

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1883.

WEALTH OF NATIONS.

The population of the civilised countries of the world has doubled since the beginning of the present century, the United Kingdom and colonies having, in 1801, 17,000,000, whereas to-day they have 43,000,000. The European Continent then had 170,000,000; to-day it has 275,000,000; and the United States, then with a population of 5,000,000, to-day has upwards of 50,000,000. Thus have these nations increased from 192,000,000 to 368,000,000. The population of Great Britain and the United States combined has risen from 22,000,000 to 93,000,000, an increase of 323 per cent, while the population of the European Continent rose only 63 per cent. During the last sixty years no less than 16,000,000 of people have left the Old World for homes in America and the British colonies, of whom nearly 11,000,000 have landed on the shores of the United States. This migration, combined with the opening up of new countries, the great changes brought about by the application of steam, the extension of railroads, the improvements of ocean navigation, the connection of continents by telegraph, and the spread of knowledge in schools and by the daily press, has made the present the most progressive of all centuries to the Anglo-Saxon race. People are better fed and better clothed, and, with the advance of science and the extension of knowledge, opportunities on all sides increase.

In the food supply of the world there has been notable progress within less than half a century, not only by reason of the introduction of railroads and steamers, but also by the removal of arbitrary laws against grain. Forty years ago Great Britain paid famine prices for bread sooner than repeal the Corn Laws; while the moujiks of the Don had such abundant crops that wheat was too cheap to pay the cost of freight to the nearest port. Forty years ago, owing to the want of roads, the price of grain in Western Russia was double that which ruled in the eastern part of the kingdom. Before the epoch of railroads and the repeal of the Corn Laws the price of wheat ruled 150 per cent higher in England than in Hungary. The English and the Americans are the best-fed people of the present age, and therefore they are able to accomplish the greatest amount of work. The United States, it is said, consumes 120 lb. of meat per inhabitant; the United Kingdom, 110 lb.; France, 66 lb.; Switzerland, 51 lb.; Germany, 48 lb.; Scandinavia, 45 lb.; Russia, 44 lb.; the Low Countries, 40 lb.; Austria, 39 lb.; Spain, 29 lb.; Italy, 28 lb.; Portugal, 20 lb. The United Kingdom, the United States, and Russia consume each eight bushels of grain per inhabitant; France and Germany, each seven bushels; Austria, the Low Countries, and Spain, each six bushels; Italy, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and Portugal, each five bushels. The world consumes 35,500,000 tons of wheat yearly, and the wheat lands of the world make up 105,000,000 acres. The supply and the demand are shown as follows:—

WHEAT.

Countries.	Crop.	Consumption.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
United States ...	450,000,000	300,000,000	150,000,000	—
France ...	230,000,000	280,000,000	—	30,000,000
Russia ...	160,000,000	90,000,000	80,000,000	—
Germany ...	150,000,000	170,000,000	—	20,000,000
Italy... ..	140,000,000	145,000,000	—	5,000,000
Turkey ...	90,000,000	80,000,000	10,000,000	—
United Kingdom...	90,000,000	200,000,000	—	110,000,000
Austria ...	90,000,000	78,000,000	14,000,000	—
Spain and Portugal	85,000,000	85,000,000	—	—
Canada ...	40,000,000	30,000,000	10,000,000	—
Australia ...	30,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	—
Chili ...	15,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000	—
Other countries ...	20,000,000	133,000,000	—	113,000,000
Totals ...	1,590,000,000	1,590,000,000	284,000,000	284,000,000

The annexed Table shows the number of acres under cultivation in each of the following countries, the quantity of grain raised, the average yield per acre, and the yield per capita:—

Countries.	Acres under Grain.	Bushels.	Per Acre.	Per Male Peasant.
United States ...	118,000,000	2,698,000,000	23	503
Russia ...	158,000,000	1,585,000,000	10	156
Germany... ..	43,000,000	390,000,000	23	245
France ...	40,000,000	840,000,000	21	220
Austro-Hungary ...	35,000,000	520,000,000	15	180
United Kingdom ...	12,500,000	455,000,000	36	540
Spain ...	15,000,000	300,000,000	20	160
Italy ...	18,000,000	270,000,000	15	140
Canada and Australia...	14,000,000	140,000,000	10	350

It is estimated that the annual income of the United States of America from agricultural industries is nearly 3,000,000,000 dols.; that of France about 1,900,000,000 dols.; of Russia, 1,850,000,000 dols.; of Germany, 1,700,000,000 dols.; of the United Kingdom, 1,325,000,000 dols.; of Austro-Hungary, 1,315,000,000 dols.; of Italy, 710,000,000 dols.; of Spain and Portugal, 650,000,000 dols.; of Scandinavia, 390,000,000 dols.; and of the Low Countries, 375,000,000 dols.; total, 13,215,000,000 dols. The total area of forest wealth of the United States, Russia, Germany, Austria, Canada, Scandinavia, France, Brazil, and El Gran Chaco is 2,760,000,000 acres, the total annual product from which is 780,000,000 dols., of which the United States produces over 50 per cent, or 385,000,000. M. Michel Chevalier estimates that at the period of the discovery of America the total amount of gold in Europe was only 60,000,000 dols., and of silver 140,000,000 dols. A new epoch occurred with the discovery of gold in California and Australia. The progress of this form of wealth is summarised as follows:—

