

examining the trees and the soil. The opposite shore with its great rocky headlands, evidently had no attraction for them. Their report, when they returned to Woburn, was so satisfactory that Philemon Wright had no difficulty in engaging as many men as he wished for his new settlement.

He at once hired twenty-five men, and gathering together tools, farming implements, supplies of all kinds and cattle, the little party started out on February 2, 1800. There were five entire families and they had fourteen horses, eight oxen and seven sleighs, all heavily laden. In eight days they reached Montreal without mishap, and for forty miles up the Ottawa River found good roads and comfortable farm houses. Beyond that the country was untravelled, snow was deep in the woods, but the little band of pioneers was not discouraged. It took them four days to travel to the head of the Long Sault Rapids, a distance of sixteen miles, as trees had to be felled and roads made. The women and children slept at night in the covered sleighs, and the men on blankets around huge camp fires. After that they travelled on the ice, where the snow was not so deep; a friendly Indian acted as guide and their goal was reached on March 7.

Picture to yourselves men, women and children arriving at the Chaudière in March, the "big kettle" throwing up its volumes of steam, trees growing to the water's edge, snow everywhere. No water supply, no electric light, no telephones! Those men and women faced the unknown country with brave hearts, resolved to make the best of everything, and, if they look down upon us now, must marvel at what their descendants consider bare necessities.