

THE COST OF LIVING IS AT ITS HIGHEST

Some Cold Figures as Submitted By Bradstreet's.

NECESSITIES HAVE GONE WAY UP.
Recent Upward Advances in Prices of Ninety-Six Commodities That Enter Into Daily Consumption Have Made The Wholesale Cost On January 1 Higher Than In The Flush Days Before The 1907 Panic—Figures Submitted.

New York (Special).—Bradstreet's has compiled a record of prices on 96 commodities that enter into daily and direct consumption by the people, and the result shows that the cost of living has now reached an absolutely high record, exceeding even that of March 1, 1907, when prices went soaring in an anticipation of the panic which came in the fall of that year. The figures for December 1 last were below the previous high record of 1907, but the continuous skyward movement of prices in the last month of 1909 had established a new high-water mark by January 1.

The figures compiled by Bradstreet's are known as "Index Numbers." They are based on actual wholesale quotations per pound for the commodities in question, which, to make them comprehensive, are averaged over a wide area of markets. When it is said that the index number for January 1, 1910, was \$9,231.0, it means that a man buying at wholesale one pound each of the 96 commodities on that date would have to pay that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations.

The new "number" surpasses the previous high record of March 1, 1907, \$9,129.3 by 1.1 per cent. This ratio also measures the advance that was made on the 96 commodities in the month of December last. At the same time the present index number reflects a gain of 11.7 over January 1, 1909, which means that the prices of the 96 articles rose approximately 97 cents within a year's time. The lowest point for commodity prices for which Bradstreet's have any record was touched on July 1, 1896, when the index number was \$5,701.9. The latest figure shows a gain of more than 61 per cent. over this number, indicating, of course, that for every dollar you spend there for living expenses you are spending \$1.61 cents now.

A Comparative Table.
The new index number mirrors an increase of 19.5 per cent. over the comparative low point reached on June 1, 1908, but it is only 3.5 per cent. over January 1, 1907, also a time of ascending prices as forerunners of the panic. The gain over January 1, 1903, is 19.8 per cent. while the rise over the same date in 1905 is 14.2 per cent., and increase of January, 1904, is 15.5 per cent.

Here is a table showing the important swings in the index number on the 96 commodities since January 1, 1892:

High...	January 1, 1892	\$8,138.2
Low...	July 1, 1896	5,701.9
High...	February 1, 1900	8,230.7
Low...	July 1, 1901	7,418.1
High...	December 1, 1902	8,141.3
Low...	July 1, 1904	7,631.8
High...	March 1, 1907	9,129.3
Low...	June 1, 1908	7,722.7
High...	January 1, 1910	9,231.0

The 96 commodities included in the tabulation are divided into 13 general groups as follows: Breadstuffs, livestock, provisions, fruits, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, building materials, chemicals and drugs and miscellaneous.

Necessities Of Life Gone Up.
While all of these enter into the cost of living to a greater or less extent, the higher cost is more pronounced when the groups are selected that enter more directly into personal consumption. Take these seven groups, embracing 59 commodities:

	July 1, 1896	Mar. 1, 1910	Jan. 1, 1910
Breadstuffs	\$0.0524	\$0.0817	\$0.1050
Livestock	0.1855	0.3215	0.4010
Provisions	1.3619	2.1049	2.3577
Hides and leather	0.8250	1.1975	1.2850
Textiles	1.5799	2.7369	2.7333
Coal	0.0048	0.0080	0.0069
Oils	0.2082	0.3428	0.3728
Total	\$4,217.7	\$6,803.3	\$7,261.7

In other words, the man who would buy a pound each of the commodities embraced in this list would have paid \$4,217.7 on July 1, 1896; \$6,803.3 on March 1, 1907, the former high record date and \$7,261.7 on January 1 of the present year.

Declines in general prices as between the high of 1907 and that of January 1 last have occurred in the items of fruits which is more or less of a luxury, chemicals and drugs, building materials and naval stores.

Explosion Injures Seven Miners.
Uniontown, Pa. (Special).—Seven men, all foreigners, were seriously burned and internally injured when carbonite, which they were thawing on a stove, exploded, demolishing their house. The men were miners and employees of the Pittsburg Coal and Coke Company.

Earthquake Causes Panic.
Kingston (Special).—Two sharp earthquake shocks were felt throughout the island at 2.50 o'clock. In Kingston the protracted tremor caused a panic, but no damage was done.

Port De France, Martinique (Special).—Earth shocks were felt here a few minutes before 3 o'clock. The movement was undulatory and lasted one minute. So far as is known there was no damage.

FORTY-EIGHT REPORTED DEAD AND NINETY-TWO INJURED

Train Falls Into River in Canada—Cars Derailed By a Broken Rail.

North Bay, Ont. (Special).—Death in all its most terrible forms blotted out the lives of at least a score, and perhaps two score people, when four cars of a Canadian Pacific passenger train, on the Soo branch, leaped from the tracks and, tearing down a steep embankment, plunged through the ice-covered surface of the Spanish River.

Some were drowned; others were crushed to death in grinding timbers. Most terrible of all, maimed and injured caught in the wreckage of one of the cars were burned to death.

