

The Dairying Industry

By J. A. RUDDICK (Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner)

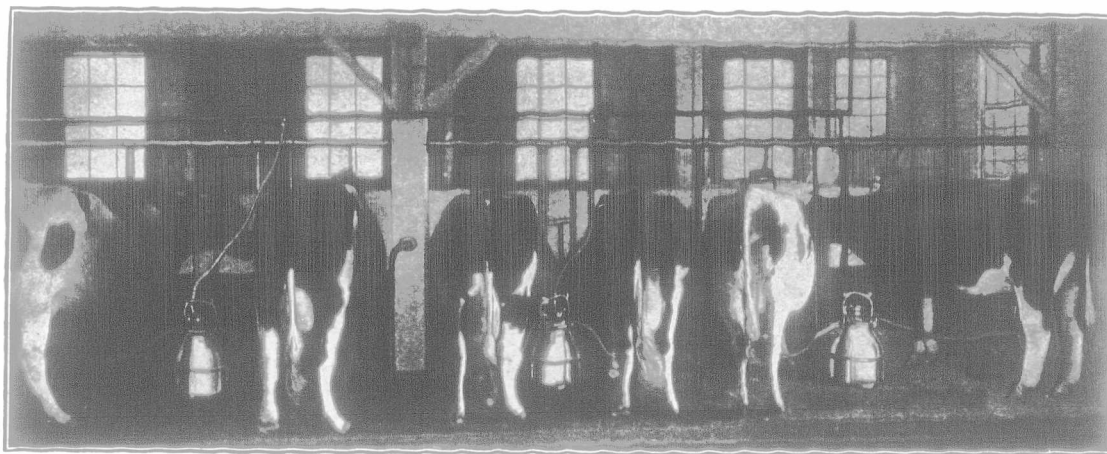
Historical.

If we would trace the development of the dairying industry in Canada to its very beginning, we must go back to a very early date in the history of this country. As a matter of passing interest, it may be stated that some time during the early years of the sixteenth century European adventurers landed a number of horned cattle and horses on Sable Island. It is not clearly established as to who it was left this live stock on that bleak, inhospitable sandbank, but it has been generally accredited to Baron de Lery in the year 1518. In any case, the convict colonists, who were marooned on Sable Island by the Marquis de la Rocque in 1598, while he searched for a suitable location for his settlement, and were finally left there to shift for themselves, subsisted on the flesh of these animals and clothed themselves partially in their skins for seven years, when they were rescued from their perilous position. The cattle continued to thrive, but were finally exterminated about 1630 by companies or-

The first permanent introduction of cows into Canada was undoubtedly made by Champlain about 1610. He mentions the cutting of hay for the "cattle" in 1610, and a map of Quebec, published in 1613, shows where "hay was grown for the cattle." The Massachusetts colonists had no cows until 1623.

Champlain's colony had a farm at Cap Tourmente with 60 or 70 head of cattle in 1629. It is claimed that the site of this farm has been occupied for dairying purposes continuously since the time of Champlain down to the present day. It is now in possession of the Quebec Seminary and known as "Little Farm."

In 1660 the great Minister Colbert under Louis XIV. began sending representatives of the best dairy cows of Normandy and Brittany to New France, and further additions were made to the live stock of the colony by the cattle brought with the famous Carigan-Salieres regiment in 1665. The French Canadian breed of the present time is descended from the stock thus imported from France in the seventeenth century. During that



A Milking Machine at Work.

ganized, for the purpose of hunting them, among the Puritans of the Massachusetts Colony, but the ponies are there to this day.

The Spaniards brought horned cattle to the West Indies and the Spanish Main early in the sixteenth century but, so far as the writer can learn, these cattle were not used for dairying purposes but rather to supply meat for the adventurers of that period. They were evidently allowed to run wild, and became more or less common property. The word "buccaneer" is derived from the fact that these sea rovers, when not engaged in their marauding expeditions, frequently resorted to places where wild cattle were plentiful, for the purpose of securing a supply of dried beef, known as "boucan"; hence the word "boucanier" or in English "buccaneer."

Cartier carried live stock with him on his third and last voyage to the St. Lawrence in 1541, but as he made no permanent settlement, the cattle were probably eaten or taken back to France.

In 1606, Poutrincourt brought some cows to the settlement founded by DeMonts at Port Royal (now Annapolis, N.S.) in 1604. This could hardly have been a permanent introduction, however, because the settlement was destroyed in 1613 by an expedition from Virginia under Argall, and if these pirates spared any of the cattle the Indians would hardly have allowed such easy prey to escape for any length of time.

same period the Acadian settlements in what is now the Maritime Provinces began to acquire a permanent character and the number of cattle increased until in 1671 there were reported to be nearly 1,000 head of "horned cattle" in all Acadia. A later census showed quite a rapid increase, and there were 1557 cows and over 5,000 young cattle at the Basin of Minas alone when the Acadians were driven out in 1755. After the expulsion of the Acadians, the fertile lands which they had occupied tempted many settlers from New England, who brought live stock with them to the various districts.

The German settlement at Lunenburg, N.S., was exporting both butter and cheese as early as 1760.

La Motte Cadillac took some calves with him when he went West in 1701 and founded the post on the site of which the city of Detroit now stands. The first settlement was on the American side of the river, but some years afterwards it spread to the Canadian shore.

The real introduction of domestic cattle into Upper Canada, however, was coincident with the coming of the United Empire Loyalists in 1783 and following years. Some of these people brought cattle with them, and the Government added to their number by a distribution of cows and bulls both in Upper Canada and in the Eastern Townships.

Lord Selkirk's Red River Colonists had been on the ground for eleven years, or until 1823, before they pro-