

LIVING CHEAPER IN TORONTO THAN U.S.

Particularly, Has High Prevailing Food Prices.

RENTS ARE LOWER HERE

Toronto Family Unable to Obtain Satisfactory Quarters in American City.

Windsor, Nov. 4.—For the benefit of the families now residing in Toronto who are working under the illusion that it is cheaper to live in Detroit, a comparison of prices was taken of Detroit and Windsor. The result showed that to live in Detroit one must have the income of Henry Ford, John D., or some of the other great financiers.

Food, in both quantity and quality, which graced Detroit dinner tables half a dozen years ago, would assume the proportions of a banquet on those same tables today, if the comparison can be taken as any indication.

Prices in Detroit have been advancing steadily month after month, until at their present levels—prices still going up—they show an average increase of nearly 45 per cent. over prices prevailing less than a year ago. Many families have reached figures which make them almost prohibitive in any other city than Detroit.

Not so many years ago the government at Washington putter about investigating the cause of high food prices, which at that time were considered beyond all reason, but without returning any indictments or bursting quips which were thought to have a spangle-hold on the public.

Windsor, in conjunction with other cities, has protested to the Canadian government against the high cost of living, because Windsorites claim that the labor bulletins issued by the Dominion department figures for Windsor show that food is higher in Ontario than any other part of Canada. According to their claim, it costs the average workingman \$15.01 a week for necessities of life for himself and family today, and that nothing is included for clothing, "doctor" bills, amusements, church contributions.

A Married Man's Experience. A few days ago a young married man, who moved to Detroit from Toronto, called on the writer, stating that living conditions, rental and his inability to secure a flat because he had one small child, would force him to return to his home in Toronto.

"I had a nice flat in Toronto," he said, "and it only cost me \$24.50 a month. Here in Detroit after I looked and hunted for over six weeks, I found that one cannot secure anything in a respectable neighborhood for less than \$35. However, when I inquired, I learned I had a little baby, he refused to rent the flat, saying it was against the rules."

"As to the food prices," he concluded, "I found that it required nearly \$1.25 a day for each one of us grown persons. This did not include any extra whatever. We merely had the average workingman's meal. I shall be forced to give up a good position."

The Obstacles. The Commerce department appointed a committee to investigate the high rents, which had driven thousands of people away from the city, and to report on the matter to the committee were as follows:

That rents in general in Detroit are too high.

That the tenants in the majority of cases are dissatisfied and are looking for other quarters.

That skilled workmen and laborers with families on account of the shortage of homes and high rents are leaving Detroit to secure employment in other cities where homes are at reasonable rental can be secured.

That skilled workmen and laborers with families are sending their families to nearby cities and villages, and leaving Detroit on account of not being able to live with their families.

That landlords in numerous cases have increased the rents on account of a shortage of homes.

That a remedy must be provided if the employers of skilled and common laborers hope to obtain and keep the most competent help.

Windsor's position. Windsor, because of its close proximity to Detroit, follows the American metropolis' ways and habits as closely as a city of its size can safely do. It keeps up with the high rentals and high cost of living. Rents are just as high here as across the border; food, in some instances, varies in prices, but on the whole, Windsor in itself is a miniature Detroit.

There are hundreds of Canadians who cross the river to Detroit, where they are employed in the various manufacturing plants. And there are also several hundred Detroiters who cross over into Windsor, where they are employed. Only recently, however, agitation has been started to prevent Americans being employed in Windsor where home talent can be used, an instance being the hiring of Americans on one of the race tracks, the local men believing they were being discriminated against.

Steaks are retelling in Detroit for a nickel less than here, while pork and veal run about even. Eggs, two weeks

ago, were quoted at 40 cents a dozen; today we find the Windsor grocer's tag reading 50 cents, while our American grocer says 45 cents for No. 1 eggs. General provisions—potatoes and tomatoes—are cheaper in Detroit, where they are quoted at 42 and 40 cents, respectively, while here it's 50-50.

