

thorough investigation. The following is given as the generally accepted statement :—

CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT PER HEAD IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Bushels.
United Kingdom.....	5·0
France.....	9·1
Germany.....	2·5
Russia.....	2·0
Austria-Hungary.....	3·9
Italy.....	5·0
Spain and Portugal.....	6·4
Belgium and Holland.....	4·7
Scandinavia.....	1·4
Turkey.....	6·1
United States.....	4·5
Canada.....	5·5
New South Wales.....	5·8
Victoria.....	5·0
Southern Australia.....	6·5
Queensland.....	6·0
Tasmania.....	6·7
New Zealand.....	7·1

503. 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 corn-meal, but the fishermen are large consumers of wheat, so that the average is maintained. Rye is used in a constantly decreasing quantity.

504. 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 than 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."

505. 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.

506. The following table shows the quantity of wheat and wheat-flour imported into the United Kingdom in 1889 to 1895, and the countries from which supplied :—