

abundant in this county. These small hardy sheep are celebrated for the excellence of the mutton; and among them the Banstead Heath sheep have long been famous. This small breed is clad in a short, thick, and close fleece—a circumstance of some importance—but the mutton is unrivalled. The Merry Monarch, Charles II., loved Banstead mutton; nor has it yet lost its reputation.—*Martin, on the Sheep.*

OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE SEASON'S CROPS IN THE U. STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., October, 1866.

The condition of corn has suffered some deterioration from early frosts and excessive rains, but the quantity of the crop is larger than the largest ever previously chronicled in the country. A final summary of its amount and quality will be given in the next report.

In the production of wheat, next to corn our most important cereal, our agriculture has been unfortunate for the past three seasons. The crops of 1862 and 1863 in the North were good, and exhibited a gratifying increase as compared with the crop of 1859. The year 1864 witnessed a slightly diminished product, followed by a further diminution in 1865, in quantity as well as in quality. Lest misapprehensions of the extent of this decreased supply should prevail, the returns and estimates of these years should be viewed in a group:

Estimate for twenty-two States.

	Bushels.
In 1859.....	132,934,782
In 1863.....	179,404,782
In 1864.....	160,695,823
In 1865.....	143,522,829

The estimate for the present year, now nearly complete, will not vary much from 143,000,000 bushels, showing a small percentage of decrease, which is fully compensated by the comparatively superior quality of the grain, as was predicted in a preceding number. This is ten millions of bushels more than the crop of 1859, and is within five millions of a product in proportion to the increased population.

The diminution in the South is more apparent. The estimates point to less than seventeen millions of bushels in the eleven States hitherto unreported—a fraction less than five-tenths of the crop of 1859.

It is worthy of remark, in connection with the diminution of the three past seasons, that the wheat crop of England has been likewise deficient since 1864.

The California wheat harvest, of which little mention has been publicly made in connexion with the present crop, is excessive. In 1860 the product of this young State was nearly six millions of bushels. Now, it is seriously claimed by leading California agriculturists that the surplus for export will be nearly double that quantity.

It is evident that the entire wheat crop will exceed by several millions that of 1859, when the yield was reported at 173,104,924 bushels. Then there were five and a half bushels to each individual; in 1866 the estimates point to five bushels to each inhabitant. There is no ground, then, for apprehensions of scarcity, and little excuse, in the amount of the crop, for starvation prices.

The yield of oats is extraordinary, and the quality excellent. The indications point to an increase from 171,497,072 bushels in 1859 to 271,912,695 in 1866. It is the only crop in the South that maintains an equality with its last census exhibit.

Hay is less in quantity than in the previous year by from one to two tenths, but is better in quality.

An analysis of the southern returns up to October 1st does not warrant a reduction of the former cotton estimate much below one and three-fourths million of bales, though it is too early for final estimates. Increasing severity of damages from insects is reported.

ISAAC NEWTON,
Commissioner.

THE CROP OF 1866 IN SCOTLAND.

We extract the following from the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, of 23rd November. The season in Scotland has been remarkably similar to our own:

By what might almost be termed an unnatural inversion of the season, there was a severe and protracted drought in the spring and summer months, and an equally protracted course of wet weather during the autumn. The crops suffered from both, though in a less degree than was at one time feared. Hay was undoubtedly a light crop on the whole; specially so in the high-farmed lands of the east coast, but approaching an average in Ayr and Galloway on the one extreme, and Caithness on the other. The wheat crop seemed to thrive in the weather that was so adverse to others, and is reported a full average bulk. The extreme drought appears, however, first to have hindered the full development of the grain, while the subsequent wet and cold prevented it ripening, and the consequence is that many samples look meagre and immature, especially those from latish districts.—Still there is a very fair yield of wheat—as respects quantity we should say an average—but deficient in quality and condition compared with late years, and on an average not over 62 lb. per bushel. Prices have of late rapidly advanced, and we quote white, 62 lb. to 63 lb., at 60s. to 70s.; red, 6 lb. to 12 lb., at 57s. to 62s.

The crop of barley, notwithstanding that in some gravelly soils it was burnt up for want of moisture, and that in other districts it has suffered in harvesting, is

admittedly our best crop this year; and being fully an average yield per acre, and the breadth sown being in excess of former years, we may fairly assume that a considerably larger disposable quantity is available for the trade. The quality and condition are also generally satisfactory, for though discoloured, there is little or no sprout, and the barley is found on trial to be superior in malting. A very active demand having sprung up for England, prices began early to advance, and now range for all malting qualities from 54 lb. to 57 lb. at from 40s. to 47s., 48s., and even 50s. per qr. Cheaper distilling qualities, 36s. to 38s. per qr. The average weight is about 54 lb.

Oats are deficient in breadth sown, and very deficient in yield, so that we are justified in estimating them at three-fourths of an average crop in respect of quantity, while there is a great variety in the quality, and much that has been reaped in the western and other late districts will be fit only for feed. Very fine samples, such as we are accustomed to in Scotland, will be scarce; nor can we hope for heavy grain. A fair proportion will, however, be good sound 42 lb. to 43 lb. oats—the average, we should say, not more than 40 lb. Prices are remunerative, and for anything of good quality at 42 lb. to 43 lb. up to 30s. and 32s., and even 33s. is paid. Cargoes from the northern ports at 27s. to 29s. per qr.

The acreage devoted to beans, peas, and tares, was less than usual, and the yield is also deficient, although none being yet thrashed, a very correct estimate of the result is not practicable.

Potatoes are a very large crop everywhere, and the disease seems to have made but partial progress. High prices being current—say £4 to £5 per ton—farmers are sending very freely to market.

Turnips.—The dry weather in the beginning of the season rendered a re-sowing in many cases necessary, and in heavy soils the plants came up very sparingly; and although great progress was made in the autumn months, the crop is very deficient in all the south-eastern counties, but elsewhere fully an average.

ON PEAT CHARCOAL AS A FERTILIZER IN NOVA SCOTIA.

[FROM AN OLD MANUSCRIPT.]

The chief object attainable by the application of manures, is the renovation of the soil; and every substance known to possess fertilizing principles is carefully sought after by every successful cultivator of the ground. Hitherto our chief sources of manure have been derived from animal excreta, and putrescent substances, thus rendering the supply of bread stuffs too much dependent on the keeping of live stock. Every effort to successfully avoid