

Accounts Tell of Progress Made by Early Settlers of Community.

[Special to The Daily Gleaner]

St. Stephen, N. B., July 17.—When Edmund Ward, of Fredericton, Immigration Agent, and publisher of "The Sentinel and New Brunswick General Advertiser," made a trip to the border in 1840, he wrote of the then new settlement of Harvey, whose centennial is now being celebrated. As

Immigration Agent he probably had something to do with the placing of the people upon the section bordering beautiful Harvey Lake.

Ward made his return trip from St. Andrews to Fredericton over the highway now so familiar to thousands of motorists. It was a far different highway than at present. From Brockway on to Harvey there were eleven miles still in an unfinished state, but these, as he remarks, were to be completed the ensuing summer. Of Harvey, he writes:

"This settlement, Harvey, was completed in 1837, the individuals comprising it receiving aid from the government which they have nearly repaid by advances on the St. Andrews road. Passing through I had little time for observation but I saw sufficient to satisfy me of the very great improvements that its inhabitants have effected within a short time. They have at present fifteen cows, seven horses, four oxen, nineteen swine, seven sheep, and there are now three hundred and twenty-seven acres chopped, which will be the crop next year. From this village to Fredericton is twenty-five miles, the road passing through the Hanwell settlement."

These fifteen cows were the fore-runners of the herds which now make Harvey so notable in the dairy industry of the Province.

Geologists' Report.

Dr. Abraham Gesner, the eminent geologist, who was selected by Sir John Harvey to make in 1838-42 the first geological survey of the Province, speaks thus in his history of New Brunswick of the settlement named for his patron:

"The principal settlements in the rear of Fredericton are scattered along the road running through the wilderness to St. Andrews." After speaking of the Hanwell settlement of Irish people, he goes on; "Harvey settlement, still farther south, was made by English and Scotch emigrants, who were unable to succeed under the system of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company, and were established upon their present lands by the government, as an experiment in colonization. After having endured many hardships, they have redeemed the soil, and now live in comfort and prosperity. The Harvey settlement borders upon a fine tract of hard wood land of good quality; but it is owned by absentees and rich land proprietors, who will doubtless let it remain in its present state until its value is increased fourfold by the roads and surrounding clearings of the poor backwoodsmen."

How Land Was Cleared.

Dr. Gesner's description of the processes by which immigrants become established would be that under which Harvey came into being. He writes: "As soon as the lands have been surveyed, the immigrants have taken possession and shanties have been built, each settler will commence clearing by felling all but the largest trees, and rolling the logs into piles at the

side of his field; the branches and even the logs may be burned. Upon the ground thus cleared, potatoes and other vegetables are to be immediately planted; wheat, Indian corn, oats, and buckwheat may be tried, if the season is not too far advanced. If the immigrant take possession of his lot on the first of June, he will be able to clear an acre, including a small kitchen garden. Thousands of families, who have settled upon wild lands in this manner, have, in a few years after, abandoned the shanty of logs and bark, and moved into houses neatly painted; their barns and other outhouses, their livestock, &c, being the best testimonials of their industry, comfort and independence. In travelling through these new villages, it is common to see a small log house, and upon the same farm, a large frame barn.

"A hunting farmer is always a poor farmer. The rule should be to shoot for the pot and fish for the pot. Every settlement should have its fiddler or piper; music and innocent recreation cheers the mind of the immigrant amid his early struggles and privations."

Price For Land.

The price the Harvey settlers paid for their Crown lands for actual settlement was under the rule of three shillings per acre, exclusive of the charge for surveying the same. Twenty-five per cent of the sale price had to be paid down, and the remainder was payable in three equal annual instalments. This bore interest at six per cent. Purchasers who paid down the full price were allowed a deduction of one-fifth. No person was allowed to hold more than one hundred acres payable by instalments.

The above were among the regulations in force for the Disposal of Crown Lands in New Brunswick at that time.