YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS:

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1913.

THE COST OF LIVING.

That the defeat of the Laurier gov sponsible for the increasing cost of living and the "period of hard times" which Canada has had to face, is the impression obscurely conveyed in an editorial in the Times of Saturday evening. The Times is inclined to opse the Government's appointment o a departmental commission to enquire into the cost of living on the ground that the board of enquiry will make such an investigation into the high ost of living as it may be directed to

Before dealing with this insinuation a little consideration must be given to the record of both political parties matter of the cost of living; dief to the people, and what their present attitude is in regard to it. It s easy enough to say, as the Time doubtless will say, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not on trial and consequentpast attitude toward question his present advocacy of improving conditions by reducing the tariff on food stuffs. In considering Sir Wilfree food policy, however, on is first inclined to wonder if he is sincere, and secondly, if he is justified in the course he has taken. For fifteen years Sir Wilfrid Laurier

headed the Government of Canada, assuming office in 1896 and vacating it in 1911. Reference to statistics wil show that the cost of living during umed power. From 1897 to 1911, with find that Sir Wilfrid the leader, was at all conthe cost of living increase forty-two per problem of the high cost of living.

Sun says: "In the untoward conditions in Canada, despite the propitious tariff law in the United States, Laurier sees the opportunity of his party, and mightly sounds the slogan of revision downward. But it so happens that the States are also depressed, that production is restricted, and there are more idle men in the big cities than it is pleasant to think of, while the cost of living goes up instead of down. Conservatives in Canada have only to point to prices in the United States under the lower tariff to refute Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

as clearly ses the fallacy of the Laurier argument. After showing how ri-diculous it is for the leader of the Canadian opposition to connect the price of food in Canada with either the American or the Canadian tariff it says:

"Now he has added to his category of reasons the existence of combines. His revised charge is that the tariff fosters such combines, which have presumably sprung into existence since August. The truth of the matter is signified by the Liberals' prompt dropping, as a campaign document, of the British commission's report on the cost of living throughout the world—a petard with which they may themselves be hoist. A phenomenon so widespread is not explained by the simple formula of a local tariff."

shortly before 1895 and the first showed no disposition to move to re year after the Liberal Government as- in power, and, secondly, that even the sumed power. From 1897 to 1911, with the single exception of the year 1998, solution of the problem. His whole at cost of living increased more than titude is nothing more than that of the control of this increased since, and yet the benefit of his political party is condition which, history teaches, has ome to all new countries at son It was not until he that will not be remedied until so s hurled from power that the counthing is done to populate the farms try glimpsed one symptom of his great interest in the cause of the working man and the problems all working men leave the farms, where they are producers of food, and flock to the men must meet. If Sir Wilfrid remained untroubled in his position as head of the Government of Canada from 1897 to 1911 during which time he saw the cort of this ing increase forty-two per the saw to face t

rent., why now should he be so greatly concerned resarding the proportion of increase which has come upon us in two years?

Mr. R. H. Coats, B. A., F. S. S., editor of the Labor Gazette, and one of the members of the commission which will investigate the cost of living, has just published a report on wholesale prices in Canada for the year 1912 in which statistics appear which throw light on some of the remarkable statements made by the Liberal leader. Official statisticians have traced the course of prices in 272 articles of daily consumption in Canada from 1890 to 1912. Taking the average price as 190, we find that in 1890 the prices was 110, and had fallen almost to 92 in 1896, the year Sir Wilfrid came into power. From 1887 until 1911 it rose as follows: 1887, 92; 1898, 96; 1899 99; 1990, 108; 1901, 107; 1902, 109; 1903, 111; 1904, 112; 1905, 114; 1906, 121; 1907, 126; 1910, 125; 1911, 134.

It is thus seen that from 92, when the Liberal Government came into powers whose made into powers the control of the Liberal Government came into powers a fixed by the prices in the control of the Liberal Government came into powers. From 1887 until 1911 it rose as follows: 1897, 92; 1898, 96; 1899, 99; 1990, 108; 1901, 107; 1902, 109; 1903, 111; 1904, 112; 1905, 114; 1906, 121; 1907, 126; 1910, 134; until 1911 it the condition in the condition in Canada as will compare the condition in the condition in Canada for the price as 100, we find that in 1890 the prices whose minds are broad enough to regard the Government's action without party blas, its reasonableness is what makes it so objectionable to machine papers of the Times' class.

LORDS AND COMMONS. As far as the Government can de

Diary of Events

THE PASSING DAY

WINTER BEGINS TODAY.

