

Culloch was not less than from 12 to 35 per cent., while in Ireland it was much more.*

On the continent of Europe a similar rise in prices, though not perhaps to the same extent, could be shewn to have taken place;† while, as regards Canada, any statistics to prove the advance of prices within the last six years, would be considered, I am sure, as quite superfluous. Six years ago Canada was rightly considered as one of the cheapest countries of the world; now, assuredly, it is one of the most expensive. Here, as in the States, the Legislature has been compelled to interfere to rescue the civil servants and officers of the Government from the ruinous effects of the enhanced prices of labour and of the necessaries of life. Within the last two years, accordingly, the salaries of almost all public officers in this country have been augmented, and the indemnity allowed members of Parliament, the salaries of the Executive Councillors, as well as as the salaries of most of the employés of the Government, have been raised. The scale of increase, however, varies somewhat strangely in the different cases. In the case of Members of Parliament and Executive Councillors, 50 per cent. has been added, while the incomes of the great mass of Government officials, (where any addition whatever has been made to their salaries,) have been augmented at rates varying from 12 to 25 per cent. These several advances being all grounded on the increased cost of the necessaries of life, we might perhaps '*a priori*' have anticipated that the augmentation would have been in the inverse ratio of the salaries, in other words, that the lowest salary should have had the largest per centage, inasmuch as the smaller the whole salary the greater the proportion of it spent in the purchase of mere necessaries. The Legislature however would appear to have judged differently, and from the graduated scale adopted by them, we are forced to conclude that the pressure of high prices is most acutely felt by Executive Councillors and Members of Parliament, and but slightly, if at all, by the subordinate officers and servants of the Government. Had the increase of salaries been made on the ground of the decline in the value or purchasing power of money, as compared with all other commodities, then all salaries large and small should have been raised in the same ratio; assuming of course, that

* McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary, p. 1055, Edition of 1854, see also "Statistical Journal," for 1854, p. 1055.

† In the "Annuaire de L'Economie Politique"—for 1855, published at Paris, we read at the commencement of the article entitled 'Coup d'œil sur l'année 1854'—

"L'année 1854, a vu s'élever à la fois trois fléaux; la guerre, le Choléra et la cherté des subsistances." In another part of the same article it is stated that the price of meat in France in 1854 was 25 per cent. above the average price of preceding years.