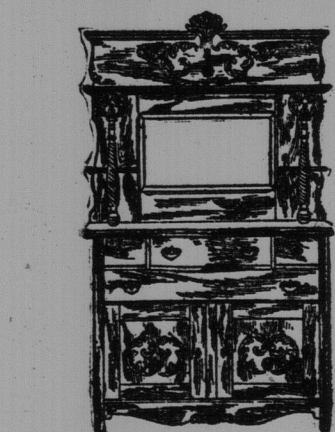


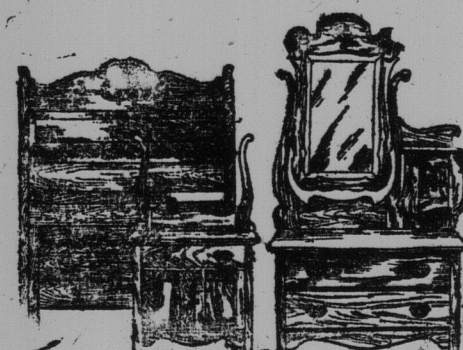
ST JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

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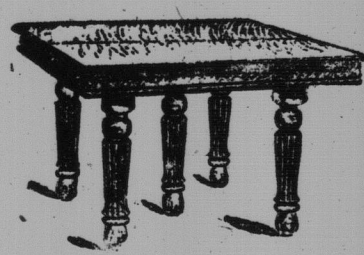
A GRAND FURNITURE SALE.



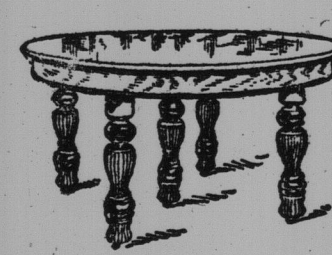
W.M. SIDEBORD, golden finish, 16 x 28 beveled mirror, swell front, 6 feet 2 in. high\$17.00



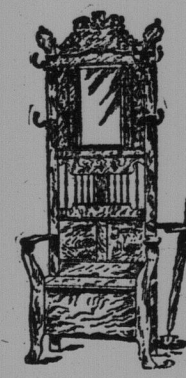
ELM B. R. SUITES, golden finish, 15 x 39 beveled mirror. Bedstead 6 feet high, large washstand, finely finished\$13.50



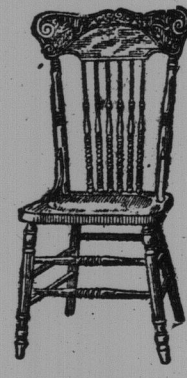
ELM EXTENSION TABLE, 40 x 45 inch top, golden finish, 5 legs, extends 6 feet\$6.45



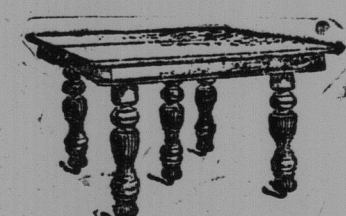
ELM EXTENSION TABLE, round top, 42 inches in diameter, fluted legs, extends 5 feet\$10.75



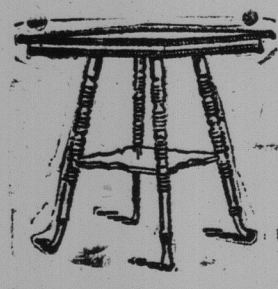
HALL STAND, finely cut quartered oak, polished finish, beveled mirror, 12 x 16 in\$10.50



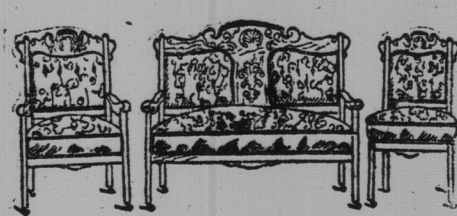
ELM DINING CHAIRS, golden finish, finely carved, high back, brass arms\$10.50



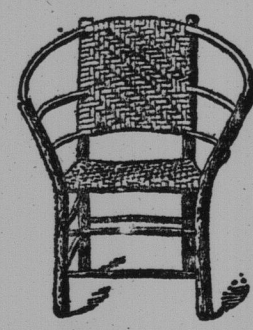
OAK EXTENSION TABLE, golden finish, top 42 x 42, fluted legs\$11.75



PARLOR TABLE in quartered oak or mahogany finish, top 42 x 42, feet\$2.75



PARLOR SUITES in walnut or mahogany finish frames, from \$28.00 upwards.



"OLD HICKORY," the ideal furniture for summer house, lawn or veranda, chair same as cut\$2.35

English Oilcloth, Carpets, Linoleum.

