

In these early settlements, the agriculture was very primitive. However, the virgin fertility of the soil generally produced good crops in spite of the very crude conditions under which cultivation was carried on. The French establishments were developed primarily for the prosecution of the fur trade and to hold the country for France. Crops were grown to aid in feeding the resident population, and live stock such as horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, was sent to the colonies to provide a local supply of such primary requirements as meat, hides, dairy products, and wool. However, as the resident population of the colonies increased, agricultural settlement spread along the fertile coasts and river valleys of Acadia and along the lowlands of the St. Lawrence river and its tributaries. Agricultural production grew in certain lines beyond the immediate requirements of the colony so that in 1749 flour, wheat, and peas were being exported.

The Influence of U.E.L. Immigration.—The influx of the United Empire Loyalists in the 1770's and 1780's had a far-reaching effect upon agricultural settlement and production in what is now Eastern Canada. These people from the United States established settlements in Prince Edward island, at Annapolis and other parts of Nova Scotia, in the St. John valley of New Brunswick, the Eastern Townships of Quebec and all along the hitherto unsettled Canadian shores of lake Ontario. In many cases they brought with them live stock and the crude necessary agricultural implements and tools of those days. These immigrants endured many privations and hardships in the early years and their settlements were barely established when the War of 1812-14 came with the usual wastage, devastation, and post-war agricultural depression. The first real prosperity for all this new agricultural settlement in Canada came after 1850 with the improved transportation facilities provided by the railways and with the rising prices resulting from the Crimean War, the American Civil War, and the Prussian wars in Europe.

During this long early period of agricultural development in Canada, methods generally remained very primitive. The greatly increased French-Canadian population continued the traditional farming practices introduced by their forefathers of the 17th century. For many years before and after the British conquest, their live stock was cut off from the possibilities of improvement through the importation of better breeding stock from France. In the conditions of destitution under which most of the Loyalists came to this country, their farming methods were similarly primitive and their live stock poor. Under the French *régime*, some official efforts had been made to improve methods and as early as 1668 Laval opened an industrial school where agriculture was taught at St. Joachim, near Quebec, but for many years after the British conquest of Canada, the agricultural industry received very little help or encouragement from governing bodies, the official classes being too much engrossed in politics.

The Inception of Improved Methods.—The first large-scale movement for the improvement of the agricultural industry, which is in any way comparable with the many agencies for that purpose to-day, appears to have started in Nova Scotia and probably was a result of the depression which followed the Napoleonic wars in Europe and the War of 1812-14 in America. In 1818 a series of articles in the *Acadian Recorder* under the signature of "Agricola" attracted wide-spread public interest and resulted in the formation of the Central Agricultural Society. The movement quickly spread to other districts of Nova Scotia and to the other provinces. These Agricultural Societies held yearly exhibitions in their districts and encouraged the distribution of improved stock and seed. Before long the Societies began to receive official assistance in the form of grants from the colonial govern-