

847. 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 :—

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
1893.....	68
1894.....	63
1895.....	62

Mr. Sauerbeck, in the March number of the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, says: Of the six groups of commodities five were lower than in 1894 and only one—sundry materials, thanks to the spurt in hides and petroleum—was a little higher. The index number of all 45 articles is the lowest on record and so were the index numbers of three groups, viz., vegetable food, minerals and textiles, while animal food had been lower in the four years 1849-52. Twelve articles out of the 45 contained in my tables showed in the course of the year records of lowest prices, viz., barley, oats, maize, rice, Java sugar, manilla hemp, merino wool, nitrate and crystals of soda—the lowest of the century, and pork, bacon and potatoes the lowest during the last forty-three years.

848. The following table gives the total imports and exports of the United Kingdom and her possessions for the year 1894, together with the amount per head in each case, taken from official sources :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS, 1894.

COUNTRIES.	Imports.	Value per Head.	Exports.	Value per Head.
	\$	\$ cts.	\$	\$ cts.
Europe—				
United Kingdom.....	1,987,278,075	50 78	1,332,424,552	34 04
Asia—				
India.....	404,408,869	1 83	570,155,219	2 58
Ceylon.....	20,987,465	6 97	19,352,300	6 43
Straits Settlement.....	106,130,963	196 54	88,157,798	163 26
Labuan.....	864,728	147 74	489,528	83 64