

Canada's Horticultural Exhibit.

Prof. L. H. Bailey, the well-known horticultural authority of Cornell University, and other American writers of note, have paid high tributes of praise to the display of Canadian vegetables at the World's Fair. A general idea of our exhibit may be obtained from the accompanying illustration from the Canadian Horticulturist. It has certainly attracted a great deal of attention, as also have our fruits. People from all parts of the world have been astonished at the evidences of Canada's fertile soil and its adaptability in producing such an immense variety of foods for human supply and the support of animals. A particularly fine feature of the exhibits were the collections from the Dominion Experimental Stations. That immediate practical good is to be the result of the efforts Canada has made in the World's Fair is indicated by such letters as the following from the "other side of the world":—

Malvern College, Victoria, Australia,
July 27, 1893.

N. AWREY, M. P. P., Commissioner for the Province
of Ontario:

Dear Sir:—I have read some reports of the

Why is Wheat Cheap?

There is, perhaps, no one fact of more serious financial import in Canada to-day than that wheat is cheap. Better farming may increase the yield, but economize as he may the wheat grower finds that the cost of production is not to be reduced at will. Platform orators, with a flourish of the hand, tell the farmer that he cannot control prices, and that he must cut down the cost. This is all very fine, but it affords poor satisfaction to the farmer who sees the price per bushel being squeezed lower and lower, to keep pace with which his most desperate efforts at "reducing the cost of production" are entirely futile. Inevitably, there comes a day when the farmer on high-priced lands, or with other high-priced conditions, finds that he cannot sell wheat and live as the markets have been running. Having realized this, he will then stop growing wheat, except as a stock food, and devote his attention to other lines of husbandry.

To satisfactorily answer the question "Why is Wheat Cheap?" is not easy, and to forecast prices is just as difficult, because of the many unknown factors that enter into the problem. A few years ago a Kansas statistician made an elaborate and exhaustive study of this subject, by which he con-

matizes these speculators (gamblers) as no better than highway robbers. Millions of bushels are sold daily for future delivery by men who do not own a pound of wheat, nor do they expect to deliver, but to settle for the margin at a future date. This class of dealers simply gain or lose, according to the fluctuations of the market a few cents up or down. Such sales and purchases are fictitious, but they have their effect on the market.

The United States crop of 1893 is probably all sold for future delivery already, the options being largely bought by foreign agents, and to be shipped on foreign account. That the "bears" of Chicago should put forth superhuman efforts to still batter down prices is a natural sequence. In the face of what is conceded to be a short crop the world over, the patient American farmer is thus being robbed of some \$150,000,000, prices being some thirty per cent. under the values of previous years. That he should resignedly sit down and submit without a murmur is in effect what he is told to do by those who say "grow wheat cheaper," the other end of the transaction is "none of your business." He will yet awaken and make it manifest that it is a vital part of "his business."



CANADA'S VEGETABLE EXHIBIT AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

excellent display of fruit shown at the exhibition by your province, and am anxious to obtain the names of the choicest kinds of plums, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, cherries and pears, together with the addresses of reliable growers from whom I can purchase the plants, and who can be depended upon to pack carefully. Any information you can furnish me with on the most approved methods of preserving and packing fruit, together with the particulars of improved machinery for manufacturing strawberry and fruit baskets, boxes and crates, etc., would be greatly appreciated by me. If the firms exhibiting would send me their printed pamphlets, giving varieties and prices, it would greatly assist me. Please excuse my troubling you so much, but my great desire is to obtain the latest and best information on the above subjects, in which your province appears to occupy such an honorable position at the World's Fair. Awaiting anxiously the favor of a reply,

I have the honor to remain, sir,
Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM REID.

Kindly address reply, care of C. T. Alexander,
Esq., Centre Road, East Brighton, Victoria, Australia.

vinced himself and many other people that consumption had overtaken production. An era of high prices (over \$1 per bushel for wheat) was about to set in, with good times for the farmer! Instead of going up prices have steadily tumbled down, despite all his optimistic calculations. His figures lied, even though he had faith enough in them to hold his own immense crop of wheat and corn over a season for the expected boom. The farmer in Ontario and other parts of Eastern Canada has lately been dismayed at "sixty-cent wheat," and a buyer the other day cheered the Northwestern farmer by announcing that No. 1 Hard would open in Brandon, Man., at forty-five cents. For the general crop that would make the outlook ruinous.

A good many shrewd men have come to the conclusion that the natural law of "supply and demand" has not all to do with this business. The modest return that the wheat grower should get is whittled down smaller and smaller by endless commissions, exorbitant freight rates, and the like. Grain gambling, for that is what it is and nothing else, on the so-called Boards of Trade in Chicago and New York, is doubtless another factor in the present depression. A writer in the Country Gentleman regards it as the cause, and he stig-

Shrinkage of Stored Grain.

In these days of cheap wheat farmers are at a loss to decide whether to sell or hold their stock for a raise. While the present prices cannot be expected to fall much lower, we need not look for what is considered a remunerative figure for this cereal for some time. Before deciding to hold wheat for a chance of a raise, it would be well to consider the certain loss by so doing.

According to reliable experiments which have been conducted, we learn the following facts:—In August, of a previous year, twenty varieties of wheat were stored in small boxes, the two sides and ends of which were made of half-inch pine, thoroughly seasoned, the bottom of window-screen wire, and the top of glass. The full boxes were numbered, weighed, and buried for a year in a bin of wheat, after which they were left in one corner of the bin without any covering until the end of the third year, when it was found that six, or nearly one-third of the twenty boxes, were badly injured by insects. The other fourteen boxes were weighed in August, and showed a loss in weight from three years' storage of nearly one-fourth, or two and one-third per cent. The loss varied from nothing in the Hungarian wheat to nearly five per cent. in some other varieties.