



NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE MAGNATES IN SESSION AT THE WALDORF HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY, DECEMBER 10th.

Seated, Left to Right: Barney Dreyfus, of Pittsburg; Charles H. Ebbetts, of Brooklyn; Governor Tener; Mrs. S. B. Britton; Augustus Herrmann, of Cincinnati; Steven W. McKeever, of Brooklyn; L. C. Ruch, of Philadelphia; Ackerley Lloyd, of Philadelphia; Standing, Left to Right: E. J. McKeever, of Brooklyn; J. C. Toole, of Chicago; James Gaffney, of Boston; S. W. Britton, of St. Louis; W. F. Baker, of Philadelphia; John B. Foster, of New York; Larry Stephens of Cincinnati; and Harry Hempstead, of New York.

Photograph by Paul Thompson.

The Cost of Living

How Under-Production of Foodstuffs Has Operated to Raise Prices—Second Article on the Subject

THE cost of living has been a problem since ever Adam and Eve got the sentence: "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." Only the child, whether grown up or juvenile, believes in cornucopias and eldorados; the average man understands that what he gets out of life means hard work and plenty of it. That was the price paid by our forefathers in Canada when wheat was sixty cents a bushel, dressed hogs three cents a pound, clothes were homespun on the premises, and nobody traveled on the railways. These people had the high cost of living along with low prices, because they had to work like sixty from dawn until dark 313 days in the year to wrestle from the bush farm the necessities of life, and all they could rake and scrape to sell had to be teamed at a high cost of labour over bad roads to market many miles away. They swapped butter and eggs for brown duck and sugar and raisins. Eggs were ten cents a dozen and butter 14 cents a pound. The brown duck and the sugar and the raisins were not much lower in price than they are now. Prices for all they had to produce were low. Many of the things they had to buy were low. But the cost of labour which is the ultimate cost to all of us, was very high. So the bush farmer had the high cost of living in his day along with low prices.

Suppose a bush farmer of fifty years ago could have read in his weekly paper the following price

list as quoted in a daily paper last week:

Cattle—Choice butchers, \$8 to \$9; good medium, \$6.50 to \$7.25; common, \$5 to \$5.50; fat cows, \$4.50 to \$6.25; common cows, \$3.50 to \$4. Calves—Good veal, \$8.75 to \$10; common, \$4.75 to \$5.10.

Stockers and feeders—Steers, 910 to 1,050 lbs., \$6 to \$6.75; good quality, 800 lbs., \$6 to \$6.25.

Sheep and lambs—Light ewes, \$5.50 to \$6; heavy, \$3 to \$3.50; bucks, \$3 to \$3.50; spring lambs, \$8.50 to \$8.90.

Hogs—\$8.65 to \$8.75, fed and watered; \$8.90 to \$9, off cars; \$8.30 to \$8.35, f.o.b.

He would have taken a conniption fit. Or if in a dream he should have picked up a copy of the "Canadian Farm," issue Dec. 5th, 1913, and read this:

	1913.	1912.
Export steers, medium ...	\$7.25—\$8.00	\$6.10—\$6.40
Export heifers, choice	6.75— 7.25	5.25— 5.75
Butcher, choice	7.75— 8.25	6.25— 6.35
Veals, choice, 200 lbs.....	9.50—10.00	8.50— 9.00
Hogs, choice, Toronto,		
f. & w.	8.50— 8.60	f. & w.— 8.20
Sheep, ewes	5.00— 5.65	4.00— 4.25
Lambs	7.50— 8.60	6.25— 6.65

He would have noticed that in one year the price of beef was to climb thirty per cent.; veal five to ten per cent.; hogs five to seven per cent.; sheep

twenty-five per cent.; and that a pound of beef, veal, mutton or pork in 1913 was to be just about three times what he was getting in 1863. And he would have said:

"Hedges! I wish I could be my own grandson."

The other day a hard-headed, clear-thinking farmer in a smoking car, gave a city man his gospel of the cost of living:

"There was a time," he said, "when you city people had us all where the hair was short. You—or your forefathers—picked over our choice loads of meat and vegetables and fruits, hauled many a mile to market, and if you bought it at all, you paid a skimpy, measly price. Sometimes the price was so low that we had to haul the truck home again. That's all changed now. We're not blaming you particularly. We rural producers were the majority; the urban consumers were the minority. The tables have turned. We're the minority now—and by jingo! on some things we just about rule the roost. Majorities may rule in elections. But when it comes to the cost of living, well, it isn't always the majority that rules."

"How did the removal of the American tariff on beef affect you people?" asked the city man.

