

of this the home supply was 24,500,000 cwt. and the imported 11,500,000 cwt.—the imported to the home supply being as 23 to 49, and the imported to the total consumption as one to three.

In 1861 the value of food imports into Great Britain per head was £1 11s. 11d. ; in 1871, £2 1s. 3d. ; in 1880, £3 4s. 11d. Comparing the five years from 1860-4 with the five from 1875-9—the first five with the last five of the twenty years from 1860 to 1879—we have the authority of Sir James Caird for the statement that wheat had increased 75 per cent., but the price had fallen only four per cent. Of barley the imports increased 90 per cent., and the price had risen 10 per cent.; of oats the imports increased 122 per cent., and the price 14 per cent.

The increasing population, and diminishing power to feed that population, must aggravate year by year, and to an alarming extent, England's dependence upon foreign countries for her food supplies. This dependence would be the more embarrassing should England be involved in a war with a great maritime power. Whence is this deficiency to be made up? Every country of Europe from which Great Britain has drawn bread-stuffs now consumes more and more of her own products. Southern Europe, Australia, and many wheat-growing States of the American Union, are subject to severe and protracted droughts during the agricultural months. All these countries, moreover, are too far south to be depended upon for a large and regular supply of wheat. Australia and California are, in addition to their semi-tropical climates, nearly half the circumference of the globe from the British Islands.

The average product of wheat in the United States is 13·1 bushels per acre ; in France, 16 bushels ; in Russia, 5·4 ; in Austria, 14 ; in Italy, 12·3 ; in Australia (1877, below the average), 5·4 ; in Canada, 20. Russia and France produce each 240,000,000 bushels ; Germany, 126,000,000 ; Great Britain and Austria, each 92,000,000 ; the United States (1880), 459,000,000 ; and Canada, 80,000,000. These quantities would give, for home consumption, to Russia three bushels per head of her population ; to France, 5½ bushels ; to Germany, 2·7 ; to Austria, 2·3 ; to the United States, 9 ; to Canada, 18 ; and to Great Britain, 2·6. The only countries upon which England can rely for her bread-stuffs are Russia, France, the United States, and Canada. Five bushels per head are allowed in Canada for home consumption. With this allowance, only France, the United States, and Canada would have a surplus ; Russia has but three bushels, and Great Britain 2·6 per head. But some of the Continental countries use, to a large extent, rye, barley, and oats as a substitute for wheat. In 1840, the United States produced but 80,000,000 bushels ; in 1860, 160,000,000 ; and it was not until 1880 that we find such a large yield, 459,000,000 bushels, and this is due chiefly to the cultivation of new fields bordering on Manitoba, but that region, owing to severe protracted summer droughts and the thinness and poverty of the soil, cannot permanently be depended upon for such a large supply. There are besides some 25 States of the Union which do not pro-