Hail, King Winter, hall!
Also snow, sleet, rain, blizzards, storms, gales, tempests, bitter cold, and other assorted varieties of weather, in addition to hail, may be expected during the Winter which officially begins today. It is true that many sections of the North American continent have already been given some excellent imitations of Winter, but those were but samples, and nothing compared to what may be expected during the next few months.

This is the shortest day of the year, in the matter of time, and also the "shortest" financially for those who have followed the advice frequently set forth in these columns to do their Christmas shopping early. Today will be one minute shorter than yesterday, and one minute briefer than tomorrow. The Winter solstice, which marks the beginning of Winter in the northern hemisphere, is the Summer solstice south of the equator, and Rio and Buenos Ayres and Cape Town are now basking in sunshine or hoisting umbrellas as protection against Sum mer showers. But for us in the northern part of the world—whoo-eel—what we have coming to us will be, in the language of the street, "a plenty," according to both the scientific weather sharps and the astrologers.

plenty." according to both the science tifte weather sharps and the astrologors.

Walter H. Sampson, a New York astrologer, points out that "at the Vernal equinox, 1913, the planet Satirn, always held to be a malefic influence, was exactly setting at Dayton, Ohio, and that his position in the figure for this ingress at Omaha was Minter solstice, this planet will set at the East, and that when interpreted according to the rules laid down by the ancients the figure is somewhat threatening in resard to its promise for the Winter season in the eastern part of the continent." He considers that it "presages a severe and stormy Winter, much more so than for many years, with considerable attendant ill-health and suffering, since the general aspect of the heavens at this time is disorderly and afficted. "This prophet of evil concludes: "We should, according to the warnings of the older astrologers, look for increase of death rate, impaired public health, financial difficulties, many losses and failures, continued difficulties with foreign or neighboring powers, and a generally troubled and severe Winter." Scores of other prophets have indulged in predictions that the Winter of 1913-1914 will be exceptionally long and severe. Those who base their theories on the actions of wild beasts and birds are especially firm in the

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

LORD ALVERSTONE

Now we come to the reciprocity of the nor consideration of the same which now point to Sir Wilfrid cost of living and intimate that wight have secured lower foodstuff if we had adopted the reciprocity are smell, it will be speakers delivered in that campaign. It will be speakers the orators were careful to point out that reciprocity would give them cheaper foodstuff. It he brown of the strainment of the reciprocity of the produced by the point out that reciprocity on the speakers delivered in that campaign. It will be sever careful to point out that reciprocity would give them cheaper foodstuff. It he had do not oppress the point out that reciprocity would give them cheaper foodstuff. It has been critically that the trainment of the strainment of the strainm

IN LIGHTER VEIN

v of Mysteries

(Sydney Bulletin.)
Small Girl—"Muvver says will you call for the rent Friday instead of Thursday."

Candid Hostess (on seeing her nephew's flancee for the first time)—
"I never should have known you from your photograph. Reggie told me you were so pretty."
Reggie's flancee—"No, I'm not pretty, so I have to try and be nice, and it's such a bore, Have you ever tried?"—Punch.

It Was Well Named.

A rather illiterate man had to perform a certain part in the initiation of a candidate for admission to the lodge. He read the lines very laboriously, as well as incorrectly.

"What do you call that?" asked a member of another.

"I call it ritual murder," was the reply.

"Evidence.

"Walking in the park, mother."

"No one."

"No one."

"No one."

"In that case," continued the mother eleutiessly, "you will please be so kind as to explain why you have represented by the additional continuation of the park of th

(New York Tribune.)

"That's because," said Miss Barry more, calmly, "so many mean men are stupid while so few are blind."

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Boys' Skating Boots,	1.75	to	3.25
Ladies' Patent, Cloth Top, Button Boots,	3.00	to	5.00
Ladies' Fine Calf Button Double Soled Book	s, 3.00	to	6.00
Ladies' Evening Pumps,	2.00	to	4.50
Ladies' Boudoir or felt Slippers, .	50c	to	2.00
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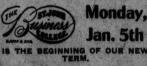
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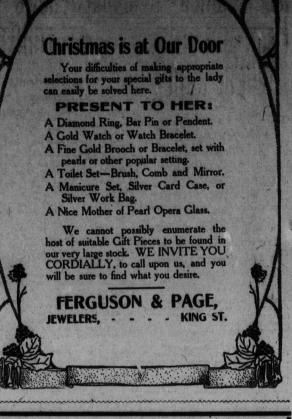
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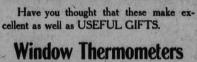
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