

per large loaf; a year ago it was 11 cents. Ice this year will be \$10 the season, instead of \$8.00, as last year; a few years ago it was \$4.00 the season.

*Dry Goods, Clothing, Furs, Footwear and House Furnishings.* — No change was reported in the previous advance of 20-30 per cent., but woollens at the present time are scarce and high in tendency.

*Furniture, Kitchenware, Crockery, Glassware and Paints.* — No change was reported. The advance previously shown was 10-30 per cent.

*Hardware and Builders' Supplies.* — Prices are 15 per cent. lower than last year. Lumber is firm. In the decade, prices showed an advance of 25-40 per cent.

*Leather Goods, Drugs, Stationery, Sporting Goods, Tobaccos and Sundries.* — Prices are unchanged since 1907. Since 1897 the advance has been 10-40 per cent.

*Fuel.* — Coal has been 50 cents a ton higher all winter than last year, which in turn showed an advance of 11 per cent. compared with 1897. Wood is to-day 30 per cent. dearer than ten years ago.

*Rentals.* — Rentals, which were shown to have advanced 36 per cent. in the decade, have continued to advance during the past year. Many landlords have added \$2.00 per month to the rent of their houses in connection with renewals during the present spring. Board and lodging are steadily going up, being 20 per cent. higher in 1907 than in 1897.

*Wages.* — Wages in the lumber camps recruited from Hull and Ottawa have been lower than a year ago. In the mills, however, rates have remained firm. Dullness in the mica trade rendered an extra supply of factory girls available for domestic service, but there has been no perceptible effect on wages. Though unskilled labour has fallen off, the schedules of the skilled trades have remained firm.

*Interest.* — Interest on building and

## The Report of the Civil Service Commission.

### I. General.

During the past year occurred an event, which, viewed in relation both to what has sprung and what will yet spring from it, was of supreme concern to civil servants. Almost precisely one year ago a Royal Commission was issued to three well-known gentlemen, Messrs. Courtney, Fyshe and Bazin, directing them to investigate conditions in the service and report. Here, then, was a gateway of hope. Up the steep rise of an era of augmenting prices the service had climbed upon a scale of salaries that had been fixed in the hoary days of long ago, and were none too liberal then. The right of superannuation had been taken from them. They had been finding the way increasingly difficult, with a sharp *crescendo* tendency at the end. When, therefore, it appeared that an independent investigation was to be had, they rejoiced, being fully convinced that there could be only one answer when fair-minded men were given the following problem to solve, viz.: Can a wage barely sufficient for current maintenance, with the esteemed right of eating grass (or, in the alternative, of starving) after the life-energies have been all wrung out, produce a highly-efficient and contented service? Various other anomalous conditions had grown up as well, so that, considered generally, the time was fully ripe for an enquiry.

The commissioners, having organized for business, began the taking of evidence. Concurrently, also, the service, for the first time in its history, banded itself into an association, which is now established upon a basis of permanency. This bright chapter in our history deserves and shall have extended notice, but is here referred to only incidentally. Suffice it to say that the intervention of the Association at this juncture was in the highest degree beneficial. Its me-