"Tiptop! Why it so happened that in our part of the country feed was short owing to dry weather. We had lots of cattle to feed. We were up against the problem of how to hold our cattle for the high price without their eating their heads off. Along came Woodrow Wilson and let down the bars. Out went our cattle to Uncle Sam's markets at a top price just in the nick of time. Great!"

Of course this was a Grit farmer and some allowance must be made for his politics. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would agree with him. Speaking at the Fielding banquet in Montreal last week he said:

"Are we to be the spectators of want and hunger in this country? We should be recreant as Liberals and as citizens if we closed our eyes to this burden of the high cost of living."

THOSE COMBINES AGAIN.

The Toronto "Star" backs up Sir Wilfrid in a leader. It says:

"While Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposes to remove the duties on food, Mr. Borden, according to the 'Mail and Empire,' will give the suffering consumer an investigation. The pangs of hunger will be appeased by literary food."

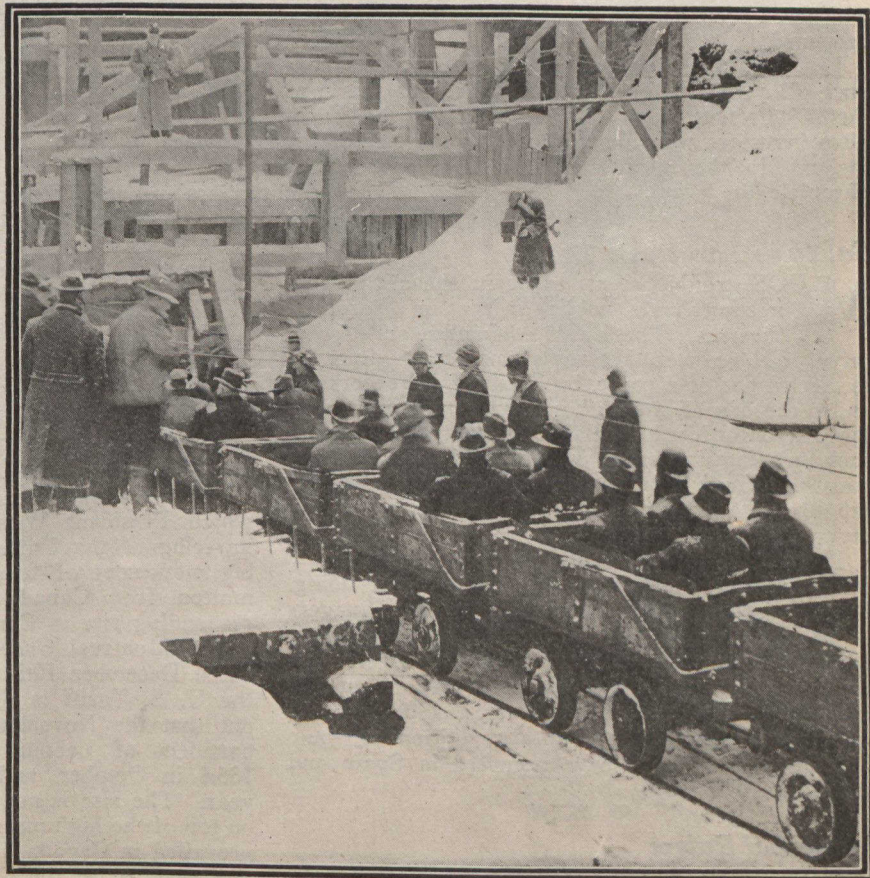
"To an investigation into the general question of food production and distribution there is no objection. But it ought not to be used as an excuse for delay. Let the food taxes be removed at once; that will be evidence of a sincere desire to attack all the other causes of dearth. Let there be a short and sharp inquiry into all kinds of combines which enhance the price of food, followed at once by energetic action. Let parcel post be established at once, so as to promote direct trading between farmer and consumer. Then, while these things are being done, there may be also a general inquiry into such questions as intensive cultivation and the improvement of the conditions of country life."

It now appears that the food-consuming population in Canadian cities and towns has increased so out of proportion to the rural food-producing population that in almost every line but wheat there is under-production. Though the total home market

(Concluded on page 22.)



On December 10, as Promised, Engineer Brown's Men Blasted the Last Few Feet Between the Two Headings and Completed the C.N.R. Tunnel Through Mount Royal. This Picture Shows the Final and the First Men Through.



The First Train Through the 3¼-mile Tunnel Started from the West Portal, Consisted of Twenty Dump Cars, and Carried Nearly a Hundred Prominent Railway Officials and Well-known Montreal Citizens.