

Manufacture of spirits, 1891.

264. The number of proof gallons of spirits manufactured in 1891 was 4,397,594, as compared with 5,091,475 gallons in 1890, being a decrease of 693,881 gallons, and the quantity taken for consumption was 2,687,664 gallons, being a decrease of 833,530 gallons as compared with 1890, and was 107,900 gallons less than the average consumption of six years. The quantity taken for consumption during the last six years has been :—

	Proof Gallons.
1886.....	2,412,818
1887.....	2,864,935
1888.....	2,326,327
1889.....	2,960,447
1890.....	3,521,194
1891.....	2,687,664
Average for six years.....	<u>2,795,564</u>

Increase in quantity manufactured.

265. The increase in the quantity of spirits manufactured in 1890 was attributable in part to the withdrawal from the market of methylated spirits for other purposes than the mechanical arts, and in part to distillers paying duty during June, 1890, upon spirits to be held in stock, in view of the provisions as to maturing of spirits which came into force on 1st July, 1890.

Quantity of grain used.

266. In the production of the total quantity of spirits above mentioned, 73,606,914 lbs. of grain were used.

Manufacture of malt, 1891.

267. The quantity of malt manufactured during the year was 52,999,874 lbs., and entered for consumption 57,909,201 lbs., being a decrease, as compared with 1890, of 11,314,383 lbs. in the quantity manufactured, and an increase of 2,935,188 lbs. in the quantity entered for consumption. Distillers used 5,573,287 lbs. of the quantity entered for consumption, and the remainder was employed in the production of 18,069,183 gallons of malt liquor. The quantity of malt taken for consumption during the last six years has been :—

	Lbs.
1886.....	37,604,708
1887.....	42,630,440
1888.....	48,640,467
1889.....	51,111,429
1890.....	54,974,013
1891.....	57,909,201
Average for six years.....	<u>48,811,709</u>

It will be seen that the consumption has steadily increased during the last five years.