A Comparative Table. The comparative table follows:—Retail Prices—

Staples—	Detroit, Windsor.
Steak, lb.	23-25
Porterhouse, lb.	23-30
Round, lb.	20-22
Roasts—	
Sirloin, lb.	23-30
Rib, lb.	24-27
Chuck, lb.	18-20
Boiling beef, lb.	10-21
Spring Lamb—	
Leg, lb.	25
Loin, lb.	28
First quarter, lb.	21 1/2
Breast, lb.	11-15
Stew, lb.	14
Pork—	
Sausage, lb.	18
Hams (smoked), lb.	33-40
Hams (pickled), lb.	27-31
Slice bacon, lb.	32-37
Pot. (reg), lb.	22-25
Chops, lb. (choice)	30-35
Chops, lb. (straight)	23-27
Tenderloin, lb.	40
Veal—	
Filet, lb.	24-30
Loin, lb.	29
Cutlet, lb.	32-35
Poultry—	
Hen, lb.	26-28
Broiler, lb.	29-33
Spring, lb.	30
Eggs—	
No. 1, doz.	45
No. 2, doz.	40
General Provisions—	
Potatoes, peck	42
Tomatoes, basket	40
Flour, 25 lbs.	1.45
Sugar, lb.	11
Bread, small loaf	8
Milk, quart	12
Fuel—	
Coal, hard, ton (Refuse)	9-9.75
Coal, soft (ditto)	6.50-7.50
Gas, 100 feet (measured)	about 80c

Rents—Depends on location and neighborhood.

In Windsor from \$22.50 and up; in Detroit estimate impossible.

Cheaper in Toronto.

Of course the cost of living has increased in Ontario, but if a comparison of rents, ability to rent what you want and the price of the food is taken into consideration, it will be found that it is much cheaper to live in Ontario, Ont., than it is in Detroit or Windsor. Wages naturally must be higher in Detroit to keep up with the high cost of living.

The question then arises: "How can they do it in Windsor, where wages aren't as high as in Detroit?" And the answer is that the big part of the cost of living in Windsor is employed in Detroit, or are skilled mechanics and can earn the same wages here as across the river. Many people from Toronto, reading and hearing of the high wages paid in Detroit, never consider the conditions of life. They allow themselves to be deceived by the high wages. They come to Detroit and find that the cost of living is so high that they cannot succeed in securing employment at anywhere from \$3.50 to \$5.00 a day. Laborers are paid \$3 to \$5.50, and the demand for supply.

The reason for the scarcity of men is that dependable men—not the fly-by-night workman who flits from town to town—realize that it is impossible to live in Detroit, because of their inability to secure a place they can call home. Thousands of families in Detroit merely exist.

Now Mr. and Mrs. Torontonian, who have been thinking of leaving and cease living. Think it over.

WOULD COMMANDER WHEAT

High Cost of Living Editor: Recently we had soup for dinner and not having any stale bread to use with it (at nine cents per loaf, who would have) we sent to the corner grocery for a small package of Christie's soda biscuits. It cost six cents and contained only fourteen biscuits, long past their best. No more soda biscuits for us at that rate, during war time.

"Bismillah! Kake" at ten cents, was not too expensive, for they are dainty and not a crumb is wasted, but when the price is raised to twelve cents, out of which the grocer gets two cents, viz. 20 per cent. profit, they are quite out of bounds. They also are marked out of our bill of fare.

A grocer buys bacon at 28 cents a pound and sells it at 35 cents, thus making a profit of 25 per cent. for merely slicing it, for as we all know, there is no wastage whatever, even the ragged edge is 35 cents a pound. And his conscience does not trouble him.

One baker says if he could sell direct to the people "it might save a cent a loaf." Another baker does sell direct to the people, but his price is nine cents just the same.

If the government would commandeer the wheat of the Dominion and assure reasonable prices for flour, then, with the present moderate price of wheat, the women of this city could and would give the high cost of living the scare of its life.

"One of the Women."

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Send in your letters giving your opinions on the high cost of living and any suggestions you have to make about reducing the cost. The World and The Sunday World want to hear from every reader on this momentous question. Have your letters written on one side of the paper only, not more than 200 words in length, and address them to the High Cost of Living Editor, Toronto, World.

