

tables etc. was home-made by Duncan from Manitoba oak. Incidentally I still have a violin made by Duncan when he was seventeen years old.

A milkhouse was built against one wall of our home. Its other three walls were of stone. The bank of a hill was dug out by team and scraper to provide for a log barn twenty feet by forty. On the roof of poplar poles hay was stacked. This provided a fine warm place for the livestock in winter.

It was when they were in their home on 31 that the Daroughs were honored by a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Aberdeen. The Duke, then Governor General of Canada, was on an inspection tour of the Gaelic settlements in the area. After lunching with the Daroughs he proceeded to Glenboro. One of the gillies with the vice-regal party apparently had a yen for exploring. When Mother went into the milkhouse to get some milk and cream to place before her guests she discovered him feasting heartily from the thick layer of cream on one of the big dishpans of milk. I did not meet the Duke and Duchess as I was threshing at the north end of the half section.

I can remember hauling the crop of '87 to Killarney with a yoke of oxen. That was the first crop taken off 31 and a bumper crop it was, going 40 bushels to the acre. It was hauled in two bushel bags and the price received at Killarney was 40¢ a bushel. Our first three crops had been cut with a scythe and threshed with flails, so it was a joy in '85 to have a SELF REAPER. Although it reaped the grain it did not bind it into sheaves. Binding was done by hand. Bands were made by taking handfuls of straw in each hand. These were fastened around quantities of grain which one bundled. In '85 the threshing was still done by flail. Then in '86 Milt Mackie brought the FIRST BINDER into the district. It was a giant of a machine with framework entirely of wood and about twice as large as the steel ones which were to follow it in a few years. With this machine Milt did custom cutting for Practically the whole district. It was a great improvement over the self reaper as it both cut the grain and bound it into sheaves. This DEERING binder was pulled by four horses.

In that year, '86, George Overend brought the FIRST THRESHING MACHINE into the district. It was powered by a ten horsepower CORNELL steam engine, which used straw for fuel. The separator had neither feeder, bandcutter, nor blower. Straw was carried out the back end of the machine by a straw carrier which was much like the elevator canvass found on a binder. This straw was taken from the back of the machine with a bucking rope. This was a hundred feet of three quarter inch rope with a loop or an eye at each end that was circled around the pile of straw that collected at the back of the machine. Then the two eyes were hooked into the hook on a chain