Parlor Cabinets, from \$5.25 upwards.

Rattan Chairs and Rockers, Corner Chairs, Morris Chairs.

ALL GOODS REDUCED FOR THIS MONTH ONLY.

GEORGE E. SMITH, (Successor to F. A. Jones Co., Ltd.) 18 King Street

HOW THE COST OF LIVING HAS INCREASED IN ST. JOHN.

This winter, never before, has brought the wage-earners of St. John face to face with the hard realities of life. Whether or not the unusual severity of the winter has been largely the cause, the fact remains that the cost of living in St. John has perceptibly increased and shows at the present time no tendency to lessen. If the signs which on every hand show themselves are properly interpreted, the cost of living, instead of lessening, will in the not distant future still more increase, so that the man who works for his will find the accomplishment of his task one of added difficulty.

It is not alone from the wage-earner that there has come this winter complaints of the increased cost of living. All classes of people have had cause to express astonishment at the prices which have been asked for certain everyday commodities. In most instances these prices continue unvaried. To the wage-earner, however, more than to any other has the situation been brought home with all its force. He is, so to speak, only a conduit pipe for the circulation of money. What he receives in the form of wages is passed by him to others for the purchase of life's necessities. If the cost of life's necessities has increased and the wage-earner's means of procuring them has not correspondingly increased, his situation in life certainly cannot be said to have improved. Such, it is claimed, is practically the wage-earner's situation in St. John today.

While it is admitted that wages in many branches of work and labor have increased, the increase, generally speaking, has not kept pace with the increase in the cost of living. In one or two cases working men, who have within the past year or so enjoyed an increase in their earnings, have found themselves fairly capable of coping with the living problem. But in the generality of cases such has not been the case. As early as two years ago working men in this city had premonitions of a coming rise in the cost of living, and that was one of the causes largely responsible for the great boom in unionism about that time. These premonitions have been born out by subsequent events.

Last winter coal was practically beyond the reach of the ordinary wage-earner. The removal of the check to the output of coal did not operate much to diminish the price. All summer it remained a high-priced commodity and this winter it increased still more in price. The high price of coal has had the effect of bringing up slightly the price of other classes of fuel, such as wood and coke. Groceries this winter are dearer than they have been at any other time within the past decade. Clothing is higher in price than it was three years ago. Dry goods in some particulars have increased in price. Rents at lower the city have advanced.

Taxes are higher than they ever were before. GROCERIES DEARER. There can be no stronger evidence that the cost of living in St. John has increased within the last ten years than to enumerate the rise (in some instances astounding) in the prices of groceries. Groceries taken altogether constitute the biggest item of expenditure in a family in the course of a year. An advance in one or two commodities, even if it were large, would possibly have little or no influence on the family purse; but an advance which includes, with a few exceptions, practically every commodity in the line of groceries calls for a substantially increased yearly expenditure by the householder.

The following list will show how groceries have increased in price within the last ten years:

| | 1894-5 | 1904 |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Beef (corner) | 8c. to 10c. | 10c. to 12c. |
| Beef (round) | 10c. to 12c. | 12c. to 14c. |
| Strim, lb. | 12c. to 14c. | 14c. to 16c. |
| Mutton, lb. | 8c. to 10c. | 10c. to 12c. |
| Pork, lb. | 8c. to 10c. | 10c. to 12c. |
| Ham, lb. | 10c. to 12c. | 12c. to 14c. |
| Bacon, lb. | 10c. to 12c. | 12c. to 14c. |
| Butter (roll), lb. | 22c. to 24c. | 24c. to 26c. |
| Butter (tub) lb. | 18c. to 20c. | 20c. to 22c. |
| Eggs, doz. | 18c. to 20c. | 20c. to 22c. |
| Carrots, peck | 15c. to 20c. | 20c. to 25c. |
| Cabbage, each | 5c. to 10c. | 8c. to 15c. |
| Potatoes, peck | 50c. to 80c. | 20c. to 25c. |
| Fowl, pair | 50c. to 60c. | 70c. to \$1.00 |
| Chicken, pair | 50c. to 60c. | \$1.00 to \$1.40 |
| Turkey, lb. | 12c. to 14c. | 22c. to 25c. |
| Finnish haddle lb. | 6c. to 7c. | 5-12-6c. |
| Cod, lb. | 4c. to 5c. | 2-4-6c. |
| Sugar, lb. | 3-12-8c. | 2-4-6c. |
| Oil, gal. | 22c. to 24c. | 23c. to 25c. |

The only notable decrease has been in potatoes. The crop of potatoes last year was large. Up to the present farmers and dealers have been unable to dispose of all their potatoes, with the result that they find themselves compelled to reduce prices to free themselves of their surplus stock.

