

A Contrast—Which Gives a Clue to "The High Cost of Living"



Mrs. Timmins of 1912 Has a Desk 'Phone in Her Dainty Boudoir and She Orders Her Household Supplies Without the Worry of Picking and Choosing. Mrs. Timmins of Ancient Days Insisted Upon Doing Her Own Marketing, and She Was Most Careful to See That She Got Her Money's Worth Every Time.

Drawn by W. S. Broadhead.

The automobile works will gain more than the shoe factory; the jeweller more than the baker.

It is the industrial producer, whether employer or employed, who is most directly benefited by the activity resulting from rising prices. Those who have services rather than labour to dispose of, ability rather than enterprise or capital to sell, are in a less favourable position, and the increase in their earnings lags behind that of other classes.

servant or the jobbing gardener; the chauffeur will make money faster than a highly qualified accountant or insurance clerk; the real estate man or investment broker will outdistance the farmer. The turn of the minister or the author may be postponed indefinitely.

We must conclude, therefore, that rising prices are favourable to the concentration of wealth and to the rapid increase of large incomes. Unless special circumstances intervene it is likely that the humbler ranks of workers will find themselves confronted year after year with a rising tariff on their purchases which will go far to counteract the effect of any increases they can gain in the nominal rate of their wages. On all sides they hear of the great prosperity of the country, but in their own homes they find themselves little if at all better off. They see speculative risks resulting in enormous rewards while strenuous labour and faithful service gain no signal increase in ease. Daily they watch the growth of luxury, but in it they have no share. This is the real reason why there is such a clear connection between periods of rising prices, and outbreaks of "industrial unrest." Such unrest has, as we know, developed markedly and almost universally in the old world during the past few years. In Britain it has attracted universal attention owing to the dramatic character of the railway stoppage last August, and the coal strike this spring; but in every country the same symptoms have made their appearance. The United States is no exception to the rule. Canada has suffered less from unrest of this character than almost any country, a fact which strikingly indicates the genuine quality of her present prosperity. Why has this been so? There are two reasons of exceptional significance. In the first place, in all trades which are effectively organized wages have been rising very rapidly, and in nearly all trades the rapid development of the country has created temporary scarcity of labour and favourable conditions for wage bargaining. But the more important influence remains behind: it is the part played by the immigrant. The flood of immigration flows steadily into the reservoir of labour from the bottom, and perpetually lifts those of longer residence in the country to higher levels. All the worst conditions that the country has to offer are reserved for the newcomer, who has for the time being to subsist largely on anticipation, but who in due course does actually find himself elevated on the shoulders of those needier than himself.

Civilization En Route

FROM steel rails to Florida Water is the literal scope of the travelling industrial exhibition which put out from Montreal Thursday night last week for a grand tour over the west. Technically this train, a picture of which appears on page 15 of this issue, is known as the Made-in-Canada train; and as it stood in the Windsor St. Station ready to pull out, it had somewhat the same interest to the visitor as unloading a circus used to have to the farmer's boy. The train was freely exposed to the public, and those who took the trouble to saunter down the long aisles of this compact and compendious collection of things made in Canada, from the locomotive at the head to the bottle of Florida water and the pianos and the kodaks and the cash registers, and a hundred other sorts and conditions of things used in civilization, were much impressed with the novelty and the variety of the show.

It was almost the Canadian National Exhibition in miniature. One coach was fitted up as a home; kitchen to parlour, everything complete. In another a huge touring car excited the curiosity of those who wondered how on earth it was got into the coach, or whether the coach had been built around it—till some bright mind discovered that the motor-car had been assembled right inside the train from its various parts, all but the engine, perhaps, made in Canada.

During the day Mayor Lavallee, Mr. George E. Drummond and Mr. N. Curry gave an official send-off to the exhibit. Mr. Drummond, a past president of the C. M. A., observed that there are in Canada 20,000 factories employing 500,000 hands to turn out every year a billion dollars' worth of just such goods as were represented in that cosmos starting over the C. P. R. Mayor Lavallee shrewdly noted that Montreal alone had fifteen separate exhibits on board; that the city of Montreal has an industrial population of 75,000, turning out every year \$180,000,000 worth of goods on a capital investment of but ten millions less than the annual output.

Mr. N. Curry, President of the Canadian Home Market Association, and general custos of the train, said: "The Home Market Association believes that purchasing 'made-in-Canada' goods will greatly benefit Canada as a whole, and in the long run every class and every industry in the country."

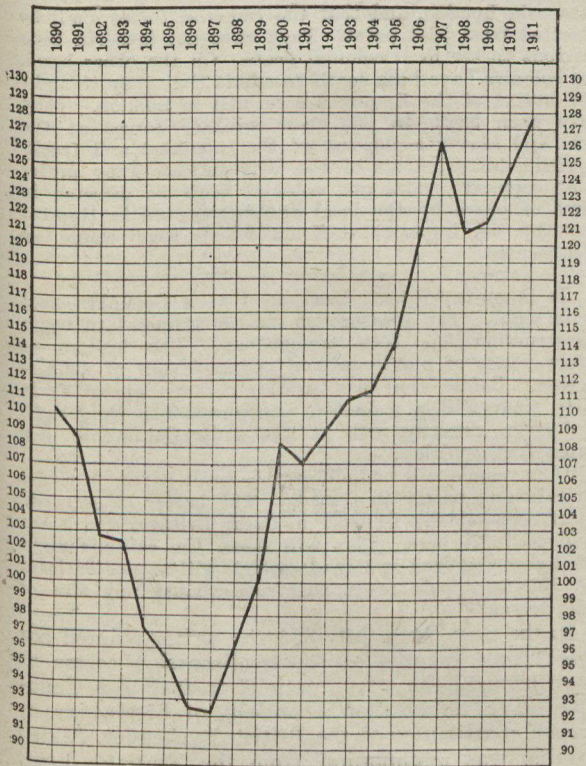


Chart Showing the Course of Wholesale Prices in Canada During the Twenty-two Years 1890-1911 (inclusive). Compiled by R. H. Coats, Editor Labour Gazette. (Number of Commodities—235) (Average Price 1890-99—100)

Prosperity comes to these as a reflex from that of the industrial workers, and those who are nearest to the source are the first to feel the effect. The position of the school teacher and the bank clerk improves far more slowly than that of the domestic