

## AGRICULTURE.

253. Canada is essentially an agricultural country, and the number of persons engaged in agricultural pursuits formed nearly 56 per cent. of the number returned by the census of 1881 as having occupations, showing that considerably more than half of the total population was dependent for a living on the fruits of the soil. As compared with the number of persons engaged in agriculture in the United States in 1880, the figures were ; Canada, 55·9 ; United States, 44·1.

Persons engaged in the agricultural industry.

354. The yield of fall wheat in Ontario in 1890, while superior to that of 1889, was not as good as was expected, the wet weather of June and July having caused considerable rust, the quality, however, was generally better than that of other grains. Spring wheat was a comparative failure. The total yield was 21,951,288 bushels, being 4,364,079 bushels below the average of nine years, while the yield per acre in 1890 of fall wheat was 19·8 bushels and of spring wheat 12·8 bushels, as compared with an average yield for the same period of nine years of 19·4 and 15·2 bushels per acre. Barley and peas, were unsatisfactory crops, and the yield of oats was light.

Crops in Ontario, 1890.

355. The following figures, published by the Ontario Bureau of Statistics, give the yield of the principal grains in 1889 and 1890, and the average for nine years :—

Yield of grain crops in Ontario, 1889 and 1890.

YIELD OF GRAIN CROPS IN ONTARIO, 1889 AND 1890.

CROPS.	1889.	1890.	AVERAGE YIELD.	
			For Nine Years.	Per Acre.
			Bush.	Bush.
Fall wheat . . . . .	13,001,865	14,267,383	17,635,540	19·4
Spring wheat . . . . .	5,697,707	7,683,905	8,679,827	15·2
Barley . . . . .	23,386,388	15,600,169	19,705,734	25·8
Oats . . . . .	64,346,301	52,768,207	56,566,276	34·4
Rye . . . . .	1,431,679	1,563,345	1,744,164	16·2
Peas . . . . .	13,509,237	15,389,313	13,418,124	20·3
Corn (in the ear) . . . . .	9,248,199	14,011,181	12,125,521	64·5
Buckwheat . . . . .	1,272,578	2,053,720	1,441,358	22·3
Beans . . . . .	371,893	761,341	490,541	20·2