

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. 255-259 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-28.

14.—Average Daily Hospital Charges in Canada, 1913 and 1917 to 1928.

Items.	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Public Ward..... \$.99	1.19	1.32	1.47	1.54	1.67
Index Number.....	100.0	119.4	134.4	149.1	156.9	170.5
Semi-private Rooms..... \$	1.57	1.79	2.03	2.27	2.44	2.63
Index Number.....	100.0	114.7	130.9	145.8	156.3	168.6
Private Rooms..... \$	2.68	3.00	3.23	3.68	4.05	4.45
Index Number.....	100.0	111.8	120.8	138.2	151.4	167.4
Operating Room..... \$	5.16	5.53	5.94	6.71	7.00	7.15
Index Number.....	100.0	107.4	115.4	130.8	137.0	140.1
Cost of Maintenance per head..... \$	1.68	2.14	2.47	2.72	3.08	3.22
Index Number.....	100.0	128.8	148.8	163.7	187.2	195.6

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Public Ward..... \$	1.71	1.73	1.77	1.78	1.83 ¹	1.86	1.96
Index Number ¹	175.0	177.1	180.4	181.2	183.2	185.2	196.9
Semi-private Rooms..... \$	2.69	2.73	2.74	2.84	2.82 ¹	2.83	2.85
Index Number.....	173.1	175.6	176.1	182.2	185.2	186.3	187.8
Private Rooms..... \$	4.49	4.52	4.58	4.92	5.07 ¹	5.14	5.25
Index Number.....	169.1	170.3	172.3	185.9	188.5	191.1	195.3
Operating Room..... \$	7.24	7.64	7.87	7.97	8.17 ¹	8.31	8.36
Index Number.....	141.8	148.9	153.0	155.1	156.7	159.1	160.1
Cost of Maintenance per head..... \$	3.12	3.17	3.25	3.26	3.48 ¹	3.45	3.49
Index Number.....	189.7	192.5	197.1	198.3 ¹	201.9 ¹	199.7	202.3

¹ Data revised.

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 index numbers on a 1926 base and are shown in Table 15, a particularly interesting feature being the decline in the interest rates index from the high point of 129.4 in October 1920