

Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy together consume one-fourth of the total production in about equal proportions.

Germany consumes the least wheat of the larger countries of western Europe.

624. On a per head basis the positions are changed. France stands at the head with 551 pounds consumed by each inhabitant. Belgium comes next with an average of 388 pounds per inhabitant. The United Kingdom and Italy each consume 291 pounds per head. The United States consume 270 pounds; Austria-Hungary eats up 236 pounds; the Netherlands and Denmark about 180 pounds; Germany 142 pounds, and Russia, about 110 pounds. India, and Norway and Sweden have the least per head consumption.

625. In order to meet requirements the countries consuming wheat have first of all their own production.

The United States is the largest wheat-producing country in the world. Its production is between one-fourth and one-fifth of the world's production. It exceeds that of France by 200 million bushels yearly, taking the average of four years, and France consumes almost as much wheat as the United States.

India produces within a million of bushels as much wheat as Russia, and these two countries furnish, like the United States, between one-fourth and one-fifth of the world's production.

Austria-Hungary, India, Russia, France, Germany, Italy and the United States supply about three-quarters of the wheat required.

626. By continents, in 1893, the North American continent supplied 19 per cent, the South American 3·4 per cent; Europe 60 per cent; Asia over 14 per cent; Africa 1·5 per cent, and Austria 1·7 per cent.

Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom produce together about the same quantity of wheat as France.

627. Taking the production by countries according to the high or low price of labour employed, we have India, Russia and Argentina* producing about 670 million bushels and exporting about 150 million.

These have somewhat over one-third of the exchange needed to meet deficiencies.

628. In the United States, the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota are the states in which from a variety of causes the cost of wheat-growing is lower than in the other states. These eight states produce about 30 per cent of the total wheat produced in the United States.

The effect of low-priced labour and low cost generally of production upon the average price of wheat must be great.

*Respecting Argentina, Mr. Peel, second secretary to the British Legation at Buenos Ayres, writes to Earl Kimberly (May 14th, 1895), "No other country in the world can produce a quarter of wheat more cheaply. The actual cost of producing and delivering at station, together with the hiring expenses of a family, bags, threshing and cartage, may perhaps be set down in a good year at 9 shillings a quarter."