

278. The very marked effect which the adoption of the National Policy, in 1879, had upon the imports of wheat and flour will be immediately apparent upon looking at the above tables. It will be seen that while the average importation of wheat in each year from 1868 to 1879 was \$5,480,735, in the period 1880 to 1886 it only averaged \$149,374 per annum, increasing the home market for wheat to the extent of \$5,331,361 annually. That amount of money was therefore expended in the country, which otherwise would have been paid away for imported wheat, and considering the universal depression of the agricultural industry, this result cannot but have been of benefit to the farming community.

Effect of the National Policy on the imports of wheat.

279. The total wheat crop of 1886 was about 37,731,275 bushels, and there were imported for home consumption in 1887 (reckoning five bushels of wheat to the barrel of flour) 3,213,918 bushels, making a total of 40,945,193 bushels. Of this quantity, there was exported of wheat and flour, 8,232,791 bushels, and at two bushels to the acre, 4,561,540 bushels were retained for seed, leaving 28,150,862 bushels available for consumption, being at the rate of 5.77 bushels per head of population. The consumption in the United States is said to be over six bushels per head, and estimating the consumption in the United Kingdom at 204,000,000 bushels, the amount per head in 1886 was 5.47 bushels.

Consumption of wheat per head in Canada.

280. "Such is the importance of the question of the price of wheat, that it partakes of the nature of a grave social problem, and it is therefore not surprising to find it always before us, and always being discussed in one form or another." So says M. François Bernard in an article on the world's wheat production*, and as, owing to the extreme decline in value of late years, this question

Importance of the question of the price of wheat.

*Royal Statistical Society's Journal, December, 1887.