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Cost of Living Index Up 1.4 Points: Higher prices for food, clothing and home furnishings sent Canada's official cost-of-living up another 1.4 points during October and stretched the gain over the past to more than 16 points, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported Thursday.

The index, calculated on the basis 1935-39 equals 100, reached 143.6 at November 1, against 142.2 at October 1, and 127.1 at November 1 last year. On the basis of August, 1939, equalling 100, the index stood at 142.5 as of November 1.

At 143.6, the index was fast approaching the level of 145 at which Finance Minister Abbott predicted two months ago it might settle. At that time, with the index below the 140 mark, he told a press conference that if it settled somewhere between 140 and 145 he would consider the situation "pretty good."

While the index continued its advance during October, the rate of increase had lessened. During August and September, for instance the jump was 2.8 points in each of those two months, although the advance for September was traced directly to the major decontrol step taken during that month.

Reporting on the October increase, the bureau said that higher food prices continued to dominate the advance, although each of the sub-group indexes, excepting rentals, moved higher.

The index for the food group rose 2.3 points to 173.6, due mainly to higher prices for eggs, fluid milk, certain meats and canned vegetables. Butter, lemons and a few fresh vegetables, on the other hand declined slightly.

The clothing group advanced 2.8 points to 157.0, with prices rising in all subsections, while home furnishings and services climbed 1.5 to 151.4 on the strength of increases for furniture, floor coverings, furnishings, dishes and cleaning supplies.

Slightly higher costs for medicinal supplies, personal care items, newspapers and gasoline were responsible for a gain of 0.6 to 118.2 in the miscellaneous items index. Higher prices for coal and coke boosted fuel and lighting by 0.7 to 122.6.

Rentals, under rigid control, remained unchanged at 119.9. (CP)

World Wheat Situation: World production of bread-grains in 1947 is now indicated at 5.8 billion bushels of wheat and 1.5 billion of rye, according to the monthly review of the wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The wheat crop is currently estimated at about the 1946 level but is four per cent less than the 1935-39 average, while the 1947 rye crop is four per cent above 1946, but only 88 per cent of the 1935-39 average. The record wheat crop in the United States and the anticipated record outturn of the Australian wheat crop now being harvested bring the world total for the year near average, despite much below-average crops in Europe and the Soviet Union.