

than in the lower paid positions. Unless this movement is checked in the only way in which it can be checked, namely, by recognizing that the Government service needs as high a quality of talent and experience as private business, and that it can secure this only by paying approximately the market price for such talent and experience, unless, in fact, the Government takes the same attitude towards its clerical and particularly toward technical personnel that it has taken toward skilled and unskilled labor, there will be in the future in still greater degree than in the past a progressive deterioration in personnel, and the Government service will be reduced to a training school for private business.

The committee expects to have for its final report definite data concerning the amount of turnover in technical positions and the variation in salaries paid within and without the Government service, a variation which is the primary cause of the turnover.

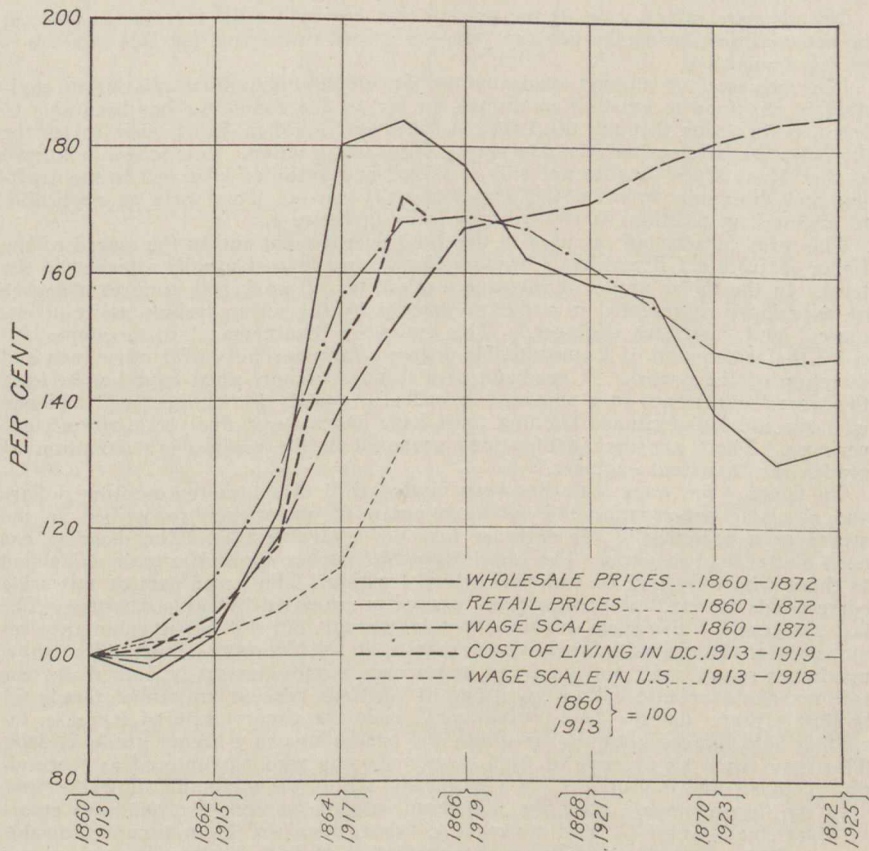


FIGURE 3.—Comparison of prices on wages 1861-1872 and 1913-1919.

A study of the change in prices and wages during and after the Civil War is of interest in connection with changes that have taken place from 1913 to 1919. The curves on figure 3, based on reports of the War Industries Board and Department of Labor, show these changes. During the Civil War retail prices rose to 164½ per cent of the prices in 1860 and wholesale prices to 182 per cent. From 1865 to 1872 all prices showed a gradual downward trend, and in 1872 the retail prices had fallen to 143 per cent and the wholesale to 126 per cent. From 1913 to 1919 the cost of living followed closely the trend of wholesale and retail prices from 1860