

94 otherwise I would have had to take my place
both in the harvest field to tie up the sheaves,
but also at the same time would have had
to swing the scythe in cutting the hay.
But about the same time we got one of the
earliest grass mowers. So my experience with
the actual work on the farm coincided with
the mechanical age. &

On the introduction of the reaper & binder
most of the farmers were very sceptical as
to their ability to do the work. It was
said that it would not be possible to build
a corn stack with the sheaves, & the labouring
men, who depended on the harvesting work
to make a bit of money, were equally
pessimistic that there would be no work for
them to do, and I heard at the time of
several machines being set on fire.
However, it was soon discovered that there
was no diminution of the work, for crops
were grown far more extensively, &
millions of bushels of wheat were ex-
ported, during the years from 1875 ¹⁸⁷⁵ onwards

In the early 80's
over 13,000,000 was grown

95 There was considerably more wheat grown
in those times than has been the case for the
last thirty or forty years. Also enormous
quantities of oats were grown, for to feed
the horses that were used & also very large
quantities of these cereal were also exported.
The prices were not always very satisfactory.
It was a time when the supply of everything
completely overran the local demand.

Between the early years of the 1870s
there was introduced by the H. of Government
a system of free emigration, and
people flocked into the country by thousands.
The quality of some was not of the best
and a proper system of selection was
not always carried out. Emigration agents
were employed in England to get people
to come & these agents got so much ahead
for all they sent out. It was recorded at
about that time that one agent got his
supplies from a penitentiary. Certainly
a great number came out, who were
weavers &c from Lancashire, & were not at all