

AGRICULTURE IN QUEBEC.

Bulletin XVIII. of the census of 1901 recently issued gives the land area of the Province of Quebec as 218,723,687 acres, says the "Gazette." Of this only 14,444,175 acres, or 6.60 per cent. of the total, is occupied as farm land. The balance is forest or wilderness, much of it likely to remain so for all time. The pioneer has worked on little more than the river fringe of the great region the province includes in its geographical bounds.

In dealing with the lands the bulletin divides the occupied area into farms and lots. The latter include holdings of less than five acres; the former those from five acres up. The average lot is 0.97 of an acre in size and the average farm 110.82 acres. The lots in the census year (1901) yielded produce of a value of \$2,584,963, or at the rate of \$126.46 per lot. The farms yielded products valued at \$46,993,267 for crops and \$35,456,171 for animals, and their produce, a total of \$82,449,438, of \$633.46 for the average farm. In Ontario where, however, the farms are about 10 per cent. larger than in Quebec, the average product for farm is valued at \$1,040. Some of the difference is due, doubtless, to the superior advantages of climate and soil of the larger province; some is, perhaps, due to the less advanced processes still followed in some of the rural parts of Quebec. In one thing, however, this province has an advantage over Ontario. In Quebec 913.18 per cent. of the farm land is owned by those who work on it, only 6.82 per cent. being under lease. In Ontario there is but 85.14 per cent. owned by those who make their living on it, 14.86 per cent. being leased.

The holdings according to area are divided among 135,625 owners, 9,284 tenants, and 5,690 who are classed as both owners and tenants, as follows:—

Under one acre	10,489
1 to 5 acres	9,952
5 to 10 acres	3,708
11 to 50 acres	20,047
51 to 100 acres	45,813
101 to 200 acres	44,216
201 acres and over	16,374
	150,599

There is a discrepancy between this total and that given for the year 1891, which is 174,996. The decrease of 24,379 is away beyond what the decreases in rural population shown by the census would agree with. It is, according to the tables, chiefly in the holders of ten acres or less. These were given as 51,057 in 1891, and only as 24,149 in 1901. There seems to be need of an explanation in regard to this, the more particularly as a similar state of affairs is shown by Bulletin XVII, giving like information in regard to Ontario.

Of the 14,444,175 acres occupied 7,439,941 acres (just over half), is set down as improved, and here again there seems need of explanation, as the area improved in 1891 is given as 7,681,346 acres. There was not a decrease in the cultivated area in ten years, though these and other figures in the bulletin seem to indicate that there had been. The improved land is thus divided:—

	Acres.
In field crops	4,704,306
In pasture	3,860,665
In orchard	34,096
In vegetables and small fruits	28,809
In vineyards	119
In nurseries	193

The fruit industry includes a greater variety of products than is generally understood. There were in 1901 in the province 2,256,752 apple trees, 332 peach trees, 11,823 pear trees, 364,280 plum trees, 394,090 cherry trees, and 143,150 grape vines, the latter yielding 995,849 pounds of fruit. The apple yield is given as 2,025,113 bushels.

The acreage and yield of the principal field crops is given as follows:

	Acres.	Bush.
Spring wheat	139,344	1,961,576
Fall wheat	482	6,627
Barley	104,135	2,535,597
Oats	1,850,032	38,536,677
Rye	19,546	211,287
Corn in ear	28,506	1,884,331
Buckwheat	102,673	1,849,596
Peas	77,982	908,656
Beans	2,884	61,637
Mixed grains	43,729	3,523,507
Hay	2,548,450	2,581,828
Forage crops (tons)	39,740	328,032



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Potatoes (bush)	127,205	17,135,739
Other field roots (bush)	9,029	3,526,187
Flax (bush)	1,881	19,309
Tobacco (lbs.)	9,661	7,655,975
Hops	116	62,980
Grass seed (bush)		55,618
Clover		2,402

The yield per acre of the leading crops shown by the above is 14 bushels of wheat, 24 of oats, 134 of potatoes, 24 of barley, and 1.01 tons of hay.

The live stock on Quebec farms is returned as follows:—

Horses	320,673
Milch cows	767,825
Other horned cattle	598,004
Sheep	654,503
Swine	404,163
Turkeys	80,769
Geese	62,679
Ducks	28,080
Hens and chickens	3,066,804
Other fowl	45,811
Hives of bees	65,986

The pure bred animals are given as 2,294 horses, 11,578 cattle, 6,060 sheep, 4,765 swine, and 31,924 poultry. The marketable product from the above was 242,939 cattle, 363,375 sheep, 427,123 swine, and 1,930,396 heads of poultry, killed or sold for export, with 1,196,597 pounds of fine and 1,576,297 pounds of coarse wool, 18,357,188 pounds of home-made butter, 1,090,599 pounds of honey, and 15,502,415 dozen of eggs.

The value of the agricultural lands and buildings in the province is calculated at \$350,550,154, of implements and machinery at \$27,038,205, and of live stock at \$58,488,457. The crops and animal products were worth \$85,034,401. The total value of farm property is stated at \$430,154,421, the average farm being credited with a worth of \$3,304, made up of \$2,686 for land buildings, \$205 for implements and machinery, and \$412 for live stock. Such are the main facts brought out in the bulletin, and they are among the most interesting, so far as this province is concerned, that the census deals with. They give the facts regarding the basic industry of the country.

