

COST OF LIVING.

The Department of Labor index number of wholesale prices stood at 138.4 for November as compared with 136.8 in October and 136.6 in November, 1912. The increase was due to advances in the prices of grains and fodders, cattle, beef, sheep, dairy products, (especially eggs) and fresh vegetables. These increases, however, were somewhat offset by declines in flour, glucose, honey, raw cotton and silk, coke, iron pipe, linseed oil, resin, and raw rubber. The level was higher than a year ago in animals and meats, dairy products, textiles, hides, leathers, boots and shoes, lumber, miscellaneous building materials, furniture and crockery. A lower level than last year appeared in grains and fodders, fish and paints and oils. Fruits and vegetables were slightly higher, but miscellaneous groceries were somewhat lower than last year. The feature of the month in retail prices was the advance in eggs, but the movement was also upward in bitter, potatoes, coal, milk and prunes. Beef, veal and mutton advanced in some localities, but fresh pork and lard declined in a number of Canadian cities.

According to a bulletin issued by the Department of Labor, there were only seven trade disputes in Canada during November, 1913, a favorable showing in comparison with October, when there were none in existence, and also with November, 1912, in which month twenty-five were recorded. There was, however, an increase in the number of working days lost over the previous month, the figures being 89,000 for November, 1913, and 70,700 during October. It is worthy of note that of the 89,000 working days lost during November 67,500 were lost as a result of two disputes in British Columbia, coal miners on Vancouver Island and railroad construction laborers on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. Three disputes were definitely settled during November, leaving four in existence at the end of the month as compared with eleven at the end of November, 1912.

POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The present racial and labor troubles in South Africa calls attention to the numerical relation between whites and all others.

The following table shows the population of the various provinces in 1904 and 1911:

Province:	European or white.	
	1911 No.	1904 No.
Cape of Good Hope.....	583,177	579,741
Natal.....	98,582	97,109
Transvaal.....	420,831	297,277
Orange Free State.....	175,435	142,679
Totals.....	1,278,025	1,116,80
Province:	All other	
	1911 No.	1904 No.
Cape of Good Hope.....	1,979,847	1,830,063
Natal.....	1,093,376	1,011,645
Transvaal.....	1,255,780	972,674
Orange Free State.....	351,471	244,636
Totals.....	4,680,474	4,059,018

Brokers' Comments

McCuaig Bros. say:—

"The improved condition of the market, which has been noticeable for some time past, was emphasised during the past week, when under the leadership of C.P.R. prices sustained a general advance. Unfortunately the announcement by the C.P.R. directors was a disappointment to the shareholders or else the policy was not considered advisable, as immediately after the proposed scheme has been made public the stock suffered a severe set back.

"However, the response of the general market to the above mentioned advance demonstrated the improved technical position and the sold out condition of most stocks. Any concerted movement has shown that there is a very limited supply of floating stock, which has resulted in a substantial advance in a number of securities.

"There is little doubt that money has recently become easier on the street, and as a large number of banks have been conserving funds for the end of their fiscal year, there should be plenty of funds available for stock market purposes after the end of the present year."

Mackintosh & Co. say:—"A fair degree of strength and activity developed in the market during the early part of the week, only to be followed by a tendency to relapse into its former dullness; yet with a few exceptions prices showed better staying power, and the undertone on the whole is somewhat improved. Much of the hesitancy among traders to speculate in the Montreal market is influenced more by outside than domestic causes.

Thornton, Davidson & Co. say:—"There is no doubt, however, that it is easier to obtain money, although very little is being offered and brokers still have to go after what they want. The outlook is considered to be distinctly more hopeful in respect to money and there is reason to hope that before a great length of time the supply will be more liberal.

The Royal Securities Corporation has issued a booklet giving a lot of valuable information in regard to companies in which they are particularly interested. Among others dealt with are the Canadian Car & Foundry Co. Calgary Power, Steel Co. of Canada and Porto Rico Railways.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

Cobalt shipments for the past week follow:

	Pounds.	
La Rose.....	168,000	
McKinley-Darragh.....	60,810	
Beaver.....	109,780	
Temiskaming.....	87,220	
O'Brien.....	82,210	
Cobalt Townsite.....	82,210	
Right of Way.....	86,800	
Cobalt Comet.....	66,200	
Penn. Canadian.....	65,580	
Total.....	809,410	
The bullion shipments were:—		
Mines:	Bars.	Ounces.
Nipissing.....	112	131,850
Dom. Reduction.....	62	70,112
Crown Reserve.....	58	65,189
Total.....	232	267,151
		\$157,212