

In the 1877-8 pass book there is one marking of fresh beef at 9c. a pound. Similar beef would cost to day 16c, a difference of 7c. Twenty lbs. at 7c is equal to 1.40. The difference in 31 quarts of milk is 62c. These two items 2.02 added to 20.52 make 22.54. Tobacco is scarcely a necessary, but let it go as one, and add 40c, as the difference between black jack then and black jack now, and, leaving a balance of \$2.31 in '08 favor. This can be put against any increased cost for coal. These figures prove conclusively that, on the whole, there has been no increase in the necessities of life. Coming to the item of rent, and still confirming ourselves to the colliery districts, we make the assertion—the accommodations of course taken into consideration—that there has been no material advance in some cases and in others none at all. The houses in the 'Rows' in Stellarton five years ago for rent twenty to twenty not been raised any. The new houses with better and larger accommodations rent for from five to six dollars per month, and they are worth it, in comparison with others. Living to day does cost more than it did a quarter of a century ago. The prices of necessities have not increased, but we live much more luxuriously, indeed in a style which our forbears might call princely. Twenty odd years a matron or a maiden might feel vain over a hat costing a couple of dollars. Now either would purse up her lips at a head piece costing twice that sum. In many respects we have grown extravagant in our tastes, and no simple fare allures us. The common complaint of dwellers in country and in towns is that taxes have largely increased, so they have, perhaps, but then there is something in the way of improvement to set against the increase. The cost of living has increased, let us admit it, but then here too there is something to set against the increase, namely, the better living and the handsomer dressing. The actual necessities of life, as we have demonstrated, have not increased, while wages have increased from twenty five to fifty percent. If it is wages he earns, then we are forced to the conclusion that he spends a too large sum on pleasure and on luxuries, some of these not conducive to his moral, mental, or physical well being.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

It was stated the other day that a cargo of coal enroute to Montreal had taken fire in the steamers hold. The statement may be taken with a grain of salt, as it was made by a 'rival.' It has been the general belief in Nova Scotia that the coal there is especially the more pyrites in times. If we are to believe the Scientific American, there is no good ground for the long held common belief. Neither sulphur nor pyrites play much of a part in spontaneous combustion. A wet floor or a wet layer of damp coal, play the more important part. Here is what the paper referred to says:—

"Spontaneous combustion is always to be feared in large masses of coal. It has been proved

that the temperature of English coal freshly stored rises in two or three days to from 70 to 85 degrees F. and thereafter continues between 85 and 100 degrees F. Water may accelerate this rise of temperature by bringing oxygen in solution. Special care should be taken not to deposit dry coal upon any large quantity of damp coal. Wet coal should be spread in layers eight inches thick and allowed to rest 24 hours before being covered with a new layer. Sulphur compounds do not play an important part in spontaneous ignition. Pyrites resist atmospheric influences well, with the exception of the variety called marcassite, which tends to decompose in the presence of water. The practice of ventilating piles of coal by means of little shafts and canals, although recommended by insurance companies, is rather injurious than otherwise, as it facilitates the absorption of oxygen. If ventilation is attempted it should be mechanical and very energetic in order to produce a refrigeration which will counter-balance the oxidizing effect of the air."

- Rubs by Rambler.

I am wholly in favor of the daylight bill. I have not seen or heard a good argument urged against it. We all are proud of the climate of Nova Scotia. We compare it with Britain and rejoice we have more sunshine and less rain. We exult over the beauty of the landscape in the fall, and glow with fervor as we speak of our bracing winter nights are shorter by an hour and a half than they are in Britain, due to the fact that we have no twilight. As soon as the sun is set the day is done. I would say then that if a daylight bill for Britain can be commended, much more can it be recommended for Nova Scotia. What we have long sighed for—more day light—it will give us. Though there is no daylight bill on the statutes, running the day to fit in with the light is no new thing in Nova Scotia, at least in the colliery districts. Twenty years ago in the matter of time every different colliery had a time of its own. There was whistle time as well as village or town time. And no one was inconvenienced while many were benefited. In the summer months our young men would derive benefit from the proposed change of time. There would be from sixty to eighty more minutes day-light for cricket, or golf, or tennis, or baseball. It will give the workman house-holder time to cultivate his garden etc. A writer in a local paper opposes the bill on behalf of the farmers. He says it would be too early, if the clock was changed to milk the cows and pack the apples. Everything, he declares would be wet with dew. And also that the milk trains in the morning would start at an unholy hour. There's something in the dewing; this summer there has been too little of it. But then we must legislate for the great majority and these do not work on the farms. Farmers