

their natural grass-land broken up by renters, who pay a good rental for wheat land, and leave it covered with alfalfa at the end of their period. While this has increased the wheat territory for a time, yet in some parts, where the conditions are permanently favourable for alfalfa, wheat acreage tends to decrease. Alfalfa requires more water than wheat, and in the provinces of Cordoba and Santa Fé, where nearly half the annual rainfall occurs during the summer, the wheat-grower has many anxieties, which are only blessings to the alfalfa farmer. In 1895, the acreage under alfalfa was about 1,750,000, and in 1909 it was over 11,000,000. Attention must be paid also to the growth of maize, and the conditions favouring its production on the Lower Parana and its tributaries. Its production has increased over 140 per cent. since 1895. Should the United States cease to export maize, it is quite possible that some parts of the wheat tracts may be given over to maize.

Cattle and sheep rearing have so far been found to be more profitable than wheat-growing in Southern Argentina, but it is possible that the future may see much land under wheat in Rio Negro and Chubut. The Welsh Colony in Chubut made a gallant attempt, but circumstances were against them at the time. No one can aver that grain cannot be raised in a latitude of 42 to 48 degrees near the level of the sea, and the fall of irregular and insufficient rainfall is not necessarily a bar to crop-raising. Given a very active demand for Plate wheat, it is quite possible that at some not very far-distant date there will be a grain export trade from the ports south of Bahia Blanca.