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**ST. JOHN STAR.**

ST. JOHN, N. B., JAN. 13, 1910.

THE COST OF LIVING.

Figures compiled by Bradstreet's on the basis of the wholesale price of ninety-six articles entering into general consumption demonstrate the tremendous increase in the cost of living, which now has reached an absolute high record as regards those classes of commodities which enter into daily and direct consumption by the people, and on all the ninety-six commodities in the entire list is but an insignificant fraction of a cent per pound below the high figures of March 1, 1907.

These figures, known as the "index numbers" on the cost of living, are based, in the first instance, on actual wholesale quotations per pound for the commodities in question, which are averaged over a wide area of markets, so as to be comprehensive. Thus, when it is said that on Dec. 1, 1909, the index number on the ninety-six commodities was \$3.1282, it is meant that a man buying at wholesale one pound of each of the ninety-six commodities on that date would have to pay the sum mentioned.

In discussing the Dec. 1, 1909, index number of \$3.1282, Bradstreet's calls attention to the fact that it represents an increase of 17 per cent. over the figure for Nov. 1, and an advance of 11 per cent. over the figure for March 1, when the low point for 1909 was reached. The present index number is 1 per cent. higher than that for Dec. 1, 1907; 2.5 per cent. higher than that for Dec. 1, 1906; 9.9 per cent. higher than that for Dec. 1, 1904; 12 per cent. higher than that for Dec. 1, 1903; 13.5 per cent. higher than that for Dec. 1, 1902; and 60 per cent. higher than that for July 1, 1901, when the number was \$2.0191. This latter number was the low record for all time since 1892, and compared with an index number of \$2.0191 for Jan. 1, 1895, and \$2.1164 for Jan. 1, 1897.

The ninety-six commodities covered by the tabulation are divided into thirteen general groups, as follows: Breadstuffs, live stock, provisions, fruits, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, building materials, chemicals and drugs, and miscellaneous. All of these enter to a greater or less extent into the cost of living, although some of them remotely.

To get nearer home, take certain selected classes of commodities which enter more or less directly into actual personal consumption and trace the increase in cost of these. On the basis of a selection of the general classes of "breadstuffs," live stock, provisions, hides and leather, textiles, coal and coke, and oils, embracing fifty-nine distinct commodities, it appears that the prices for Dec. 1, 1909, have far outstripped even the high prices for March 1, 1907. The man who had occasion to buy at the wholesale prices a pound of each of the fifty-nine commodities enumerated into the above list, would have had to pay \$4.217 on July 1, 1906; \$3.903 on March 1, 1907, and \$7.236 on Dec. 1, 1909, which demonstrates pretty clearly that it is costing him more for the necessities of life at the present time than it did even at the highest point reached by the general commodity record in March of 1907.

There is general agreement that this condition exists as the result of several principal causes, including the excessive production of gold, the influence of great combines or trusts, the demand for luxuries, and united action on the part of organizations representing the producers. While it is true that the consumer is not affected to the extent of the full increase in the cost of living, because he has profited by advances in wages, still the householder today is in a less favorable position than formerly, because the increase in wages has not been proportionate to that in the cost of living.

In an effort to oppose the rapid and steady advance in the prices of necessities, Dr. Scharf, of Philadelphia, is now advocating the formation of a consumers league, a scheme which was once adopted in Germany with very satisfactory results. Dr. Scharf's plan is to enroll throughout the country millions of members who will act together in fighting high prices. Whenever the league considers the cost of any commodity to be excessive, the members shall without notice to the producers, boycott that commodity, and by thus reducing the demand, bring about a reduction in the price. The Consumers League of Germany by abstaining for one day from the purchase of coffee cut the price in half, thus winning the fight against the combine.

The difficulty in carrying out Dr. Scharf's plan will be in securing a sufficient number of interested members to make the league effective. The people have it in their power to correct every evil now existing, but eddy enough evils multiply rapidly while corrections are few and unimportant.

