

INDIANS.

MISSISSAGAS

The Neutral Indians inhabited this section, but by 1678 the Iroquois has them pretty well killed off or absorbed and only a few stray members of the Neutral tribe remained when the settlers came.

FORESTS, AND PLANTING.

The dense forest of hardwood and pine contained plenty of animals and game, providing the early settlers with heat, food and clothing.

Pine stumps were used as fences.

Oxen were used to clear the land and as a small clearing was made, grain was planted.

Logging bees helped clear the land, settlers helping each other, and later on work and pleasure were combined when they gathered for apple paring bees, corn husking bees and barn raisings.

Wooden hand rakes and grain "cradles" were used for harvesting crops.

Seed was sown "broadcast", a sack with grain in was hung over one shoulder and the grain was scattered by hand from it.

The soil varies, from gravel to sand and in some places red clay and others loam.

As the fertile land was cleared fruit trees were planted, apples and later all other varieties of fruit until the Niagara peninsula became known as the fruit belt.

Peaches were grown as early as 1810 and commercially in 1825.