

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.

Ontario.—Agriculture in Ontario may be said to have begun in 1671, when Frontenac founded the first settlement near Kingston. He was granted a vast territory on the understanding that he would foster agriculture and stock raising; but little agricultural work was actually done, as all of the settlers' time was taken up in warring with the Indians. In 1701, a small settlement on the Detroit river was started by La Motte Cadillac, who is said to have brought some cows with him.

The first English-speaking agricultural settlement was not commenced until 1783, when the United Empire Loyalists arrived from the United States. They settled principally around Niagara, York, now Toronto, and the bay of Quinte, the settlements along the bay of Quinte and the St. Lawrence river being among the most populous. Townships were surveyed and grants of land given. As these exiled settlers were very poor owing to the confiscation of their property, they had to be provided with rations, clothes, implements, seed grain, etc. A cow was allotted to every two families and other articles were divided among them. The implements supplied them were very crude, but by combining their efforts they were able to clear open spaces in the forests, build rude huts and sow the seed among the stumps. The crops of wheat, corn, etc., grown on this virgin soil gave excellent yields for the first three years, but the crop of 1788 was a failure. During these years, flour mills were built at Cataraqui river, Napanee, Matilda, Niagara Falls, fort Erie and Grand river. The pioneers had many hardships to contend with, not the least being the depredations of the Indians and wild beasts. Later, during the Crimean war, the price of wheat rose from 30 cents to \$2 per bushel, which, followed by the high prices obtaining during the American Civil War, gave many of the farmers their first real start, enabling them to bring in cattle, horses and sheep from Lower Canada and the United States.

The building of roads, under an Act of 1793, opened up the country, and soon grain, especially corn, was being exported. Cheese and butter were made, and a market was opened at Kingston in 1801. Wheat was the leading cereal produced, the valley of the Thames being noted for the quantity and quality of this grain. After the war of 1812, grants of 100 acres with provisions and implements were made to the soldiers. Legislation was passed to encourage the growing of hemp, but little success was obtained in the handling of this crop. According to the census of 1817, the Midland districts of Ontario contained 3,600 horses, 100 oxen, 6,185 cows and 1,654 young cattle.

Northwest Territories.—The earliest attempts at cultivation in the West date from the arrival of the Selkirk settlers at the Red river in 1812. The twenty-two men who composed the settlement immediately commenced to break the land, which was sown with winter wheat. The wheat crops of 1813 and 1814 were complete failures, owing both to lack of knowledge and to the fact that the only implement available for breaking the sod was the hoe. The yield of potatoes and turnips was, however, good, and the crop of 1815 was a success.

During the first few years of the settlement, there was great rivalry between the North-West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, which ended in bloodshed in 1816. Many of the settlers were killed and the remainder fled up lake Winnipeg to Jack river. Early in 1817 a relief force was sent by Lord Selkirk, fort