Samples of Choice Grain

By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture another distribution will be made this season of samples of the most productive sorts of grain to Canadian farmers for the improvement of seed. The stock for distribution is of the very best and has been secured mainly from the excellent crops recently had at the branch Experimental Farm at Indian Head in the North-west Territories. The distribution this spring will consist of samples of oats, spring wheat, barley, Indian corn and potatoes. The quantities of oats, wheat and barley to be sent this year will be 4 lbs. of oats and 5 lbs. of wheat or barley, sufficient to sow one-twentieth of an acre. The samples of Indian corn and potatoes will weigh 3 lbs. as heretofore. Every farmer may apply, but only one sample can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley or potatoes, and applications for more than one sample for one household cannot be entertained. These samples will be sent free of charge through the mail.

Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent in any time before the 1st of March, after which the lists will be closed, so that all the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing. Parties writing should mention the sort or variety they would prefer, and should the available stock of the kind asked for be exhausted, some other good sort will be sent in its place.

WM. SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farms.

ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.
Report for week ending Sunday, 27th December, 1908:— Irish 169, French 122, English 19, Scotch and other nationalities 4. Total 314.

BRITAIN'S TRADE.—Mr. John Burns, M.P., of the British Parliament and well known labor leader, says that the golden days of Britain are ahead not behind, inasmuch as the qualifications of both its workmen and captains of industry are superior to those of the toilers and industrial managers in other countries.

A TERRIBLE RECORD.—Premier Combes is responsible for a policy, says an English exchange, which has resulted in the course of eighteen months in closing of over ten thousand schools conducted by religious congregations in France.

A SAD CASE.—An exchange says: Only a few days ago the death of Sheriff Mines, of Camden County, Pa., took place and was caused, to a great extent, by the part taken in the execution of a criminal. The old official was adverse to taking any part in the deed, but as Sheriff had to perform his duty. From the day of the execution he rapidly failed in health until his death.

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The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st December, both days inclusive.

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Society Directory.

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ST. PATRICK'S T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, at 3.30 p.m. Committee of Management meets in same hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. Director, Rev. Jas. Kiloran; President, W. P. Doyle; Recording Secretary, J. Kahala; Recording Secretary, T. F. Tansey.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aallery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 3.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885.—Meets in the hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R.; President, R. J. Byrne; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY, Division No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Annie Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording secretary, Miss Rose Ward, 51 Young street; financial secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 776 Palace street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Bermingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 6 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 816 St. Lawrence Main street. Officers: W. H. Turner, President; P. McCall, Vice-President; J. Emmet Quinn, Recording Secretary, 981 St. Denis street; James Scullion, Treasurer; Joseph Turner, Financial Secretary, 1000 St. Denis street.

C.M.E.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 13th November, 1878.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F. J. Sears; President, P. J. Darcey; Rec.-Sec., P. J. McDonagh; Fin.-Secretary, Jas. J. Costigan; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, Jr.; Medical Adviser, Drs. H. J. Harrison, B. J. O'Connor and G. H. Merrill.

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Well, Bernard, here you I was really beginning to you were going to break old custom and leave in this hour alone for once mas eve. Come closer. Your ride was long."

The priest drew up the armchair to the fire and sank wearily into it.

"Yes, poor old Campbell again. I'm afraid he through this time. I was you all day and rode he back. How the time passes seems only a few years were lads at school long holidays, and here are down, working steadily ig—you with your penit my patients. I feel some old age were not far off. member how I used to ig old?"

"Nonsense, my frie gloomy to-night. This weather is telling on u Christmas is no tim moods." As he spoke he curtains, shutting out landscape and nothing r than the cozy study w chairs and piles of book shaded lights and blazin should be imagined. The friends, these two; had p ther, and now in manho from their busy lives an they could to spend i tercourse. Not only reg associations, that tie w strong a hold on the t but deep love and mu held them to this friends was, by many a good dee in company. It was the many years for them to ther the supper hour eve, and this year they looked forward to it wit usual eagerness, as it w since they had met. The the year just past, of t and the companions of f now scattered far and w through various professi married, some dead, t than dead.

"I wonder if any o thinks of us to-night pleasant to be here t this. But by next year, I nard, I suppose you will and have a fireside of yo give no thought to yo friend." Father Harding lightly at the dreary pro the other took it more se it was intended. He did the laughter, but in a m ed back his chair, and r pacing up and down with ily bent. The priest was prised at the effect of hi mark, and at a loss to Dr. Cavan's conduct. E more surprised at the o to him when at last Bern back to glazing with trouble the glowing fire.

"Father John, do you that young lady who w the Jupiter with her mo ing from Havre?"

"You mean Miss Dupre pause of amazement. The ded affirmatively. "Yes, quite well now," the prie presently in an unconcer put Bernard at his ease. ther was an invalid. My lection of the young lad great fondness she eviden children. She was so ki restless little travelers. one told me they were in thought it such a pity. the seal of distinction, people you can't forget."

Bernard sighed. Who k he did?

"Yes, they are infidel were not—if Irene was no be my wife now."

"My poor friend, this i you." Father John laid carressingly upon the el clasped convulsively the chair.

"Ay, it is bitterly h been torture for more th Would to God that I co all."

Father Harding was m but too diplomatic to sh ly inquired the details, k it would be some relief his trouble to a sympath Bernard Cavan had fou pre supremely attracti spite of his knowledge of faith, improved her a each time that he saw i difficult it became to charm, the more potent