

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, very suitable for the growing of cereal crops and potatoes. Rich deposits of mussel mud were found, which were used as fertilizer with good results. Soon Prince Edward Island oats and potatoes were listed on the markets of the Maritime Provinces.

Nova Scotia.—While the territory which is now Nova Scotia became a British possession by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the first English-speaking settlement was made in Halifax in 1749, and for military rather than economic purposes. However, between 1751 and 1753, about 1,600 German and Swiss immigrants had settled in what is now the county of Lunenburg. Further, after the expulsion of the Acadians from Port Royal in 1755, a considerable number of New Englanders had settled in the Annapolis Valley. As early as 1762, 14,340 acres were under cultivation, producing hay, grain and potatoes and supporting some live stock. In 1783, after the Peace of Paris, many United Empire Loyalists came to Nova Scotia, bringing their live stock with them. They received from the British Government grants of land, agricultural implements and seed corn.

In the Atlantic Provinces generally, the farmers were unprogressive, and farming was at a rather low ebb when, in 1818, a series of letters published in the *Acadian Recorder* under the signature of "Agricola," attracted public attention. These letters dealt with all phases of the industry. The people were awakened from their lethargy, and the outcome was the formation at the end of 1818, of the Central Agricultural Society, of which "Agricola," now found to be John Young, a Scotsman who had come to Nova Scotia a few years previously, became secretary. Twenty-five other agricultural societies were organized within the next two years. Yearly exhibitions were held, improved stock and seed were distributed and conditions improved generally.