

tions of the globe. All the arts connected with civilization are dependent, not only upon an abundant supply of food, but a surplus supply for those who pursue the art of husbandry. If every man was compelled to till the soil to obtain a scanty supply of food for himself and family, civilization, as we understand the subject, would be unknown. There would be no books, no institutions of learning, and none of the fine arts practiced, in fact, no cities and no community in the whole earth of a higher type than the Bedouins of the desert. The very rapid advancement in population, in wealth and power of the United States, has been due in a great measure to the fertility of the soil and the favorable nature of our climate. Since the great West was opened up to culture by an energetic people, the vast surplus crops of the soil have tended to multiply manufactures, and advance education and all the arts with a rapidity unparalleled in history. The nature and quantity of the crops raised annually should, therefore, form the most prominent consideration for the people. For several years these have been wonderfully abundant, and large surplus supplies have been furnished for the populations of Europe, especially those of Great Britain, when the crops there had in a great measure failed for about three years in succession. As these surplus supplies of food chiefly furnish the sinews of war, as well as the arts of peace, considerable anxiety was felt respecting their condition and quality the present year. The anxiety was experienced because a severe frost had visited extensive sections of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, during the month of September last, and it was reported that corn, potatoes, and buckwheat had suffered to an alarming extent. Statistics collected and furnished by the Agricultural Department at Washington afford information on this subject of an instructive and deeply interesting nature. The total wheat product of the loyal States for 1863 is estimated at 191,068,239 bushels; oats, 174,858,167; corn, 449,163,894; buckwheat, 17,193,238; potatoes, 97,870,035. In 1862, the product was as follows:—Wheat, 189,993,500 bushels; rye, 21,254; barley, 17,981,464; oats, 172,520,997; corn, 586,704,474; buckwheat, 18,722,995; potatoes, 113,533,118 bushels. There has, therefore, been an increase of the wheat crop amounting to 1,074,739 bushels; of oats, amounting to 2,327,170 bushels, but a very large de-

crease in all the other crops, especially corn and potatoes—in the former amounting to no less than 137,540,580 bushels. About 40,000,000 of wheat and 11,680,000 bushels of corn were exported of the crop of 1862; but the crops in Europe this year have been very abundant, and the foreign demand for our supplies will thereby be diminished in proportion. The domestic consumption of corn is set down at 575,024,132 bushels annually, and at this rate there will be a deficiency this year of 125,869,000 bushels, and the hay crop is deficient about 1,624,000 tons. This quantity of corn allowed for home consumption is large and in a certain sense hypothetical. Many millions of bushels of the crop of 1862 are still in storehouses, and millions have been wasted annually in the fields. Economy, with respect to corn or wheat is an obsolete word in the great West, as is well known to all who have visited there. The total supply of grain and potatoes this year, with all the deficiency, amounts nearly to a thousand millions of bushels, or about forty-five bushels to each person, and is sufficiently abundant for domestic consumption, with an overplus to supply a considerable foreign demand.

The London Agricultural Gazette contains a carefully prepared statement of the amount of food imported into Great Britain and Ireland, from which it appears that the total computed value of these articles imported into the United Kingdom in 1862 reached the enormous amount of \$465,139,940 in gold—a sum equal to three-fourths of the value of the entire exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures. By far the largest item is for wheat and flour, the imports of which in 1862 were no less than \$188,775,300.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Potash, per cwt.,	\$6.10 to 6.15
Pearlash, "	6.85 to 6.90
Flour, Fine, per 196 lbs.....	4.00 to 4.10
No. 2 Superfine,.....	4.20 to 4.25
No. 1 "	4.30 to 4.40
Fancy "	4.50 to 4.70
Extra "	5.20 to 5.30
S. Extra Superfine	0.00 to 0.00
Wheat, U.C. White, per 60 lbs., ..	\$.90 to 1.02
" U.C. Red, " 0.90 to 0.91
Peas, per 66 lbs.,.....	0.70 to 0.71
Indian Corn, per 56 lbs.,.....	0.55 to 0.56
Barley, per 50 lbs.,.....	0.80 to 0.85
Oats, per 40 lbs.,.....	0.47 to 0.50
Butter, per lb.,.....	0.15 to 0.16
Cheese, per lb.,.....	0.08 to 0.08½