

As the exertions of our friend, the Hon. Hamilton Merritt, have been unwearied in endeavoring to promote the great object alluded to, I take this opportunity to suggest, that on the favorable termination of the proposed arrangements, some suitable testimonial be presented to him expressive of our approbation and esteem.

HENRY MOYLE.

*Sheep-walk, near Branford,  
Nov. 19, 1848.*

# STATE OF THE BRITISH GRAIN MARKETS, CROPS, WEATHER, &c.

From all that we can learn from public and private sources of information, we are led to conclude that the crops generally throughout the British Islands are below an average. This is the case with wheat, particularly in the south and west of England, where the harvest was seriously injured by wet weather. In Scotland and the north of England, the weather was more propitious, and the failure of the potatoes not so great. In many parts of Ireland, the grain crops were very deficient, and the potato-blight has been general, destroying probably a full moiety of the crop. Notwithstanding these deficiencies, the markets have had a downward tendency, chiefly in consequence of large importations from the continent of Europe: and the latest information gives little hope of a reaction. The corn duties will entirely cease in March, so that any material improvement in prices in spring seems exceedingly doubtful. Hops have proved a large crop, but in consequence of the wetness of the season and high winds, the quality is much complained of. The duty has been announced at £212,416, but little short of 1847. Prices are ruinously low—from 40s. to 60s. per cwt.—and much distress prevails throughout the hop-districts. Great efforts are being made for the repeal of the duty, which amounts to about 20s. per cwt. The heavy rains appear to have continued through the autumnal months, causing destructive inundations in many parts. An agricultural correspondent, writing under date October 27, says that “up to this day, scarcely a farmer in the weald of Kent and Sussex has commenced wheat-sowing; nor is there any prospect of doing so for some time, in consequence of the extreme wet state of the soil, occasioned by the unprecedented heavy rains. The state and prospects of the farmers in this part of the kingdom are most gloomy.”—The following observations of an experienced farmer, apply to the county of Sussex, and generally to the south of England:

“We have been farmers for forty years, and with the exception of the year 1816 we never remember so ungenial a one for the operations of agriculture as the present. March and April were continually wet, so that on many farms scarcely a blade was

seen before May. Those who attempted to work the land before did more harm than good, and made the tilth still more unkindly. Dry weather then set in all at once. From the previous incessant rains we felt the sudden change the more, and the wheat as well as the barley did not get on favourably. On the grass land, where fed bare, the change was felt more, and cattle and sheep did very badly. June again was wet, and from that time till September, in this county, we were scarcely forty-eight hours without rain. A very small proportion of the wheat was carried before September, and much of this in bad order. What has been threshed has been found to yield very badly, is much grown, and almost unsaleable. Every one keeps off as long as possible in consequence. We have spoken of our crop of barley. As to oats, they—particularly white oats—are found very light, many not weighing more than 28lbs. per bushel. Peas, in some instances, yield and were harvested pretty well, particularly those sown early. Of beans we do not grow many, and cannot speak with any certainty, but they are not a good crop. Tares were a complete failure. Rape, for feeding in the autumn for sheep, of which a great deal is sown on the Downs, has been abundant, but the sheep have not done well on it, owing to continual wet. The lambs have done worse than we ever recollect. The clover and grass have been too succulent, and have made them purge violently, in many cases attended with considerable loss. Fortunately, we have hitherto escaped the small pox in our flocks, but the lameness and sore mouths introduced by foreign sheep and cattle have become prevalent. Indeed we much doubt if we shall ever see the disease eradicated. We have found much benefit from driving our sheep every morning through a pound, in which we put some quick lime. From being under cover, it sustained its efficacy for a long time.

**AVERAGE CROPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.**—The following is stated by a writer in Simmond's “Colonial Magazine,” to be the average quantity per acre of agricultural crops, as calculated upon a period of ten years. Wheat, 14 bushels; maize, 17½ bushels; millet, 4½ bushels; oats, 13½ bushels; rye, 13½ bushels; barley, 15½ bushels; potatoes, 2½ tons; tobacco, 7 cwt.; and hay, 1½ ton. The average of maize in such a climate as New Holland, is considerably less than we should have expected. Colonial farming, however, is generally performed in so imperfect and slovenly a manner, as necessarily to keep the average amount of produce extremely low. This is the case in British America, as well as in Australia.

**FARM-YARD DUNG.**—Dr. Coventry, the professor of Agriculture at Cambridge, estimates the quantities of dung to be made from the consumption of crops in the following manner:—

	Tons.
An acre of turnips or cabbages - - -	6
An acre of clover or grass the first year -	6
Ditto, if mown the second year - - -	5½
Ditto, if pastured the second and third year -	5
An acre of Pulse, part of the seed being used at home - - -	5½
Ditto of pulse crop when the seed is sold -	5
Ditto of white corn - - -	4