

supplies must come in at a greater rate than they had been, or a short supply would be imminent.

It will be readily seen from these facts that the supply of wheat had run very low, and that unless the yield of the coming crop was extraordinary, a high price would inevitably result, and this was further proved by an advance of 2s. per quarter in May. Everything therefore pointed to a good remuneration to Farmers for the coming crop, and with an average yield, it is probable that the commercial position of this country would have been in a more prosperous condition than it is to-day. But the predictions of a coming crop, almost unprecedented, were soon to be realized.

During the season for harvest gathering, the weather was variable, but on the whole favorable, and as each succeeding week of August came round, it became a settled fact that the most sanguine expectations were more than realized, and that after a series of years of short or barely average crops, the world was to be blessed with a bountiful harvest. The *London Agricultural Gazette* of the 1st September contained 273 reports of the current wheat crop from all the English, most of the Scottish, and many Irish counties; and of those 183 declared it to be "over average," 83 declared it to be "average," and only seven put it "under average." The reports were as nearly as possible the converse of those of 1873, when the numbers were 11,89 and 157 respectively. The spring sown corn crops were, however, very inferior to those of last year. Barley, indeed, was a heavy crop on heavy lands, and in Essex, as in other clay-land counties, almost all the corn crops were above an average. But taking them over the whole country, more than half the returns of barley, oats and beans and peas were under average; about one-third were average, and the small remainder over average. The oat crop was the worst spring-sown corn crop of the year; beans and peas came next, and barley the best of that series.

The following table shows the number of acres devoted to grain and root crop, in the United Kingdom, for the past four years.

CEREALS.

	1871. Acres.	1872. Acres.	1873. Acres.	1874. Acres.
Wheat.....	3,831,054	3,839,532	3,670,259	3,830,767
Barley.....	2,616,965	2,543,581	2,574,529	2,407,120
Oats.....	4,362,139	4,340,748	4,198,495	4,088,825
Rye.....	82,222	75,849	60,121	56,274
Beans.....	550,613	548,341	598,121	568,984
Peas.....	391,250	364,194	321,007	312,854
Total acres....	11,834,243	11,712,245	11,422,532	11,264,824

Potato
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Mango
Carrot

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