

upon the final result. The group weights represent the estimated total importance in exchange of all commodities which can be classified in that particular group.

For example, the index number for the grains sub-group is weighted by the aggregate value of all grains marketed, less the value of grains shown elsewhere in the form of other commodities, such as flour, rolled oats, linseed oil, etc. For this sub-group the weight is 35·38 p.c. of the total value of the whole vegetable products group.

Quantities and values used for weights are, in the main, for the year 1926, but where weights for that year were not deemed to be representative, conditions in other years were considered. Sometimes an average of several representative years was taken. There was no attempt made to adhere rigidly to one hard and fast rule of weighting. In many cases modifications were made with the object of adopting the weights likely to obtain the most satisfactory results. Final group weights are as follows:

Vegetables and their products.....	30
Animals and their products.....	16
Fibres, textiles and textile products.....	9
Wood, wood products and paper.....	15
Iron and its products.....	12
Non-ferrous metals and their products.....	6
Non-metallic minerals and their products.....	9
Chemicals and allied products.....	3
	100

#### *Classification of Commodities.*

These new index numbers will be issued in the same three classifications as the old index, *viz.*, component materials, purpose and origin. The number of commodities included in each group in the chief component material classification is shown below.

#### *Price Series Included in the New and Old Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices.*

	New.	Old.
Vegetables and their products.....	124	67
Animals and their products.....	74	50
Fibres, textiles and textile products.....	60	28
Wood, wood products and paper.....	44	21
Iron and its products.....	39	26
Non-ferrous metals and their products.....	15	15
Non-metallic minerals and their products.....	73	16
Chemicals and allied products.....	73	13
	502	236

*The Price Movement in 1928.*—The general level of prices in 1928 moved downward, the Bureau's weighted index number for 236 commodities being 149·7 as compared with 151·6 in 1927 on the 1913 base, while the new weighted index number