

Average
imports of
agricul-
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Great Bri-
tain.

418. In previous issues of this work tables have been given showing the quantities of certain articles of food and agricultural produce imported annually into Great Britain, the figures in which were taken correctly from the British returns; but it has been found that these returns do not accurately represent the true facts, inasmuch as articles are credited to the country in which the port of shipment is situated, *e. g.*, articles of United States produce, shipped at the port of Montreal, are credited in the British Customs returns to British North America. As the British returns are for the calendar year, and the Canadian and the United States returns are for the fiscal year, it was decided to take a period of 3 years and strike an average, which has accordingly been done in the following table, the figures for Canada and the United States being taken from the returns of each country, and those of British possessions and other foreign countries from British returns. It must not be forgotten that in some cases, such, for instance, as cattle and sheep, the Canadian exports are rapidly increasing, the number of cattle exported in 1890 having been more than double the average of the three preceding years, and that therefore these average figures do not fairly represent the extent of the present trade in those articles :—