

probably that begun at Port Royal, now Annapolis, Nova Scotia, by the French under de Monts in 1605. Here some of the settlers cultivated patches of land and grew maize, pumpkins and beans, while cows were brought here by Poutrincourt in 1606. The Indians also grew maize to a small extent to supplement food obtained by hunting. According to the census of 1671, the Acadians, then numbering 441, had 429 arpents under cultivation, together with 866 cattle, 407 sheep and 36 goats. Thereafter the settlers continued to clear the lands and reclaim the fertile marshes from the sea, chiefly along the Basin of Minas, on which hay grew abundantly.

In the valley of the St. Lawrence, farming on a small scale appears to have been carried on by Champlain, the founder of Quebec, as early as 1608, when cattle were imported and hay and fodder grown, together with wheat and other grains. In 1626, Champlain established a farm at Cap Tourmente for cattle which he sent from Quebec.

The first real farmer, however, was Louis Hébert, who landed in Quebec in 1617 and immediately began to clear and cultivate the soil on what is now part of Upper Town, Quebec. His only tool was a spade, but he worked away till the soil was ready to receive the seed and also planted some apple trees. Hébert was followed by other farmers, among them Guillaume Couillard, Abraham Martin and Robert Giffard, the latter of whom was said to have had in 1635 large crops of wheat, peas and Indian corn. In the district of Three Rivers, Pierre Boucher had large crops of grains and vegetables, and in 1648, Pierre Gadbois and others commenced farming on land where now stands the city of Montreal.

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 lb.; hemp, 2,100 lb.; tobacco, 48,038 lb. There were at this time 5,603 horses, 23,288 cattle, 13,823 sheep and 16,250 swine in the colony.

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 soccage." These settlements made good progress and were reinforced later on by French-Canadians from the seigneuries.

Agriculture in the Provinces before Confederation.

Prince Edward Island.—The first record of settlement in Prince Edward Island or St. John Island, as it was then called, was in 1713, when some families of Acadians migrated to its shores, bringing a few cattle with them. In 1763 the island was ceded to Great Britain, divided, and granted to persons who had claims on the ground of military service, but practically no attempt was made to cultivate the land. However, farming received a slight impetus on the arrival in 1783 of the United Empire Loyalists, who brought their cattle with them and began to cultivate the land. The country was undulating and the soil was found to be a bright red loam,