And since there are more serious matters than the cost of living which are allowed to continue unchanged, it is scarcely to be hoped that much can be accomplished in this regard.

ST. JOHN IS GOING AHEAD.

Q The Sun and Star want to help it grow.

Q Do you?

Q Will you lend a hand for a boost?

Q We want a slogan, a phrase of progress, a battlecry — call it what you will.

Q Something that will boil the gospel of go-ahead down to half a dozen words in a sentence that will hit home like a hammer blow.

Q Something that the papers can use for a headline or business men on a letter head.

Q If you can think of a good slogan, send it in.

Q The Sun and Star will pay \$10 for the best slogan, and \$5 for the next best.

Q Scores have already been received — all of them good.

Send more.

The List closes Jan. 14

SAFETY BOARD

There was a meeting of the Board of Public Safety yesterday afternoon. Director Wisely presented the estimates, which were greater than last year by \$24,044.

The salary increases recommended amount to \$2924. Another increase in estimates was for street lighting, and amounted to \$700. The amount of \$1000 was added to the Fire Department estimates.

The following are the estimates for 1910 and 1909:—  
Fire Department. \$63,522.16 \$54,300.00  
Police Department 47,131.87 42,803.75  
Light Department 25,088.88 25,500.00  
\$135,742.91 \$122,603.75

Increase, \$13,139.16.

It was decided not to give Chief of Police Clark an increase of \$100, but an increase of 25 cents per day for policemen was decided on. It was decided to place lights on Stanley and Wall street bridges, to light the King Square hand stand and to place 14 additional street lights. It was decided to increase the alarm box 8 from Mill street to Elliott Row.

The amount of \$1000 was placed in the estimates to cover the cost of giving the permanent firemen twenty-four hours' holiday in each fortnight.

FORESTERS' SOCIAL

The officers of Court Grand Bay No. 1907, I. O. F., will be installed by the Grand of Honor of Royal Foresters on Monday evening, January 17th, inst., in their hall at Grand Bay.

An old fashioned basket and pie social will be held immediately following installation.

All Foresters are cordially invited to the lady friends. Ladies kindly bring basket or pie. A grand good time is assured all who come.

A WOMAN DOCTOR

Was Quick to See That Coffee was Doing the Mischief

A lady tells of a bad case of coffee poisoning and tells it in a way so simple and straightforward that literary skill could not improve it.

"I had neuralgic headaches for 12 years," she says, "and suffered untold agony. When I first began to have them I weighed 140 pounds, but they brought me down to 110. I went to many doctors and they gave me only temporary relief. So I suffered on, till one day a woman doctor told me to use Postum. She said I looked like I was coffee poisoned.

"So I began to drink Postum and I gained 15 pounds in the first few weeks and continued to gain, but not so fast as at first. My headaches began to leave me after I had used Postum about two weeks—long enough to get the coffee poison out of my system.

"Since I began to use Postum I can gladly say that I never know what a neuralgic headache is like any more, and it was nothing but Postum that made me well. Before I used Postum I was a nervous wreck. I would get bewildered and would not know which way to turn. Now I am as clear as a bell. My brain and nerves are stronger than they have been for years.

"Read the little book, 'The Road to Wellville,' in pkgs. 'There's a Reason.'

Ever Read the Above Letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are Genuine True and full of Human Interest.

THE STAR ST. JOHN N. B., THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 1910

The Evening Chit-Chat

By RUTH CAMERON

I am sick of the idea that women are so jealous that they do not appreciate each others good looks.

They do.

"Of course none of you girls like her. She is too pretty. Women never like a pretty girl or appreciate any other woman's prettiness."

That's what I heard a man say the other day, and that's what a good many people think. But it isn't true, or anywhere near true.

When her sisters dislike a pretty girl it isn't because she is pretty. Ten to one it is for dis agreeable traits that they would dislike just as much in a homely girl.

