

The United States share of the exports was larger in 1887 than in any year since 1881, while there was a very marked decrease in the proportion from British India. The proportions from other countries, it will be seen, have been very variable.

Import of
wheat into
United
Kingdom
in 15
years.

340. The actual quantity of wheat imported into Great Britain during the last 15 years has been 1,818,848,575 bushels, giving an annual average of 121,256,572, and this enormous quantity has come from the undermentioned countries in the following proportions :—

COUNTRIES.	Quantity.	Average Annually.	Per-centage.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	
United States.....	929,656,838	61,977,122	51·12
Russia.....	246,991,629	16,466,109	13·57
India.....	143,528,146	9,568,543	7·89
Canada.....	72,433,968	4,828,931	3·98
Australasia.....	70,309,557	4,687,304	3·87
Other countries.....	355,928,437	23,728,563	19·57
Total.....	1,818,848,575	121,256,572	100·00

Wheat in
India.

341. The future of India as a wheat exporting country is a question very much in dispute, some inclining to the view that it is ultimately destined to supplant the United States, others again maintaining that there is no chance of exportation increasing to any extent. Certain it is that the increase in the area under wheat cultivation has not been large during the last ten years. In 1879 it was 25,812,407 acres, and in 1887, 26,735,484 acres, and shows signs of decline, as the area in 1885 was 28,228,740 acres. The yield is also very small, averaging about nine bushels to the acre, and is not increasing, the total produce in 1884 being estimated at 251,690,880 bushels, and in 1887 at 238,585,947 bushels.