

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1921

### COST OF LIVING OUTPACED WAGES

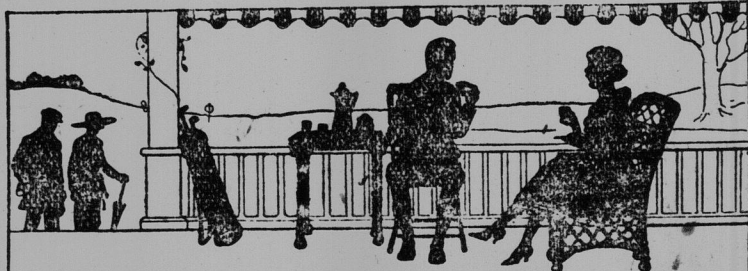
Lot of Wage Earners Witnessed Little Material Improvement, Said Official—Industrial Problems.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Industrial relations formed the theme of last night's discussion at the Canadian Conference on Public Welfare at the Windsor Hotel, when papers on the cost of living and wages, on industrial councils, and on the incentive of labor were read. The fact that considerable success had attended the formation of Whitney Councils in England and of Harvesters Councils in the United States and a representative of the Department of Labor while the president of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, J. A. P. Hayden, was emphatic in declaring that Canada had failed in her duty to enact legislation in accordance with the labor clauses of the Peace Treaty; also that trade unionism must always seek to remove as the incentive; to labor the fear of the unemployment.

The session, which was well attended, was presided over by Senator Lorne C. Webster, who did not make any comments on the addresses. In introducing the chairman, Mr. Falk expressed regret that there was not present more of the "captains of industry," as he said unless these problems were faced by employers, they would encounter them in other ways.

In a paper on "The Cost of Living and Wages," Mr. C. W. Bolton, chief statistician of the Department of Labor at Ottawa explained by aid of wall charts, rises in cost of commodities, starting from 1910. Early in 1919 food and fuel had eased off a little for a time, but rent and clothing had again risen steeply and the upward movement continued until the middle of 1920, when food was 130 per cent. above 1913 prices, fuel 86 per cent. rent 32 per cent. and clothing 160 per cent. all items averaging 100 per cent. higher than in 1913. Food then began to fall somewhat steeply and



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clothing followed. Early in 1920 fuel began to fall and wood and coal were also down. Rentals continued to rise, but by July last food was only 90 per cent. above 1913 levels, fuel 97 per cent. clothing 73 per cent. rent 44 per cent. and all items 62 per cent.

Rise in Wages.

Dealing with rise in wages, Mr. Bolton showed that by 1920 the average increase in hourly rates of wages for seven building trades over 1913 rates was 66 per cent. in five metal trades 109 per

cent. in two printing trades 84 per cent. for street railway motormen and conductors 94 per cent; the average increase for 21 classes being 90 per cent. Weekly rates rose slightly less owing to some reductions in hours. Statistics indicated that increases in wages for unskilled and semi-skilled.

"Answering the query: Have wages risen and fallen in accordance with changes in the cost of living? Mr. Bolton quoted an American review, which he practically acquiesced in. This was to the fact that 'statistics seem to indicate that the lot of the wage earners witnessed little material improvement regarding the relation between the cost of living and wages.' It is patent that despite the tremendous increases in wages during the last six years, only few classes of wage-earners have succeeded in keeping pace with the increased cost of living."

Industrial Councils.

Mr. T. A. Stevenson, of the Department of Labor, Ottawa, then read a paper on Industrial Relations, in which he explained and reviewed the formation of what are known as the Whitney Council in England and the Harvesters Council in the United States, for the joint management of industries as far as the welfare of employes is concerned. Under the Whitney plan he said three and a half million workers had been working satisfactorily. But the mining, transportation and dockers interests had not gone in under that plan, and there had been more unrest and strikes in those industries than any other of late. That plan had arisen out of an inquiry by a Royal Commission into the best way to allay labor unrest. The Harvesters plan, called after the International Harvester Company, was a voluntary effort and its success was seen in the fact that there had been only one deadlock in a year and a half, which was settled by compromise. That plan had been adopted by other corporations, including the International Harvester Company of Hamilton, Ont.; Massey-Harris, of Toronto, the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Company, the Bell Telephone Company, the Gutta-Percha Company and others. The speaker also referred to the success of the Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment No. 1. He advocated these joint industrial councils on the ground that it was better for employers and employed to keep in con-

## Why It Costs You Too Much To Live

The trend of living costs, as the Baltimore Sun observes, "is the most important issue in the average household of America today." When, therefore, this trend is upward, especially in foodstuffs, as during the past few weeks, father and mother naturally wonder a bit anxiously if this upward trend indicates the end of price reductions in many lines and the beginning of a new era of increasing costs. If prosperity is waiting for prices to come down where people can buy, then the reverse movement has a meaning to every one—banker, merchant, or toiler—and if the toiler happens to be among the millions of unemployed, his interest in this subject is apt to be especially acute. Reasons for the recent advance, from profiteers to short crops, come from all sides. The 70-per cent. increase in the price of cotton, thus giving Southern farmers more money to spend, is also advanced as a reason by Wallace's Farmer (Des Moines). "Labor costs, coal costs, high interest rates, and high freight rates"—each has contributed to the rise in food costs, maintains the Memphis Commercial Appeal, which further declares that "war profiteers are seizing upon a natural demand to advance prices."

