

Soon after the mill was running, Harris & Bronson, at Lake Pharaoh, bought a water power at Bytown, secured some timber limits, and prepared to build a mill. Mr. Bronson, then my brother-in-law, was anxious to have me help build their mill, knowing that I had after leaving them a good deal of experience. He thought I ought to be with them, and that he could arrange for me to have some financial interest in the mill. After the mill stopped, and during the winter, they were anxious for me to be there and rush the mill-work and order the machinery.

I decided to go to Bytown and left Belleville in a covered sleigh, with your mother and the baby, and our luggage. It was a drive of about 230 miles. We spent the second night out at Brewer's Mills with the man I had engaged to take my place, and his wife, and drove through by easy stages, and had a comfortable trip. Went directly to Mr. Bronson's house and remained with them until spring, when we went to housekeeping, for the first time.

#### MY OWN EMPLOYER

All the next year I was busy helping about building the mill and to get the first piers and booms in the river to handle the logs as they came down the Ottawa. After the mill was built, Mr. Harris, who was the head of the Harris & Bronson Company, suggested that he would like to have me run that mill by the thousand. We had already built a water-slide from the side of the mill where the lumber was put out down the shore to the piling ground for the lumber. It was of three-inch plank, part of them 15 inches wide and part 12 inches wide; three 12-inch plank in the bottom, and the side planks 15 inches wide. The lumber was dropped from the mill into the water-slide, with about six inches of water, which carried it to the piling ground, where the water was let out and the lumber taken on little two-wheeled cars and distributed. The mill consisted on the shore-side of what we called an English gate—two saws

hung on sash gate. Sometimes we ~~run~~<sup>ran</sup> only one saw, and sometimes two, for cutting the big logs. Next to that, along on the same line, was a slabbing-gang, in which we hung sixteen saws, eight on either side, and a twelve-inch stock, or cant, as we called it; beyond that was a stock-gang which ran two medium-sized stocks, or cants, side by side. In that gang we had forty saws, and beyond that we had what we used to call a Yankee-gang. The Yankee-gang was an iron frame with a center piece, or stile. One side of it was hung with twelve saws—six on either side of a twelve-inch cant, or stock. The log would be run through the slabber, boards and slabs taken off, the stock turned down to a set of rollers, and would go back through the stock gang, where the lumber was taken off to the edger. We had two ordinary edgers and a large trimmer. When the lumber went over the trimmer it was dropped into this water-slide and run to the piling ground.

I hesitate to tell you what I did in that mill that year, for it seems incredible, but is nevertheless true. I filed and hung every saw, including edging saws and trimmer saws; two saws for the first English or shore-gate, sixteen saws for the next, the slabber-gang, and forty saws for the next, or stock-gang, and twelve saws for the slabber-part of the Yankee-gang, and twenty-two saws for the stock part of the Yankee-gang. I used a filing machine and bench of my own invention, which enabled me to do the filing of so many saws as promptly as it had to be done. Then, at night, after the mill was stopped, I hung the saws I had filed during the day. I had a mill-wright who would go around with me to see that every key and everything else in the mill was properly cared for, to start the next morning. During that summer the only man besides the mill-wright I had to help me was one I took from the machine shop the month of August to help me about the filing. Other than that, I did all of that work myself, which would now be considered work for three men, at least. There were no machines then with emery wheels for sharpening saws. It was done with

a file. The boarding house was close to the mill, and your mother with the help of one girl did the work for a large portion of the men.

The logs were supposed to be delivered at the foot of the jack-ladder, but many times I had to help get them through the flume from the storage-boom to keep the mill going. We cut about 150,000 feet of lumber a day. That amount of mill, the way we run now, would cut hardly twice that amount. We did not run the machinery at as high a speed as now, or put on as much feed, but with the slow feed we made very smooth and even lumber. It looked so nice that Mr. Harris on one or two occasions cut off pieces of board an inch and a half plank and took them to Albany to show to parties there what kind of lumber we were making. Most of our lumber was shipped in canal-boats down the Ottawa into the St. Lawrence, through the canal to Lake Champlain, down to Whitehall, and from there to Troy by canal. When we settled up, in the fall, Mr. Harris was there, and the bookkeeper who kept my accounts and paid the men found that, counting the days the mill had run, it left me \$10 a day for my work. Mr. Harris said he was much pleased with the way I had run the mill and made the lumber, and that he would like to have me run it another year, but thought I ought to run it for 50c. instead of 75c. per M. I told him I could not do it for that; that I had done the work of at least three men, and at the price he proposed to give me it would not pay me to do it, and I advised him to get another to take the job.

#### ON A BIG SALARY

Mr. Bronson, who had to do about what Mr. Harris said, couldn't prevail on him to give me the price I was willing to take and continue to run the mill. He felt, too, as he talked when I first went there, that I ought to have a financial interest in the operation. That, however, meant too large an investment, and I did not have the courage to run in debt to the extent I would have had to, so the next day I told Mr. Harris he had