

and the average number of acres cultivated by each holder is 26. We have, as yet no means of comparing these figures with those of South Australia.

We have before us a volume of Victorian statistics from 1835 to 1860. At the last mentioned date the "holdings" were subdivided into nine classes, viz, under five acres; 5 and under 15; 15 and under 30; 30 and under 50; 50 and under 100; 100 and under 200; 200 and under 300; 300 and under 500 acres; and 500 acres and upwards. Of the first class there were 786 holdings; of the second class, 1,674, of the third class, 1,241; of the fourth class, 1,206; of the fifth class, 2,199; of the sixth class, 2,087; of the seventh class, 1,140; of the eighth class, 283; and of the ninth class, 967. It will hence be seen that the largest number of farms in Victoria are those that range from 100 acres to 200 acres each, and the next largest those that range from 50 acres to 100. The holdings of 500 acres and upwards include all the purchased lands, and represent a wider aggregate acreage than all the other eight classes combined. The total number of all the "holdings" in Victoria was 11,573—(exclusive of town and village allotments): the total acreage of those holdings being 2,519,156; and the total of increase upon the foregoing figures. On the 31st March, 1851, there were, in Victoria, 2,076,014 acres of enclosed land not cultivated, against 1,388,160 acres in South Australia, enclosed but not cultivated on the 31st March, 1862. On the same dates the land under tillage in Victoria amounted to 419,380 acres, and as the people in South Australia excite the people of Victoria as landowners in the proportion of four to one, they surpass them as cultivators of the soil in the proportion of more than five to one. The Victorians, with their recent Land Bill and their permanent provision for immigration, are, however, trying new and important experiments, and we may expect to find the present great relative disparity between the agrarian interests of the two colonies gradually decrease.

The land fenced in, but not cultivated in South Australia, amounted to 1,388,160 acres, and exceeded the enclosed pasturage of the previous year by 236,984 acres. The number of acres under cultivation in the season 1861-62 was 486,667, against 418,816 acres in the previous season, an augmentation of 57,851 acres, or 31.5 per cent. These figures give 3.71 acres to each individual of the population; at the end of 1856 the rate per head was only 2.38 acres. Tillage increases at a greater rate than the alienation of the Crown Lands, 20 per cent of the land sold being under cultivation, against 19 per cent. in 1861, and 13 per cent. in 1856. Of the total land cultivated 310,636 acres or 64 per cent. was under wheat. The yield a-

mounted to only 3,410,756 bush. against 3,576,593 bush. in the previous season. This shows a deficiency of 2 bush. 5lbs. per acre, or over 400,000 bushels, had the yield been equal to the average of the year previous, although 36,994 acres additional were sown with wheat. The average yield throughout the province was but 10 bush. 59lbs, against 13 bush. 14lbs. in the previous year. This decreased production arose from gales and heavy rains in December, which shook out much of the grain, and laid the straw.

Another cause of the low average of the aggregate yield is, that much land was sown with wheat which was not of the description best suited for the successful cultivation in ordinary seasons of that cereal, a state of things doubtless owing to numerous small freeholders and tenant farmers being compelled, whatever the situation or the nature of the soil, to cultivate the crop, raised with the labour, and capable of being gathered by machine. More than two-thirds of the crops are reaped by machine in the colony.

Proceeding from the subject of the culture of wheat, which is at present almost the sole reliance of South Australian farmers, forming as it does two thirds of the whole cultivation, the next important crop to be noticed is that of hay, forming 13 per cent. of the tillage. 62,874 acres, principally wheaten or oaten hay, were grown, against 55,818 acres in the previous season—an addition of one-tenth, the produce amounting to 78,886 tons and 71,241 tons in the respective years. The average yield of the hay crop was the same in both seasons, or twenty-five hundredweight to the acre.

About one-tenth more land was planted with potatoes than in the previous year, 2,612 acres producing 7,726 tons in 1861-2, against 2,348 acres yielding 7,112 tons, the average produce being 59 cwt., or a hundredweight and a-half less than in the previous year. The above supply was insufficient for the local consumption; 2,450 tons, or nearly one-third more, having been imported at a cost of £13,419 for an article that could have been produced in the colony of equal quality to that imported.

The live stock returns show an addition to the number of all kinds of stock except horned cattle. There is an increase of 3,198 horses, making a total of 52,597; of which 47,434 are returned in the counties, and 5,163 in the pastoral districts. The shipment of South Australian horses to India and other ports during the past three years has obtained some importance, about 509 being the average number exported in each year. The decrease in the number of horned cattle is 12,831, a large falling off appearing in the number depasturing in counties; of which, however, there is difficulty in arriving at a correct enumeration. The total number in the colony is stated to be 265,533 head. Sheep