

practically no competition, gave that country for a number of years the control of the European markets, and the price of wheat was regulated by the American supply. Farmers, therefore, in the United States, having a ready market at a good price for all the wheat they could raise, prospered accordingly. This state of things has, however, during the last six years, undergone a complete change, the American supremacy in the wheat market of the world is gone and may never return.

283. This change has been brought about by two great causes both being concurrent in their effect, these causes are : 1. Increase in the sources of supply. 2. Improvement in means of transport. First with reference to the increase in the sources of supply.

284. The United States still stand first in the list of wheat exporting countries, and in all probability must yet hold that position for some years. The area under wheat cultivation has not varied very much since 1880, remaining always about 37,000,000 acres, but the amount of production and export show greater fluctuations, as will be seen from the following figures :—

YEAR.	Area under Wheat Cultivation in United States.	Total Production.	Total Exported.
	Acres.	Bushels.	Bushels.
1880.....	37,986,717	498,549,868	144,483,007
1881.....	37,709,020	383,280,090	120,451,888
1882.....	37,067,194	504,185,470	110,343,185
1883.....	26,455,593	421,086,160	71,013,280
1884.....	39,475,885	512,763,900	81,628,478
1885.....	34,189,246	337,112,000	53,025,938
1886.....	36,806,184	457,218,000	89,204,887
1887.....	37,641,783	456,329,000	161,971,949

Causes of
its decline

Production of
wheat in
the United
States.