

arranged in accordance with the plan followed by leading authorities in statistical research, whereby a definite measure of the phenomena might be obtained. That measure was found to be, in the case of the lower-paid members of the service, an advance of 34 per cent. during the decade, and in the case of the higher paid officials an advance of 28 per cent.

These statistics were prepared in June, 1907. Shortly after that date a period of extreme stringency in the money market set in, the product largely of conditions outside of Canada and of the extraordinary expansion of all branches of industry within the Dominion itself. As a result, certain raw materials, and, later, certain wholesale commodities began to recede from the high price-levels established by the continuous advances of the past several years. As this tendency was still in progress during October, at which time the Commission ceased the taking of evidence, the Association thought it advisable to draw attention to certain fundamental considerations involved in the current situation, which would have the effect, in its opinion, of perpetuating the disabilities under which the ordinary consumer found himself. These were, very briefly, the period of development, in the way chiefly of land settlement and of railway construction upon which the country has entered and which is bound to continue for years to come; the greatly increased annual production and consequent cheapening of gold as the purchasing medium; and the slowness of retail prices to react to any but marked and prolonged alterations in the wholesale level. It is in the way of examining the action of ordinary consumption prices since the period of the stringency and in the light of actual experience during the past seven months, that the Association begs leave to add a word to-day; for, though it is matter of common knowledge that there has been an intensification recently rather than an amelioration in the high cost of living, the

desire of the Association throughout has been to submit as definite and explicit information as possible in all its representations on this point.

Within the past ten days, accordingly, the Association has again consulted the leading retailers and others from whom its previous facts were obtained, in order to ascertain what changes, if any, other than those of a seasonal character, have occurred in the prices which residents of Ottawa have had to pay for staple commodities since the date of the earlier enquiry, viz.: June, 1907. Without recurring in detail to the scope of the previous investigation, the results in the several groups then covered may be briefly indicated as follows:—

*Meats and Fish.*—Fresh and salted meats, after an interval of low prices caused by heavy autumn marketings, are again on high levels and promise to exceed last summer's prices by a wide margin. Pork, bacon, lard, etc., are rapidly advancing. The advances previously shown were from 25 to 50 per cent. Fish prices have remained firm, with an upward tendency. The previous advance shown was from 30 to 300 per cent.

*Dairy Produce.*—Milk is one cent per quart dearer than at this time last year. Butter and eggs have been from 12½ to 15 per cent. higher all winter than a year ago. The former is at the present time 3 to 5 cents per lb. dearer than during the corresponding period of 1907, though the latter declined at an earlier date this spring than last owing to the milder weather. Cheese remains very high. In the decade, the increases in this department ranged from 20 to 50 per cent.

*Groceries and Provisions.*—In the past ten years, groceries and provisions were shown to have advanced 25 to 30 per cent. In the past nine months there have been further slight advances in a few lines, notably in tinned goods. Flour has advanced 35 per cent. and sugar 10 per cent. since last autumn, owing to crop conditions. Bread is at present 12 cents