

It certainly enabled us to grow splendid vegetable crops. Also good crops of weeds.

Now for a general description of our home & farm life, which I presume was much the same in most cases. The general run of the size of the family was much larger than at the present day, and for many years past.

As the family increased so had the conveniences also, and another chair would be put alongside the table, and the beds had to accommodate two and sometimes three. There were no spring mattresses in those early times nor were there but very few Rapak ones. Of course I am only speaking of that class of people who came out to make better conditions than had been their experience in their old homes in the Old Country. For bedding the first importance was the mattress or bed tick as we called it. This was made generally of a kind of cloth called 'ticking' or perhaps several sacks split open and made into larger ones, this was filled with the best and cleanest oaten chaff. good care taken that as few as possible of thistlepricks were included. On the whole this made a lovely soft resting place, and had to last until the following year, when a fresh supply

Mother had a feather bed as did most of the families from the old country.
hulled

was obtained after the crops were threshed & no food eaten ~~the~~ was available then & wheaten was used, this was not quite as soft as the other, but it answered the purpose very well. Of course there were the blankets, sometimes perhaps of red or grey, also better quality covered over with the quilt or bed spread. There was generally in every home what was called a patchwork quilt, made from all sorts of discarded material and of various colours. In and between these patches which were sewn on to one general large sized as we might say foundation were ^{sometimes} stuffed also with woolly material. Altogether a very serviceable material article for warmth. We as children did not always have double sheets on, ^{the bed} we were inclined to prefer getting between the blankets which were certainly warmer to get in between in the winter time. A very common sort of bedstead, of course (this for the head of the household) was called the tester which really was an extension upwards from the frame work of the ^{corner of} bedstead. Over this was fixed a covering, and all around a sort of curtain was hung. Needless to say there was a certainly a good accumulation of dust on the top. These did not com.