

monthly, I think—and this information is tabulated and given to the Department. A somewhat similar system prevails in Belgium and Holland. There the facts are collected by the large landholders, who hold some municipal office usually, and they are published by the Governors of the Provinces. In Hungary there is also a very complete system, and also in Austria and Austro-Hungary. In Germany they have had a system in operation for a great many years. Prior to the consolidation of the Empire, in 1871, each State of the German Confederation had its own system, and in 1870, a convention of statisticians was held, at which they organized a Federal scheme in connection with the State scheme. That system was adopted by the Empire, and it still continues. Each one of the old States continues its own system of collecting reports, and it makes a return to the General Government. I think all the European States have more or less perfect systems for the collection of such statistics. In Australia they have also done very good work, especially in the Province of Victoria. In that Province the assessors of the municipalities collect the information when they go their rounds each year, and they send the returns direct to the Provincial Secretary. They leave a schedule, in the first place, with each farmer. The farmer is required to fill it up and send it, as evidence that the assessor has left it with him. The work is then tabulated by the Government officers. The system costs nothing to the Province—that is, the system of collecting statistics—because the municipalities are subsidized by the Government, and if any municipality refuses to give the information, the Government has authority to appoint an officer to proceed to collect that information and charge it to the municipality, and withhold the subsidy in the meantime. In the United States the system of collecting agricultural statistics was established, I think, in 1862, and it has been in operation there ever since. They have, on an average, one correspondent in every county in the Union, and each of these correspondents has two, or three, or four men, who report to him, and from their reports he prepares a report, which is transmitted to the Department at Washington, where it is tabulated. In the past this system has been largely a system of guess-work. I do not know where they have got their statistics of the acreage of land under crops, unless it has been computed from the census returns of the produce of grain, for until the census of 1880, the area of grain crops was never collected in the United States. I think that matter is a very grave defect, for I regard a return of the area of grain crops as a very necessary factor in any system of agricultural enumeration. To show you how wide of the mark their estimates are, I will compare the returns made by the United States Bureau of Statistics for the crop of 1879 with the census returns. For corn, the report of the Department of Agriculture for 1879 gave the total production as 1,517,901,790 bushels; the census return placed the figures at 1,754,861,535, being a little more than 200,000,000 above the report of the Department. The area under crop in that year, according to the report of the Department, was, in round numbers, 53,000,000 acres; according to the census it was 62,000,000 acres. Of wheat we find that the produce was estimated by the Department for the year 1879 at 448,000,000 bushels; according to the census it was 459,000,000 bushels. That was very close. According to the Department the area under wheat crop was 32,500,000 acres; according to the census it was 35,500,000 acres. The produce of rye for the same year, according to the Department returns was 23,639,000 bushels, from an acreage of 1,625,000 acres. According to the census the produce was 19,831,595 bushels, from an area of 1,842,303 acres. Take oats next; the produce according to the Department was 363,761,320 bushels, from an area of 12,683,500 acres. By the census the total produce is given at 497,858,999 bushels, from an area under crop of 16,144,593 acres. Then take barley. The total produce of the year 1879, according to the Department, was 40,283,000 bushels, from an area of 1,690,700 acres. According to the census the produce was 44,113,495 bushels, from an area of 1,997,717 acres. The yield of buckwheat, according to the Department, was 13,140,000 bushels, from an area under crop of 639,000 acres. According to the census the produce was 11,817,327 bushels, from an area of 848,349 acres. Thus, you see there is a very wide discrepancy between the actual figures collected by the census and the figure as given by