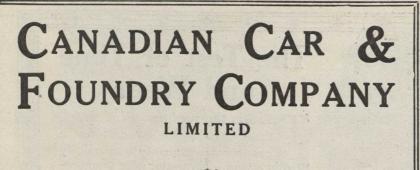
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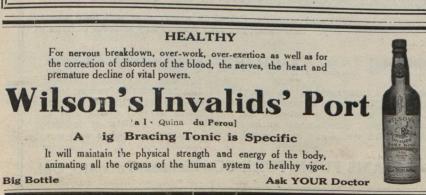
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ing to live up to the duties for which they are appointed. If they do and they are properly supported by the Government, we look for almost as much benefit from the permanent tariff commission as the country has received from the railway commission.

## COST OF LIVING IN BRITAIN

T was only four years ago that the British Government completed an investigation into the cost of living, and according to an announcement made by Prime Minister Asquith in the House of Commons, it is now about to undertake a similar investi-gation by the Board of Trade. The world-wide increase in the price of commodities used in the home has commodities used in the home has affected England materially, and the Government in promising to look into the matter is acting in compliance with a natural desire on the part of the people to know the reason why. The Co-operative Wholesale Society of Manchester has compiled figures which throw some light on the sub-ject as far as showing the extent of the increases and decreases. All the prices given by the society are whole-

prices given by the society are whole-sale, and to these must be added 15 or 20 per cent. to realize the cost of the commodities mentioned to the consumer who buys at retail. Here is a table which gives an idea of the changes in wholesale prices:

	1898.	1906.	1908.	1910.
	Per lb.	Per lb.	Per lb. 1	Per lb.
Goods.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bacon and				
ham .	4.96	6.64	6.15	8.19
Butter .	11.35	12.82	13.08	12.87
Cheese .	5.25	6.55	6.68	. 6.56
Flour	1.39	1.09	1.29	1.23
Lard	3.24	4.89	4.99	6.83
Meal	1.23	1.18	1.33	1.16
Sugar .	1.49	1.83	1.86	2.03
Tea	16.17	15.42	15.65	15.45

Tea ... 16.17 15.42 15.65 15.45 Other figures compiled show that in an average weekly grocery order, in-cluding bacon, butter, cheese, flour, lard, meal, sugar and tea, the in-crease in cost from 1898 was 5.37 per cent. in 1906, 9.96 per cent. in 1908, and 13.36 per cent. in 1910. Meat has risen also—the increase being 2 per cent. between 1905 and 1907—but the price of bread is a little lower now than it was a year ago. In the last ten years the price of clothing has in-creased from 5 to 7½ per cent., while coal has gone up since 1908 about three shillings three and one-half pence per ton. pence per ton. As for wages there has been an up-

ward tendency in the last year, and the agitation for further increases is the agitation for further increases is now a serious matter throughout the United Kingdom. This upward ten-dency followed a period of low wages, the movement having been downward from 1908 through part of 1909, and at the end of 1911 the general level of wages was higher than in any year since 1893 wages was higher than in any year since 1893. France, too, is troubled over the up-

France, too, is troubled over the up-ward tendency in prices. The ques-tion has become so acute that the Government has formulated proposals to enable municipalities to encourage the operation of co-operative shops for the sale of meats and bread. The plan contemplates permitting muni-cipalities to lend money to establish these shops and authorizing munici-palities to establish such shops, which will be conducted by private parties who will receive necessary funds from all the municipalities. all the municipalities.

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