

frontage, except in cases where others by actual occupation had secured possession of them in part, in which case the frontage owner got an equivalent elsewhere. These ten-chain lots, owned by the head of the family, were frequently subdivided among the sons, so that when Ontario people, accustomed to square farms, began to come amongst us, they were greatly amused at our "farming on lanes," and pointed out the disadvantage of having to go to work on the cultivated plots ("parks," we called them) at the outlying ends of these river strips. But there was "much method in the madness" of long narrow farms, or, to be plainer, there were many good reasons to justify that plan of settlement. To begin with, the settlers built along the river banks for convenience in obtaining water, which, at that date, before there were any cities along its banks, was more drinkable than it is now. Outside the swamps and sloughs the river was practically the only reliable source of steady water supply. Wells were little known, suction pumps were unheard of, and I remember that a "chain-and-wheel"