

## What it Costs to Live.

### Disclosures from the Accounts of one of the Deans of the Service, showing how the Cost of Living Strikes the Salaried Man.

One of the oldest and most respected members of the service in Ottawa recently mentioned to an editor of *The Civilian* that he had, in the course of looking over some old papers at his home, come across evidence indicating the extraordinary increase in the cost of living at the present day as compared with several periods since he first entered the service. To mention the gentleman's name would satisfactorily convince readers of *The Civilian* who may be skeptical as to the accuracy of the figures and the enormous rise in prices that has ensued. While the increases shown in the subjoined tables have been going on for 35 years, civil servants have had but little re-adjustment of salaries on account of the increased cost. A flat increase of \$150 and the new classification of 1908 in the Ottawa service, and certain spasmodic rather than general increases to the Outside service have been received. It is only necessary to read the figures appended to prove that many civil servants are suffering the pangs of hunger. The second of the two tables herewith being more specific is more valuable, but the first, dealing with the gross yearly cost of certain departments of domestic economy is also interesting:—

	1879	1886	1897	1911
Servant . . . . .	\$ 60	\$ 98	\$100	\$216
Groceries . . . . .	126	252	295	480
Bread . . . . .	30	35	50	76
Milk . . . . .	36	52	65	96
Meat . . . . .	30	35	55	240

The figures representing cost of certain food commodities, etc., were revealed by these accounts, the nature and quality of the comparisons being proportional:—

	1879.	1911.
Fowl . . . . .	20c to 30c ea.	75c ea.
Turkey . . . . .	60c to 80c ea.	\$1.25 to \$2.50
Suit clothes . . .	\$12 to \$15	\$25 to \$30
Rent . . . . .	\$12 to \$15	\$30. to \$50
Servant . . . . .	\$4 to \$6	\$18

#### Personal.

Mr. Geo. S. Hutchinson, of Toronto, is at the Russell. The many friends of Mr. Hutchinson will be pleased to know that he is meeting with a good

measure of success in his business venture. It is reasonably certain that if "George" devotes the same amount of energy to the envelope business as he did to civil service matters he will "make good."