

tell of the great difficulties encountered in clearing off the heavy timber. Very often the trees were felled and burned; the houses were mainly of log construction and the principal means of subsistence was flour and pork, until vegetables could be grown. In Upper Canada the pioneer farmers soon found it necessary to construct barns in which to store grain and hay. These were constructed of logs, unless a sawmill was located in the vicinity. Settlers often had to transport their grain twenty or thirty miles to the grist mill to be ground, a work which often required several days. A market for surplus produce was generally found among the more recent settlers who were not yet able to produce for themselves, or by trading with merchants for clothing and necessary groceries. A description of the primitive ploughs used in Loyalist times is given in H. Y. Hind's *Eighty Years' Progress*: "We find among the donations of George III to the U. E. Loyalists the old English plough. It consisted of a small piece of iron fixed to the coulter, having the shape of the letter L, the shank of which went through the wooden beam, the foot forming the point which was sharpened for use. One handle and a plank split from a curved piece of timber, which did the duty of a mold board, completed the crude implement. At that time the traces and leading lines were made of the bark of the elm or basswood, which was manufactured by the early settlers into a strong rope".*

Other early references to the machinery of the time include a report of an invention by S. Williams of Whitby, which he called "a harvesting machine, which gathers, threshes and rough cleans wheat, barley, etc., at a rate of a bushel in three minutes". It is also of interest to find in a report printed in the *Montreal Gazette* in 1821, reference to the high quality of Canadian wheat. The report states that bakers of Scotland and England found the wheat particularly valuable for mixing with local wheats. Exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flours exceeded the equivalent of over one million bushels in 1802. That was an exceptional year, however, and was not surpassed until 1840. The successful production of apples and peaches is reported as early as 1820.

Efforts to improve agriculture in Eastern Canada through agricultural societies were made at an early date. One of the first of these was a society founded by Lord Dorchester in 1789, which published pamphlets on agriculture. Through the efforts of John Young in Nova Scotia, a Central Agricultural Society was formed in 1818. Other societies followed in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The first agricultural school in Canada was opened in 1859 at Ste. Anne de la Pocatière.

An interesting point in the development of agriculture in Upper Canada was the persistent attempts in early years on the part of the Government to encourage the production of hemp. Several Acts were passed such as the one of 1804, entitled, "An Act for the Granting to His Majesty a certain sum of Money for the Further Encouragement of Growth and Cultivation of Hemp within this Province and the Exportation Thereof". Similar Acts appear in the Statutes for many years, but the results do not appear to have been very satisfactory. Other early legislation dealt with the inspection of flour, pot and pearl ashes, and other commodities. An Act passed in 1805 provided regulations for the curing, packing, and inspection of beef; an Act of 1807 granted to His Majesty duties on licences to hawkers, pedlars, and petty chapmen. Agriculture in Eastern Canada followed a wide diversification of production until about the beginning of the twentieth century. After that time the production of cereals in surplus quantities shifted to the newly opened provinces

* Select Documents in Canadian Economic History, 1783-1885, H. A. Innis and A. R. M. Lower, University of Toronto Press, p. 59.