taxes by sheriff's sale, and these too became the property of land jobbers.

Many of the lots thus drawn were never seen by the parties who drew them and their comparative value was determined rather by their distance from the river than by their intrinsic quality, so that lands in Winchester which in a very few years were to bring

\$20 an acre were considered worthless, and lots even more favourably situated were sold if not for an old song, at least for a trifle, worth perhaps \$4 or \$5. The price of fair lots was from \$25 to \$30, and even as high as \$50 per 200 acres. At these prices these would be 15 cents an acre. These were sold to settlers as they gradually came from Britain and the States at from two to four dollars per acre, yielding a clear profit to the speculator of 1000 per cent for his investment, in comparison with which the exorbitant interest of modern days sinks into insignificance.

At this time there was a great deal of valuable timber in the county. Huge pine trees were cut for ship masts. A notable one is still often spoken of by many who saw it, which, having broke in falling was cut off 70 feet; at 35 feet from the butt it measured 47 inches in diameter and was computed to contain 1058 cubic feet. It was dragged from the woods by 16 pair of horses and sold in Quebec as a bolt sprit for \$25.

Of white oak, averaging when dressed from 45 to 65 feet of the best quality, there was an abundance, which found a ready market at from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per foot. What was not suitable for timber was made into staves and blocks.

At a later period large quantities of pine and ash were sent to market from this county. White beach and maple were piled up in heaps and burned, and the ashes carefully gathered and sold to be made into potash.

The first operation of the new settler to erect him a shanty. Each with his rifle on his shoulder turned out to help the neighbour, hence probably the origin of making a bush. In a short time every one in the little colony was provided with a snug log cabin, raised over with hollow logs split in two, and an inverted layer covering the joint; the space between the logs was chinked, and plastered with mud: the cross-cut saw was produced and a door and small window cut out, and an ample hearth rudely built with stones completed the shanty, strangely contrasted with the convenient appliances and comforts of modern days.

The summer was occupied in clearing the land, and in the fall the wheat was raised in by hand. In winter, every available acre was in the woods making timber and preparing for another fallow. The winters were long, cold, and steady, and the wheat seldom saw the light of day till