

AREA AND YIELD OF CROPS.

The following table gives the produce of the principal field crops of Ontario for 1893 and 1894, with the average per acre:—

Field crops	Years.	Bushels.	Yield per acre.
Fall wheat.....	1894	16,512,106	21.2
".....	1893	17,545,248	19.2
Spring wheat	1894	3,367,854	14.6
".....	1893	4,186,063	11.7
Barley	1894	10,980,404	22.6
".....	1893	9,806,088	21.0
Oats	1894	69,867,716	30.0
".....	1893	58,584,529	30.3
Rye.....	1894	1,386,606	15.4
".....	1893	994,771	14.5
Peas	1894	14,022,888	17.9
".....	1893	14,168,955	19.2
Buckwheat	1894	2,534,335	17.4
".....	1893	2,380,456	17.8
Beans	1894	827,514	14.0
".....	1893	664,310	13.6
Potatoes	1894	17,163,130	102.6
".....	1893	12,911,212	90.5
Mangel-wurzels	1894	11,532,127	417.
".....	1893	8,582,568	399.
Carrots	1894	3,716,140	332.
".....	1893	2,971,450	320.
Turnips	1894	61,694,487	418.
".....	1893	56,975,355	417.
Corn, for husking (in the ear) ..	1894	16,275,352	60.9
".....	1893	14,072,961	64.8
Tons.			
Corn, for silo and fodder (green)	1894	1,049,765	9.43
".....	1893	1,049,524	10.95
Hay and clover	1894	3,575,200	1.30
".....	1893	4,963,557	1.79

As to acreage of fall wheat sown this year, very few of the Bureau's correspondents report any increase; the usual report is a decrease, which ranges from 5 to 50 per cent. The quality of the 1893 fall grain was generally good. Spring wheat proved light of weight, though of fair color. Peas were injured by bugs, and oats of but middling quality. Rye first rate. Flax a good crop. Hops under the average. Red clover suffered from winter-killing, and the crop is therefore short. Alsike proved very good. Owing to the drought the potato crop is under average, and the tubers are small, but not much attacked by rot. Of the root crops turnips have suffered much, and mangels to a less degree from drought. Carrots were dwarfed somewhat from the same cause, but September rains helped them.

MR. GRINDLEY'S RESIGNATION.

The resignation of Mr. R. R. Grindley of the position of general manager of the Bank of British North America has at last been accepted by the directors of that bank. As long ago as 1892 Mr. Grindley desired to be relieved, but the directors prevailed on him to continue in harness until the close of this year. After so long a service as forty years in the bank, seventeen of them as general manager, he is entitled to some respite from labor. That he has fulfilled the duties of his position with sagacity, firmness, and marked success, is well known to Canadian business men, to whom, and especially to the citizens of Montreal, he has commended himself, through public spirit added to cordiality of manner. The court of directors of the bank evidently appreciated Mr. Grindley's high qualities, for the circular in which their acceptance of his resignation was announced concluded with these words, which in our judgment are well merited:

"The court desire, in conclusion, to express their great appreciation of the invaluable services which Mr. Grindley has rendered to the bank not only by long and faithful devotion to the bank's interests, but by those personal qualities which have enabled him so fully to maintain the dignity of his position, and to earn the highest esteem of the court of directors, the shareholders, and the public."

Mr. H. Stikeman has been appointed Mr. Grindley's successor. The choice is an appropriate one, for the new chief executive not only possesses a good knowledge of his profession, an acquaintance with the business of Canada, and experience of banking in New York and London, but has been Mr. Grindley's assistant in head office for several years.

—Dividend at the annual rate of 7 per cent. has been declared for the current half year by the British Canadian Loan & Investment Co., Ltd., and the Imperial Loan Co.

CUTTING PRICES.

After the first storekeeper known in history or tradition had painted his name on a sign and hung it over the doorway, he must have immediately put a card in his window announcing "prices reduced." For, following this example, merchants have been cutting prices, or professing to cut prices, ever since, and doubtless will continue to do so until the end of time. It appears to be an essential feature of mercantile life. The public expect it and merchants are caterers to the whims of the public. But why staple articles should always be selected for the bargain table is more than we can understand. Yet this is invariably the case. The dry goods merchant advertises great drives in cotton goods, the grocer cuts down the price of sugar or flour, while the hardware merchant slaughters his stock of nails at unprofitable prices. All of these commodities are staple and in constant request. A few cents a yard or a pound difference in price does not materially increase the consumptive demand. The loss to trade is direct and without redeeming features. Were merchants to cut prices on certain fancy articles, upon selling which there is some margin of profit, the custom would not be quite so senseless. Lower prices upon certain commodities not in general use might serve to increase the consumptive demand for them, and in the long run prove of advantage to the merchant.

THE "RIGHT" TO LOSE MONEY.

The Retail Grocers' Union of New York met on Friday last and appointed a committee of five to adopt resolutions and formulate a plan of action against the department and dry goods houses which advertise to sell groceries below cost, and at prices which are declared ruinous to the retail grocery trade.

In the discussion which took place it was generally conceded that the Brooklyn grocers had gone too far in boycotting the houses that sold groceries to the dry goods and department houses.

Mr. Hermann Rohrs said: "The right of dry goods stores to sell groceries is not denied, but when they attempt to make the public believe that the retail grocers of this city are highway robbers they go too far. Whether it is a fact that they sell groceries 25 per cent. cheaper than we do is a question that needs our consideration. I have secured price lists from the department houses, and find that while they sell a few goods at cost and less than cost, their statement that they sell at 25 per cent. less than we do is not true. They do sell below cost sometimes, but when they advertise to sell a pound of tea for 60 cents worth \$1, they deceive the public."

As T. H. Lohemann put it: "The department houses do at times sell below cost, but they do so to induce women who are influenced by their love of dress goods to visit their stores to purchase groceries cheap, so that they may be induced to make other purchases."

HAMILTON'S WATER PRESSURE.

We find the following sensible remarks in the *Hamilton Times*, under the heading of "Protection from Fires." Other places than Hamilton may well be "stirred up" to do their duty, instead of hugging delusions about their safety from fires and abusing the underwriters:—

"The underwriters' agent, who has been testing the water pressure at the hydrants in Hamilton, cannot be accused of taking the city at a disadvantage, for the general consumption is less and the hydrant pressure is greater in November than in July or August. To look upon him as a man hunting for an excuse to increase the insurance rates is not the part of wisdom. The citizens of Hamilton all know that the water pressure is not what it ought to be to make the buildings and other property in the city safe from destruction by fire. If the insurance man can stir us up to apply the remedy, he will be doing Hamilton a favor and a useful service. Winnipeg has just had \$260,000 worth burned up. Hamilton can ill afford a similar loss. The sensible business policy is to lay a new main to bring us plenty of water, and district the city so that there will be ample pressure in every part."

WINNIPEG FIRE RATES.

Public opinion in Winnipeg has strongly declared in favor of greater protection for that city from the ravages of fire. Since our last issue not only have the three steam fire engines she possesses been put into working order, but the authorities have agreed to procure a fourth and to get also an aerial ladder for the fire brigade. The city council, however, desires, we understand, to condition these purchases upon the rescinding by the underwriters of the advance of 25 per cent. in rates of premium on property in that city declared last week. The attitude of the underwriters appears to be: "First get your extra engine and your ladder, and then we will see about the relaxing of the premiums. But in the meantime you must pay the increased rates. You have had, gentlemen of Winnipeg, a startling lesson as to the risks you run in the big fire of last week. We propose that you shall have a further lesson