HIGHER PRICES FOR FOOD ARE TO BE EXPECTED

Opinion Expressed That Top of the Rise Has Not Yet Been Reached.

PROFITS ARE SMALLER

Grocer Says Retailers Make Less Money Now Than When Prices Were Lower.

That consumers will pay even higher prices for foodstuffs than those now prevailing, is the prediction of William McKenzie, grocer, 1427 Yonge street, North Toronto, who, in a statement Saturday, declared his belief that the manufacturer and the wholesaler are responsible for the high cost of living rather than the farmer or the grocer.

He said that the abnormal conditions of business caused by the war created circumstances which, in the natural course of events, boosted the prices of food to some extent. But he added that he believed the prices were inflated for private gain.

Since wheat, flour, bread, potatoes and other necessities have advanced to an unprecedented height in cost, and the people have paid the additional prices with only an occasional protest, Mr. McKenzie expressed his belief that the cost would mount higher and higher. He was unable to say what goal would be attained or what action could be taken to afford relief to the consumer.

"Practically everything with a few very few exceptions, in the grocery line, have advanced to a figure heretofore unknown in the business," declared Mr. McKenzie. "Flour, butter, eggs, potatoes, all canned goods, are away out of sight."

Profit Gets Smaller. "The profit to the grocer who retails is getting smaller and smaller," he declared. "The wholesaler, however, is getting larger. The wholesaler is the one who is making the profit."

"The prices are certainly more inflated than they should be. It is natural, considering conditions, that the cost of living should be higher than in previous good times, but there should be only a reasonable advance."

"I don't think the farmer is at the bottom of these inflated prices," continued Mr. McKenzie. "I think either the manufacturer of the goods or the wholesaler is responsible. The grocer is merely the go-between, whose profit has shrunk until it is practically nothing."

"The profit in bread has been cut to a minimum. It is now selling for 12 cents for a large loaf, and considering that the grocer pays for the string, for the wrapping paper, which has doubled in price, and for the telephone call or the delivery of the parcel, the profit he makes in selling a loaf of bread is very, very small."

"Sugar is another item which has increased. It is now selling for ten cents a pound. In the past it sold for five and six cents a pound. The operating expenses of grocers have increased, too, and it is the grocer who has to meet them."

"Some action of some sort should be taken, but I don't think the government is inclined to move in the matter."

Strenuous objection is being made by consumers to the additional cost of bread, which recently advanced in price from 8 to 16 cents, and 18 and 20 cents for large and small loaves respectively. The increased cost became effective the other day and was general throughout Toronto. Following is a table which shows the increases in the price of wheat and flour since the war began:

2nd Pat. 1st Pat.	Wheat	Flour	Flour
Aug. 2, 1914.	Per Bushel.	Per Barrel.	Per Barrel.
Aug. 2, 1914.	\$0.98 1/2	\$5.30	\$5.80
Aug. 2, 1915.	1.17 1/2	6.10	6.60
Feb. 1, 1915.	1.49	7.20	7.70
May 1, 1915.	1.65	7.50	8.00
Aug. 1, 1915.	1.23 1/2	6.50	7.00
Nov. 1, 1915.	1.03 1/2	5.25	5.75
Feb. 1, 1916.	1.29 1/2	6.70	7.20
May 1, 1916.	1.15	6.00	6.50
Aug. 1, 1916.	1.25 1/2	6.40	6.90
Sept. 1, 1916.	1.57	8.10	8.60
Oct. 25, 1916.	1.91 1/2	9.20	9.70
Oct. 30, 1916.	1.95	9.20	10.00

That housewives should bake their own bread, in effect declaring a boycott, is the recommendation of "A Constant Reader," whose letter to the editor of The World follows:

"Just a few lines on the high cost of bread. I bought a bag of flour at \$2.00. I have, to date, used one-quarter

HIGH COST OF FOOD HARD TO OVERCOME

British Investigators Make Suggestions, But Offer No Certain Remedy.

