

Effect of
the National
Policy.

382. 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.

Price of
wheat.

383. 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	1882.....	1 37	1871.....	1 31	1882.....	1 18
1872.....	1 73	1883.....	1 26	1872.....	1 47	1883.....	1 12
1873.....	1 78	1884.....	1 09	1873.....	1 31	1884.....	1 06
1874.....	1 70	1885.....	0 99	1874.....	1 42	1885.....	0 86
1875.....	1 37	1886.....	0 94	1875.....	1 12	1886.....	0 87
1876.....	1 40	1887.....	0 99	1876.....	1 24	1887.....	0 89
1877.....	1 73	1888.....	0 96	1877.....	1 16	1888.....	0 85
1878.....	1 41	1889.....	0 90	1878.....	1 33	1889.....	0 89
1879.....	1 33	1890.....	0 97	1879.....	1 06	1890.....	0 83
1880.....	1 35	1891.....	1 15	1880.....	1 24	1891.....	0 93
1881.....	1 28			1881.....	1 11		

Reduction in
freight
rates, etc.

384. This decline in price has been brought about by increased production, heavy reduction in freight rates and an enormous increase in transportation facilities, all these causes operating at the same time. Freight rates from Chicago to New York are 50 per cent less than 20 years ago, while grain has been carried across the Atlantic for from 4 and 5 cents per bushel. There was, it will be seen, an advance in price in 1891, due to bad harvests and other causes.

Wheat
crop in
principal
exporting
countries,
1891.

385. The principal wheat-exporting countries at the present time are the United States, Russia, Austria-Hungary, British India, the Argentine Republic, and the Australasian colonies, and the following figures give the estimated crop in those countries in 1891:—