

an early date the settlers in the Niagara District began setting out fruit trees. As their clearings enlarged and space was afforded, the original small orchards were enlarged. We find Mr. Smith setting out a few new trees and shrubs nearly every spring, beginning with 1800, when he set out several apple trees, three pear trees and one cherry tree. In 1802 he set out his first peach tree. Later we find him raising seedlings on his own farm and apparently supplying trees to some of his neighbors in addition to meeting his own needs.

The regular occupations of plowing and spring planting occupied most of the time during April and May. The root crop followed the grain crop, while corn, pumpkins and, later, melons, were planted about June 1st. Before and after planting were the chief seasons for burning brush and rolling up log-heaps. When these were carried on upon a larger scale, resort was had to the inevitable co-operative institution known as a "bee," the characteristics of which are dealt with later. Disastrous experiences from bush fires had proved that it was too dangerous, especially in dry seasons, to undertake the burning of brush during the late summer and early autumn.

During the latter part of the month of May, the farmers washed their few sheep in some neighboring stream or pond and immediately sheared them, thus obtaining the precious supplies of wool to be converted into home-made clothing for the family.

Between seeding and harvest, the work of clearing the land went forward. Logs were prepared for the mill and for domestic buildings during the following winter, when the snow roads greatly lightened all such work. This, too, was the season for all kinds of miscellaneous summer work, such as cultivating the root crops, repairing fences and buildings, getting the simple home-made tools and conveniences repaired for the gathering of the crops. The grubbing of stumps in the summer following also occupied the attention of the farmers, thus preparing the land for the sowing of the fall or winter wheat and rye.

For the rough work of logging and cultivating among stumps and stones as well as for much other heavy work on the pioneer farms, oxen were commonly preferred to horses. They were, of course, slow and even exasperating in their