

Ontario Department of Agriculture

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Onions

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Early in the year 1908, the Executive of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association requested the Department of Agriculture to have an investigation made into the extent and nature of onion growing in Ontario, and a report prepared upon the same.

I was instructed by the Minister to do this work, and was authorized to visit the principal onion-producing States, to enquire into the methods there pursued. During the months of August and September, I visited the onion-growing sections in the States of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio.

I beg to submit herewith my report, which I trust will be of some help to the onion growers of this Province, in helping them in some measure to produce larger and better crops, and which will assist in increasing their profits in this important business.

The American onion markets are supplied as follows:—In April, Egyptian onions make their appearance, an average of over 83,000 bushels having been imported annually during the past five years. These are followed by the Bermuda, and the Texas crop of Bermuda onions, which are marketed in crates. The crop in the State of Texas last year was over 2,000 cars. The Southern Texas Truck Growers' Association control over 90 per cent. of the shipments. The Bermuda onion does not last long nor keep well, and is out of the market before the northern grown crop is ready, so they are followed by the Louisville, Ky., onion. A large section in that locality is devoted to this line. They are all grown from sets, and supply the markets for two or three weeks, until the northern crop comes in. This is harvested in August and September and marketed during fall and winter. The Spanish onions, both the Denias and Valencias, compete against the domestic onion of the northern States during the fall and winter. During the year 1908, 214,430 crates of Denias were imported.

The following information was furnished me by the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture. The latest federal statistics of onion production in the United States are those relating