

months' actual imports into the United Kingdom may have made the totals for each year appear a little too large, but if there was any such error it could not have been above 5 per cent; but be that as it may the table is given for what it is worth, and certainly shows that in those three years the total importations of wheat and wheat-flour into the United Kingdom ranged from say \$5,000,000 to 105,000,000 bushels, and will serve at least to sustain the estimate previously made upon a different basis that the necessities of the United Kingdom require the importation of an average of nearly 90,000,000 bushels of wheat per annum.

The foregoing figures, it will be remembered, only refer to the general averages for a series of years. In the endeavor to approximate what may be British necessities for the year 1877-'78 we can have the aid of but few positive figures, because the total crop depends more on the yield per acre than on the difference in acreage. It is, however, an important fact that the acreage of wheat sown in the Kingdom for the present crop was much smaller than the average of a few years ago; the table of acreage of wheat given in another place above shows indeed an almost constant decrease of acreage since 1869. The acreage of wheat sown last year was indeed somewhat larger than in the previous year, but even with this increase, and without the exact figures at hand, we understand it to have been less than in the four or five years previous to 1873. The *Miller* (London, Aug. 6) also estimates that it would require a full average yield of twenty-eight to twenty-nine bushels per acre to give Great Britain its average total crop of wheat. As to the probabilities of this result we quote from the *Miller* of the above date as follows:

This year is marked by unusual variance in the aspect of different parts of the country, making it difficult to strike a balance between good and bad districts. The result of the year's harvest, however, must on the whole be considered disappointing. The crop will be larger than it was last year, but it can scarcely be an average yield per acre, while in quality the crop, taken altogether, will not equal that of 1876; so that where we might have looked without being too sanguine for a seven months' provisionment of England, we cannot now look to find more than six, reckoning our monthly wants at 2,000,000 quarters for 1877-'78.

And again in the same article:

Certainly there are not wanting opinions that the yield is as much as 25 per cent. deficient; but we take a less gloomy view, and wait with patience and fair confidence

the result of the first important threshings.

Mr. James Caird, under date of August 31st, gives an estimate of the wheat crop of Great Britain for the present season. The extent of wheat is greater by nearly 200,000 acres than last year, but it is 400,000 acres, or one-ninth, below the average of the ten preceding years. The general yield is better than that of 1853, 1867 or 1875, but it will not be equal to even the defective crop of last year, and notwithstanding the increased average there will not be more than between nine and ten million quarters of a home crop. The average consumption of the past ten years has been  $5\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per head of the population, and under these circumstances 11,000,000 quarters, or about 90,000,000 bushels, will be required, and this taking the most favorable view. In addition the writer refers to the fact that Britain is not the only country that requires help, as with the exception of some parts of Spain all Western Europe is deficient, and the ports of the Black Sea are closed, while the great severity of the famine in India can hardly admit of any increase of the large supply received from that quarter during the present year. The unusually good yield in the United States and Canada places us in a position to make up this deficiency, and we may anticipate for our wheat surplus a good demand at somewhat above average prices.

In view of all the above facts, it is probable that the United Kingdom will find it necessary to import at least 90,000,000 bushels of wheat during the next year, dating from Sept. 1, 1877. This is indeed a much lower estimate than is made in many quarters, and, if it were to be changed at all, should be increased.

Great Britain is, however, not the only great consumer. Nearly all the countries of Northeastern Europe are importers of wheat. South America and the West Indies also draw a large amount from the United States. The countries of Northern Europe take nearly 60 per cent. of Russia's exportable surplus, and about one-quarter of the exportable surplus of the United States. The field of this consumption is, however, so wide that it would be impossible to arrive at its aggregate necessities, and we can only approximate them by showing what proportion of the exportable surplus of the United States goes to other markets than Great Britain. For this purpose we reprint from the quarterly report of the Chief of the United States Bureau of Statistics, Sept. 30, 1876, page 104, the following statements of the exports of wheat and wheat-flour from the

United States to all foreign countries for the year ending June 30, 1876:

Wheat to—	Bushels.
Belgium.....	3,190,282
France.....	521,041
French West Indies.....	20,327
Germany.....	516,156
England.....	25,417,310
Scotland.....	3,385,417
Ireland.....	13,493,925
Gibraltar.....	233,919
Quebec, Ontario, etc.....	5,520,304
British Columbia.....	8,274
British West Indies.....	4,256
Netherlands.....	2,380,260
Portugal.....	1,412,988
Other countries.....	8,653

Total..... 55,973,122

Wheat-flour to—	Barrels.
Belgium.....	22,806
Brazil.....	536,180
Central American States.....	57,125
Danish West Indies.....	39,677
French West Indies.....	80,662
Miquelon & other French possessions.....	17,993
Germany.....	14,113
England.....	914,579
Scotland.....	392,213
Ireland.....	28,393
Nova Scotia.....	195,074
Quebec, Ontario, etc.....	159,991
British Columbia.....	28,723
Newfoundland.....	154,453
British West Indies.....	444,155
British Guiana.....	91,648
Hong-Kong.....	133,197
Haiti.....	161,987
Mexico.....	15,048
Dutch West Indies.....	33,169
Peru.....	11,329
Portugal.....	12,885
San Domingo.....	24,286
Sandwich Islands.....	11,076
Cuba.....	91,050
Porto Rico.....	46,510
United States of Colombia.....	44,275
Uruguay.....	17,160
Venezuela.....	107,818
Other countries.....	48,217

Total..... 3,935,512

As the United Kingdom is the great consumer, so the United States and Canada are the great source of supply. The United Kingdom now receives from the United States about 58 to 59 per cent. of her total importations of foreign wheat. During the last twenty years America has been steadily superseding Russia as the wheat purveyor of Great Britain. In that time the proportion of British importations of wheat furnished by the United States has increased from 27 to 58 per cent., while the proportion furnished by Russia has diminished from 23 to 11 per cent.

"Great Britain has usually imported," says the *New York Produce Exchange*