

tions within the next few years, the British army would most likely prove our best customer.

A Business, not Political, Visit

LORD STRATHCONA, who arrived in Canada a few weeks ago, is an ever-welcome visitor. To his present visit no political significance is to be attached, despite certain reports that the High Commissioner would take a part in settling the North-West school difficulty. As he points



LORD STRATHCONA

out himself, it is his business to represent Canada as a whole, and that can best be done by keeping aloof from party interests. Rather, his visit is for the purpose of keeping in touch with the country which he represents, and to do that successfully at least a biennial visit is necessary.

Speaking about the prospects for further immigration to Canada, Lord Strathcona says that the business depression in England is increasingly attracting the attention of a desirable class of people to this country. Yet, notwithstanding, "I cannot help remarking that we have encountered much difficulty in making the people of Great Britain understand the significance of a country such as this; even with all that we

have done to bring it to their attention, the people as a whole have very little idea of its advantages. But that is a condition of things that may be overcome in time."

The Cost of Living

IT assuredly costs more to live than it did ten or fifteen years ago. There are many qualifications to be made to such a statement, but after they have all been made, the statement still stands. It is true that many things are to be had for less money to-day than ten years ago, and in some directions there is a tendency toward still further cheapening; but on the other hand, a very great many of the ordinary living expenses have enormously increased, while the cost of production is mounting up year by year. In nearly all our cities and towns the one matter of house rent has become a bugbear to the average family, having in many places increased from forty to fifty per cent. in five years. Commodities have shown a corresponding increase; sugar and flour are the latest advances, but farm produce in general, meat, canned goods, and numberless sundries have made varying rises. Increased cost of production, also, has brought up the price of many articles of clothing and household use, and there are threatened advances of others.

This being so—and there is no denying it—it would be interesting to know to what extent the advanced cost of living is offset by the advanced earnings which form a part of the reason for increased cost of production. Investigations by the United States Bureau of Labor show that in that country the cost of living is from fifteen to sixteen per cent. greater than it was ten years ago, but on the other hand that the average wage is something more than sixteen per cent. better than it was then, with shorter hours of labor. This is about equal compensation, and it must also be borne in mind that the increases in living expenses have included in many cases a great improvement in the standard of living. Sufficient data are not available for a similar comparison in our own country, but it is quite certain that the general wages in Canada have not increased anything like