

AGRICULTURE.

per quarter and in Canadian equivalents of dollars and cents per bushel of 60 lb. Throughout the whole period covered by the tables (1641-1914) the price of wheat was highest during the wars with Napoleon (1793-1815), and during the first fifteen years of the nineteenth century the annual average price never fell below \$1.76 per bushel, whilst on four occasions it exceeded \$3.19. The highest point was in 1812 when the yearly average was \$3.85. Prices fell after the conclusion of peace in 1815; but were maintained artificially by the Corn Laws (1791-1846). The repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, which repeal took full effect on February 1, 1849, reduced prices for a few years, and in 1851 wheat was as low as \$1.17 per bushel; but the Crimean war (1853-6) followed by the Indian mutiny (1857-8) helped to maintain prices at a relatively high level, whilst the Franco-German war (1870-1) had a similar tendency. Periods of severe agricultural depression followed a series of bad seasons after 1876, when short returns were accompanied by falling prices owing to the cheap transportation of American grain. The price of wheat reached its lowest ebb of 70 cents per bushel in 1895. The average price for 1915 was \$1.61, and the price previous to the outbreak of the present war was \$1.04 on August 1, 1914.

24.—Yearly Average Prices of Wheat in England, 1641-1770.

NOTE.—The quarter (qr.) = 8 Imperial bushels of 60 lb. per bushel.

| Year. | Per qr. | | Year. | Per qr. | | Year. | Per qr. | | Year. | Per qr. | |
|-------|---------|-----|-------|---------|-----|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|
| | s. d. | £ c | | s. d. | £ c | | s. d. | £ c | | s. d. | £ c |
| 1641 | 57 | 1 | 1.74 | 1674 | 61 | 0 | 1.88 | 1707 | 25 | 4 | 0.77 |
| 1642 | 60 | 2 | 1.83 | 1675 | 57 | 5 | 1.75 | 1708 | 36 | 10 | 1.12 |
| 1643 | 59 | 10 | 1.82 | 1676 | 33 | 9 | 1.03 | 1709 | 69 | 9 | 2.12 |
| 1644 | 61 | 3 | 1.86 | 1677 | 37 | 4 | 1.14 | 1710 | 69 | 4 | 2.11 |
| 1645 | 51 | 3 | 1.56 | 1678 | 52 | 5 | 1.59 | 1711 | 48 | 0 | 1.46 |
| 1646 | 42 | 8 | 1.30 | 1679 | 53 | 4 | 1.62 | 1712 | 41 | 2 | 1.25 |
| 1647 | 65 | 5 | 1.99 | 1680 | 40 | 0 | 1.22 | 1713 | 45 | 4 | 1.38 |
| 1648 | 75 | 6 | 2.30 | 1681 | 41 | 5 | 1.26 | 1714 | 44 | 9 | 1.36 |
| 1649 | 71 | 1 | 2.16 | 1682 | 39 | 1 | 1.19 | 1715 | 38 | 2 | 1.16 |
| 1650 | 68 | 1 | 2.07 | 1683 | 35 | 6 | 1.08 | 1716 | 42 | 3 | 1.30 |
| 1651 | 65 | 2 | 1.98 | 1684 | 39 | 1 | 1.19 | 1717 | 40 | 7 | 1.23 |
| 1652 | 44 | 0 | 1.34 | 1685 | 41 | 5 | 1.28 | 1718 | 34 | 6 | 1.05 |
| 1653 | 31 | 6 | 0.95 | 1686 | 30 | 2 | 0.92 | 1719 | 31 | 1 | 0.94 |
| 1654 | 23 | 1 | 0.70 | 1687 | 22 | 4 | 0.68 | 1720 | 32 | 10 | 1.00 |
| 1655 | 29 | 7 | 0.90 | 1688 | 40 | 10 | 1.24 | 1721 | 33 | 4 | 1.01 |
| 1656 | 38 | 2 | 1.16 | 1689 | 26 | 8 | 0.81 | 1722 | 32 | 0 | 0.97 |
| 1657 | 41 | 5 | 1.26 | 1690 | 30 | 9 | 0.94 | 1723 | 30 | 10 | 0.94 |
| 1658 | 57 | 9 | 1.76 | 1691 | 30 | 2 | 0.92 | 1724 | 32 | 10 | 1.00 |
| 1659 | 58 | 8 | 1.78 | 1692 | 41 | 5 | 1.26 | 1725 | 43 | 1 | 1.31 |
| 1660 | 50 | 2 | 1.52 | 1693 | 60 | 1 | 1.83 | 1726 | 40 | 10 | 1.24 |
| 1661 | 62 | 2 | 1.89 | 1694 | 56 | 10 | 1.73 | 1727 | 37 | 4 | 1.14 |
| 1662 | 65 | 9 | 2.00 | 1695 | 47 | 1 | 1.43 | 1728 | 48 | 5 | 1.47 |
| 1663 | 50 | 8 | 1.54 | 1696 | 63 | 1 | 1.92 | 1729 | 41 | 7 | 1.26 |
| 1664 | 36 | 0 | 1.09 | 1697 | 53 | 4 | 1.62 | 1730 | 32 | 5 | 0.99 |
| 1665 | 43 | 10 | 1.33 | 1698 | 60 | 9 | 1.85 | 1731 | 29 | 2 | 0.89 |
| 1666 | 32 | 0 | 0.97 | 1699 | 56 | 10 | 1.73 | 1732 | 23 | 8 | 0.72 |
| 1667 | 32 | 0 | 0.97 | 1700 | 35 | 6 | 1.09 | 1733 | 25 | 2 | 0.77 |
| 1668 | 35 | 6 | 1.08 | 1701 | 33 | 5 | 1.02 | 1734 | 30 | 9 | 0.94 |
| 1669 | 39 | 5 | 1.20 | 1702 | 26 | 2 | 0.80 | 1735 | 38 | 2 | 1.16 |
| 1670 | 37 | 0 | 1.13 | 1703 | 32 | 0 | 0.97 | 1736 | 35 | 10 | 1.09 |
| 1671 | 37 | 4 | 1.14 | 1704 | 41 | 4 | 1.26 | 1737 | 33 | 9 | 1.03 |
| 1672 | 36 | 6 | 1.11 | 1705 | 26 | 8 | 0.81 | 1738 | 31 | 6 | 0.96 |
| 1673 | 41 | 5 | 1.26 | 1706 | 23 | 1 | 0.70 | | | | |