

## 27.—Minimum Weekly Wages for Experienced Female Adults—concluded.

Occupations.	Alberta.	British Columbia.	Manitoba.	Ontario.	Saskatchewan.
Hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, etc.	\$14.00 for 6-day week \$16.50 for 7-day week	\$14.00 (Includes waitresses, chambermaids, elevator operators etc.)	\$12.50	-	\$14.00 for 6-day week of 48 hours. Kitchen employees \$12.  \$15.00 for 7-day week. Kitchen employees \$13.
Personal service...	\$14.00 (includes ushers, barbers, cloak-room attendants, etc.)	\$14.25	\$12.00	-	-
Telephone and telegraph employees.	-	\$15.00	-	According to population \$12.50 12.00 11.00 10.00 9.00 8.00 7.00	-
Fishing.....	-	\$15.50	-	-	-
Fruit and vegetable industry.	-	\$14.00 for week of 48 hours piece work rates on this basis.	-	-	-

## III.—PRICES.

Price statistics naturally fall into two main divisions—statistics of wholesale and statistics of retail prices. Representative wholesale prices are much more easily collected than are retail prices, since the number of wholesale traders is comparatively small, the grades of commodities more carefully defined, and the price range at a given moment much narrower. Wholesale transactions are generally transactions between expert sellers and expert buyers, dealing with each other on purely business principles. Accordingly, wholesale prices approximately conform to the operation of the law of supply and demand, and are thus more valuable as an index to the current state of business.

Retail prices, on the other hand, are largely governed by custom, and do not respond to every upward or downward fluctuation in wholesale prices. Further, small fluctuations in wholesale prices cannot be fairly represented in retail prices, because of the limitations of the currency in dealing with very small quantities of commodities. Again, retail prices vary considerably for the same commodity in different parts of the same city, this difference being to some extent due to the difference in the service rendered to the purchaser in a "grocery," "a cash and carry" store or one where credit is given and goods delivered. In the collection of retail price statistics, which in spite of the inherent difficulties must be collected to determine the cost of living, it is necessary to take quotations from the most representative class of retailers, serving the masses of the people.