

of the second year was recorded in France two sous a pound better than that of the first. God blessed our labours, and gave us fair wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas, beans, hemp, turnips and garden herbs; and this so plentifully that the rye was as tall as the tallest man that may be seen, and we feared that this height would hinder it bringing forth seed, but it had fructified so well, that one French grain sowed there yielded such ears of corn that, by the testimony of my lord the Chancellor, neither the island of Sicily nor the country of Beauce yielded anything finer. . . . \*

Growth in the Acadian region was slow, however, and the Census of 1671 shows only 441 Acadians, having 429 arpents† under cultivation with 866 cattle, 407 sheep, and 36 goats. Early in the eighteenth century the French began to dyke the marshes of the Minas basin where they were able to secure level lands which did not require clearing and which proved very fertile for the production of grains and grasses. Reports of the agricultural technique of this period indicate that the wooded land was cleared by cutting off the timber about three feet above the ground. The trees were left to dry and then burnt off. In the fall, rye was seeded among the stumps and the next year potatoes were planted. After three or four years the stumps were pulled with a yoke of oxen and eventually the land was ready for cultivation. The cattle of the period were said to be rather small, lively-looking animals with fine horns. The method of raising calves was somewhat surprising to English observers of the period. The calves were allowed to suck one side of the cow while the women milked the other side. This method was followed for the first four months, after which the calves were put out on grass. The womenfolk of the settlement were highly praised for their industry in making both linen and woollen cloth, which they bleached and dyed themselves. Candles, soap, and starch were also made in the home.

In the lower St. Lawrence valley some attempts at agriculture appear to have been begun as early as 1608 when Champlain, the founder of Quebec, came to the country. The first real farmer is said to have been Louis Hébert, who started farming in 1617 on the site of what is now Quebec city. Small settlements developed at various points along the St. Lawrence during these early days, but clearing was difficult and slow and it was a considerable time before the people were able to be self-sufficient in foodstuffs. Settlement of the so-called Eastern Townships of Quebec began shortly after 1800, the settlers coming chiefly from the New England States. However, it was not until after 1830 that they had satisfactory communication with Montreal and other parts of Canada. After that time agricultural progress was rapid in the area.

Agriculture in Upper Canada (Ontario) was also introduced by the French. The first settlement being established by Frontenac at Kingston in 1671. Difficulty of communication and transportation as well as the heavy work involved in clearing the land, kept settlement at a slow rate. When the United Empire Loyalists began coming into the area after 1780 settlement became much more active. The opening up of this part of the country was characterized by the fact that small isolated areas were settled in different sections of the province. The Talbot Settlement in Yarmouth township was settled under Colonel Talbot about 1820. The present county of Glengarry in eastern Ontario was settled by the Glengarry Fencible Regiment of Highlanders at about the same time. Other settlements were opened up around London, Niagara, Owen Sound, and Goderich. Roads were opened between settlements and eventually the intervening country was settled. By 1852 there were close to 100,000 farms in the province. Reports of the work of these early settlers

\* Select Documents in Canadian Economic History, 1497-1783, H. A. Innis, University of Toronto Press, p. 61.

† An arpent is the equivalent of 0.84 acre.