

Canada is still a land of plenty! It also remains true that God will provide bounteously for those who will apply the abilities with which they have been blessed. Thus the early settlers whose names have survived from generation to generation were men and women who did not shirk hard work or avoid privation.

The man who came here expecting to carve his home from the forest and make his living from the land had only the trees as his guide. He decided that where the trees grew the tallest and with the largest girth must have good soil beneath. He reckoned that the scrub trees grew on poor soil.

Although this meant extra hard work for the pioneers, they were considering the heritage they were creating for their sons. These were men of foresight and the most of them were fortunate in choosing wives of equally frugal natures.

Every skill and ability was used to make for better living for his family and a better neighbourhood worthy of the name community. It was always fully realized that "no man lives unto himself alone" and a neighbourly spirit existed to be ready to help the fellow at the next farm.

Each home housed an industry of its own as each member applied his talents. Listed in old directions are shingle manufacturers, cabinet makers, harness makers, broom manufacturers, carpet weavers and many more. We can assume that many of these industries were carried on at the home at a time when regular farm duties were not so pressing.

The early settlers were of a social nature and they took advantage of every opportunity to get together to combine work and pleasure.

The new barn required strong men to erect heavy rafters. A "bee" was called. Not only men arrived but women too. The men did the building and the ladies prepared the meal. Often as soon as the floor was laid and a roof on, a "fiddler" provided music for a barn dance.

There were many "bees" when tedious jobs were completed amidst fun and laughter. There were corn husking bees - the husks were saved and dried for "ticks" which took the place of mattresses. When apples were ripe a been was called and apples were peeled, quartered and prepared for drying. Butchering required help so when a hog was to be killed or a beef, the neighbours' help was needed. The women rendered the lard and those helping in the operations always went home with a piece of fresh meat.

Each season brought its special task. Every spring was maple syrup time. We are told the making of maple syrup was first learned from the Indians as many of the Indian tribes tilled some soil and were quite settled farmers and it was necessary to provide feed for their horses and food for their families.