

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURE.

368. Important as are the fishing and lumbering interests in Canada and important as its manufacturing industries may become, yet the industry of the country is essentially that of agriculture, and it seems probable that it will always hold the first place in importance. According to the census of 1881, 56 per cent, or more than half of the population, were engaged in agricultural pursuits, and therefore dependent for a living on the fruits of the soil. The census figures for 1891 are not yet available. It is on account of the particular importance of the subject that a special chapter is devoted to this industry.

Persons engaged in the agricultural industry.

369. The harvest of 1891 was, taken as a whole, remarkably good throughout the Dominion.

Harvest, 1891.

370. In Ontario fall wheat was a particularly fine crop, averaging in many places from 25 to 30 bushels per acre and weighing from 60 to 66 lbs. per bushel. Spring wheat was also a very fine crop. The total wheat yield of the province was 32,584,026 bushels, being 5,641,793 bushels over the average of ten years, and 1,712,370 bushels more than the total wheat crop of the Dominion in 1889. The average yield per acre was 25.7 bushels for fall wheat and 21.0 bushels for spring wheat, as compared with an average yield for ten years of 20.0 bushels and 15.8 bushels, respectively. The yield of barley was generally good, but in most cases the grain was badly coloured. The oat crop was very variable, but on the whole was far above the average. Pease were fairly good, but the yield was reduced by the ravages of the "pea bug."

Grain crops in Ontario, 1891.

371. The following figures, published by the Ontario Bureau of Statistics, give the yield of the principal grains in 1890 and 1891, and the average for ten years:—

Yield of grain crops in Ontario, 1890 and 1891.

YIELD OF GRAIN CROPS IN ONTARIO, 1890 AND 1891.

CROPS.	1890.	1891.	AVERAGE YIELD.	
			For Ten Years.	Per Acre.
	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.
Fall wheat	14,267,383	21,872,488	18,059,235	20.0
Spring wheat	7,683,905	10,711,538	8,882,998	15.8
Barley	15,600,169	16,141,904	19,349,351	26.0
Oats	52,768,207	75,009,542	58,410,603	35.1
Rye	1,563,345	1,134,630	1,683,211	16.2
Pease	15,389,313	18,323,459	13,908,658	20.8
Corn (in the ear)	14,011,181	18,288,659	12,810,314	66.1
Buckwheat	2,053,720	2,608,142	1,571,000	22.6
Beans	761,341	769,600	521,547	19.9