

846. The following table of prices of the principal articles of export, based on the values in the Trade and Navigation Returns, will afford some idea of the fluctuations during the past thirteen years. As prices are given for almost all the principal articles of export, this table may be consulted in connection with that on pages 551-2, as it supplies details of the variation in prices, there shown in the aggregate. The decline in value of all the principal articles of food is very noticeable. It will be seen that of animals exported, cattle reached their highest average in 1890, being then \$85.32 per head, and that they declined in price in succeeding years till 1894 and 1895, when they reached their highest average with the exception of 1890; that horses reached their highest average in 1884 and have been going down ever since, the average price of 1895 being the lowest of all the years given in the table; that sheep reached their highest average in 1895, and have varied in price considerably, that of 1894 being lower than that of seven years and higher than that of four years; that swine reached their highest average in 1893 and then next highest in 1895. Taking fish together, the highest average price was in 1890, when an assortment of the various kinds by the units given in the table would have been valued at \$27.27, while the same assortment in 1895 would have a value of \$24.72. The average of 1895 is higher than the average of the thirteen years by \$2.81. It has not yet been found practicable to give a similar table of import prices, owing to the uncertain and irregular definition of quantities:—