

sure that the average is much higher in Ottawa than elsewhere.

Take the big item of rents. A civil servant of my acquaintance has a house,—part of a solid “row,”—in a respectable part of Ottawa. He has parlor, dining-room, kitchen, shed; one large, one medium and one small bed-room, and bathroom. The halls and stairs are narrow, and, being in a solid block, there are no side windows in the house, all being at the front or back.

The plumbing and electric fixtures are of very poor description, the house being by no means new. This costs him twenty-two dollars per month and he is glad to get it at that price. The rent includes water-rates, but the city water is unfit for drinking, so Ottawans have to buy bottled water or carry their own supply from the widely-separated civic wells.

Gas costs \$1.10 per thousand feet, —meter rent extra.

Electric light rates on the house described are forty-two cents per month, “area rate” and an additional three cents per kilowatt for current used. The “area rate” is collected whether any light is burned or not.

Coal, stove size, on October 24th, was selling in Ottawa at eight dollars per ton,—and, in the cold climate of Ottawa, coal is a very important item in the cost of living.

Some other current prices on the same date were:—

Butter, creamery, 30 to 35 cents per lb.

Cheese, Canadian, 18 cents per lb.

Eggs, new-laid, 45 cents per dozen, “fresh” 35 cents per dozen.

Bacon, 25 to 27 cents per lb. (some fancy brands much higher.)

Potatoes, 65 cents per bushel.

Apples, No. 1 Baldwins, Greenings and Kings, \$5.00 per barrel. Spies, \$5.50.

Milk, 9 and 10 cents per quart.

Let our “Outside” friends consider these.

“OTTAWA.”

PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS.

It is announced that contracts have been awarded for installing automatic fire alarm systems in the buildings on Parliament hill. The cost is upwards of \$40,000.

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The staff of the Central Experimental Farm mourn the loss of the main barn, silos and crops, destroyed by fire on the 11th inst. The loss will total nearly \$100,000 and the Government carries no fire insurance.

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Contracts have been awarded to Warne & Swasey of Cleveland for the mechanical, and to the John A. Brasher Co. of Pittsburg for the optical, equipment of the largest telescope in the world which will be erected at the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, at a cost of over \$90,000.

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A telegram was sent to President Wilson by the Chicago Civil Service League, urging him to veto the deficiency appropriation bill which carries in it a clause taking the protection of civil service from United States Deputy Marshals and other civil service employes. The message read as follows:

“We, the undersigned, officers of the Chicago Civil Service League, in behalf of forty thousand government, state and municipal civil servants employes of Chicago, do earnestly request that you veto the amendment to the deficiency appropriation bill which takes the protection of civil service away from the United States Deputy Marshal and other civil service employes, as the said amendment is vicious, unprogressive, undemocratic, and a step backward to the old spoils system.”

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The long fight of the railway mail clerks for permission to use their official transportation during their off hours may result successfully at the regular session of this Congress.