

RECENT GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY.

By far the larger portion of the area devoted to the crop is employed in supplying fruit for the canning factories, and it is the demand of these canning factories which more than any other factor has, during the past few years, supplied the great impetus to tomato culture.

As an article of trade canned tomatoes were first introduced on this continent in 1848, by Harrison W. Crosby, Steward of the Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. The cost then was fifty cents per can. Since that time the cost of producing the finished article has decreased steadily, whilst the output has increased enormously, and to-day three-lb. cans of tomatoes can be bought retail for nine and ten cents.

Some idea of the increase in the extent of the business during the past few years in the United States and Ontario may be obtained from the following record of the total output in cases of twenty-four 3-lb. cases:

<i>United States.</i>		<i>Ontario</i>	
1887	2,800,000	1887	
1891	3,322,000	1891	83,000
1892	3,223,000	1892	144,000
1903	10,500,000	1904	310,000
1906		1906	793,000
1907	13,000,000	1907	575,000
1908		1908	875,000

A still better idea of the growth of the industry in Ontario may be obtained from the following statements: The acreage under production for the canning factories has increased from 800 in 1891 to approximately 8,000 in 1908. For the same period, the total number of bushels paid for by the canning factories has increased from 132,000 to 1,400,000, the cases from 83,000 to 880,000, the cans from 1,992,000 to 21,124,000, the value of the pack from \$190,000 to \$1,672,000, and the price paid to the growers from \$26,400 to \$386,600; and during the past five years the number of factories packing tomatoes has increased from twenty-seven to fifty-three.

THE PRODUCTION OF CANNED TOMATOES.

In Ontario the canning of tomatoes upon a commercial basis dates back some twenty-seven years. In 1881, Messrs. Wellington Boulter and Gilbert Barker erected and started into operation canning factories at Picton and Bloomfield in the county of Prince Edward. To these men, then, belongs the credit of pioneering an industry which, in the comparatively short period of a quarter of a century has made such a remarkably rapid growth.

The districts in this Province producing canning tomatoes, or what is commonly known as the main crop, naturally fall into four districts, viz.: Prince Edward County, which is practically an island on Lake