

HOP GROWING IN THE UNITED STATES.

We gather the following information from the last Patent Office Report (U. S.) Such returns in reference to this and other crops in Canada, would be highly interesting and useful, but there must be a change in the administration of the Bureau before we get them. The late (Canada) Census returns on such subjects, can not be relied upon. Perhaps the American Census has been more carefully taken. The Agricultural societies afford the best means for obtaining accurate information on the subject of soils, crops &c. The last American Report informs us that the Hop, so extensively cultivated in the field for breweries, and so well known to every house-keeper, for culinary use was unknown to the ancients. It was raised in Holland prior to 1854, and its properties and uses well understood. It was introduced into England, from Flanders, in 1524, but its strobiles were not used to preserve English beer before the latter part of the reign of Henry VII; and a century after, Parliament was petitioned by Londonders to prohibit their use.

The Hop plant was introduced into the British North American Colonies soon after the first European settlements, and cultivated in New-Netherlands in 1629, and in Virginia as early as 1648.

The amount of Hops raised in the United States in the year 1849; as by the census returns, is 3,497,029 pounds; of which New-England raised 707,743 pounds; New York raised 2,536,629 pounds, and all other States only 253,987 pounds. Vermont, New-Hampshire, and Massachusetts are the principal New-England Hop-growing States.

The first named raised in 1849, 288,023 pounds—Vermont increasing 239,886 pounds in ten years; New-Hampshire, 13,749 pounds, and Massachusetts diminished 133,200 pounds; while New-York increased in ten years 2,086,040 pounds.

Thus, in the year 1839, New York alone raised 2,536,299 pounds, and all other States in the Union only 960,730 pounds.

The Hop product of Otsego County is now much larger than that of any other county in the State or in the United States. In 1839 the annual amount raised was only 447,250 pounds, and in 1849 it was 1,132,052 pounds—being an increase of 684,802 pounds in ten years.

The Hop product of this county, in 1854, according to the report of the County Agricultural Society, is 2,000,000 pounds—being an increase of 867,918 pounds in five years, and 1,552,750 pounds in fifteen years.

The other principal Hop-growing counties in the State are Madison, Oneida, Cortland, Herkimer, and St. Lawrence—Madison raising, in 1849, 529,070 pounds; Oneida, 294,944 pounds;

Herkimer, 163,408 pounds, and St. Lawrence, 101,855 pounds, while Otsego County raised nearly one-half of the whole Hop product of the State.

By the census of 1850, there are in Otsego County 376,868 acres of improved land, and 171,294 acres of unimproved land—valued with the improvements and implements, at \$13,158,005.

By the Report of the agricultural Society, of this county, there were, as estimated, 2,500 acres of Hops in Otsego County, in 1855, yielding 800 per acre, making an aggregate of 2,000,000 pounds, which at 30 cents per pound, realized to the Hop-planters \$600,000.

The cost of production is stated at 10 cents a pound, which makes the actual profit, of the Otsego Hop-crop the past year \$400,000, and each acre of Hops producing a product of the value of \$240.

The price of Hops is, probably, more fluctuating than any other agricultural production, yet an increase of Hop-culture is recommended, for the reason that the average price of Hops for the last forty-eight years, in New England—being about 13 cents per pound—has paid a greater profit than any other agricultural crop during the same period.

In Otsego County, within the last few years, the price of Hops ruling high, I have known many farms of a hundred acres, with good buildings, offered for sale at a less sum than was received by the owner for his Hop-crop upon five acres of land. So you see it is strictly true that the Hop up in Otsego is a great institution.

A PREMIUM ORCHARD.

The Oneida County (N. Y.) Agricultural Society awarded a premium of \$15 to J. Talcott, of Rome, for his orchard of 385 trees, the largest of which were planted in 1849, and are now sixteen inches in circumference. The following statement is from the report of the Society; The land on which Mr. Talcott's orchard is planted is mostly a sandy or gravelly loam with a clay subsoil. Previous to planting, it was plowed in back furrows, and the holes were dug along the ridges, thirty feet apart, three feet in width, and eighteen inches deep. In each hole was put a large wheelbarrow load of compost, made of stable-manure, lime, ashes, and much [decayed forest-leaves would have been as good] under cover the year before. In planting the trees, surface soil was placed about the roots. The orchard ground has been cultivated to hoed crops. Once a year the trees have been pruned, and washed with strong soap-suds, a woolen cloth being used for this purpose. This washing has given the stems a clean, healthy look and has tended to keep away the insects. At the approach of winter the soil has been heaped up about a foot around the trees. This kept away the mice.