

SHOWING CONSUMPTION, PER HEAD OF POPULATION, OF ARTICLES IN COMMON USE, 1891-1911—
*continued.**C. Tea, Coffee, &c., Sugar.*

Year.	Total Population (including Maoris).	Tea.		Coffee, Cocoa, and Chicory.		Sugar.	
		Per Head.	Duty Per Head.	Per Head.	Duty Per Head.	Per Head.	Duty Per Head.
		lb.	s. d.	lb.	s. d.	lb.	s. d.
1891 ..	675,775	6·00	3 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	0·84	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	80·7	3 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
1892 ..	692,426	5·90	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0·79	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	83·8	3 6
1893 ..	714,258	5·72	2 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	0·79	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	88·3	3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1894 ..	728,121	5·67	2 10	0·67	0 2	87·2	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1895 ..	740,699	6·04	2 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0·65	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	88·5	3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1896 ..	754,016	5·88	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0·70	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	89·4	3 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
1897 ..	768,910	5·93	1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0·70	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	92·0	3 10
1898 ..	783,317	6·03	2 0	0·67	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	93·6	3 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1899 ..	796,359	6·03	2 0	0·80	0 2	97·0	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
1900 ..	810,536	6·38	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0·57	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	98·8	4 1
1901 ..	830,800	6·63	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0·44	0 1 $\frac{1}{3}$	98·5	4 1
1902 ..	851,072	5·98	1 0	0·49	0 1 $\frac{1}{3}$	102·8	4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1903 ..	875,648	5·98	1 0	0·54	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	104·0	4 4
1904 ..	900,682	5·80	0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	0·61	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	104·9	4 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1905 ..	925,605	6·37	..	0·53	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	100·2	4 2
1906 ..	956,457	6·41	..	0·51	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	105·6	4 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
1907 ..	977,215	6·93	..	0·62	0 1 $\frac{7}{8}$	106·6	4 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1908 ..	1,008,373	6·41	..	0·55	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	103·9	..
1909 ..	1,030,657	7·08	..	0·44	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	114·7	..
1910 ..	1,050,410	7·22	..	0·54	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	107·9	..
1911 ..	1,075,250	7·50	..	0·52	0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	115·4	..

The per-capita consumption of tea and sugar, which is a better index of the consuming-power of the general population than that of beer, spirits, wine, and tobacco, which is subject to other than economic influences, has increased greatly over the period—that of sugar by nearly 50 per cent., and that of tea by 25 per cent.

4. Dr. McIlraith stated that the period from 1887 to 1891 shows the lowest standard that New Zealand has experienced since 1860, judging the standard of comfort by the volume—not the value—of the things consumed in New Zealand, and this was the period in which twenty thousand more people left New Zealand than entered it. For that period the standard worked out at 98. He drew up the following table showing the changes in the general prosperity of the people judged by the volume of the goods they consumed :—

TABLE 32.—PROSPERITY TABLE.—AVERAGE OVER QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS.

Year.	Year.
1880-84 125	1894-98 113
1881-85 129	1895-99 116
1882-86 126	1896-1900 125
1883-87 118	1897-1901 135
1884-88 111	1898-1902 142
1885-89 107	1899-1903 152
1886-90 101	1900-4 164
1887-91 98	1901-5 169
1888-92 99	1902-6 174
1889-93 101	1903-7 182
1890-94 102	1904-8 187
1891-95 104	1905-9 184
1892-96 107	1906-10 188
1893-97 110	1907-11 190

Period.	Compared with 1887-91.	Period.	Compared with 1887-91.
1880-84 ..	27 per cent. higher	1898-1902 ..	45 per cent. higher
1884-88 ..	14 ..	1903-7 ..	86 ..
1893-97 ..	14 ..	1907-11 ..	94 ..

These figures show that in the years 1907-11 we consumed per head almost twice as much in volume as we did during the period from 1887-91. Each person