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Salaries of Outside Inland Revenue.

The average increase in the cost of living in any given period has a very intimate relationship to the schedules of salaries ruling during the same period. In a recent number of *The Civilian*, in discussing this feature, it was pointed out that the Labour Department had given out the statement that the cost of living, as regards the actual necessities of life had increased in Canada, 60% since 1900, a period of 13 years. It must be borne in mind, in trying to learn why the shoe pinches, that the Labour Department of Canada did not have a strict record year by year, prior to 1900, such as it now keeps. Therefore in order to get a broad basis on which to record the fluctuations in prices, the department struck an average of the ten years from 1890 to 1900. This average became the basis of the index number.

In the United States the Bureau of Labour is able to give from its records, the exact prices since 1890 and the increases for the last 23 years. A statement from the Bureau of Labour at Washington is offered in evidence.

How Living Increased.

Washington, Sept. 20.—The Bureau of Labour has just issued a report illustrating in a striking and forcible manner the extraordinary increase in living expenses for the period of twenty-three years, 1890 to 1913. It covers fifteen articles that represent approximately two-thirds of the expenditure for food by the average workingman's family, and reports of retail prices are included from thirty-nine industrial cities, in which live one-fifth of the population of the United States. The increase

in several instances, as will be observed, is more than 100 per cent. The following table shows the percentage of increase, and will, no doubt, be read with very much interest:

Articles.	1890.	1913.	April,
Sirloin steak	99.3	172.7	
Round steak	97.6	199.1	
Rib roast	98.7	173.4	
Pork chops	96.5	218.0	
Bacon, smoked	96.5	222.9	
Ham, smoked	98.3	178.1	
Lard, pure	98.5	166.8	
Hens	102.8	179.7	
Flour, wheat	110.2	127.2	
Cornmeal	101.3	155.1	
Eggs, strictly fresh	100.3	126.4	
Butter, creamery	99.2	161.3	
Potatoes, Irish	109.0	119.2	
	1,308.2	2,199.9	
Average—	100.6	169.2	
Average increase in 23 years,	69%		

In so far as the above items are considered, the cost of keeping alive has increased 69% in the United States in 23 years. It has been admitted by the Canadian Labour Department that the cost of living in Canada has increased at a greater rate than that of any other country in the world which keeps a record. If this is so the increase is waxing well up to the 100% increase, because of one other very important consideration.

This consideration is the very important one that the standard of living has greatly risen in the last 20 years. A standard of extravagance it may be, but who can get away from it? Before time a man could live in a more or less undesirable locality, under conditions that to-day