Of my college acquaintances I can truthfully say that the pretty girls were quite as popular among the girls as the homely ones.

And other things being equal, a pretty appearance usually turned the balance in a girl's favor. We all like to have something pretty to look at, in our friends as well as in our surroundings.

And as to women appreciating other women's beauty as much as men do—well, listen to what a girl said to me the other day.

"I just love to go up to J—'s music department," she raved, "do they have unusually pretty music there? It is kind of the two man who plays the piano I go for. She's such a pretty girl. Why, when I haven't any shopping to do I drop in there every noon just for the pleasure of looking at that girl."

Does my sex need any further justification of its appreciation of feminine beauty?

If by any chance you have a girl who works on a private telephone exchange among your acquaintances, and by any chance that girl has a birthday some time, is a suggestion.

Make her a pad to lean her elbow on.

Telephone work, as everyone knows, is hard on the ears and eyes. It is also, as not everyone knows, hard on the left elbow.

A little pad about a foot long and six inches wide on which one may rest one's elbow and slip it about a bit many telephone girls regard as almost as indispensable as their head bands.

Such a pad isn't a bad thing to have on the side of the telephone in your home, either.

To be a guest where you are expected to eat more than you want, in order to prove your satisfaction, is quite as bad as being entertained where you are not given enough to eat.

That, at least, is the verdict which one man delivered to me the other day.

There is nothing I hate more than going to a place where they don't think you like what they have unless you eat about three times what you want," he said, "I mean the kind of place where, if you don't take three or four helpings, they say, 'Oh, I am afraid you don't like chocolate pudding. Can't we get you something else?'"

It is kind to make sure that your guests are cordially invited to have all they wish, but it is also kind to believe that they have common sense to know when they have had enough.

When you are trying to be a good host or hostess, remember that the over-cordial host is as unpopular a person as his opposite.

Ruth Cameron

The Lighter Side of Life

"Of course," said the very talkative person on the back platform, "no man ever was a hero to his wife."

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IMPERIAL BRAND Olive Oil

Use more and you'll live better. A regular good luxury and there are hundreds of uses for it in the home.

25c, 50c, 90c PER BOTTLE

FRANK E. PORTER, PRESCRIPTION DRUGGIST, Union and St. Patrick Sts.

DON'T go to see the girl without a choice package of CHOCOLATES. We have a good line and you can always get something to please the best at 27 Water Street. If you have not time to call phone 1988-41. C. L. JENKINS.

There's No Excuse For You

If you fail to get Shoe Bargains. People cannot blame the weather it's fine enough to tempt any body and at Coa's Big Shoe Sale the prices are so low that it's actually like finding money.

Just an instance, children's nice laced boots warmly lined at 63c a pair, why they would be a bargain at \$1.00 and everything else in proportion. Coady & Co. are going out of business.

THEY MUST DISPOSE OF THEIR STOCK

It's not much a question of how much an article is worth or what it cost, it's how much will you pay for it. If people want good shoes for little money now is the time to get them. Come today or tomorrow sure.

COADY & CO., 61 Charlotte St.

BLAZE THREATENED

BIG CONFLAGRATION

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 12.—Seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars damage was done this evening to plant, stock and building of the Munro Wire Works, located two blocks from the business centre and in the heart of the city's residence district.

Only the high pressure system which downed it out, finally saved the city from a big conflagration. James Munro, president, states that the insurance does not amount to much. The firm has been in business here and in New Glasgow, N. S., for twenty years and has never had a dollar fire loss.

Just after the fire broke out three women and a man were taken by the firemen out of the upper part by the fire escape. They were caught in the mattress work room. The evening was calm and the weather mild, making fire fighting no very great hardship. The factory was a six story frame building.

Scrubbing brushes, when not in use should be put in an airy place, bristles downward. If they are laid on their side or on their back the water will drain out of them and they will quickly dry. If they are laid on their back the water will soak into the wood, loosening the bristles, whether they are glued or wired.