A careful examination of the editorial pages of newspapers in all parts of the United States has been made by The Literary Digest, with a view toward seeking the causes of high living costs, the tendencies for a rise or drop in them, and the remedies suggested for the relief of the public.

In the leading article of The Literary Digest this week, October 8th, the result of this examination is presented, and it makes enlightening reading, indeed.

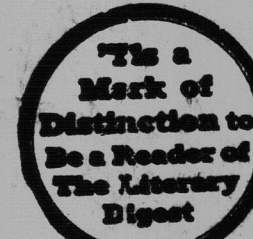
Other articles that are particularly timely and of undoubted interest to the general public in this number of The Digest are:

The Tax Bill as Bitter Pill  
The League's Court Started  
Still Republican Weather  
What Soviet Russia Thinks of "Capitalist" Relief  
Britain's "Colonial Revolution"  
Russia Faced by a Baltic Union  
British View of Irish Reluctance  
Are Our Wives Healthy and Happy?  
New Wrinkles in Electric Signs  
Uncle Sam's Success With Reindeer

Charlie Chaplin's Art Dissected  
Colleges for Silk Shirts  
Our Lawless Age  
"A House of Happiness" for the Great White Way  
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## The Literary Digest

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY (Publishers of the Famous NEW Standard Dictionary, NEW YORK)



### When the frost is on the Pumpkin-

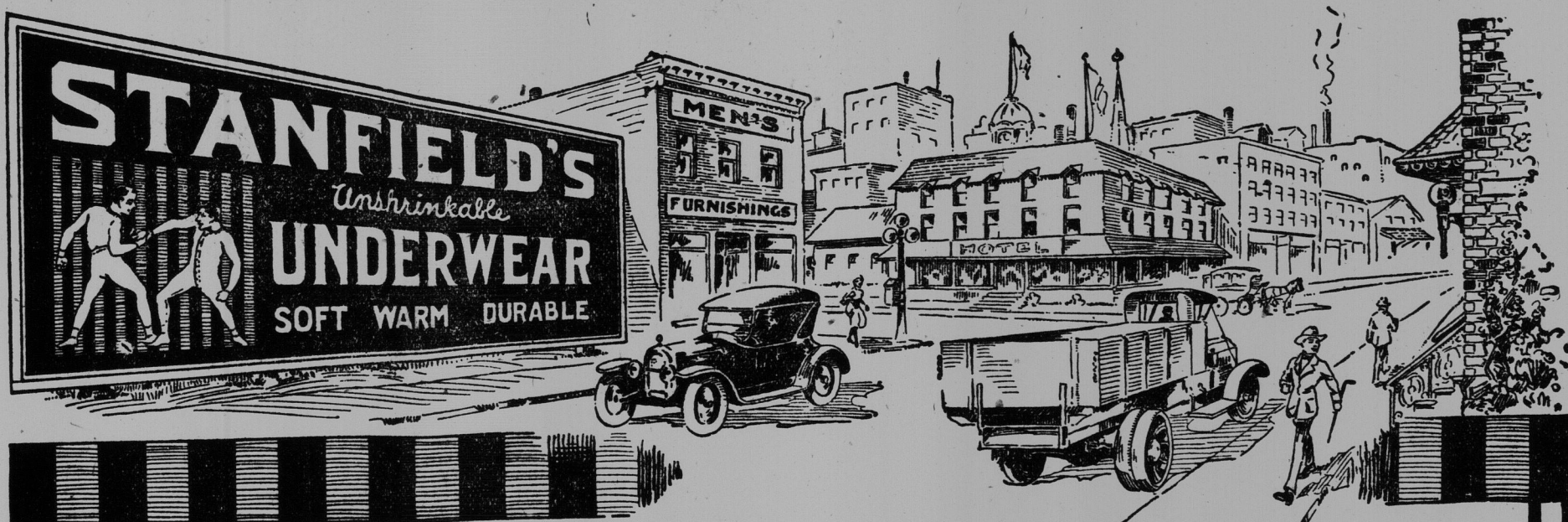
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