

spending power, but almost entirely to a fall in price. The per capita consumption of 1896, 47 lbs. of sugar and 4.4 lbs. of tea, cost no more than the 26 lbs. of sugar and the 2.7 lbs. of tea in the year 1880. The increased use of tobacco, of coffee, and the but slightly decreased consumption of spirits, in spite of a large rise in price, indicate a larger spending power. An attempt has been made in the third of the following tables to indicate how far the increased consumption is due to a fall in prices, the prices being taken from a table of Montreal prices given in the Statistical Year Book of 1896.

CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IN CANADA.

	Tea (lbs.)	Coffee (lbs.)	Sugar (lbs.)	Dried Fruits (lbs.)	Beer (gals.)	Spirits (gals.)	Wine (gals.)	Tobac- co (lbs.)	Cigars (No.)
1880	2.7	0.40	26	1.9	2.25	0.71	0.08	1.94
1881	3.8	0.47	31	3.0	2.29	0.92	0.10	2.03
1882	4.3	0.71	30	3.4	2.75	1.01	0.12	2.15
1883	4.0	0.60	34	5.0	2.88	1.09	0.13	2.28
1884	3.8	0.53	38	5.2	2.92	1.00	0.12	2.48	19
1885	4.0	0.94	43	4.1	2.64	1.13	0.11	2.62	17
1886	4.9	0.85	38	3.6	2.84	0.71	0.11	2.05	20
1887	3.8	0.41	43	4.2	3.08	0.75	0.09	2.06	18
1888	3.7	0.60	43	4.5	3.25	0.64	0.09	2.09	19
1889	3.6	0.66	47	4.6	3.26	0.78	0.10	2.15	19
1890	3.8	0.66	35	4.7	3.36	0.88	0.10	2.14	20
1891	3.7	0.69	40	4.8	3.79	0.74	0.11	2.29	20
1892	4.4	0.73	68	4.7	3.52	0.70	0.10	2.29	21
1893	3.6	0.77	51	4.4	3.48	0.74	0.09	2.31	23
1894	4.1	0.70	61	5.3	3.72	0.74	0.09	2.26	23
1895	4.0	0.72	70	5.2	3.47	0.67	0.09	2.16	21
1896	4.4	0.70	47	5.6	3.53	0.62	0.07	2.12	21

These tables are sufficiently clear to explain themselves; but it should be observed that for some reason the year 1880, which has been chosen as starting point, is an exceptional year of low consumption, as we shall see more clearly when we come to present an Index No. of consumption; and it has the additional disadvantage of being the year of high prices in sugar, which was then 20 per cent. higher than in 1875, and higher than it has been since.