

368. The very marked effect which the imposition in 1879 of a small duty upon wheat and flour had upon the imports of the same, will be visible at once on examining the first two of the preceding tables, and it may be estimated that in consequence of the adoption of that policy upwards of \$5,000,000 have been annually retained in the country which would otherwise have gone into the pockets of foreigners, while prices have been much better maintained than they otherwise would have been.

369. During the week ended 1st October, 1887, the price of wheat in London was the lowest touched for 125 years, viz., 28s. 5d. per quarter, or 86 cents per bushel; and the steady fall of late years is shown in the following table, which gives the average price of wheat in London and the average export price in New York in each year since 1871 :—

LONDON.				NEW YORK.			
Year.	Price.	Year.	Price.	Year.	Price.	Year.	Price.
	\$ cts.		\$ cts.		\$ cts.		\$ cts.
1871.....	1 73	1881.....	1 28	1871.....	1 31	1881.....	1 11
1872.....	1 73	1882.....	1 37	1872.....	1 47	1882.....	1 18
1873.....	1 78	1883.....	1 26	1873.....	1 31	1883.....	1 12
1874.....	1 70	1884.....	1 09	1874.....	1 42	1884.....	1 06
1875.....	1 37	1885.....	0 99	1875.....	1 12	1885.....	0 86
1876.....	1 40	1886.....	0 94	1876.....	1 24	1886.....	0 87
1877.....	1 73	1887.....	0 99	1877.....	1 16	1887.....	0 89
1878.....	1 41	1888.....	0 96	1878.....	1 33	1888.....	0 85
1879.....	1 33	1889.....	0 90	1879.....	1 06	1889.....	0 89
1880.....	1 35	1890.....	0 97	1880.....	1 24	1890.....	0 83

370. Co-incident with the decline in price has been a heavy reduction in freight rates and an enormous increase in transportation facilities, both of which circumstances must be taken largely into account, so that it must not be supposed that the value of wheat has depreciated as much as the bare figures of prices would indicate. Freight rates from Chicago to New

Reduction in freight rates etc.