

area and the application of the cyanide process to low-grade ores. The result was a rapidly increasing world production of gold from about 1890 to the outbreak of the First World War, with consequent rising prices as the volume of the new gold became an appreciable part of the total stock. The War itself, both through the scarcity of commodities that it occasioned and the inflation of currency, drove prices rapidly upward to a maximum of 243·5, in 1920, followed by a rapid drop to 152·0 in 1922. The tendency from 1925 to 1929 was gradually downward although the period was one of increasing prosperity.

Commencing in the autumn of 1929, a severe economic depression was accompanied by a drastic decline in wholesale prices (the wholesale price index fell from 153·7 in August, 1929, to 99·2 in February, 1933). A subsequent irregular rise followed until 1937, although the trend of prices was downward in the latter half of that year. This movement persisted until September, 1939, when the outbreak of war in Europe was followed by a rise that continued with only one minor interruption throughout 1940 and 1941.

1.—Annual Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Canada, 1867-1941

(1913=100. Unweighted index from 1867-1912.)

Year	Index No.	Year	Index No.	Year	Index No.	Year	Index No.
1867.....	133·0	1886.....	90·7	1905.....	87·8	1924.....	155·2
1868.....	128·7	1887.....	91·9	1906.....	92·6	1925.....	160·3
1869.....	126·5	1888.....	93·5	1907.....	96·2	1926.....	156·2
1870.....	123·5	1889.....	92·6	1908.....	90·9	1927.....	152·6
1871.....	124·5	1890.....	93·0	1909.....	91·4	1928.....	150·6
1872.....	135·7	1891.....	91·4	1910.....	94·3	1929.....	149·3
1873.....	133·8	1892.....	86·2	1911.....	95·0	1930.....	135·3
1874.....	129·0	1893.....	85·2	1912.....	99·5	1931.....	112·6
1875.....	120·7	1894.....	80·6	1913.....	100·0	1932.....	104·2
1876.....	116·6	1895.....	79·6	1914.....	102·3	1933.....	104·8
1877.....	115·1	1896.....	76·0	1915.....	109·9	1934.....	111·8
1878.....	104·3	1897.....	75·6	1916.....	131·6	1935.....	112·6
1879.....	101·0	1898.....	77·8	1917.....	178·5	1936.....	116·5
1880.....	112·9	1899.....	81·4	1918.....	199·0	1937.....	132·1
1881.....	109·9	1900.....	85·8	1919.....	209·2	1938.....	122·8
1882.....	112·1	1901.....	84·5	1920.....	243·5	1939.....	117·6
1883.....	106·0	1902.....	86·2	1921.....	171·8	1940.....	129·5
1884.....	100·6	1903.....	86·9	1922.....	152·0	1941.....	140·6
1885.....	92·7	1904.....	87·0	1923.....	153·0		

The official Canadian index numbers of wholesale prices along with the other price indexes computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics were revised in 1928, when the list of commodities was increased from 236 to 502. The weighting system