

since 1913, except for operating room charges, which have increased only about 56 p.c. At the same time, the cost of maintaining patients in hospitals has increased by 93 p.c. Since general cost of living in the country has increased only from 50 to 60 p.c., it may be inferred that patients in hospitals have an improved standard of living and of comfort as compared with the conditions before the war.

The detailed results of this investigation, including the statistics by provinces, are to be found at pp. 120-122 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-27.

12.—Average Daily Hospital Charges in Canada, 1913, 1916 to 1926.

Items.	1913.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.
Public Ward..... \$	1.02	1.12	1.19	1.37	1.52	1.53
Index Number.....	100.0	110.0	119.4	134.8	149.7	156.0
Semi-private Rooms..... \$	1.57	1.71	1.79	2.03	2.27	2.44
Index Number.....	100.0	108.8	114.7	130.9	145.8	156.3
Private Rooms..... \$	2.68	2.88	3.00	3.23	3.68	4.05
Index Number.....	100.0	107.5	111.8	120.8	138.2	151.4
Operating Room..... \$	5.16	5.31	5.53	5.94	6.71	7.00
Index Number.....	100.0	103.3	107.4	115.4	130.8	137.0
Cost of maintenance per head..... \$	1.63	1.84	2.14	2.47	2.72	3.03
Index Number.....	100.0	110.4	128.8	148.8	163.7	187.2

Items.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Public Ward..... \$	1.72	1.78	1.84	1.86	1.88	1.86
Index Number.....	170.5	176.6	180.9	182.8	184.4	184.1
Semi-private Rooms..... \$	2.63	2.60	2.73	2.74	2.84	2.89
Index Number.....	168.6	173.1	175.6	176.1	182.2	185.2
Private Rooms..... \$	4.45	4.49	4.52	4.58	4.92	4.98
Index Number.....	167.4	169.1	170.3	172.3	185.9	188.5
Operating Room..... \$	7.15	7.24	7.64	7.87	7.97	8.06
Index Number.....	140.1	141.8	148.9	153.0	155.1	156.7
Cost of maintenance per head..... \$	3.22	3.12	3.17	3.25	3.20	3.27
Index Number.....	195.6	189.7	192.5	197.1	188.8	193.2

Section 5.—Index Numbers of Interest Rates.

Few economic statistics are of more significance than the net rates of interest paid on the absolutely safest securities, such as Government bonds maturing on a fixed and definite date. Other interest rates naturally grade upward from the rates which the safest of possible borrowers has to pay, and from the fluctuations of that price an idea may be obtained as to the relation between the supply of and the demand for funds for investment.

Prior to the war, the funded debt of the Dominion was entirely held outside the country, there being no home market for Canadian Government bonds. Since about the beginning of the century, however, the province of Ontario, the wealthiest and most populous of the provinces of the Dominion, has done its financing largely in Canada itself, and the fluctuation in the rate of yield of province of Ontario bonds is thus the best long-term indicator of net interest rates in the Dominion. These yields, compiled originally by Wood, Gundy and Co. of Toronto, and furnished by that firm to the Bureau of Statistics, have been recalculated as an index number