

Ontario Department of Agriculture

FRUIT BRANCH

THE PEAR IN ONTARIO

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The pear has always been a more or less favorite fruit with both grower and consumer. The demand for many years has been scarcely equal to and at no time greater than the supply; consequently, but for the ravages of Pear Blight, it is reasonable to expect that plantings would have increased rapidly. The many large trees found growing to-day in various parts of Ontario, on which have been grafted three, four and five varieties, and in many cases twenty varieties and more, bear silent testimony to the esteem in which this fruit was held in past years and by the pioneer.

The object in writing these few pages is to make a summary of the industry from a study of the general situation with the hope of stimulating to some extent a somewhat neglected industry and to rouse those interested to fight still more faithfully the Blight, the dread disease that is holding the possibility of rapid development of the industry in check.

THE INDUSTRY.

The 1901 Census of Canada credits the Dominion with 617,293 bearing trees and 344,808 non-bearing trees. The 1911 Census of Canada credits the Dominion with 581,704 trees bearing and 385,538 trees non-bearing, a decrease of 35,589 bearing trees and an increase of 40,730 non-bearing trees; making an increase of 5,141 trees, bearing and non-bearing, in the Dominion.

The 1901 Census credits Ontario with 564,798 bearing trees. The 1911 Census credits Ontario with 505,368 bearing trees, a decrease of 59,430 trees in ten years.

The 1901 Census credits Ontario with 280,175 non-bearing trees and the 1911 Census credits Ontario with 237,769 non-bearing trees, a decrease of 42,406 trees in ten years.

In other words, the total decrease for Ontario in ten years is 101,836.

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