

## 2.—Retail Prices.

Statistics as to retail prices in Canada have been published by the Department of Labour since 1910, the retail prices of the principal staple foods, of coal, wood and coal oil and also the prevailing rates for the rent of six-roomed houses being published in the Labour Gazette each month for the cities having a population of 10,000 or more, some sixty in number. Figures for December, 1900, and December, 1905, were also secured in a special investigation in 1914.

In addition to the statistics as to retail prices of food and fuel and as to rates for rent, the Department in 1920 and subsequent years has secured figures as to retail prices of staple lines of clothing, including footwear, from retail dealers throughout Canada, for each year back to 1913. From these quotations the percentages of changes in the cost of clothing have been calculated. Information was also secured as to the prices of household supplies, furniture, furnishings, etc., and an estimate has been made as to the percentage changes in the cost of miscellaneous items, the effect of the information gathered showing that such changes are approximately equal to the average changes in other items. The percentage changes in food, fuel and rent have been calculated from the weekly budgets published in the Labour Gazette from month to month, and Table 33 summarizes the yearly and quarterly changes by groups, the figures for each group and for all items being weighted according to the family budget method.

From July, 1920, to June, 1921, food and clothing prices fell steeply, and fuel slightly, while rent advanced. Food recovered in August and September, 1921, but by December was back to June levels. The decline continued until June, 1922, since when the changes have been mostly seasonal, being highest in March, 1923, and low in July. Fuel declined slowly from the middle of 1921 to July, 1922, when it began to advance, reaching a peak in February, 1923. Since then the decline has been slight. Clothing and rent have shown little change in cost since 1921.

### 33.—Index Numbers of Changes in the Cost of Living in Canada, based upon weighted Retail Prices, 1910-1923

Average Prices, 1913 = 100.

Dates.	Food.	Fuel.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	Totals.
December, 1910.....	96	96	72	92	94	90
December, 1911.....	101	92	70	93	95	91
December, 1912.....	105	102	82	97	97	97
December, 1913.....	106	98	101	100	100	102
March, 1914.....	105	100	100	105	100	102
June, 1914.....	102	99	102	105	100	102
September, 1914.....	107	99	97	110	100	103
December, 1914.....	108	98	92	110	100	102
March, 1915.....	107	98	89	117	103	103
June, 1915.....	106	93	87	117	103	101
September 1915.....	105	97	85	125	105	103
December, 1915.....	111	97	84	125	105	104
March, 1916.....	114	97	83	134	108	107
June, 1916.....	116	98	85	134	108	108
September, 1916.....	122	101	86	143	110	113
December, 1916.....	138	110	86	143	110	119
March, 1917.....	146	119	88	155	128	128
June, 1917.....	162	125	92	155	128	135
September, 1917.....	159	128	93	167	145	140
December, 1917.....	167	133	94	167	145	143