

ing was soon made and placed in a tillable condition. The first implements used in pioneer agriculture were the grub-hoe and oak rake. When the oxen were introduced, an oak plow or jumper was used, along with a V-shaped wooden drag, in which were placed iron pins procured in old By Town, now Ottawa, the flourishing capital of our fair Dominion.

Logging bees of those days have been described in Ralph Connor's book, "The Man from Glen-garry," which recalls to us old settlers the days of strife and triumph, which I shall not try to improve upon.

Our first cow had been procured by father while he was at work on the Rideau Canal, and left at the front until provision could be made for her sustenance and shelter. On one occasion we were almost deprived of our cow. She strayed away from her keeper, and following a winter road, picking up the wisps of hay which had fallen from the lumbermen's sleighs, was mistaken for a bear, and narrowly escaped being shot. Her arrival at her new quarters was a day of rejoicing to us all. Henceforth many long-felt wants were supplied. The food and clothing were obtained in By Town, twenty-five miles distant, and carried in on the backs of the men, who took turns in this arduous work. The first store where the bare necessities of life could be obtained was situated about four miles from our home.

The first wheat was taken to the mill, a distance of thirty-five miles, in two canoes, the round trip occupying a week. On their return, they were nearly famished, as paddling back against the current was slow and fatiguing work. The provisions had entirely disappeared, and, when almost exhausted, they espied a large, flat stone, and, as necessity has always been the mother of invention, they came to shore and kindled a fire on it. Then they later swept off the coals, and, mixing some of the flour and water in a basin which they carried, they poured the mixture on the hot stone and waited until it was cooked. They always afterwards looked back on this repast as the finest of their lives. No less was the flour welcome to us at home, who anxiously waited, and watched for the returning canoes, bread not having been in our house for six weeks.

Our first money was received from the sale of salts, a product of ashes, and this meagre revenue went to purchase some of the bare necessities of life.

The first missionary was Rev. D. McPhail (Baptist), who travelled on foot at first, and later on horse-back, ministering to the spiritual wants of the settler. The first service was held in a log barn, which humble edifice for some years did service in this capacity.

The first school was a little log building, two miles distant. Here the youth were instructed, not in the modern and scientific methods of to-day, but in the crude—very crude, indeed—form. The school was called a pay school, the teacher boarding round among the families represented in the school. Nevertheless, the men and women of those days were the medium whereby the liberal and advanced education of to-day was reached. I trust that the young, after perusing the story of the difficulties and trials of their forefathers, may take new inspiration, and improve the golden opportunities now placed within their reach.

In conclusion, I may state that some forty-seven years ago I was left as the sole bread winner for a young and somewhat large family. No channels such as now exist were then open by which money might be obtained, and the busy loom had to be kept going far into the night, in order to meet the ever recurring wants of the little flock. I now reside alone on a portion of the old pioneer farm, being the only survivor of those connected with this story. I am still, in spite of my eighty years, enjoying the blessing of God, a fair measure of good health.

And during the summer, as I sit on the porch, instead of the ring of the woodman's axe, of long years ago, there comes floating on the breeze, in strong contrast, the buzz of the circle saw, and the dull hum of the planers.

Have you read our premium announcement on page 2035 of this issue?

## THE FARM.

### A Wood-lot as a Practical Farm Proposition.

On 200 acres I have 25 acres of bush, uncultured, and 13 acres of younger trees from 3 to 6 inches through, covering about 50 rods wide along north side of farm: maple 45 per cent., beech 15 per cent., white ash, 10 per cent., basswood 10 per cent., elm 10 per cent., second-growth pine 10 per cent.; are the kinds and proportion of timber, and the proportion on all my bush lot. It is situated on high, dry, No. 1 wheat land. Not being wealthy, and living on land, including cleared land and buildings, and bush, worth \$80 per acre, I should like to ask a few questions, the answers to which might help me to solve a problem:

1. What were the highest values that these different timber, in large quantities, commanded during the last twenty years, by five-year periods till 1905, and year by year since that date?

2. Assuming that these have increased largely in value, what do you forecast for the next twenty years?

3. Is the steel and cement age likely to curtail the use of timber, to the depreciation of values?

4. On a farm where for the last ten years over 30 bushels of wheat to the acre has been the average, is the holding of such a block of woods justified?

5. When the balance of the farm (160 acres) has to make from \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year, can the bush be depended on to contribute its share?

My asking of these questions indicates my



Household Conveniences in the Early Days.

opinion of "The Farmer's Advocate," as there is no other paper in Canada that I know of in which I could ask such questions and value the answers. Simcoe Co., Ont. T. G. A.

