

The consumption of wheat in Canada, no doubt varies in different parts. In Manitoba, the official estimate a short time ago was six bushels per head, which is likely to be near the mark, both for that province and for some portions of the Territories. In Ontario and Quebec it has been reckoned at not over five bushels. In the Maritime Provinces wheat is to a certain extent displaced by cornmeal, but the fishermen are large consumers of wheat, so that the average is maintained. Rye is used in a constantly decreasing quantity.

642. The United Kingdom is by far the largest importer of food products and takes nearly one-half the available export of wheat from the wheat-exporting countries.

In 1892 Mr. Stephen Bourne, from tables of comparison between the years 1876 and 1891, arrived at the conclusion that of Great Britain's 33,000,000 inhabitants in 1876, 18,000,000 might be deemed to be provided with food for home resources, and 15,000,000 from foreign supplies, and that in 1891 of 38,000,000 inhabitants, 16,500,000 depended on home and 21,500,000 on foreign supplies, or in other words that in 1876, 46 per cent and in 1891, 55 per cent of the food consumed in the British Isles came from abroad. On that estimate every inhabitant in those islands is dependent upon foreign supplies for his food for one hundred and eighty-nine days in the year. Lord George Hamilton recently said: "This process must continue, and if its development during the next twenty years is as rapid as it has been in the past, in little more than a score of years home produce will have receded from being less than one-half of the total supply of food to less than one-quarter.

643. These facts show the permanent value of the market of Great Britain to countries like Canada, so large a proportion of whose inhabitants make their living from the farm. The British market is, also, one of the few open to the world without tariff charges.

644. The following table gives the import duties on wheat and flour in European countries:—

COUNTRY.	Wheat, Grain.	Wheat Meal and Flour.
Portugal.....	Prohibited.....	Prohibited.
Spain.....	79 cts. per cwt.....	\$1.31 per cwt.
France.....	69½ cts. ".....	\$1.09½ to \$1.58 per cwt.
Italy.....	69½ cts. ".....	\$1.13½ per cwt.
Germany.....	42½ cts. ".....	90 cts. "
Austria-Hungary.....	42½ cts. ".....	91 cts. "
Greece.....	30½ cts. ".....	51 cts. "
Sweden.....	17 cts. ".....	34 cts. "
Switzerland.....	3 cts. ".....	19½ cts. "
Norway.....	3 cts. ".....	16½ cts. "
Russia.....	Free.....	49 cts. "
Roumania.....	".....	\$1.18½ "
Turkey.....	8 per cent ad valorem.....	8 per cent ad valorem.
Bulgaria.....	8½ ".....	8½ ".....
Denmark.....	Free.....	Free.
Holland.....	".....	".....
Belgium.....	".....	".....
United Kingdom.....	".....	".....