

In 1928 the general index commenced the year at 134.0 and fell to 113.0 in October. The December index was 115.1. Gold stocks declined steadily throughout the year. Gold-copper stocks were 110.6 in April and 315.0 in December. Silver and miscellaneous stocks declined from 122.4 in January to 72.2 in December.

### 11.—Weighted Index Numbers of 17 Mining Stocks, 1927-1928.

(1926=100.)

Years and Months.	Gold.	Gold-Copper.	Silver and Miscellaneous.	Total Index.
No. of Stocks.	11	2	4	17
1927.				
January.....	113.1	132.3	116.5	116.0
February.....	120.1	124.6	122.2	120.8
March.....	119.6	128.9	109.1	120.2
April.....	118.4	123.4	106.6	118.3
May.....	122.5	136.5	101.1	123.0
June.....	118.1	130.4	101.3	118.7
July.....	121.4	134.7	113.2	122.7
August.....	125.7	150.0	116.3	128.5
September.....	134.2	163.6	112.7	137.0
October.....	139.7	175.2	125.1	143.8
November.....	139.4	163.3	129.3	142.1
December.....	136.3	155.5	123.8	138.2
1928.				
January.....	132.5	144.2	122.4	134.0
February.....	121.0	125.8	105.5	121.4
March.....	121.7	123.7	103.1	121.5
April.....	117.5	110.6	97.0	115.6
May.....	115.7	136.9	95.2	118.1
June.....	113.1	197.7	90.1	125.6
July.....	101.7	293.0	84.8	131.9
August.....	92.0	291.2	78.4	123.6
September.....	91.6	283.6	77.2	121.9
October.....	84.3	268.3	66.4	113.0
November.....	82.0	300.8	68.6	116.5
December.....	76.8	315.0	72.2	115.1

### Section 4.—Prices of Services.

A study of the prices of services sheds considerable light on the cost of living, as such services are a considerable item in the average family budget. Information with regard to the trend of street car fares, of rates for manufactured and natural fuel gas, of domestic electric light rates and of telephone charges was published at pages 801 to 804 of the 1927-28 Year Book. Later information shows that the prices of manufactured fuel gas have shown a downward tendency, the Dominion index number for 1927 being 129.4, as compared with 131.1 in 1926. The index number of the price of natural fuel gas has also declined from 172.1 in 1926 to 165.9 in 1927. On the other hand, telephone rates have shown a distinct increase, the Dominion index number for domestic telephone rates having risen from 120.2 p.c. of the 1913 base in 1926 to 128.8 in 1927. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 124.0 p.c. of the 1913 base in 1926 to 146.8 in 1927. Additional information and details by provinces will be found at pages 119-127 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-1927.

**Hospital Charges.**—In view of discussions of the increased cost entailed by illness and hospital treatment, a special investigation on hospital charges has recently been made and the results are given as Dominion averages in the following table. In general, this shows that hospital charges have increased between 80 and 90 p.c.