

The land was held under seigneurial or feudal tenure, similar to that prevailing in old France, a system which seems to have promoted the development of agriculture. Many former hunters and traders settled down as cultivators of the soil, and came to be known as "habitants."

In 1667 there were 11,448 arpents of land under cultivation, while the farmers owned 3,107 cattle and 85 sheep. More live stock of all kinds was gradually brought into the country. A census of 1721 gives the following statistics: arpents under cultivation, 62,145; in pasture, 12,203; grain harvested—wheat, 282,700 bushels; barley, 4,585 bushels; oats, 64,035 bushels; peas, 57,400 bushels; corn, 7,205 bushels; flax, 54,650 lbs.; hemp, 2,100 lbs.; tobacco, 48,038 lbs. There were at this time 5,603 horses, 23,288 cattle, 13,823 sheep and 16,250 swine in the colony.

*Quebec.*—During two centuries and a half the habitant varied his system of farming very little. When the land was cleared of trees, wheat and oats were sown among the stumps. Two crops of this nature were harvested and then hay and other grasses were grown for several years. When the stumps were sufficiently rotten, the land was ploughed. Half the land was ploughed in three consecutive years and seeded to cereals and roots; the other half was kept for the production of hay as pasture for live stock. This was changed around during the next three years, and so on. The quantity of live stock kept was small compared with the area of the farm. This was not a very scientific system, but the soil was so rich that the crops of grain, roots and hay were always plentiful, so much so that flour, wheat and peas were being exported in 1749. Butter and cheese were always made, while maple sugar has been one of the regular products since 1690 and potatoes were first grown in 1758.

The period following the English conquest of Quebec, 1760 to 1850, was a critical one for agriculture, the governing classes being too much engrossed in politics to pay much attention to it. However, the settlement of the Eastern Townships was begun in 1774 by the United Empire Loyalists, who brought their cattle with them. These settlers were granted lands which were held under the tenure known as "free and common socage." These settlements made good progress and were reinforced later on by French-Canadians from the seigneuries.

From a very early period numerous efforts have been made to develop the agriculture of the country by agricultural education or training, by the organization of associations and by the establishment of agricultural schools and colleges. As early as 1668, Monseigneur de Laval opened an industrial school where agriculture was taught at St. Joachim, near Quebec, and in 1789 a society which published pamphlets on agriculture was founded by Lord Dorchester. Later, various books and pamphlets on agriculture were published and agricultural newspapers begun. In 1847 the Canadian legislature passed an Act authorizing the formation of agricultural societies and granting them subventions to be used for prizes at fairs and for