

canoe, succeeded in getting her tusks over the side, and upset the occupants into the sea. Other canoes hastened to the rescue, but too late to save the lives of the unfortunate men.

The forest was full of game, both furred and feathered. The land was heavily timbered, the most valuable being pine and oak, which was hewn into square timber in the winter, and in spring floated down the streams to the harbour where it was loaded in ships for the English market. A man named Peter McAusland kept a large establishment on Rustico Island, now known as Robinson's Island. Here he kept a general store, built vessels, and traded in lumber.

The French grew flax, which they manufactured in their homes into coarse linen for domestic purposes. They also raised their own tobacco. When they made their little clearance the fertility of the soil was such that merely scratching the ground and sowing the seed produced immense crops of potatoes, barley, wheat, Indian corn, and all kinds of garden vegetables.

Such, briefly, was the condition of Rustico at the commencement of the last century. Up to that time, the settler cut down trees, and built from them a rough cabin in a few days. His son, when he decided to marry, selected a spot as near his father or father-in-law as possible, built his little hut, got his wife into it, and was very happy. The thought that any one could come and put him out of his home and take his little clearing never entered the mind of the hardy pioneers. But events were taking place that soon dispelled this Arcadian simplicity. Men came along, claiming to be agents of people in England who owned the land, and informed the pioneers that they must either buy the property or lease it for a term of years. Men of other nationalities came looking for land, and willing to pay for it, but insisted on having a deed or a lease. These the poor squatters could not give, as they had no titles.

Early in the century, Mr. Rollings was appointed agent