

Average
prices,
1873-1892.

303. The index numbers of the prices of 45 commodities calculated by Mr. Sauerbeck are, as usual, given below, and show the course of average prices for a series of years. (Statist, 14th January, 1893):—

1867-1877.....	100
1873.....	111
1879.....	83
1880.....	88
1881.....	85
1882.....	84
1883.....	82
1884.....	76
1885.....	72
1886.....	69
1887.....	68
1888.....	70
1889.....	72
1890.....	72
1891.....	72
1892.....	68

Heavy
fall in
prices.

304. The improvement which, commencing in 1888, had continued, more or less, during the ensuing four years came abruptly to an end in 1892, and the index number fell to 68 the same as in 1887, and the lowest on record. The index number for the month of September was 66·8, the lowest point during the century, while the figure for December was 5 per cent lower than in December, 1891, and 8 per cent lower than in December 1889. Mr. Sauerbeck considers that over production, the financial difficulties of 1890, the effect of the McKinley tariff, deficient harvests and the fall of silver have generally combined to bring about the decline. The heaviest fall took place after the close of the Canadian fiscal year, and therefore the effect of the depression is not seen to its full extent in the preceding tables.

Summary
of imports
for home
consump-
tion, 1890,
'91 and '92.

305. A comparative summary of the value of the principal articles imported for home consumption in the last three years will be found in the following table, dutiable goods being distinguished from those admitted free. This table formerly related to the total quantities imported, but in order to show more clearly what the requirements of the country have been, it has been changed to apply only to articles for home consumption.

ARTICLES.	VALUE OF IMPORTS ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.
<i>Dutiable Goods.</i>	\$	\$	\$
Ale, beer and porter.....	221,928	235,359	229,402
Animals, living.....	347,978	262,082	262,089
Books, periodicals, &c., and other printed matter, N.E.S.	1,304,384	1,212,340	1,223,404
Brass and manufactures of.....	460,692	516,289	463,182