

The advantage of this form of comparison over the ordinary simple one must be obvious to every one, and many instructive lessons may be learned from it: for instance, it appears that in 1890 there were exported at the prices of 1889 no less than \$2,200,000 worth of articles of food and drink more than in the previous year, but so great was the decline in price that the actual figures show a decrease of \$75,000 on the year's exports. Similarly, our exports of animals fell off in quantity to the extent of \$1,500,000, but so great was the advance in price that the actual figures showed an increase of more than \$1,000,000. Raw materials and manufactures advanced both in quantity and price, while miscellaneous articles showed an increase in quantity, but a falling off in price.

251. 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 ten years. Owing to the irregular definition of quantities of imports already referred to, it has been found impossible at present to make up a similar statement of import prices. The decline in value of all the principal articles of food, viz., grain, meats and fish, will be at once noticed.

Average
export
prices.