

striking the very basis of existence, has advanced to a degree that—without liberal provision to counteract—will soon cause not only distress but impaired efficiency in the service. Rentals, wages, and other kindred expenditures have been shown to be quite as strongly upward as prices. Applying these facts in the most practical way possible, it was found that to the man of low salary the increase in cost of living during the past ten years has amounted to 30-35%, while to the man of higher rank and remuneration, it has been at least 20% to 30%. These are not guesses, but results based upon approved methods of dealing with statistics of this nature, and they are within rather than outside of the facts. The serious nature of the situation is expressed more clearly in the terms of salary, when it is said that the man receiving \$900 in 1897 would require fully \$1,200 and the man receiving \$1,500 fully \$1,900 to live with the same degree of comfort in 1907.

One additional point is worthy of special mention. Extraordinary as the present conditions are, there is no sign on the industrial or economic horizon that portends a change. The great prosperity in which the whole country is rejoicing shows not the slightest indication of abatement. As a matter of fact, what signs there are point uniformly to continued industrial and trade expansion—the only embarrassment that threatens being the lack of facilities—those of transportation, in particular—to reap the splendid harvest to the full. Prices, therefore, may be expected not only to remain high, but to show still further advances. It will be remembered that in several important items in the table, wholesale prices were mentioned as having shown an advance to which the retail prices have not as yet responded. This is full of significance, founded as the wholesale advances are on sound economic conditions. "With regard to price movements," says the *Toronto Globe* of June 21, 1907—"it is probable that all of the influences which have tended to keep prices to retailers down will vanish with this summer's trade. Cottons are expected to have a decided increase. . . . Woollens will also be higher. . . . There will be no way to escape higher prices throughout the whole textile trade." Of significance, too, in this connection, are the liberal advances in the wages of labour which have been so characteristic a feature of the present spring season, and which include in a large number of recent agreements specific provisions for still further increases in 1908. The printers in Toronto during May obtained a sliding scale of advances covering a period of five years. It is surely the irony of fate that these and similar phenomena, indicating as they do the greatest blessing that can befall a country in an era of all-embracing prosperity—should spell hardship and remuneration to the Country's servants.

For final word in this connection, the Association begs to repeat that in the case which it has presented above it has avoided scrupulously the picking and choosing of facts, but has endeavoured honestly, and with impartiality, to find some measure for a condition, the existence of which, indeed, requires no proof (for it is acknowledged by all) and about which the only question that can arise is one as to its precise intensity.

J. L. PAYNE,
Secretary

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President

TORONTO, June 26th, 1907.