Unusual Silver Plate

Knives, forks, spoons, etc.

"1847 ROGERS BROS."

possesses a charm and durability that come of over sixty years' experience in the making of fine silverware.

Best tea sets, dinner, waiter, etc. are stamped MERIDEN BRITTA CO. and are made in the "Silver Plate that Wins"

D. B. YANER, Scientific Optician.

38 Dock Street. Close 6 p.m. Sat. 9 p.m.

BIRTHS.

January 12th, to the wife of J. Roydon Thomson, a son.

SKATING BOOTS

Are still selling in fair quantities and we have still a fair sized assortment of real choice patterns.

Remember our boots are satisfactory. We are careful as to fit. The boots do not loosen or come off. We attach the skates to our boots free.

Prices: Boys', \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.75. Men's, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$3.00. Your order properly attended to promptly.

PERCY J. STEEL, Foot Furnisher, 519-521 Main St.

A COLUMN FOR WOMEN

Fashions and Fads

Star Fashions

How To Obtain Patterns

To obtain STAR patterns of accompanying design, fill out the following coupon and send it to PATTERN DEPARTMENT, THE STAR.

Including 10 cents for each pattern desired. Orders filled by mail. Several days usually required. When ordering patterns, write name and address, size and number of pattern, carefully.

Star Patterns (10 Cents Each)

No. .... Size .... Amount Inclosed .... Name .... Street and No. .... City .... Province ....

With highly ornate umbrella handles in style, some are now offered with tiny vanity boxes concealed in the handles.

Unless a glove exactly matches a dress gown, it will be of white in preference, then champagne, tan or pearl. Among the new colors is a yellowish lustreless crepe de chine, albatross and nomic cloth are all being revived for housewear.

It is believed that braids will go through the winter in high favor as ornamentation on coats, suits, dresses and wraps.

Panels, while still in style, are not so universally seen as a few weeks ago. Draperies are slowly usurping their place.

For sheath foundations of evening gowns, the newest idea is to use brocades of gorgeous hue and design or heavy watered silks.

To match the tailored suit, there is now offered the muff of velvet, blue, black, trimmed with fur and with heads and tails to match.

A fancy of the moment is to have loosely loose straight sleeves of beaded tulle. These are put on evening gowns for balls, dinner or opera.

Fine old lace can now be used by the lucky possessors in any way desired for dress embellishment, as it is distinctly in the forefront.

Household Hints

Vinegar flavored with different herbs will be found a delightful adjunct to various salads. Put fresh, dry herbs in a clean bottle, cover with vinegar, cork tightly. Put the bottle in a kettle of water and remove as soon as the water boils. Let stand for a week.

When the finger nail is bruised, soak in ice water, then hold the finger upright for half an hour. It will prevent an ugly black spot.

To clean white marabout feathers, dissolve a teaspoonful of washing powder in a pint of boiling water and let it partly cool. Hold the feathers by the stem and wash them gently in the same manner and shake gently in the open air or in a warm place indoors until they dry.

To prepare glass for drawing plates or for any other purpose for which obscure glass is required, lay the sheet of glass on a soft cloth, sprinkle a little emery powder on it and then rub with a piece of pumice stone until the desired effect is obtained. Wash thoroughly and the glass is then fit for use.

A unique lunch for a traveller in the back view. In the large view the dress is made of the cambric, the yoke being hand-embroidered and the little wristbands hand-embroidered. The neck edge, too, is scalloped and the collarband omitted. In the back view the frock is made of pale blue French chambray. Other materials which may be used for its development are handkerchief linen, cross-bar cambric, dimity, lawn, gingham, percale, flannel, cashmere or China silk. The pattern is cut in four sizes, from 34 to 44 inches. For a child of 2 years the dress requires 2 yards of material 36 inches wide. Price of pattern, 10 cents.

CHILD'S DRESS.

