

and at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia river. These farms were stocked with dairy cattle which had been driven up from California and were of Mexican (originally Spanish) origin, having been brought to California by the Mission Fathers.

The new fort was supplied with cattle and by 1846 there were two dairies of 70 cows each, under direction of Roderick Finlayson, who may be considered as British Columbia's first dairyman.

The produce of these farms was supplied to the northern posts and was also used in the trade with the Russians who then occupied Alaska.

From this brief statement respecting the introduction of domestic cattle into the various parts of Canada, it is clearly evident that even the very first colonists considered the possession of cows and oxen to be of prime importance, and one of the first necessities of a civilized existence, for we find that wherever permanent settlement was made, the cattle soon followed, although they were often obtained under the greatest difficulties. In addition to the difficulty of obtaining cows the first settlers in Eastern Canada found it no light matter to provide feed for them in a country almost completely covered with a dense forest. Unless there happened to be a sufficient supply of 'beaver meadow' hay available the poor animals often had to live for months on the young shoots of shrubs and trees, and many acres of fine Ontario and Quebec bush were felled to provide 'browsing' for the starving cattle.

A large proportion of the 'horned cattle' reported as being in the possession of the early settlers were used as draft oxen, so that the dairying industry of those times was not always as extensive as the number of cattle would indicate on a present-day basis.

It will now be evident that Canada may claim the honour of having been the first part of America, north of the Gulf of Mexico, at any rate, to receive domestic cattle. The Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth did not have any until 1623. It is possible that the Spaniards may have brought cattle, as well as horses, to Mexico or Central America, during the 16th century, but the writer has been unable to determine that point definitely.

It follows that the common cow of this country comes from a very mixed ancestry. In the eastern provinces, there is strain of French or Normandy blood, along with various English and Scotch mixtures and also a trace of Dutch brought by some of the Loyalists, from New York State. In the western provinces there is reason to believe that many of the cattle which have come from the south, were of Spanish ancestry.

TABLE I.—Horned cattle in New France and Acadia.

	New France.	Acadia.
1667.....	3,107	.....
1671.....	6,983	866
1685.....	7,474	.....
1686.....	.....	986
1693.....	.....	1,648
1695.....	9,181	.....
1701.....	.....	1,807
1706.....	14,191	.....
1720.....	23,388	.....
1734.....	33,179	.....

More than half the number of horned cattle given in the foregoing table would be made up of oxen and young cattle.