

629. The decreased area sown in wheat is very considerable. The following table shows the diminished acreage of wheat in the United Kingdom :—

Area in Wheat.		Area in Wheat.	
Acres.		Acres.	
1867.....	3,640,051	1881.....	2,967,059
1868.....	3,951,018	1882.....	3,163,899
1869.....	3,981,989	1883.....	2,713,282
1870.....	3,773,663	1884.....	2,750,588
1871.....	3,831,054	1885.....	2,553,092
1872.....	3,829,532	1886.....	2,357,894
1873.....	3,670,259	1887.....	2,387,518
1874.....	3,830,767	1888.....	2,668,226
1875.....	3,514,088	1889.....	2,544,549
1876.....	3,125,342	1890.....	2,483,595
1877.....	3,321,065	1891.....	2,392,245
1878.....	3,381,701	1892.....	2,298,607
1879.....	3,056,428	1893.....	1,955,213
1880.....	3,065,895	1894.....	1,980,228

630. Dividing the period from 1870 to 1893 into three periods of eight years each the yearly averages are as follows :—

1870 to 1877.....	3,611,971 acres.
1878 to 1885.....	2,956,493 “
1886 to 1893.....	2,385,981 “
1894.....	1,980,228 “

This decrease, 1,818,450 acres, in the acreage of wheat is not caused by the area being devoted to other grain crops, for their acreage (including pease and beans) was 7,981,390 acres in 1870 and only 7,215,967 acres in 1893, a decrease of 765,423 acres in the 24 years.

Nor has the space been taken up with “green crops,” for their acreage fell from 5,107,135 acres in 1870 to 4,462,755 acres in 1893, a decrease of 644,380 acres.

There was also a decrease, though smaller, in hops, flax, clover and grass under rotation and arable fallow.

631. In the United States the total area under wheat crop during the ten years, 1880-89, averaged 37,279,162 acres. During the five years, 1890-94, it averaged 36,814,067 acres, and in 1894 it was 34,882,436 acres.

632. In Russia the acreage in 1881 was 28,947,011 acres ; in 1883-87 it had an average of 28,882,440 acres ; in 1892, 32,633,000 acres ; in 1894, 32,583,000 acres. Improvements in the methods of cultivation have, however, resulted in an increase in the yield per acre.

633. In India the acreage in 1888-89 was 25,911,700 acres ; in 1890-91, 26,576,000 acres ; in 1892, 24,482,000 acres ; in 1893, 26,238,000.

634. In France the acreage in 1880 was 16,978,000 acres ; in 1885, 17,183,000 acres ; in 1880, 17,442,000 acres ; in 1891, 14,226,000 acres ; in 1893, 17,470,000 acres.