Here is how an experienced market man sums up the grocery situation: "Groceries certainly have been dearer for the last two years than they have been for any previous two years for a long time. But St. John is not peculiarly affected by any means. The high prices which prevail in groceries are widespread. In most instances the causes are ascertainable. Take flour, for instance, which is high-priced at all eastern points of Canada. The Canadian wheat crop last year, though large, has had to meet an increased demand. The rise in haulage rates from the west has also had its influence on the price of flour.

"Butter has been high this winter. The St. John butter market depends principally for its supply upon provincial production. Butter can hardly be said to have been a scarce quantity this winter, for there has been any amount of bad butter. People would not buy this, so they looked around for good butter, consequently, the demand for good butter, of which there has been precious little, has put its price up.

"Eggs—they never soared so before. The high price of eggs is directly attributable to their great scarcity. The rigors of the winter have kept the hens from laying."

Little increase in clothing. One of the leading clothiers in the city said recently to the Star:—"Clothing cannot be said to be either cheaper or dearer this winter than it was last. In fact for nearly three years past it has remained stationary in price. About three years ago there was a jump in price of something like fifteen per cent., but since then, with some minor fluctuations, the price has remained pretty well stationary."

In clothing made of cotton material, however, there has been a well marked increase in price. This increase, as is well known, is only an occurrence of the last few months. The increase is fully twenty per cent. In cotton, or fleece-lined underwear, the percentage of increase has been even greater. Woollen cloth ranges from ten to fifteen per cent. more than it was a year or so ago. People more than ever are coming to wear ready-made clothing, and this will tend much to obviate the clothes problem. It is possible now to produce ready-made clothing, equal both in make and material with custom or tailor-made garments, at a price fifty per cent. less.

"Another thing that must have its weight in determining the clothes problem is an increased liking on the part of St. John people for Canadian-made goods which are equal to the best American, and which compare favorably with the English. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia woollens have the advantage of being unshrinkable and almost unobscurable to wear. Added to these is probably the very desirable advantage that clothes made of Canadian material are the most reasonable in price."

DRY GOODS STEADY. There has been little or no change in dry goods. Cotton fabrics, however, are dearer than they have been for a great number of years. This is due to the recent cotton corner worked by some Southern speculators. It is generally believed by city dry goods men that the effects of the cotton corner will gradually work off, though it is thought that cotton fabrics will continue high for some time to come. Dry goods would have been high this winter if there had not been some off-setting causes. The wages of operatives have advanced and the boom in freethold has caused a general rise in rents. These causes must inevitably have operated to increase the price of dry goods had not other countervailing causes intervened. The countervailing causes were the introduction and operation of improved and less expensive means of manufacture and a resulting increased production.

FOOTWEAR HAS GONE UP. Footwear has undergone a considerable increase in price. Boots and shoes are slightly dearer this year than they were last. Causes directly operating to create an advance in leather footwear are an increased cost in raw material and an advance in the wages of operatives.

The most marked advance in footwear has been in rubber goods. This advance is fully ten per cent. and may be said to date from the first of March. Here, again, the cotton corner shows its far-reaching influence. Rubbers and overshoes are lined with a cotton material and the great advance in cotton explains in part the advance in rubber footwear. But the raw material from which rubbers are manufactured has itself gone up in price.

A retail shoe dealer in the city recently said: "With the winter fairly come on, the advance in rubber footwear may not be noticed, as the demand will fall off. The advance in rubber goods dates practically from the first of March, and dealers who since then have had to replenish their stock must have found themselves compelled, if they desired to make a reasonable return, to raise the selling price."

COAL HAS REMAINED HIGH-PRICED. The hope expressed last fall that coal would be quite cheap this winter was fated to disappointment. If ever deferred hope made the heart sick it was in this case. People have used more coal this winter than they have in any previous winter for some years. The press has again and again offered explanations of the high price of coal. The coal situation may be summed up in a few words: The demand outweighs the supply. The shortened supply has been principally due to the great severity of the winter. "I paid \$25.00 a ton for hard coal six years ago and today I pay \$7.25 for the same kind of coal," said a householder the other day. "But this is not all of my woe. I have used nearly twice as much coal this winter as I used last winter, when the price of coal was higher than it ever was before or since. This has been a frightfully trying winter from the fuel standpoint. I pray it may never be repeated."

