

It is not contended that the above figures are absolutely correct, since, in the absence of complete information, it is impossible for them to be anything but approximate; but, as more than three-fourths of the figures in each year are taken from the official returns of Ontario and Manitoba, it is believed that taking the tables as they stand (the result of any one year must not be compared separately with that of any other year), the figures of average consumption and production are not very far astray. It will be seen that in the years 1883, 1884 and 1888 the quantity produced fell short of that required, and in 1889 the quantity produced was precisely the amount required, the imports and exports balancing themselves. Though the quantity of Canadian wheat exported was 42,150,695 bushels, the amount actually available for export was only 28,738,836, the deficiency caused by exportation being made up by an import of 13,411,859 bushels.

380. The consumption per head is higher in Canada and the Australasian colonies than in almost any other country, as shown by the following table :—

CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT PER HEAD IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

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

381. The following tables give the values and quantities of imports for home consumption and exports of Canadian produce of wheat, flour and other breadstuffs, and also the total imports and exports of the same articles in each year since Confederation :—

Imports and exports of wheat and other breadstuffs, 1868-1891.