

BARLEY GROWING IN ONTARIO.

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Barley was grown as a cereal crop in very remote times. We learn from Ex. 9,31 that when Moses was pleading with Pharoah to let the Isrealites go, one of the plagues was a violent hailstorm which destroyed the barley crop then in the earing stages. In the time of our Saviour barley was used as a breadstuff, as is indicated in the narration of the miracle "The feeding of the five thousand." Of its value we find that in Rev. vi. 6, it was considered to be worth only one-third of what wheat was valued at.

Of its abuse we learn nothing until a much later date. Gambrinus, a legendary king, is regarded by the Germans as the inventor of beer. His memory is kept fresh by pictures of this supposed person, which are hung over the bars of many of the beer drinking dens, especially in Germany which is second to Great Britain in the manufacture and consumption of beer. It is estimated that the total yearly output of all the nations has now reached the enormous amount of 4,970,500,000 gallons.

Many years ago the farmers of Ontario found it profitable to grow barley for the export trade, the great bulk of it going to the United States. The acreage devoted to this crop increased from time to time as wheat growing in many parts became unprofitable, as a result largely from injudicious cropping of wheat after wheat, wheat after wheat, and wheat for a change. Very little was returned to the soil in the shape of manure, to supplement the plant food which was being manufactured in the soil and what came from the atmosphere. So that I find, taking the bureau of industries as my authority, that for the last seven years the average number of acres sown to barley is 757,525, yielding nearly 20,000,000 bushels, or an average of 26.1 bushels per acre. Compare with the other cereal crops grown, barley stands third in the amount of acres sown, and second in the yield per acre; more land being devoted to wheat and oats, but only the latter leading in the quantity per acre.

The yearly average export of barley for the eleven years 1868-87 has been 8,210,222 bushels, valued at \$5,674,014, or 69 cents per bushel. From these figures we gain some idea of the importance of the barley industry to this Province in the past; and the present outlook would indicate that its importance as an export crop was altogether a thing of the past. However, the bright side of the picture may again turn to us before we anticipate it.

From observation we learn many things, and among them, that Ontario is specially adapted for the successful development of many important industries. Her water power climate, soil, and other natural resources are all conducive to this end. Examining more closely we find that Ontario has many local conditions favoring each separate industry. To illustrate, only four or five sections are really adapted for fruit culture, other sections for stock raising and dairying, and even the cereal crops are partial to local conditions, such as soil and climatic influences. Let us apply this to barley growing. Once more referring to the bureau of industries I find the counties bordering on the Bay of Quinte, lakes Ontario and Huron, Georgian Bay, with the inland counties of Victoria and Peterborough, to be the chief barley growing sections of the Province. Examining the soils of these counties we find a great deal of heavy and gravelly clay soils, with in some instances clay loams all of which produce the best samples of barley, at the same time bear in mind the fact, that all these districts are more or less influenced by the large bodies of fresh water lying adjacent to them.

Barley is grown chiefly for two purposes, viz., *malting and feeding*. As the great bulk is grown for the "brew of the world," one object should be to grow it suitable for that purpose. What the malster desires in brief, as I understand it, is a plump, bright, heavy barley, containing a large percentage of the carbohydrates, which will malt in the quickest possible time, and uniformly. Besides manufacturing beer from the malt, much of the bright barley, by distillation, goes to make the "pale ale" and "porter," which are delicate whistle wetters for the nabobs.

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