RENTS GO UP ALL OVER THE CITY. When rents go up right over the tenant's head it is then that he becomes thoroughly disgruntled and starts to investigate the reason. And when he asks his landlord why he has raised the rent and gets for a reply that "the house hasn't been paying," it is no wonder that he throws up his flat and looks for another. But in a day or two he seeks out his landlord and with grumbling willingness engages his old place at its increased rent for another year. Investigation, while it has not by any means discovered to him a satisfactory reason for the advance in rents, has showed him that rents have indeed advanced.

It is an undeniable fact that rents all over the city have gone up. In some parts of the city, notably the North End, the increase has been so large as almost to take one's breath. Tenants who for the last year have been paying a rental of \$50 have been quietly notified by their landlords that they must this year pay \$100; those who have been paying \$25 a year must after the first of May pay from \$10 to \$25. And so the increase goes on. Landlords will not attempt to explain the advance. It simply cannot be said to be the result of a concerted action on their part; some way or other they have acted concurrently, though independently, in raising rents.

TAXES, TOO. Since the year 1900 taxes in St. John have steadily climbed up, until last year they were higher than ever before. What the rate this year will be is not yet known, but from present indications it looks as though it will be higher than last year. The different municipal departments are calling for larger appropriations this year and this must mean increased taxation. Following are the rates which have obtained since 1900:

| | |
|------------|------|
| 1900 | 1.13 |
| 1901 | 1.14 |
| 1902 | 1.15 |
| 1903 | 1.16 |

WAGES HAVE NOT INCREASED CORRESPONDINGLY. Along with the increase in the cost of living there has been no corresponding increase in wages. Within the last three years it is estimated that the cost of living in this city has increased 22 per cent. Within the same period the increase in wages all round has only been 17 per cent. In most lines of work wages have remained stationary and in a few fallen off. The following are the only lines of work in which there has been and permanent increase:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Millmen | 10 per cent. increase |
| Carpenters | 15 per cent. increase |
| Mod. carriers and mason's helpers | 15 per cent. increase |
| Painters | 25 per cent. increase |
| Thimbleth | 25 per cent. increase |
| I. C. R. employees, 15 per cent. increase | City employees, 15 per cent. increase |

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Millmen
 10 per cent. increase |

A labor man, speaking the other day of the situation, said: "Workmen in St. John are not banking their earnings. It takes their all to live decently, sometimes none too decently. The average laboring man with a family earns from \$400 to \$450 a year. About \$150 of this goes for groceries, \$20 for rent, about \$20 for fuel and the balance for other necessities of life, such as clothing and footwear. Not one cent of his income can be saved."

TO INVADE CANADA. An Army of 40,000 Men Declared to be Marching on This Country. The "Canada" publishes an extract from the New York Journal, in the shape of a Cincinnati dispatch, mentioning a movement to organize an army to march on Canada, with a view to secure its independence. All the sub-tenants of the first regiment of the Ohio National Guard are said to have received letters offering them positions on a foreign expedition. Those officers thought that the matter referred to the war between Russia and Japan, but one of them, after writing, was amazed to receive a reply dated from Montreal, and signed Wm. Wayne, 202 Victoria street, telling him that a powerful army would be ready within a month to strike the decisive blow for the independence of Canada. Forty thousand French-Canadians were already organized and partly equipped, and an equal number of Americans would also be engaged. Besides numerous recruits in France and Germany. The letter concludes as follows: "The success of our enterprise is sure, for the places have been prepared by able officers during the past five years. Nothing can resist us."

As a matter of fact there is no such address as 202 Victoria street.

PAPER MADE OF CORNSTALKS. Cornstalks, hundreds of thousands of them, are being used today for making paper, and the growth of the new industry is proving a boon to the western farmer as well as to the man who conserved the product. Both the shell and the pith of the stalk have been used in several mills with considerable success, the machinery necessary for separating them having been introduced about a year ago.

Out in Illinois the farmers have had their stalks harvested for them by a company which hauls its machinery to a farm, shucks the corn, deposits the grain in boxes, bundles the stalks into great rolls ready for shipment, and leaves the husks and fodder prepared for use as cattle feed on the farm—all in a fraction of the time it formerly required the landowner to gather in his crop. The farmer pays the machine man \$10 a day, and the latter can clean up six acres a day. The stalks become the property of the company, and are shipped to the paper mill. It is estimated that a mill with a daily capacity of one hundred tons of the finished paper will require 50,000 tons of the stalks annually, and that the husking machine some day will be perfected so that it will cover fifteen acres a day.

To cure Hæmorrhoids in ten minutes use KUMFORT Headache Powders.