

flax. There has been a decrease of 110,966 acres in the area under grass, as compared with 1886, but there has been an increase of 30,538 acres under crops.

It appears from the following table, that between 1886 and 1887 there has been an increase in the number of horses and mules amounting to 8,722, whilst there has been a decrease in the number of cattle amounting to 26,515. There has been an increase in sheep amounting to 12,374, and in pigs amounting to 145,343.

Table showing the number of live stock in each year, from 1884 to 1887, inclusive:—

Years.	Horses and Mules.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs
1884	562,439	4,112,789	3,245,212	1,306,550
1885	376,430	4,288,851	3,478,056	1,269,092
1886	578,299	4,183,924	3,566,043	1,263,142
1887	587,021	4,157,409	3,378,417	1,408,485

The following table shows the range of prices in the Irish markets from 1882 to 1887, both years included.

The prices of grain are those of the Dublin market; flax, the Belfast market. The prices of butter are taken from the quotations of "firsts," "seconds" and "thirds" in Cork butter market. The prices of beef, mutton, pork, potatoes, wool, hay and straw, are Dublin prices. Eggs are the wholesale rates current during the summer months in the Dublin market. The prices of milch cows, two years old, and one year old cattle, were the prices current in country fairs, during the months of May and June in each year. And the price of lambs are those current during May 12 and June in the Dublin markets.