PRODUCER IS BLAMED

Middleman and Contractor Held Less Responsible for Artificial Profits.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 5.—A special report to the trade and commerce department dealing with the investigation into the high cost of living in Great Britain says:

Last June the government appointed an influential committee of economic authorities to "investigate the principal causes which have led to the increase of prices of commodities of general consumption since the beginning of the war and to recommend such steps, if any, with a view of ameliorating the situation as appear practicable and expedient, having regard to the necessity of maintaining adequate supplies."

This committee has now issued an interim report, which, while dealing broadly with the whole question and generally surveying prices and the means so far used to control them, makes special recommendations for controlling the prices of three important commodities—meat, milk and bacon—because "it may be taken as common ground that any proposals to ameliorate the situation of general consumption would require to be discussed with regard to each article separately."

No Guaranteed Remedy. To those who anticipated (and to judge by the comments of the press their number is considerable) that the committee would be able to throw much new light on a subject which has been so exhaustively discussed during the past two years, or to find drastic and immediate remedies for the situation, the report is somewhat disappointing. The report is an interesting, exhaustive and well-reasoned document, but while the recommendations make a number of recommendations, the main impression produced is that the direct cause for the high prices "ruling" for practically every kind of commodity is the increase of production and of transportation resulting from the war, and that with the demand exceeding the available supply high prices are inevitable.

The Recommendations. The following are the recommendations:

(1) Further efforts should be made to hasten the construction of mercantile shipping, especially that required for the conveying of refrigerated meat. In case of dispute between the shippers and owners, the government should requisition and complete the ship.

(2) In view of the danger of renewed dock and railway congestion, immediate measures should be taken to provide sufficient men to attend to the necessary work.

(3) The restrictions imposed upon unnecessary imports should be retained.

(4) No animal in calf, lamb or pig shall be slaughtered and the offence made penal.

(5) Upon considering whether the withdrawal of the embargo on the importation of live cattle from Canada would relieve the situation there seems to be no considerable supply available, even if the scarcity of the shipping did not make the importation of live, as against dead meat uneconomical.

(6) The government should develop its policy of direct meat purchase by increasing sources of supply.

(7) On the disposing of meat which is purchased for civilian consumption, the government should impose conditions on retailers as well as upon wholesale suppliers.

(8) Supplies of meat from Brazil should be opened up by the establishment of refrigerating plants at convenient ports.

(9) Persons who are not engaged in severe manual labor should voluntarily abstain from the consumption of butchers' meat on one day of each week.

(10) The war office should again consider whether economy in the supply of meat to the army can be effected by improvement of methods of cooking and serving.

(11) If additional summer milk can be imported from Ireland it might be

More than 12,000 students are studying agriculture in the colleges of the United States. Twelve field parties will continue this year the government survey of the natural resources of Alaska.

A soft coal shortage in the United States is causing a situation which, unless relief comes soon, will mean a famine in that particular kind of fuel in Toronto. It has advanced to \$9.50 a ton, an unprecedented figure. It increased 41 overnight. Within the near future Bituminous coal is selling at a high price and anthracite is selling at \$8.50, a figure quoted in September, which has remained unchanged. There is no present indication that hard coal will increase in cost.

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In the Midst of Life—

we are in debt. No doubt about it! The man who, after paying his bills, buttons up his pockets and says that a just world can demand nothing further from him, is indulging in a very selfish outlook.

There are further claims to be settled—claims which rest upon every man, and fall upon each according to his ability to shoulder them. Claims which, compared with the trivial bills of a lifetime, are as a mountain to a molehill. No one can hope to settle them in full. But there is satisfaction in the thought that claims of this kind can, in a measure, be capitalized and provided for by means of life insurance.

Ask today—while you are insurable—for particulars of an Imperial Life policy to meet your own particular needs. Your doing so will place you under no obligation whatever.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE Assurance Company of Canada

HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO
Branches and Agents in all important centres

put on sale under government control in poor town districts.

An inquiry should be instituted as to the possibility of obtaining large quantities of dehydrated milk (milk powder) in pastoral districts to be subsequently reliquified for consumption.

(13) In view of scarcity of milkers and consequent reduction of dairy herds, the board of agriculture should attempt to induce women