

Bacon, cwt.....	10 00	5 68	9 62
Beef, average lbs.....	7	8	9½
Butter.....	14	16	25
Cheese.....	10	17½	11½
Eggs.....	19½	22½	26½
Hay, cwt.....	80	45	65
Potatoes, bbl.....	1 12	2 09	2 39
Rice.....	4 25	5 87	5 60
Apples.....	1 50	1 25	3 00
Sugar.....	7	7½	8½
Coffee, Rio.....	13½	11½	10½
Tea.....	33	15	15
Codfish.....	4 00	4 25	5 50
Salt.....	90	65	75
Cotton.....	11½	9½	11½
Sheeting.....	8½	7½	8½
Wool.....	48	35	46
Flannels, 3 qua. yard.....	30½	31	36½
Jerseys, 12 qua. yard.....	13	13.1	13½
Silk (reeled), line.....	5 00	5 00	5 50
Hides.....	25½	20	22
Pig Iron.....	22 50	16 50	25 00
Rails.....	48 50	34 00	48 00
Nails, cut.....	3 25	2 15	3 30
Coal.....	5 50	3 60	3 95
Coffee.....	23½	15½	18½
Lumber, E. spruce.....	14 00	10 25	13 00
" white pine.....	16 00	15 00	16 00
Glass, soft.....	1 92	2 70	2 40
Paint, white, American.....	8	8	7½

It will be observed that the advance is greatest on articles least used, and that the greatest advance in 1881 is due to exceptional causes, like the short crop of potatoes, apples, etc. Taking the articles of prime necessity, wheat, beef, butter, sugar, tea, coffee, cotton and woollen goods, the average advance is about 30 per cent., as compared with the prices of 1878, and less, compared with those of 1860. The conclusion is reached that \$88 is needed now to purchase as much food as \$62.50 would have bought in November, 1878, that the amount of clothing which in 1878 could have been bought for \$27.57 would have cost \$33.86 in November, 1881, and in the gross that the articles in the above list have advanced 50 per cent. in price, so that what would have cost \$123.07 in 1878 would cost \$165.13. The advance in wages has not been equal to the above figures, but the fact that thousands are now employed who were idle in 1878 leads to the conclusion that the entire wage fund has risen in the aggregate in proportion to the rise in prices. The following are the prices of three representative employments in New York for full time wages in the years named:

	1860	1878	1881.
Day Laborers.....	\$1.15	\$1.50-1.50	\$1.50-2.50
Carpenters.....	1.92	1.50-2.00	2.50-3.00
Bricklayers.....	2.00	2.00-2.50	3.00-4.00

Wheat has been exceptionally dear of late, yet a day's wages of the laborer will purchase a bushel, whereas it would buy only 3½ pecks in 1860. Excepting some few articles, such as pork and butter, which are dearer from scarcity or speculation, no article of food has advanced as much as labor. Clothing is much cheaper than in 1860.

### THE NEW TREASURER.

There has been as yet no intimation given of the reasons which led to the resignation of Mr. Robertson as Treasurer of Quebec, although it is an open secret that there were differences of opinion between his colleagues and himself. The acceptance of the vacant office by Mr. Wurtele, M.P.P., is proof at all events that in his opinion there was no just reason for the resignation. Mr. Church's refusal has been seized on by some journals as evidence that he was of a different opinion, but it will probably be generally believed that Mr. Church would not have so long delayed his refusal to enter the Administration had he entertained any objection to its policy. Mr. Wurtele is known to entertain broad and liberal views on questions of general policy. He will be a valuable accession to the Chapleau Government, and may possibly have more influence than the late Treasurer had in guiding its policy. That, however, is a point that will be shortly tested. Mr. Wurtele is not likely to be opposed. He could not be opposed with success, and it would be monstrous to subject the electors of Yamaska to the cost and inconvenience of a contested election. Mr. Wurtele takes office at a critical juncture, but he has had good opportunities of forming a correct judgment as to the state of public opinion, and we shall be truly disappointed if he does not justify the high expectations of his numerous friends.

### GLOBE MUTUAL ESTATE.

In another column we publish a letter from Mr. W. C. Wells, Canada Assignee to this Estate, commenting on the remarks in our issue of last week. While desirous of doing him every justice in our power we must confess some dissatisfaction with his explanations. In the innocence of his heart he fails to comprehend the fact that in virtue of his official appointment he has had conferred upon him the honor of becoming a public character upon whose official acts journalists may comment.

The two assignees agreed upon a list that should constitute the Canada Dividend Sheet, and together they urged the Court to divide the Ottawa deposit of \$100,000 between them. The prominent parts of the Judge's order are, 1st. That Mr. Wells should receive \$82,500, the amount of the Dividend Sheet. 2nd. That the balance should be forthwith paid to the New York Assignee. 3rd. That no death claims maturing after that date should rank on the Fund here. 4th. That

the New York Receiver should have the right to contest payment of part or all of the Canada claims.

We assume that Mr. Wells knew his Dividend Sheet would be disputed, else why concede the right? At all events he ought to have foreseen that with such a concession he had no guarantee to the contrary as he should have had. The astute American did not make that stipulation without an object,—the sequel proved that.

Having conceded the right of contestation we consider he was in duty bound to retain all the funds here till a settlement should be agreed upon, as otherwise claims by death falling in during the period that might be occupied with the contestation would be without protection. The object for which Life Companies are established and deposits exacted by Government is to guarantee payment of death and endowment claims—certainly not Reserves, although the law allows the latter as a supplement. Therefore, by surrendering the money which should have been held for contingent death claims, he was either outwitted or was guilty of a mistake.

We believe that had Mr. Wells and his Counsel not so arranged matters when getting the order of the Court, the grievance now complained of could have been entirely avoided. Within the past few days we have been made acquainted with some features of the case which tend to confirm our opinion regarding it, and we may have occasion to refer to them again.

THE EIGHTH annual report of the Pictou Bank for 1881, submitted at the annual meeting the 25th ult., shows net profits for the year, after deducting expenses of management, making provision for bad or doubtful debts, interest due to depositors, &c., of..... \$24,216.44  
To which add balance of Profit and Loss Account brought forward..... 2,918.90

\$27,135.34

Appropriated as follows, viz:

Dividend No. 14,  
August, 1881..... \$6,000.00  
Dividend No. 15, February, 1882..... 6,000.00  
Written off Bank Premises..... 1,229.75  
Transferred to Reserve 10,000.00 \$23,229.75

Balance to be carried forward..... \$3,905.59  
In May last an Agency of this Bank was opened at Antigonish, under the management of Mr. E. D. Arnaud.

AN ARABIAN NIGHT.—Ben Adhem awoke one night from a deep dream of peace, and found an angel writing a list on which his name did not appear. He spoke low but cheerily to the angel, and mentioned that he was one who loved his fellow-men, and when the list came out the next day, behold! "Ben Adhem's