

HOW THE COST OF LIVING IS INCREASING IN CANADA

Statistics Published By Department of Labor Indicate Exact Advance; for Nearly a Decade and a Half Cost Has Gone Upward Steadily; Some Causes That Have Influenced Increased Cost.

The heavy rise in the cost of living which has been so noticeable a feature of the past few years, the influence of which on the home and the pocket of the individual has been so keenly felt, has been contributed to by a number of causes which have been steadily increasing the cost of living. The report of the department of labor, published in the form of a circular, shows that the cost of living has increased steadily for nearly a decade and a half. The report points out that while the cost of living has increased steadily, the cost of some commodities has increased more rapidly than others. The report also points out that the cost of living has increased more rapidly in some parts of the country than in others.

The report continues: "The effect of the advance like that of last year, especially as coming on the top of nearly a decade and a half of mounting prices, and with the prospect of continuance, is necessarily far-reaching. The rise in the cost of living has struck at the standard of comfort, often with serious results to many whose incomes have not been similarly advanced; while business in many instances notwithstanding a widespread prosperity, has been unsettled, if not embarrassed, by the unstable condition of values."

Wants Higher Wages.
The Canada movement for higher wages has been more active than in any year since 1907 or 1908, these being the two previous periods in which attempts to the labor price conditions prevailing since the opening of the century were more extensively made. At the same time public meetings have been held for the discussion of the question of the increasing cost of living, resolutions have been passed by various public bodies, investigations have been made by various boards of trade, etc. (reforms in distribution being the demands of the labor movement) and widespread complaints have been received from public institutions unable to cope with the increasing expenditures entailed by the higher prices.

A typical instance is given of the manner in which the increase in prices has affected the cost of living. The workingman's family of five in all is taken, the income being estimated at \$100 per year, or \$15 per week. Calculating then from the current retail prices of twenty-eight articles which enter prominently into the cost of living, the following weekly expenditure by the family is obtained:

What It Costs	1910	1911	1912
Food	\$6.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
Lighting	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Rent	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.00
Total	\$11.50	\$12.50	\$12.50

This table is based on retail prices obtained from about fifty different sources in the Dominion having a population of 10,000 or over. Out of a weekly income of \$15.37, the sum of \$11.50 would have to be spent on an average last year (according to the department estimate of necessities) on rent, fuel and food. No allowance

is made in the table for clothing, medical attendance, insurance, holidays, or entertainments. For these there is left about \$3.87 to supply the needs of five individuals.

The course of wholesale prices during the year (which is, of course, reflected in retail prices) falls into three periods: (1) the first six months in which there was a steady and sometimes rapid advance; (2) the months of July, August and September, during which the general level fell to a point approximately the same as at the beginning of the year; and (3) the final quarter during which prices again rapidly advanced, regained the loss of the three previous months and ended at the highest point of the year. The index number which in January stood at 100, in June had reached 125.5; by September it had fallen to 123.7, and by December it had mounted to 125.8. For the year as a whole the number was 124.4, compared with 117.4 in 1911, and 115.4 in 1910.

And what was the cause? The department report cites the following as contributing factors:

The comparative world crop failure of 1911 which raised the price of farm and food products.

The exceptionally severe winter of 1911-12 which intensified the effect of the shortage in crops, and

The industrial and trade expansion which set in at the year advanced.

The possible influence on prices of the remarkable increase in the world's production of gold forms the subject of a special appendix to the report. The question of the relationship between the increased production of gold and the rise in prices, the appendix points out, has led to a very active discussion among economists.

"Especially noteworthy," it is added, "has been the interest in the question during the past year, when, after a series of increases in annual outputs, the production of gold has begun to advance in the year's production, the value of gold having risen to a new high mark, and again established a new high mark on the question of gold production and prices, the report cites the conclusion of Mr. H. Knibbs, Australian statistician. "It may be said that, Mr. Knibbs writes, 'in the present state of knowledge, it would seem probable to determine with any certainty to what extent the gold supply directly influences price levels, but there is evidently ground for the prevalent opinion that the two are closely allied. It would seem, however, that any direct influence which the gold supply may have on prices is a many periods less perceptible than the effects of war and militarism, industrial activity and depression, seasonal and climatic influences, changes in transportation facilities and methods of production consequent on scientific discovery and invention, the extension and use of credit instruments, alternating crises in trade and financial speculation, and the industrial and commercial development and other contemporary movements."

Medicine Hat Municipality May Go In For House Building.
Medicine Hat, Alta., April 21.—Early this year it was anticipated by the municipal authorities that there would be a great and growing demand for housing accommodations in Medicine Hat this year, owing to the great influx of population to this point, which is due to the rapid industrial expansion of this city, which latterly continues. Therefore the city council sought authority of the legislature to erect housing for the needy, and to the extent of \$100,000 per year.

Senator Works Objects To Crime "Stories"

Washington, April 21.—Senator Works has made a vigorous attack on present day journalism and the newspapers of the United States in a speech in support of the bill to make it unlawful for the District of Columbia newspapers to publish details of crimes, accidents and tragedies. The senator introduced a similar bill in the last session but it was not adopted.

"Whether the people want this kind of news or not, is one of the questions to be considered, looking at journalism from a higher standpoint, and making it more of a business, and less of a newspaper," he said. "The newspapers of the United States are in a state of decay, and it is the duty of the government to see that they are not allowed to continue in this state."

TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.
Bids were received yesterday for various supplies for the fire department as follows:

Summer uniforms (35 suits in all)—Macdonald Bros., \$12.25 per suit.

Fire hose—3000 feet to The Canadian Rubber Co., of "Squelcher" brand, at \$1.05 per foot; 1,000 feet of "Premier" brand, to Gutta-Percha Co., at \$1.00 per ft.; 500 feet of "Imperial" brand, to Dunlop Fire & Rubber Goods Co., at \$1.05 per ft.

Rubber boots (85 pairs in all)—30 pairs of Maltese Cross rubber boots, at \$2.75 per pair; 25 pairs of "Jumbo" brand rubber boots, at \$3.14 per pair, and 30 rubber coats, of sizes numbers 7, 8, and 9, at prices of \$5.44, \$5.58, \$5.27 each, respectively, from Gutta-Percha Rubber Co.

Memorial Window in Knox Church.
The large stained window in the new Knox church is to be a memorial of the former minister of the church, the Rev. J. C. Herdman, D.D. Dr. Herdman was the minister of this church for about seventeen years, from 1883 to 1902. He is remembered by those who lived in Calgary during that period with admiration and affection, and it is intended to carry on the memory of his useful life by a very handsome window. A committee composed of Rev. J. A. Clark, Messrs. J. C. McNeill, Hugh Nelson, James Short, J. C. Linton, and Justice Stuebe, have the matter in hand. Already a number of old-timers have made contributions to this object. Any member of the committee would be glad to receive voluntary offerings. It is hoped to secure sufficient contributions for the purpose from those who were friends of Dr. Herdman in the city and congregation.

THE JAPANESE IN WARLIKE MOOD

Tokio, April 21.—The situation brought about by the California alien land-holding bill is becoming increasingly serious. A mass meeting today, composed for the most part of irascible people, demanded the most extreme measures of retaliation by Japan. During the gathering, the singing of war songs aroused the feelings of many of the participants. The Japanese government's attitude is showing a friendly spirit, but the Japanese people are in a warlike mood.

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RISQUE DANCES IN PORTLAND ARE BARRED.

Even at Private Parties Popular Steps and Movements Are Forbidden.

Portland, April 21.—Society bunnies, turkey trots, tangoes and grizzly dances must be danced in Portland, even though quietly indulged in by the younger social set in private homes. This is the edict of Police Chief Glover, who caused the arrest of F. A. Watkins, 24 years old, and Miss Dorothy Anderson, 18 years old, at a private dance in a private residence last night, when Patrolman Russell reported that the forbidden Terpsichorean novelties were being given.

The case was compromised today, when the judge continued the charges against the young couple, with the understanding that they would turkey trot no more.

Ragging and other Terpsichorean diversions at public dances were forbidden by statute some time ago, but this is the first move against the modifications of the light fantastic in private affairs.

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The incident in Louisiana during Harrison's administration established the inability of the Federal Government to exercise any control over a state in such questions and about all Secretary Bryan can do at this stage is to assure his questioners that the California legislation, as officials hope to see it finally framed, will not affect their subjects injuriously.

Bluff Says Senator.
Sacramento, April 21.—News of the growing disquiet in Tokyo and the general protest from Japan against the enactment by the California Legislature of an anti-alien land law that would affect the subjects of that nation met with varying comment here today.

Just the usual bluff, was the comment of Senator John B. Sanford, Democrat, when he read the despatches. "I'm in favor of telling Japan to mind her own business and let California mind hers."

Surprise was expressed over the fact that no word has come from Washington showing the views of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, and it is believed that the bill will be held up in the senate until next week in the hope of receiving some official communication that will point to a course of action.

Uninvited Guests of U.S.
Washington, April 21.—Secretary of War Garrison has put it squarely up to Secretary of State Bryan to decide what shall be done with the 800 and more Mexican Federal soldiers and troops along the Mexican border. The former federal and Indian came over to the United States at various times recently following defeat in battles between federal and rebel troops. They surrendered to be United States troops and were at once disarmed and held in a large number of American soldiers. The army wants to get rid of the department before it turns them loose.

Land in Japan.
The Foreign Land Ownership Bill, passed by the Japanese Diet in March, 1910, prohibits foreigners, except under certain restrictions, from owning land in Japan and they may not own land in all in Hokkaido, Honshu, and the fortified zones. This law has never yet been officially promulgated.

The Japanese Government considers the present anti-Japanese movement in California as most dangerous and is faced with the prospect of placing itself in a most unwelcome position owing to the unwillingness of the Federal Government at Washington to intervene and the impossibility of introducing counter measures here.

In the event of the passage of the California Alien Land Holding Bill through both houses of the legislature, Japan will have no Imperial ordinance enforcing the Japanese foreign ownership bill of 1910, and will apply to the Federal Government at Washington for permission for the Japanese to become naturalized citizens of the United States.

Other Countries Interested.
Washington, April 21.—Italy's enquiry as to the probable effect of the pending alien land laws in California on Italians and their interests in that state is expected to be quickly followed by similar enquiries from other governments who have subjects engaged in farming and fishing and enterprises which might be affected by such legislation. Intimations already have been received that other governments are interested.

Diplomats here point out that the

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