

suspicion of veiled professionalism. The athletes turned out by the Canadian colleges are, as a rule, a fine type, and they may yet do a great deal towards carrying rugby over the dangerous period of its prosperity.

Another important factor in the preservation of amateurism is "pride of club." So long as there are organizations in rugby, hockey or lacrosse, which possess traditions, one can at least trust their officials to try to keep their honour clean. There is a danger perhaps that competition and the struggle for honours will lead them to go abroad after star players, but the best element will always want to wait for the material that comes to the club of its own accord. Such men are generally good amateurs and good sports, and there are more of them in every game than Mr. Know-all admits.

IN all fairness to Mr. Know-all, let it be said he finds suspicious circumstances on which to base his sneers about semi-professionalism. He points first to some club that seems to have an ulterior motive for its existence. Such clubs turn out teams bearing their names, but there the sporting spirit comes to an end. Money is plentiful in their coffers and they can be generous. "Turn out with us," one player says to a friend, "they want me to stick, so you might as well get an outfit from them." In that way the feeling is created which does not differ greatly from the professional idea, and the money-laden organization which encourages it does injury to other clubs, for it makes some fairly good amateurs become restive under a careful management. The sort of club that does not justify its name and existence is not a phantom of the mind. Toronto contains a rowing organization of which it has been facetiously said that the members are interested in everything except the water. There are those who will assert that it has done the most good to the advancement of the forms of athletics which it has not entered.

Another menace to the amateur spirit in our sport is the team that exists merely for the sake

of championships. Little attempt is made to weld such a group of players together by that *esprit de corps* which makes real sport. The management would gladly gather the team from the four winds of heaven, if the four winds of heaven could furnish men of trophy-winning calibre. The chief inducement, on the surface, is the chance offered to a player to leave the team which has trained him and go into all-round fast company. They are well treated, of course; indeed, if they win a championship, their awards—always strictly amateur—are often better than those given by a permanent organization. Under the ideal amateur conditions, the club inspires the most confidence which has trained up the back-bone of its team from the junior ranks, like the famous hockey aggregations, of which the most recent was the original St. Michael's College team, that held the O. H. A. championship, or like the Parkdale rugby players, who were once contenders in the Dominion finals; or like the Brampton lacrosse team, who now holds the premier position in the O. A. L. A. The teams that are built to win championships and which have no real identity are going to put hockey and rugby in a much less honourable position than they occupy, if care is not exercised. To these remarks, they will

retort, "Why, even the colleges go fishing for athletes." Granted that such is the case, we must not shut our eyes to the conditions that are threatening to reduce the number of men who are playing for the love of the game.

It is just as well to admit that a certain number of our amateurs will want to make a good thing out of the sports in which they engage. If the powers that control Canadian athletics give these men wide scope for getting what they are after, they will bring discredit on amateurism sooner or later. The blame cannot all be placed on the officials of the various leagues, for they are not in a position to strike at the root of the evil. They can deal with flagrant breaches of the rules, but nothing more. The fight lies with the rank and file of men interested in athletics who realize what things are calculated to kill the spirit of amateurism. Our opinions of what constitute sport may differ, but we must all agree on the value of preserving a desire to play for the game's sake. An honest survey of recent history will suggest that we have been slipping, and perhaps some reconstruction is going to be necessary before we can feel that all our national games are in the healthiest possible condition once more.

Who Put Up the Cost of Living?

By THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

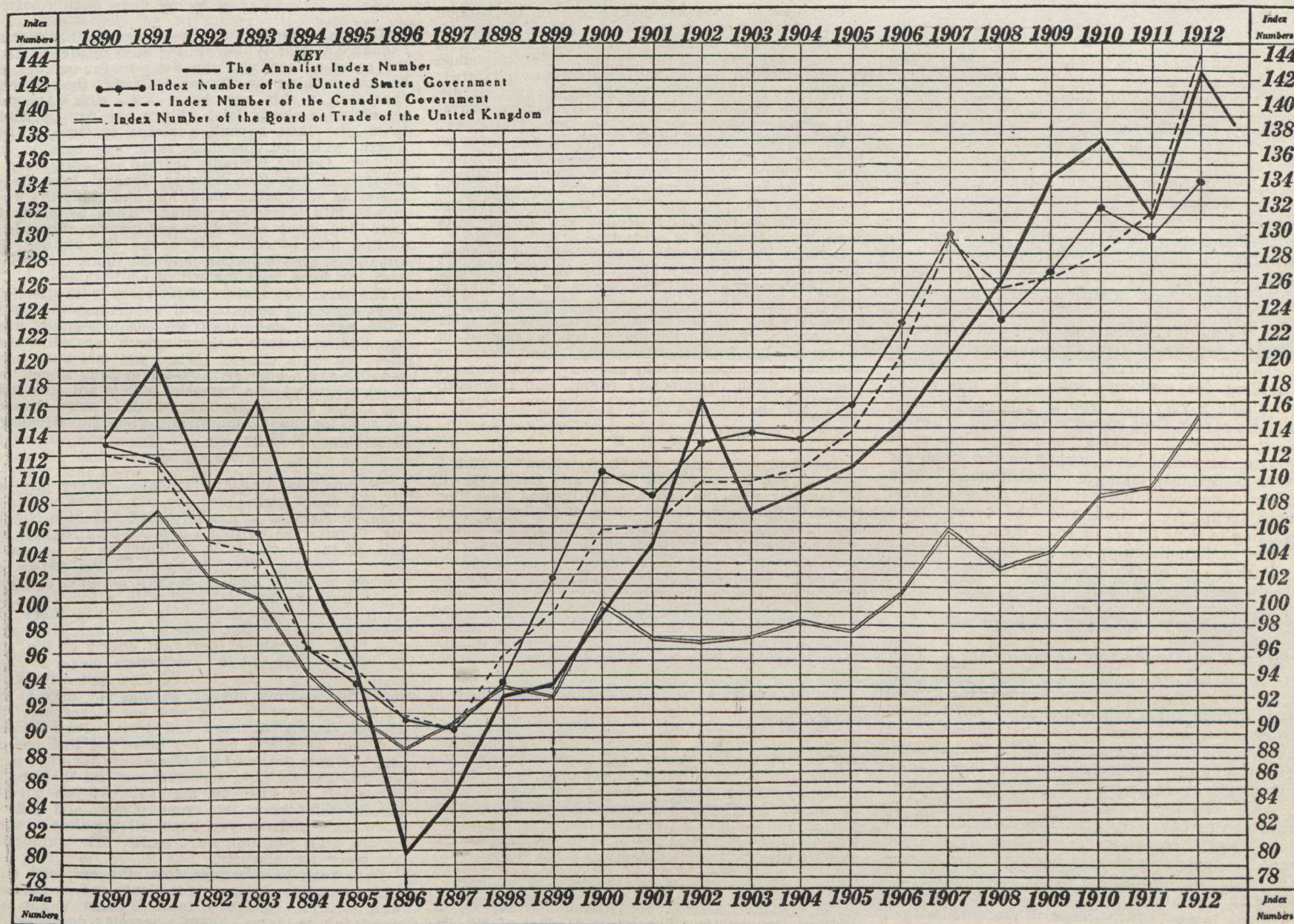
ON this page there is a diagram which is reprinted from the *New York Times Annalist*. It purports to be a comparative diagrammatic representation of the trend of prices. In it, Canada is shown to have a tariff which is slightly higher than that of the States, and very much higher than that of the United Kingdom. The index number in each case refers to the wholesale price of commodities. So that Canada is actually living at a more costly rate than either Great Britain or

America. There must be some reason for this.

In the *CANADIAN COURIER* for April 19th, there appeared an article which dealt with some local causes of the high cost of living. A rehearsal of them is not out of place here. Increasing immigration, and subsequent problems, lack of good roads, the wrong handling of the question of insufficient labour in creating inefficient labour, extravagance, and the need for mixed farming, are

(Concluded on page 20.)

The Cost of Living Here, in the United States and in Great Britain



This chart from the *New York Times Annalist* shows that the prices of commodities have increased much faster in the United States and Canada than in Great Britain, and that the prices in Canada are increasing even faster than those in the United States. It will also be noted that since the beginning of the present year food prices in the United States have declined faster than in Canada. According to the *Annalist*, food prices in the United States are now 139.4, as compared with 143.2, which was the average in 1912. These declines occurred before the new United States tariff came into effect.