

The percentage of increase by sections since 1913 was as follows:—Ontario 38.7 p.c., British Columbia 39.6 p.c., Prairie Provinces 45.2 p.c., Maritime Provinces 46.6 p.c. and Quebec 50.2 p.c. Fares in 9 centres have remained unchanged during the period and in the other 26 the increases have ranged from 20 p.c. to 100 p.c.

12.—Index Numbers of Ordinary Street Car Fares in 35 Cities, 1913-1924.

(Fares in 1913=100.)

Section.	Number of Cities or Towns.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Maritime Provinces..	4	109	100	100	100	100	100	126.1	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6
Quebec.....	4	100	100	100	100	100	103.2	120.3	140.0	146.2	150.2	150.2	150.2
Ontario.....	16	100	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.5	101.0	104.6	104.6	107.7	138.7	138.7	138.7
Prairie Provinces.....	7	100	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.1	105.3	122.6	137.0	145.2	145.2	145.2	145.2
British Columbia.....	4	100	115.2	115.2	100	100	134.6	134.6	134.6	139.6	139.6	139.6	139.6
Grand Total	35	100	101.8	101.8	100.6	100.7	105.9	115.8	125.3	136.2	143.9	143.9	143.9

2.—Manufactured and Natural Fuel Gas.

Data collected by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics regarding rates for natural and manufactured fuel gas used for domestic purposes, show that, while the average price of natural gas has tended upward during the period 1913 to 1925, that for manufactured fuel gas reached its peak in 1921 and has declined since that date. The index number for natural gas in 1925 on the basis 1913 = 100, was 175.3, while that for manufactured gas was 132.0.

In 1913 the price of natural gas throughout the Dominion ranged from 13½ cts. to 70 cts. net per 1,000 cu. ft. and in 1925 from 22½ cts. to \$1.00 per 1,000 cu. ft. Manufactured gas ranged from 70 cts. to \$2.25 net per 1,000 cu. ft. in 1913 and from 85 cts. to \$2.48 in 1925.

The continued upward tendency in the price of natural gas was due to the influence of Ontario, in which province the supply has been diminishing. In 1913 the Ontario production was 12,474,745 M cu. ft., and this had fallen to 7,143,962 M cu. ft. in 1925. In Alberta, where the supply is being increased, prices are tending downward. The Alberta production of 7,174,490 M cu. ft. in 1913 compares with one of 9,119,500 M cu. ft. in 1925.

The peak index for manufactured gas was 144.4 in 1921. Since then, each year has registered a decline, until 132.0 was reached in 1925. This downward price tendency is to be attributed in the main to the competition of electricity with gas. Ontario was the chief influence in reducing the index number. Saint John and Winnipeg index numbers also tended downward in the latter part of the period under study. The Ontario index rose from 100 in 1913 to 167.3 in 1921 and fell to 144.6 by 1925.

Separate index numbers were not constructed for lighting rates because, in the great majority of the localities from which returns were received, the use of gas for lighting purposes was relatively unimportant, and in most cases where gas was used extensively for lighting the rates charged were the same as those for fuel. In constructing the index numbers the rates for each locality were weighted by the average domestic consumption in that locality, figures for which were obtained from the firms reporting.

The actual figures on which these index numbers are based are given in tables on pp. 131-2 of the Bureau's report, "Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-25"