

tations of the Labour Department are designed to show changes in the cost of living for workmen in cities. They are constructed from family budgets, principally a weekly family budget of staple foods, fuel and rent published monthly in the Labour Gazette since 1915 and annually since 1911; in addition, figures are included for clothing and sundry items and further data for fuel, light and rent. The Labour Department aims by this method to have a basis for computation that can be readily applied to the data for any given locality or district at any time, or for any class of labour, for instance, coal miners, who usually do not live in cities. Index numbers of retail prices and costs of living issued by the Bureau are constructed from a more general point of view, having for their object the measurement of the general movement of such prices and costs in the Dominion as a whole, and being so calculated as to make comparisons possible with other general index numbers constructed on similar principles, as, for example, the index of wholesale prices. Calculated as they are on the aggregative principle, *i.e.*, the total consumption of each commodity, the Bureau's index numbers afford an excellent measurement of changes in the average cost of living in the Dominion as distinguished from that of any particular class or section.

In the Bureau's index 1926 is taken as the base year and is represented by 100 to bring it into conformity with other series of index numbers shown in this report. The Labour Department uses 1913 as 100 for both cost of living and wages index numbers.

It may be seen from Table 7 that the general cost of living index was again higher, having advanced from 98.9 in 1928 to 100.0 for 1929. As in 1928, food and rents were dearer, but the index for clothing moved slightly downward, its present position being the lowest recorded since 1917. Fuel and lighting and miscellaneous items showed almost no variation when compared with the previous year.

Weighting.—The system of weighting involves weights for (1) individual items, (2) sub-groups and (3) group weights as shown in the description of group index numbers. The whole weighting system is based on estimated aggregate consumption in Canada. Separate index numbers are calculated for food, fuel and lighting, rent, clothing and sundries.

Food.—In the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index of the cost of living the food group includes 46 items, which are:—

Beef, sirloin steak	Butter, dairy	Prunes
Beef, shoulder roast	Butter, creamery	Raisins
Veal	Cheese, old and new	Currants
Mutton	Bread	Jam
Pork, fresh	Soda biscuits	Peaches
Pork, salt	Flour	Marmalade
Bacon	Rolled oats	Corn syrup
Ham	Rice	Sugar, granulated
Fish, cod	Tapioca	Sugar, yellow
Fish, finnan haddie	Tomatoes	Coffee
Fish, salmon	Peas	Tea
Lard	Corn	Cocoa
Eggs, fresh	Beans	Vinegar
Eggs, storage	Onions	Salt
Milk	Potatoes	Pepper
	Apples	