

Ontario Department of Agriculture

VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Greenhouse Construction

By S. C. JOHNSTON, B.S.A

INTRODUCTION.

Recognizing that the production of vegetables under glass has been and is rapidly becoming one of the important branches of agriculture, the Ontario Department of Agriculture, at the request of the Executive of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, deemed it advisable to investigate the types of construction of green houses used by American growers. This investigation work covered the principal vegetable growing districts of the Northern and Eastern States, and the following report is intended to convey to the prospective builders some of the details of construction which may help to solve the problem of what is the most economical form of house to build, and other points which should be carefully dealt with before the house or houses are begun. The object of this investigation trip was to find the lightest, most durable and most economical type of construction backed by the experience of growers in all parts of the states visited. Over one hundred greenhouse plants were visited and the experience of the several growers taken, and all information possible was gathered which might be of use in this line.

The growing of vegetables under glass is yearly becoming one of the very important ends of the vegetable grower's business. Intensive cultivation of the land out of doors during the summer months has increased the demand for large quantities of fresh produce during this period, and gradually the consumer has begun to want fresh vegetables on his table the year round. The building of structures covered with glass and supplied with artificial heat have been introduced, and by their use the vegetables are grown to perfection, thus supplying the demand for vegetables each day of the year.

The greenhouse business in Ontario, of course, has not advanced to the degree that it has in the United States, but within the last five years there has been an increase in the building, and there has been considerable improvement in the forms of construction. At the present time in Ontario there are several large plants devoted entirely to the production of vegetables, and a considerable number of the vegetable growers in all districts of the Province have small plants from which they take several crops of lettuce during the season and later use as a starting house for their field crops for the summer. At the present time large quantities of greenhouse-grown vegetables are annually imported into Ontario