

Wholesale prices July, 1913.	135.9	Wholesale prices 1890-1899...	100.
" " Aug., 1912 ..	133.	" " Aug., 1913 ..	136.2

Individual items were:

Cattle and beef	177.9	Hog products	189.2
Sheep and mutton	139.6	Poultry	213.5
Dairy products	138.2	Fish	151.2
Breadstuffs	126.0	Dried fruits	163.7
Lumber	179.4	House furnishings	146.9
Furs	358.0		

Twenty years ago the inevitable degenerative effects of urban congestion in several Canadian cities where land booms had taken place were impressed upon me and strengthened by the remarkable studies of Charles Booth and others in British cities. It is now over fifteen years since Ebenezer Howard of London, England, became impressed with the demand for some method of de-urbanization, and worked out the principle underlying the back-to-the-land movement exemplified in his book on Garden Cities.

As it has been in England that industrialism from the eighteenth century to the present has seen the largest and most extended growth and had produced earliest the evils of urban overcrowding and house congestion, so it has been there that the efforts to ameliorate or remove these evils have been most systematized.

The mediæval and now obsolete idea, crystallized in the Poor Law dating from Elizabeth's time, was that the evils were inevitable, and that the State should provide for the worn-out products of the system as for disabled soldiers. Later many sanitary by-laws for regulating the number of inmates and the sanitary condition of the houses followed; but not till the twentieth century have we witnessed the great evolution of the "social conscience," which is realizing in practical legislation the scientific means of preventing, rather than attempting to cure, slum conditions, which a *laissez faire* philosophy had permitted to grow up, and which we in Canada are already witnessing the fruits of.

The ideals set forth by Ebenezer Howard have been reduced to a practical form in the Imperial Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909.

Mr. Nettleford of Birmingham has in "Practical Housing" summarized very well both the scope and provisions of the Act.

He states the objects of Town Planning to be.

1st. To facilitate and encourage thorough co-operation between all concerned in the provision and supervision of accommodation for the people in order to provide town populations with the light, air and space essential to human health.