Date.	Gold.	Silver.	Total.
	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.
1492	100,000,000	200,000,000	300,000,000
1700	1,135,000,000	2,600,000,000	3,735,000,000
1800	2,220,000,000	5,130,000,000	7,350,000,000
1848	2,800,000,000	6,610,000,000	9,410,000,000
1880	6,100,000,000	8,060,000,000	14,160,000,000

The United States stands first of all countries in the yield of precious metals and in the product of its manufactories. By a strange coincidence, the annual yield in California and that of Australia have averaged the same amount—namely, 45,000,000 dols.; and in each case the highest year reached 75,000,000 dols., the number of diggers being also nearly equal, and their gains averaging from 500 dols. to 750 dols. per man per annum. These are the changes of eighty years.

The following Table shows the wealth industries of the United States are greater in amount than those of any other country:—

TABLE SHOWING the COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES, and BANKING of the PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES of the WORLD.

Countries.	Commerce.	Manufactures.	Mining.	Agriculture.	Carrying Trade.	Banking.	Totals.
	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.
United States ...	1,505,000,000	4,440,000,000	360,000,000	3,000,000,000	830,000,000	260,000,000	10,395,000,000
Great Britain ...	3,460,000,000	3,790,000,000	325,000,000	1,200,000,000	805,000,000	540,000,000	10,139,000,000
France ...	1,660,000,000	2,425,000,000	60,000,000	2,000,000,000	310,000,000	170,000,000	6,625,000,000
Germany ...	1,920,000,000	2,135,000,000	105,000,000	1,700,000,000	345,000,000	140,000,000	6,345,000,000
Russia ...	955,000,000	1,145,000,000	55,000,000	1,850,000,000	220,000,000	75,000,000	4,300,000,000
Austria ...	700,000,000	1,030,000,000	35,000,000	1,315,000,000	120,000,000	85,000,000	3,285,000,000
Italy ...	480,000,000	575,000,000	10,000,000	725,000,000	75,000,000	30,000,000	1,895,000,000
Spain ...	190,000,000	440,000,000	35,000,000	845,000,000	60,000,000	15,000,000	1,285,000,000
Belgium ...	515,000,000	425,000,000	40,000,000	175,000,000	40,000,000	15,000,000	1,210,000,000
Holland ...	550,000,000	210,000,000	—	230,000,000	25,000,000	70,000,000	1,085,000,000
Australia ...	445,000,000	65,000,000	30,000,000	260,000,000	15,000,000	50,000,000	865,000,000
Canada ...	175,000,000	230,000,000	—	300,000,000	45,000,000	20,000,000	770,000,000
Sweden and Norway	180,000,000	200,000,000	10,000,000	260,000,000	75,000,000	15,000,000	740,000,000
Denmark ...	95,000,000	90,000,000	—	135,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000	335,000,000
Portugal ...	65,000,000	55,000,000	—	125,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	255,000,000
Turkey, &c.	315,000,000	340,000,000	—	235,000,000	30,000,000	15,000,000	935,000,000
South Africa ...	85,000,000	15,000,000	20,000,000	35,000,000	—	—	155,000,000
South America ...	540,000,000	110,000,000	40,000,000	400,000,000	30,000,000	25,000,000	1,055,000,000
The World ...	13,745,000,000	17,720,000,000	1,135,000,000	14,490,000,000	3,040,000,000	1,535,000,000	51,655,000,000

THE CENSUS OF FRANCE, 1881.

The official returns of the Census taken throughout France, December, 1881, differs slightly from those given out hurriedly soon after the operation. The total population of France, according to the present statistics, is 37,672,040, being an increase of 766,260 since 1876. This increase compares unfavourably with that effected in the four years preceding, which amounted to over 800,000. It is furthermore worthy of note that, to the increase of population during the five years from 1876 to 1881, the forty-seven large towns of France, having a population of over 30,000, contribute no less than 561,869. Six of these places show a decrease in their population. The city of Paris has increased the number of its inhabitants by 14 per cent since the last Census, the population now being 2,269,023.

Lyons is the second city of the Republic, with over 376,000 inhabitants, Marseilles coming next, with 360,000; then Bordeaux, with over 221,000. Lille has over 178,000; while Toulouse, Saint Etienne, Nantes, Havre, and Rouen all register six figures without exceeding 150,000. The increase in the population not living in the forty-seven principal towns is lamentably small, being only, as shown by the above figures, 204,391 for nearly 32,000,000 inhabitants.

COIN AND BULLION.

The total value of the registered imports of gold and silver coin and bullion in the year 1881 was £16,864,408, and, the value having been £16,253,883 for 1880 an increase is shown of £610,525.