

Opportunities in Ontario

Agriculture

APPLES. According to the Dominion census of 1901, there were in Ontario 9,541,619 apple trees, with a total production of 13,631,246 bushels of fruit. The Ontario Bureau of Industries report, in 1906, gives the total trees as 10,201,766, and the production as 31,380,749 bushels. The average for the ten years from 1896 to 1905 was 34,685,101 bushels. At the lowest price paid for merchantable apples on the trees, this represents a yearly value of \$8,671,275. The estimated number of trees to-day is 11,49,943. The province produces 70% of the total crop of apples in Canada. The bulk of the crop is sold within the province. At the same time, Ontario exports more apples to Great Britain than any other province or state on the continent. The shipments in 1909 from the port of Montreal, up to Nov. 26th, were 566,019 barrels. The balance of the shipments go via Portland, Boston, St. John, and these would bring the total up to 1,000,000 barrels, or 3,000,000 bushels. The Western Provinces would take nearly 1,000,000 bushels. These shipments include some of the best of Ontario's fruit, and the average selling price to the consumer is about \$1.25 per bushel. This means a gross return to the province from the export trade alone of \$5,000,000. Where the growers have united to form co-operative shipping associations, the returns to them have been much higher than under the old system of selling in the orchard. For instance, the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association in 1909 sold over 19,000 barrels at an average price of \$3.00 per barrel, f.o.b. shipping station. At the same time prices to the consumer have not increased, while they have received a better quality of fruit. See under Fruit Growing.

BARLEY. Formerly grown for malting, now grown for feeding. Area increased from 438,784 acres in 1898 to 677,770 acres in 1911. Yield about 30 bush. per acre.

BEANS. Bean growing on a commercial scale is at present confined to Kent and Elgin Counties. Annual crop about 900,000 bushels, valued at from \$1.60 per bush. up, according to variety and quality. The bulk is marketed at home, surplus in Great Britain, France and West Indies.