

Canadian cheese, being an increase of 783 tons over the preceding year. The receipts for 1899 were as under at the three chief ports of England:—

	Boxes.
London	747,010
Bristol	487,476
Liverpool	426,364

In Canadian butter Bristol that year took the leading position, importing 4,597 tons, an increase of 827 tons over the preceding year. The relative positions of the three chief English ports with regard to Canadian butter were:—

	Packages.
Bristol	158,210
Liverpool	105,864
London	105,135

To understand Bristol's ascendancy in the provision trade it is necessary to remember the exceptional position of the city and its splendid facilities for distribution. The latter have already been referred to. As regards population, it is estimated that there are in towns and districts that can be most advantageously served from Bristol the following population:—

850,000	within a radius of 25 miles.
2,500,000	„ 50 „
5,000,000	„ 75 „
9,500,000	„ 100 „

The latter radius includes a number of cities and towns in the centre, south, and west of England, such as Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hereford, Reading, Swindon, Salisbury, Bath, Taunton, Shepton Mallet, Yeovil, and Exeter, which to a large extent receive their supplies of foreign and colonial goods through the Port of Bristol. At present some 60,000 tons of provisions from overseas pass annually through the hands of Bristol merchants, some of whom have branch houses in Bath, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds, and London. As showing the progressive character of Bristol trade, the following figures of the registered tonnage of vessels entering the port may be adduced:—

Year ending 30th April.	Tonnage of Vessels.	Year ending 30th April.	Tonnage of Vessels.
1884	1,244,537	1904	2,116,339
1889	1,326,688	1905	2,078,343
1894	1,541,713	1906	2,112,907
1899	1,619,397		

Of the nature of the goods required by Bristol merchants a fair idea may be gained from the following returns of the quantities of the principal goods imported from foreign countries for a number of years past:—

	1884.	1889.	1894.	1899.	1904.	1906.
Grains ... Quarters	2,100,053	2,637,960	3,484,365	3,518,149	4,001,390	3,144,242
Flour and meal ... Tons	28,727	37,834	59,938	65,508	67,525	30,510
Petroleum ... "	14,296	20,318	44,974	62,256	70,021	67,756
Cotton-seed, flax- seed, and linseed ... "	7,776	24,927	31,074	48,799	68,543	77,782
Sugar ... "	52,263	57,786	62,174	76,444	73,659	83,601
Timber and deals ... Loads	125,075	121,831	124,448	159,037	176,096	155,928
Provisions,—						
Bacon and hams ... Tons	2,777	3,799	6,099	19,955	9,247	10,753
Butter ... "	438	261	1,370	4,075	4,048	5,315
Cheese ... "	3,609	8,487	15,977	16,637	17,603	18,232
Lard ... "	1,391	896	2,702	6,529	4,846	6,563
Fruit,—						
Bananas ... Bunches	...	...	...	...	348,393	1,239,287
Oranges and Lemons ... Boxes	84,990	94,210	120,838	212,614	238,549	237,386
Oxen ... Number	7,108	12,650	8,034	16,942	12,388	10,185
Sheep ... "	11,762	5,596	27	2,835	9,454	...

In the matter of return freights, Bristol can supply many articles of colonial consumption, and already has a large connection with this country in such trade. Three of the largest firms in Great Britain engaged in the manufacture of galvanised iron, tobacco, and chocolate, respectively, have their headquarters in Bristol. In this city, too, are numerous other manufacturing industries, such as tanneries, ropeworks, agricultural-machine works, furniture-factories, and works for the manufacture of hardware, girders, bridgework, wire, locomotives, wagons, railway plant, carriages, clothing, paper, soap, chemicals, oils, pottery, porcelain, boots, hats, millinery, &c., the firms engaged in which are large exporters to the colonies. The Bristol harbour rates, dock dues, and charges for handling, storage, and transport of goods are fixed at such low rates as must