

The above table shows that, comparing average prices in 1910 with average prices in 1909, approximately 50 per cent. of the articles advanced and 34 per cent. declined, while the rest remained unchanged. Comparing 1910 prices with those of 1907, about 10 per cent. of the articles show no change, while the number of advances and recessions is very nearly the same. When the basis of comparison is with the low year, 1897, there are very nearly five times as many increases as decreases. Comparing average prices in 1910 with those of the closing decade of the last century, the pro-

portion of increases is roughly as 4 to 1; when the comparison is with 1890 the proportion of increases to decreases is only as 2 to 1.

Comparative Level of Prices in 1910.

The general level of prices in the several groups in 1910 expressed in percentages of the increase or decrease as compared (1) with 1890, (2) with the decade 1890-1899, (3) with the low year in the respective groups, and (4) with 1909, is shown in the following table:—

Percentage of Increase Shown by Prices in 1910.				
Group.	Compared with 1890	Compared with decade 1890-1899	Compared with the low year	Compared with 1909
I. Grains and fodder	17.3	37.0	70.0—1897	*8.4
II. Animals and meats	46.9	63.4	98.3—1896	9.9
III. Dairy produce	35.0	39.1	54.3—1897	4.1
IV. Fish	36.9	41.5	56.1—1892	5.6
V. Other foods	*10.1	8.1	25.8—1897*	1.3
VI. Textiles:—				
(a) Woollens	14.2	21.6	42.8—1902	6.4
(b) Cottons	26.1	47.8	63.4—1898	13.8
(c) Silks	*35.5	*12.6	0.6—1901	*6.2
(d) Flax products	*1.3	*2.2	24.9—1895	1.8
(e) Jutes	6.2	13.6	26.9—1898	0.9
(f) Oilcloths	*17.8	0.1	23.4—1899	4.9
VII. Hides, tallow, leather, boots and shoes:—				
(a) Hides and tallow	40.0	49.0	86.4—1894	*2.4
(b) Leather	29.5	22.9	32.0—1894	2.8
(c) Boots and shoes	36.4	36.9	38.5—1894	2.6
VIII. Metals and implements:—				
(a) Metals	*16.9	4.1	21.4—1897	2.1
(b) Implements	1.1	5.0	12.7—1897	2.5
IX. Fuel and lighting	*4.1	2.9	10.0—1898	*0.8
X. Building materials:—				
(a) Lumber	55.0	60.6	76.8—1898	4.2
(b) Miscellaneous building materials	*9.8	6.0	21.2—1898	0.2
(c) Paints, oil and glass	30.0	49.0	56.0—1897	10.1
XI. House furnishings	8.9	10.6	13.4—1896	6.3
XII. Drugs and chemicals	*0.9	9.5	17.3—1899	5.3
XIII. Miscellaneous:—				
(a) Furs	228.3	183.0	251.5—1895	25.0
(b) Liquors	23.3	17.1	23.3—1890	*0.3
(c) Sundries	12.7	26.3	39.4—1897	3.9
All	13.4	25.1	35.6—1897	3.2

* Decrease.

The volume is supplemented by numerous charts and tables, and is well worthy of perusal.

BANK CLEARING HOUSE FOR FORT WILLIAM.

Bankers Are Considering Formation of Canada's Twentieth Clearing House at the Head of the Lakes.

A bank clearing house will be established at Fort William in the near future. Figures of the clearings at the local banks presented for consideration at recent meetings of the bankers amounted to a sum which compared favorably with other cities.

The following ten chartered banks have branches in Fort William:—Canadian Bank of Commerce, Dominion Bank, Bank of Hamilton, Imperial Bank, Merchants Bank, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Ottawa, Royal Bank, Traders Bank, and Union Bank of Canada. Messrs. Roy Street & Company, private bankers, also have branches in Fort William.

Six in Two Years.

Three bank clearing houses were established last year, one each at Brandon, Lethbridge and Saskatoon. Two, Moose Jaw and Brantford, were established early this year. There are now nineteen clearing houses in Canada, ten of which are in Western Canada and nine in the East. Fort William, at the head of the lakes, will be the twentieth. The following is a list:—

Clearing House.	Commenced Business.
Halifax	1886, 1 July.
Montreal	1889, 7 January.
Hamilton	1891 15 June.
Toronto	1891, 21 July.
Winnipeg	1893 4 December.
Vancouver	1898, October.
Victoria	1898 2 November.
Quebec	1901, 1 May.
Ottawa	1901, 9 September.

London	1902, 1 June.
St. John	1896, 1 May.
Calgary	1906, 18 April.
Edmonton	1906, 11 July.
Regina	1900, 1 October.
Brandon	1910, 1 April.
Lethbridge	1910, 1 September.
Saskatoon	1910, 15 October.
Moose Jaw	1911, 9 February.
Brantford	1911, 1 January.
Fort William (probably)	1911, August.

Figures of the Provinces.

The following are the Canadian clearing house figures by provinces for the past three years:—

	1908.	1909.	1910.
Ontario	\$1,450,474,915	\$1,757,779,723	\$1,956,049,935
Quebec	1,579,127,582	1,985,452,773	2,212,268,621
Manitoba	614,111,801	770,649,322	973,694,051
British Columbia	238,439,459	358,235,823	546,555,892
Alberta	103,411,732	139,315,401	231,690,244
New Brunswick	66,435,636	72,404,500	77,843,546
Nova Scotia	90,232,245	95,278,463	95,855,316
Saskatchewan		14,153,244	59,743,982

Total

* Regina started 1st October, 1900.

The clearing house figures for the current week appear elsewhere in this issue.