

ONTARIO

This province has a territory of 223,000 square miles, more than 100,000 of which is still in forest and woodland. The woods contain a large number of varieties of trees, among the most important of which commercially are the white and red pines, elm, ash, oak, birch, hickory, walnut and butternut. The population is about 2,115,000. Ontario has a wonderfully varied climate. The extremes both of summer heat and winter cold being tempered by the presence of large bodies of water. In the south-western part the climate is mild; in those portions which lie within the influence of the Great Lakes, the winters are not severe and the summers are seldom oppressively hot. In the Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence valleys the winters are moderately cold, but very exhilarating. In the northern portions of the province the winters are longer and colder. The annual precipitation varies in different parts from 30 to 40 inches. A large proportion of the land is good, and while the soils in different sections vary much in character, some consisting largely of clay, or clay and sandy loam mixed, others are more sandy, but nearly all are fertile and productive. In the northern parts of the province there are large sections of rocky land, much of which is reserved by the government for forest purposes. There are, however, considerable areas open for settlement in the districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Haliburton, Nipissing, on Lake Temiscaming, in the valley of the Rainy River, and in other parts where the land is very suitable for agricultural purposes. Ontario has about twelve million acres of cleared land, of which more than eleven million are in field crops and pasture.

Principal Agricultural Crops.

The following are the principal field crops, with the areas occupied in 1899 and the total crops produced of each, as given in bulletin 73 of of the Ontario Bureau of Industries :