Cows Arrive In America In 1611 To Start It All

THE VIKINGS, who are reported to have reached the shores of North America long before Columbus sighted the from marauding Indians. He the proper authorities heads has so high a complete West Indies, carried cattle with them to provide their meat issued orders to colonists, of eight wolves. It was soleand milk. However, dairying as a recognized part of the not to allow the livestock to American agricultural economy was first envisioned and wander because both wolves planned by the leaders of the Jamestown settlement.

Three ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed and the Discovery, one of 100 tons, one of 40 tons, and a pinnace of 20 tons, set out from London, December 20, 1606, bound for Virginia On May 13, 1607 the ships put in at Jamestown island, which attracted them, not only for defense reasons but also because they could tie their ships to trees on the shore.

Captain John Smith-he whose fame has grown from an encounter with the Indian maid Pocohontas more than from his more lasting exploits — became president of the new colony in Sept-ember, 1608.

Until 1611 the settlers were dependent upon imports of meat preserved in salt and what they could hunt in Virginia, plus their own limited cultivation of wheat and other crops and the corn which they got from the Indians through trade. The supply of such important foods as butter and cheese, which were included in the ships' provisions on each trip, apparently, was totally inadequate.

"Milke . . A Great Nourishment And Refreshing"

Lord Delaware, who left the colony after one year because of illness, wrote in 1611, in a report to the Virginia Company:

"The Countrey (meaning Virginia) is wonderful fertile and yery rich and makes good whatsoever heretofore hath been reported of it, the Cattell already there, are much encreases, and thrive exceedingly with the pasture of that Countrey: the Kine all this last winter, though the ground was covered most with Snow, and the sea son sharpe, lived without other feeding than the grass they found, with which they prostered well, and many of them readie to fall with Calve: Milke being a great nourishment and refreshing to our people, serving also



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(in occasion) as well for Physicke (by which Dela-Food, so that it is no way dred Kine. . .

months grazing on available grass and without extra feed it is nevertheless significant be self-reliant. that there was a growing recognition of the need for a native dairy industry in Virginia if that colony were

to survive and p osper.

Dairying Gets Governor's

Support

er the command of Virginia discussing Dale's program when Lord Delaware was for family settlement: forced to leave because of garden to each man, as op- were given to him,"

signed and had built the first barn for dairy cattle and directed that hay be gathered and stored for the a blockhouse on Jamestown island to protect the cattle and Indians were responsible for large livestock losses

Dale wanted to encourage families to come to Virginia ware means medicine) as for so he established a rule that every man arriving with his to be doubted, but when it family would receive a houshall please God that Sir se of four rooms. In the vicin-Thomas Dale, and Sir Tho- ity of his house the immimas Gates, shall arrive in grant was to have 12 acres Virginia with their extraor- of ground if he would agdinary supply of one hun- ree to raise wheat, maise (Indian corn), roots and While other observers dis- herbs. Provisions to supply pute Delaware's claim that the family for 12 months the cows did well in winter were also provided, but after the first year the family was expected to be able to

Cow Becomes A Symbol To Settlers

Phillip Alexander Bruce, author of the book Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century (published by The Macmillian Sir Thomas Dale took ov- Company in 1895), states, in

"Tools were also presentill health, Dale, like John ed to him, and, for the more Smith, believed the colony comfortable subsistence of must be self-sufficient in fo- his family, poultry, swine, od, He assigned a separate several goats and even a cow posed to the common garden cating, apparently that cows philosophy and thus he insti- were in Virginia, as elsetuted the first form, though where in the world, consid-

modified, of private enter- ered a very important form mnly stated in the tea prise in the colony. Dale de- of wealth.

Colony at this time, that a ed both a conspicious winter feeding. He also built cow was given to every In- useful part in the history dian chief the members of the human race, but whose tribe had brought to ably never before or

Cows To Civilize The Indians cipal object was to co "It is an evidence of the and Christianiaze the abundance of cattle in the gines The cow has per (Turn to page 14)

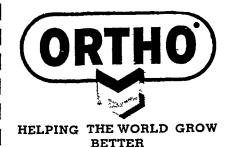
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