

Subsection 2.—Minimum Wages for Male Employees.

In Alberta, legislation of 1926 provides that no male may be employed at a lower wage than the minimum rate for female employees in the same class of work, except in the case of apprentices under indenture approved by the Commissioner of Labour, who is the Secretary of the Minimum Wage Board.

In British Columbia the orders issued under the Male Minimum Wage Act, 1925, having been declared invalid in October, 1928, by the Supreme Court of Canada (see *Labour Gazette*, November, 1928, p. 1310), a new Act was enacted in the session of 1929. This like the original applied to all occupations except those of farm labourers, fruit pickers, fruit packers, fruit and vegetable canners and domestic servants. On Jan. 22, 1930, an order effective from that date was issued providing for a minimum rate of 50 cents per hour for "stationary steam engineers" and 40 cents per hour for "special engineers" as defined under the "Boiler Inspection Act" On July 31, 1930, an order was issued effective from that date providing for a minimum rate of 80 cents per hour for licentiates in pharmacy, engaged in the selling, dispensing, etc., of drugs, etc.

Section 3.—Cost of Living of Wage Earners.

An index number of the cost of living in working men's families has been computed by the Department of Labour since 1913, and is published monthly in the *Labour Gazette*. This index is specifically designed for the purpose of measuring the trends of the cost of living for certain wage-earning classes with a somewhat lower standard of living than that which is measured by the Bureau of Statistics index number of retail prices, shown on pp. 818-819 of the present volume. The former wage-earner's index is used extensively in negotiations as to wage rates and in the settlement of industrial disputes. An abridgement of this index is presented in Table 5.

5.—Changes in the Cost of Living in Canada from 1914 to 1930.¹

(Average prices in 1913=100.)

Month and Year.	Food.	Fuel and Light.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	All Items.
Dec. 1914.....	108	98	97	103	100	103
Dec. 1915.....	111	96	94	115	110	107
Dec. 1916.....	138	109	95	136	122	124
Dec. 1917.....	167	125	102	158	134	143
Dec. 1918.....	186	146	111	185	151	162
Dec. 1919.....	201	148	122	210	164	176
Dec. 1920.....	202	200	142	232	173	190
Mar. 1921.....	180	191	142	193	173	175
June 1921.....	152	179	149	193	173	165
Sept. 1921.....	161	174	149	177	173	165
Dec. 1921.....	150	172	150	177	173	161
Mar. 1922.....	144	169	151	165	173	157
June 1922.....	139	167	154	165	174	156
Sept. 1922.....	140	179	155	162	174	157
Dec. 1922.....	142	177	155	162	174	157
Mar. 1923.....	147	178	156	163	173	159
June 1923.....	139	169	158	163	173	156
Sept. 1923.....	142	171	158	164	172	157
Dec. 1923.....	146	172	158	164	171	159
Mar. 1924.....	144	169	158	160	171	157
June 1924.....	134	163	158	160	170	153
Sept. 1924.....	140	163	158	159	169	154

¹For footnote see end of table, p. 799.