

Per Capita Consumption of Wheat in Canada.—It is calculated that for the period of ten years ended August 31, 1919, the average per capita consumption of wheat was 5·8 bushels per annum, that during the four years of war (1915-18) the rate was 4·2 bushels, and that during the five-year pre-war period from 1910 to 1914 it was 7·7 bushels. These rates represent the gross per capita consumption, after accounting for the whole of the production in the way of losses due to cleaning and unmerchantable grain, adding the imports and deducting exports and grain retained for seed. During recent years the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has perfected arrangements for the periodical collection of statistics of wheat milled in Canada. These indicate on the basis of three years' returns that the per capita consumption of wheat is 5·4 bushels, a figure only 0·4 bushels below that of 5·8 bushels, the average given above for the ten-year period ended August 31, 1919. A report on the Flour Milling Industry of Canada for 1921, issued in March, 1923, by the Industrial Census Division of the Bureau, placed the per capita consumption of wheat flour in Canada for the calendar year 1921 at 0·92 barrels, representing, at 4·5 bushels to the barrel, 4·3 bushels. According to the quantity shown in Table 14 as milled in the crop year ended August 31, 1924, viz., 40,444,000 bushels, the per capita consumption is 4·4 bushels, an excess difference of only 0·1 bushel. The rate shown by the Industrial Census Division applies, however, only to a single year. The rate for the ten years, 1910 to 1919, represents moreover calculations that are gross rather than net. Altogether the conclusion appears to be justified that the average annual per capita consumption of wheat in Canada is between 4½ and 5 bushels.

3.—Farm Live Stock and Poultry.

Numbers of Farm Animals.—In Table 16 are given by provinces the numbers of each description of farm live stock in Canada for the year 1923, as compared with 1922.¹ The numbers for the whole of the Dominion are estimated as follows, the corresponding numbers for 1922 being given within parentheses: horses 3,530,641 (3,648,871); mules 8,722 (9,202); cattle 9,246,231 (9,719,869); sheep 2,753,860 (3,263,525); swine 4,405,316 (3,915,684); poultry 45,469,292 (42,930,562); rabbits in British Columbia 48,359 (51,623). Thus all descriptions of farm live stock show a decrease in 1923, excepting swine and poultry which have increased. Horses and sheep show a decrease in every province except British Columbia. Cattle have increased only in Ontario and British Columbia. Swine show a decrease in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but an increase in every other province. Poultry show an increase in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, but a decrease in the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Manitoba. For all Canada, the different descriptions of farm poultry are as follows, last year's figures being given within parentheses: hens 41,356,119 (39,434,837); turkeys 2,105,483 (1,590,281); geese 961,203 (947,269); ducks 1,046,487 (958,139).

¹Statistics of the number and value of the various descriptions of farm live stock, collected at the decennial censuses since 1871, will be found in the "Statistical Summary of the Progress of Canada," immediately following the Table of Contents.