

## CHAPTER VI.

## AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural industry.

432. The principal industry of Canada is that of agriculture, and while, both the future of its manufacturing industries and to what extent its mineral resources may be developed, are unknown, it must be many years before any other industry can take a more prominent place. The fishing industry in some sections of the country, and that of lumbering in others are of great importance, but nothing is of the same universal consequence to the welfare of the country as the condition of the agricultural industry, and it is on that account that special attention has been given in this chapter to its various branches.

Harvest, 1892.

433. The harvest of 1892 was, on the whole, only a fair one, the yield being by no means so large as in 1891, and the quality of a very varying nature.

Grain crops in Ontario, 1892.

434. In Ontario the yield of farm produce altogether was disappointing. Fall wheat was a fairly successful crop, averaging 21·2 bushels per acre, as compared with 25·7 bushels in 1891; but spring wheat was generally very poor, the average only being 12·7 bushels per acre, against 21 bushels in 1891. The total wheat yield of the province was 28,782,892 bushels, being 3,801,134 bushels less than in the preceding year, and 1,673,327 bushels more than the average of eleven years. The quality of barley was not first-class, and the yield was under the average. The cultivation of this grain is decreasing in the province, the area sown having been 53,941 acres less than in 1891, and 221,837 acres below the average of eleven years. There was an increase in the average of pease and oats, which kept up the figures of the total yield, though the average was below the mark. Rye and buckwheat did fairly well.

Area and yield of grain crops in Ontario, 1891 and 1892.

435. The following figures, published by the Ontario Bureau of Statistics, give the area and yield of the principal grains in 1891 and 1892, and the average for eleven years:—

YIELD OF GRAIN CROPS IN ONTARIO, 1891 AND 1892.

CROPS.	1891.		1892.		AVERAGE YIELD.	
	Acres.	Bush.	Acres.	Bush.	For Eleven Years.	Per Acre.
Fall wheat. ....	849,956	21,872,488	966,522	20,492,497	18,280,440	20·1
Spring wheat. ....	510,634	10,711,538	651,302	8,290,395	8,829,125	15·4
Barley. ....	553,166	16,141,904	499,225	12,274,318	18,706,166	25·9
Oats. ....	1,840,636	75,000,542	1,861,469	64,758,053	58,987,644	35·1
Rye. ....	67,865	1,134,630	75,231	1,177,822	1,637,266	16·2
Pease. ....	752,453	18,323,459	774,732	14,494,430	13,961,910	20·6
Buckwheat. ....	107,879	2,608,142	125,104	2,521,214	1,666,022	22·2
Beans. ....	41,451	769,600	33,249	535,931	522,986	19·4