Paris Pattern, No. 3157—All Seams Allowed.

For tiny tots the dear little frocks that hang loose from yokes are wonderfully becoming and comfortable as well, also the mothers like them because they are easy to make and easy to launder. To this class belongs the dainty wee frock here shown, which may be made with wrist-length sleeves as in the large view or short pure sleeves completed by a narrow band in the back view. In the large view the dress is made of the cambric, the yoke being hand-embroidered and the little wristbands hand-embroidered. The neck edge, too, is scalloped and the collarband omitted. In the back view the frock is made of pale blue French chambray. Other materials which may be used for its development are handkerchief linen, cross-bar cambric, dimity, lawn, gingham, percale, flannel, cashmere or China silk. The pattern is cut in four sizes, from 34 to 44 inches. For a child of 2 years the dress requires 2 yards of material 36 inches wide. Price of pattern, 10 cents.

NEW LIBERAL PAPER

GETTING UNDER WAY

Building and New Machinery Arranged for

New Statist Agent Arrives

Liquor Conviction.

FREDERICKTON, Jan. 12.—S. J. Street, the newly appointed C. P. R. station agent here, arrived yesterday and will enter upon his new duties immediately. Mr. C. K. Howard, the former agent, was promoted and Mr. Street will take up his new work on Monday next.

The new Liberal paper company completed arrangements with Mr. Parlee for taking up the plant and good will of the Herald Publishing Company and also a lease of the building and premises yesterday. Mr. Parlee acted for his sister, the owner of the property. The owners of the new Liberal paper expect to start publication the last part of the present month, and in addition to the plant taken over will install much new machinery. The editorial staff has not yet been made known.

Chas. Labell was fined \$20 for infringement of the liquor law yesterday by Commissioner Parrie.

Chas. Oatley had his left leg broken in the vicinity of McGivney. Oatley is an employee of the Transcontinental. He was brought to Victoria Hospital last evening for treatment.

The wedding took place last evening of Chas. Offen, an employee of the Farmer's House, and Miss Ida Hayward of Lincoln. Rev. Mr. McDonald united the happy couple.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Fred Eames, of Denver, won the world's championship at three-cushion carom billiards tonight from Alfredo, the Cuban title holder, in the third block of fifty points played, by a final score of 150 to 137.

Do Ore played a plucky up-hill game, scoring 76 points to his opponents' 50 in tonight's game, but he was unable to overcome the lead of 29 points which Eames had to his credit at the end of the second block last night when the score stood 100 to 81.

The play tonight lasted ninety-one innings. Eames' high run was four and Do Ore's five.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Princeton had little trouble in disposing of Dartmouth at hockey tonight by a score of 5 to 1. Princeton now leads the inter-collegiate league with two victories and no defeats.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 12.—Harry Staley, of Springfield, formerly pitcher with Boston, St. Louis, Pittsburg and other National League teams, died in Battle Creek, Mich., today, following an operation. He was 44 years old.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 12.—Tommy Leach, centre-fielder of the Pittsburg ball team, signed the amended contract today.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Jan. 12.—John L. Sullivan, former champion pugilist, tonight wired congratulations to mayor-elect Fitzgerald, of Boston, saying:

"Now, show those human dogs living outside the pen, who were so dirty in their knocking that you are the right man in the right place, and the man who had the courage of his convictions."

FIGURES REFLECT FARMERS' PROSPERITY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 12.—Figures which reflect the prosperity of the country, especially that of the farmer, occur in the statement of domestic exports for 1909 prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Corn at seventy cents a bushel, wheat at \$1.04 a bushel and about 12 cents for every pound of cotton exported is the record for 1909. More than \$24,000,000 worth of corn and \$48,000,000 of wheat went from American ports to feed the rest of the world last year. More than \$400,000,000 worth of cotton went to foreign looms, and as these figures show only the exportations from the principal ports of trade the detailed statements will be large.

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