

Agriculture in Great Britain.

The summarized results of the agricultural returns for 1887 are now before us, and are certainly not calculated to allay the grave anxiety which the declining condition of our agriculture during the past few years has called forth. It is true that a diminution of 18,533 acres in uncultivated land in England and Wales is shown as compared with the returns obtained in 1881, but it is doubtful whether this fact points to any material improvement in the agricultural crisis. Many causes, among which may be mentioned the natural reluctance in 1881 of land owners to look upon the depression as permanent, and hence a disposition to keep unoccupied holdings idle rather than re-let them at reduced rents, may have occurred to produce the apparent increase in cultivated land. Again, of late, many landowners have, it is well known, taken unlet farms into their own hands and become farmers themselves. Of the returns which have this year been obtained the following appear to be the general results:—

The area returned in 1887 as under cultivation of all kinds of crops, bare fallow and grass, exclusive of heath and mountain pasture land and of woods and plantations, amounts to 32,615,000 acres.

With regard to the details of particular crops in Great Britain, the most noticeable feature as regards corn crops, apart from the important decrease in the total, is that, compared with 1886, there are slight increases in the areas under wheat and oats, while the area under barley has considerably decreased.

The total quantity of land returned under wheat in the present year is 2,317,324 acres or 31,419 acres (equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.) more than in 1886, but a decrease as compared with 1885 of 160,994 acres or 6.5 per cent.

An exceptionally favorable seed time is reported by the officers generally to have greatly influenced the proportion of wheat sown, but the imperative requirement of straw, which at present is of relatively high value, is in a few counties said to have contributed towards preventing further diminution of the acreage which has in recent years been recorded for this crop.

As regards the separate divisions of the Kingdom, the acreage of wheat compared with that of the preceding year has increased in England by 1.69 per cent. that of Wales being more by 1.10 per cent., whilst in Scotland there is a falling off of 10.31 per cent.

The area under barley in 1887 was 2,085,156 acres, the smallest acreage yet recorded for this crop in these returns, the decrease being no less than 156,008 acres or 7 per cent. from last year. The diminution is almost unanimously ascribed by the collectors to the low prices for grain of this description which have lately been obtainable.

The large importations of foreign barley which have been taking place since last season are also referred to, over 1,750,000 quarters more having been imported in the twelve months ending August 31, 1887, as compared with the quantity imported during the same period in 1885-6.

Taking into consideration the circumstance that the deficient acreage of barley is unaccom-

panied by any corresponding increase in the two other principal corn crops, it appears to be only further evidence of the tendency, adverted to in previous reports, to allowing land to be otherwise utilized rather than retain it under tillage, for which farmers generally have not now, it is stated, adequate capital.

Oats were sown on 3,087,980 acres, only 6,303 acres or 0.2 per cent in excess of 1886, but it is worthy of note that they covered a larger breadth in the present year than has been returned under this crop since these statistics have been collected. Some of the officers remark that of the principal corn crops it is the only one at all remunerative; and reference is further made to the fact that the straw is being greatly used for feeding stock in winter in many parts of the country.

Among the other corn and pulse crops, the acreage under rye shows a slight diminution of 700 acres. Beans, compared with 1886, have decreased by 10,000 acres, while peas have increased by 15,000 acres.

Altogether the total area under corn crops in Great Britain in 1887 is thus brought up to 8,145,900 acres, or 114,200 acres short of that of 1886, a decrease of 1.38 per cent, the average area of the preceding ten years having been 8,767,000 acres, or 621,000 more.

As regards corn crops they appear to be less altogether by 28,503 acres, the acreage under wheat having diminished by 2,186 acres, and barley by 19,369 acres, while the decline in oats is 7,503 acres, the acreage under rye and the pulse crops showing together an increase of only 555 acres.

Taking then the figures for the whole of the United Kingdom, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, it will be observed that there is a decrease from the returns of last year of 57,800 acres as regards the total cultivated area, owing to the diminution of 92,000 acres in Ireland. Corn crops and green crops have each a less acreage.—*London Miller.*

Grain and Milling News.

Jas. Crerar has retired from the management of the Shoal Lake, Man., mill and A. Templeton has succeeded him.

Stock is being freely subscribed for the flour mill project at Neepawa, Man. It is proposed to erect a 200 barrel mill.

It is stated that some of the grain buyers at Rapid City, Man., are averse to having an elevator built at that place.

The annual convention of the Millers' National Association of the United States, will be held in Buffalo, N. Y., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 12th, 13th and 14th.

The wheat production of India, which has been a bugbear to many in this country and Europe, is not likely to produce any extraordinary increase. For the past four years the crop has averaged 262,937,511 bus., but the crop of 1884-5 was 60,000,000 bus., and that of 1885-6 was 20,000,000 bus. more than the crop of 1886-7. The area under wheat remains year after year pretty uniformly about 27,000,000 acres. By one authority the prospects of the crop are said to be under average to fair on 12,000,000 acres and over average on 14,000,000 acres.

The Winnipeg board of trade will again memorialize the Government regarding a reduction in the grain standards for Manitoba.

J. H. Rose, president of the Northwest Seed company, of Aberdeen, Dak., was in Winnipeg lately purchasing red fyo wheat, which he will ship to Dakota for seed purposes.

The debris of the burned mill, at Oak Lake, Man., has been removed, and the foundations of the large new mill have been laid. The building will be pushed forward with energy.

In South Australia the harvest was practically concluded two months ago, and the new grain shows a good yield, both in weight and quality. New wheat at Port Adelaide was quoted on the 9th ult., at 3s. 3d. per bu. gross weight; old crop scarce at 3s. 6d. per bu. It is estimated that this colony will have a surplus available for shipment of about 450,000 tons.

Notice is given that application will be made for letters patent incorporating The Neepawa Milling Company (Limited), for the purpose of carrying on at Neepawa, Manitoba, a milling flour and grain business. The amount of the capital stock will be \$30,000 divided into 1,500 shares of \$20 each. The following are the applicants: J. J. Hamilton, Geo. Brownell, Thos. Bolton, Robert Connell and Walter Brydon.

Since the opinion of the Winnipeg grain examiners has been passed upon the value of Kubauka wheat, the farmers who purchased this variety of wheat at fancy prices, from one Johnson, farming near Winnipeg, consider themselves badly swindled. Some time ago Johnson wrote a number of letters to the *Winnipeg Free Press* expatiating upon the merits of his wheat. These letters were copied or commented upon by other provincial papers, and by this mode of free advertising, quite a demand was worked up for the wheat, parties even coming from Minnesota and Dakota to purchase. It is understood the price paid was from \$2 to \$3 per bushel. Now the grain examiners step in and declare that samples submitted to them as Kubauka wheat, are practically worthless for milling purposes.

Price Marking Goods.

"Yes, we believe in marking our goods with price so that everyone can see what we are selling them at," said an enterprising merchant. "When I started in business I found trade rather slow, and I made up my mind that I had to do something if I would succeed, so I decided that I would adopt the plan of some of the large and prosperous clothing houses, and put a ticket upon all my goods, showing the selling price of the same. My trade rapidly increased by this method, and I have kept up that system ever since. I have a clerk who is very handy with the marking brush, and he devotes his spare time to getting up these neat little pasteboards that you see displayed all over my store. I know that I owe my success partly to this mode of advertising my prices and to my determination that goods shall always be as represented. A customer that is pleased with goods and prices is sure to be a good advertising medium, and will bring more trade."—*Ex.*