

CHAPTER IX.

Census Returns.—Ontario Returns.—Manitoba.—Value of farm property in Ontario and the United States.—Agriculture in England and other Countries.—Great Britain's Imports of Foods.—Wheat exporting and importing Countries.—Decreased area.—Tables, Imports and Exports of Agricultural products.—Beet-root sugar in Canada.—Viticulture in Canada.—Tobacco raising in Canada.—Farm Stock.—Quarantine.—Experimental Farms.—Dairying.

476. Looked at with respect to the number of persons directly dependent upon the land for a living, agriculture is the chief industry in Canada. In it 45 per cent of the population find their means of subsistence and their opportunities for the accumulation of wealth. Agriculture is, therefore, in Canada a branch of industry of paramount importance. Whatever affects it, prejudicially or beneficially, affects directly all other employments. Its products constitute one-fourth of the freighting of our railways, and one-third of that of our canals. Our mercantile marine depends largely upon the products of agriculture for freights, more than one-half of which are products of the farm.

According to the Census of 1891, the area of improved lands in Canada was 28,537,242 acres, of which 19,904,826 acres were under crop. There were 464,462 acres in gardens and orchards and 15,284,788 acres in pasture. The increase in lands under crop in 1891 compared with 1881 was 4,792,542 acres, or over 30 per cent. Relatively to the whole area of Canada the area under crop and in pasture was about 10 per cent.

There are, therefore, great possibilities of expansion in the future even in the older provinces, while in Manitoba and the organized districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan there are nearly 239,000,000 acres, which have been brought to the uses of the farmer and the ranchers to the extent of 7,832,200 acres. Included in this statement are the ranching grounds, which, in 1895, covered 904,187 acres, distributed among 185 lessees.

477. The Census returns of 1891 give the following information for the Dominion. A comparison with the Census of 1881 is also given.

		1891.	1881.
Wheat.....	bush.	42,144,779	32,350,269
Barley.....	“	17,148,198	16,844,868
Oats.....	“	82,515,413	70,493,131
Rye.....	“	1,328,322	2,097,180
Pease and beans.....	“	15,514,836	13,749,662
Buckwheat.....	“	4,886,122	4,901,147
Corn.....	“	10,675,886	9,025,142
Potatoes.....	“	52,653,704	55,268,227
Turnips and other roots.....	“	49,555,902	48,251,414
Grass and clover.....	“	340,650	324,317
Fruits, grapes, &c.....	lbs.	68,864,181	45,957,458
Tobacco.....	“	4,277,936	2,527,962
Hops.....	“	1,126,230	905,207
Flax seed.....	bush.	137,015	108,694