Ans.—1. It is impossible to secure all the data requested, but the following will serve to show the tendency of the prices of the timbers mentioned. All prices are per thousand board feet. The average run of prices since 1890 is indicated by the following statement:

Year.	White Pine, Av. of all grades.	White Pine, No. 1 cuts and better.	Soft Maple, 1" common and better.
1891-1895	\$12.10	\$33.53	\$16.48
1896-1900	13.20	33.23	16.80
1901-1905	13.40	11.59	18.11
1906	18.50	50.08	22.08
1907	21.50	50.00	22.17
1908	20.50	16.08	21.50
1909	20.50	13.42	21.10
1910		52.00	20.00

It is shown here that, as compared with the average, 1890-1899, the price of pine, all grades, and by 1909 increased 65 per cent., No. 1 cuts, Toronto, had increased 30 per cent., soft maple had increased 28 per cent. During the same time, birch increased 25 per cent., and spruce increased 85 per cent.

The drop in prices since 1907 was due to temporary conditions of building stagnation and overproduction of lumber.

The price of high class hardwoods has increased

rapidly in the past few years, as is shown here in the wholesale Toronto prices:

	Hard Maple, 3 and 4" 1sts and 2nds.	White Ash, 1 1/2 and 2" 1sts and 2nds.	Basswood, 1 1/2 and 2" 1sts and 2nds.	Rock Elm, 1 1/2 and 2" 1sts and 2nds.
Year.				
1904-'05	\$27.20	\$35.40	\$28.20	\$32.40
1906	24.00	35.00	24.00	29.00
1910	43.00	55.00	37.00	50.00

Timber suitable for manufacturing the above grades of lumber is very scarce, and is sure to advance in price.

The price of lumber has, because of a cheapening in the cost of manufacture, not increased so much, proportionately, as the value of the timber on the stump. The manufacturer pays relatively more for his logs than he did a few years ago. This advance, which has been greatest since 1900, and which, in the opinion of many, is only fairly under way now, is shown in the following statement of the average stumpage value of timber in the United States:

	1899	1904	1907
White pine	\$3.66	\$4.62	\$8.09
White ash	3.03	3.95	7.58
Basswood	1.50	3.89	6.79
Elm	3.30	5.58	4.94
Beech			3.56
Maple	2.66	3.82	2.50

These are the prices which really indicate the growing value of timber standing in the woods. Prices for 1910 would add from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per thousand feet to the values given for 1909. These are prices which a good manufacturer can afford to pay. Much of the hardwood lumber manufactured in Ontario is ruined by inexperienced sawyers with small makes, who cut good logs into lumber worth only \$15 to \$20 per M., when a large proportion of it, if well manufactured, would be worth \$30 to \$50 per M.

2. I think the stumpage value of these timbers will at least double in ten years, and that in twenty they may double again. This would only represent an advance of from \$7.50 to \$24 in the price of lumber. The increase in the value of white pine, which has already reached a high level, will not be so great as the increase in the others, which are comparatively low.

3. No. Great Britain produces steel and cement more cheaply than Canada. Wood is now more expensive in Great Britain than in Canada, and less popular than steel and cement where the latter can be used. Yet, between 1858 and 1898, the imports of wood increased 200 per cent., while the increase in population was only 48 per cent. In Germany, the annual per capita use of wood was between five and ten times greater in 1900 than in 1860. In the United States, in spite of vast economies, steadily rising prices, and the introduction of cement and metals, there has been for fifty years an average annual increase of 1 1/2 per cent. in the per capita consumption of wood. In many situations there are no satisfactory substitutes for the technically valuable woods, such as white pine, oak, hickory, ash, elm, maple; these woods are bound to increase in price until they reach a point where it pays to grow. Civilization must have them.

4-5. I think the holding of this block of woods is justified for ten years, at least, if only because of the profits probably from the increased value of the timber on the stump.

Whether 48 acres of wood-lot should be maintained perpetually on the 200-acre farm, depends partially upon the local taxes. This wood-lot should come under the 1906 Ontario tax-exemption statute, an act which gives municipalities the option of exempting from taxation wood-lots not exceeding 10 per cent. of the area of a farm, up to a maximum of 25 acres under a single ownership.

On the 25 acres of uncultured woods, it is probable that the annual growth is almost or quite balanced by annual decay. It would pay to cut out and market at the first season of good prices all the inferior trees fit only for cordwood, and all the dead or dying trees of any species. Cordwood is not likely to advance much in value. Its removal will give the good trees a chance to put in a little more lumber.

The young timber, three to six inches through, is now at the most profitable stage of its growth. If the stand is pretty dense and overcrowded, cut out the inferior trees, giving pine, ash, elm and basswood the best chance. The thinnings can be sold for fuel, and the trees remaining will benefit greatly by their removal. The best trees should reach a diameter of 10 inches in 20 to 25 years. They can then be sold at a good price for lumber, and the question of clearing the whole lot, or leaving it young, can be better decided.

Land which will produce 30 bushels of wheat to the acre will return more actual money each year if used for wheat than if kept under woods. On such a large farm, it would seem wise to keep at least 25 acres in timber. This timber would