

These tables are the result of a thorough and careful investigation ably conducted by Mr. R. H. Coats, the Associate Editor of the Labour Gazette. The Department almost immediately after its establishment in 1900 commenced the gathering of statistical information on prices and the cost of living, and one or two small investigations were commenced and partially concluded by the late Henry Albert Harper before his untimely death. In a general way the subject has been dealt with ever since in connection with the monthly review of industrial and labour conditions published in each issue of the Labour Gazette. During the past two or three years a comprehensive and systematic inquiry into the whole subject has been carried on by Mr. Coats, covering the period of the last twenty years. The results of this inquiry it is intended to publish in serial form in the successive numbers of the Labour Gazette and in the form of a special report which the Department hopes to issue before the close of the present fiscal year. This inquiry will be kept up to date so far as succeeding years are concerned by the publication in the Labour Gazette of monthly statistical tables, together with periodical statistical returns on the cost of living, as reflected by retail prices at the more important centres of population throughout Canada and by the publication from month to month of a summarized tabular statement showing the wholesale price tendencies in some 226 commodities entering largely into the trade of the country and reflecting the most important phases of its industrial activity.