

CHAPTER VI. AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural industry.

344. Canada is essentially an agricultural country, and in spite of the extensive mineral resources which are waiting for development, the agricultural industry must always be the most important one, for while the value of imports and exports of animal and agricultural produce may be exceeded by that of other industries, the number of persons depending on agriculture for a livelihood far exceeds the number depending on any other pursuit.

Crops in Ontario, 1889.

345. The yield of fall wheat in Ontario in 1889 was small and the quality generally inferior, owing to heavy rains in June, succeeded by a protracted drought, while spring wheat was of a slightly better quality, but the average yield was less. The total wheat crop only amounted to 18,699,572 bushels, being 8,161,304 bushels below the average of eight years, and the yield per acre was only, of fall wheat 15·8 bushels, as against an average for seven years of 19·4 bushels, and of spring wheat 14·3 bushels, as against an average of 15·6 bushels. Barley and pease were fair crops, and the yield of oats was large, but the weight light.

Yield of grain crops in Ontario, 1888 and 1889.

346. The following figures, published by the Ontario Bureau of Statistics, give the yield of the principal grains in 1888 and 1889, and the average for seven years :—

YIELD OF GRAIN CROPS IN ONTARIO, 1888 AND 1889.

CROPS.	1888.	1889.	Average yield for seven Years.	Average bush. per Acre.
	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	
Fall wheat.....	13,830,787	13,001,865	18,056,559	19·4
Spring wheat.....	6,453,559	5,697,707	8,804,317	15·6
Barley.....	23,366,569	23,386,388	20,218,930	26·2
Oats.....	65,466,911	64,346,301	57,041,035	35·3
Rye.....	1,295,302	1,431,679	1,766,767	16·3
Pease.....	14,269,863	13,509,237	13,171,725	20·4
Corn (in the ear).....	17,436,780	9,248,199	11,856,141	64·9
Buckwheat.....	1,222,283	1,272,578	1,353,877	22·2
Beans.....	534,526	371,893	451,855	20·4