The train wrecked was known as No. 7, enroute from Montreal to Sault Ste. Marie and Milwaukee. An official statement, given out here, says that it probably was due to a broken rail.

The engine, baggage, express, mail and one second-class car remained on the rails, while one second-class, one first-class, a dining car and a sleeper went down the embankment. The first-class car and diner went into the river. The sleeper and second-class car stopped on the embankment, the second-class car catching fire.

The wreck occurred about 37 miles west of Sudbury, where the tracks cut into the side of a steep hill which is skirted by the river. The forward part of the train passed over the break, whatever it was, in safety. The day coach, which was the fourth from the end of the train, was the first to leave the rails. The train was running at the rate of about 40 miles an hour, and the momentum carried the car down the hill in a terrific plunge. About 25 passengers were in this car, and it is practically certain that none escaped.

GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO PROSECUTE BEEF TRUST

Three Firms Named—Action Against Them in Chicago—Blamed For High Prices.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The "Beef Trust," so-called, is to be prosecuted by the national government. The Department of Justice evidently believes its existence is a leading factor in maintaining the present high prices of fresh meats.

The contemplated action of the department follows an investigation which has been conducted by its special agents for some months. Initial proceedings will begin before the grand jury at Chicago probably this week, and may contemplate both civil and criminal action.

The firms mentioned in connection with the matter include Swift & Co., Morris & Co. and Armour & Co., all big packing-house concerns, and all of whom, it is said, are interested in the National Packing Company. The three first-named concerns are commonly reported to control the National Corporation for their common benefit.

The aim of the department has been to ascertain the relations between the several firms, individually, and the National Packing Company for the purpose of determining whether they have operated to control the prices of fresh meats, which, according to almost universal complaint, have been going higher and higher. From the fact that proceedings are to be instituted, the inference is that the officials feel satisfied they have a good case.

One possible method of action may be that of a suit to dissolve the company under the Sherman Anti-trust Law, as an organization operating in restraint of interstate trade. Proceedings against individuals also may result.

The investigations conducted by the department, resulting in the determination to proceed in the courts against the alleged combination, had their inception in an inquiry into the practices of one of the Western railroads in making shipments for Morris & Co. which, it had been charged, amounted practically to rebating.

These were gone into fully at the time and the conclusion resulted that while they could readily be regarded as improper, they had nothing to do with rebating. The practices complained of, however, were discontinued.

Promptly upon learning the decision of the Department of Justice to take action against the so-called Beef Trust, Alfred R. Urion, head of the legal department of Armour & Co., one of the packing concerns affected, left hurriedly for Chicago.

Mr. Urion had been in Washington more than a week, watching the developments in the government's proposed action, and it is understood he had some conferences with the Attorney General and the Department of Justice.

THE WAR ON HIGH PRICES SPREADING

Boycotts Are On in Many States, East and West.

1,000,000 PERSONS ARE IN THE FIGHT.

Four Principal Cities Of Ohio Taking Part In Protest And Citizens Agree To Stop Eating Meat—Bricklayers, Of Kansas City, To Abstain For Thirty Days—8,000 Union Laborers Of Omaha Take The Pledge—Pittsburg Falling Into Line.

New York (Special).—The boycott on high food prices started in Cleveland one week ago is growing rapidly. Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Michigan are now included in the ranks of the crusaders in the West, while in the East Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware are lifting their voices in feeble protests.

Ohio, however, is still the stronghold of the movement. The Cleveland boycott has extended to Canton, where the Central Labor Union has adopted a no-meat resolution, and petitions are being circulated with surprising results—to Columbus, where a strong boycott has been organized; to Toledo, Akron and other cities of the State. The crusade in Ohio has found encouragement in the publicly expressed belief of Governor Harman that a food trust is gobbling excessive profits somewhere between the producer and the consumer. He has called on the legislature to hunt the trust out of the woods and exhibit it to the people.

It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 persons have in a brief week become actively interested in the boycott. Dispatches from Chicago said that a boycott soon will be started in that city by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The idea of depriving ourselves of meat simply to get the prices down not appeal to federation people," said Secretary Charles Nockels, "but we propose to adopt the idea as a temporary expedient in order to

1,045 Lost Lives In Mines.
Harrisburg (Special).—A total of 1,045 lives were lost in the coal mines of Pennsylvania last year, according to reports received by the State Department of Mines. In 1908 the number was 1,250. In the anthracite field 551 were killed, as against 678 in 1908, and in the bituminous regions 494 lost their lives, as compared with 572 the previous year. The number of non-fatal accidents in all Pennsylvania coal mines in 1909 was 2,198, or two more than in 1908.

Price Of Shoes To Go Up.
Boston (Special).—The price of shoes is going up. Official announcement to this effect was made by the National Shoe Wholesalers' Association. The association says that the existing high prices of leather and materials make the increase necessary, but that the new prices will be so adjusted as "to permit the addition to each grade of such value as will compensate the wearer for increased cost." The association's approval of the repeal of the duty on hides was unanimously voiced.

ESTRADA'S TERMS ARE REJECTED

Madriz Will Not Recognize Former's Government.

THE PEACE MOVE ENDS ABRUPTLY.
Successor Of Zelaya In Nicaragua Declares Revolutionists' Terms Preposterous, As Their Acceptance Would Illegitimize His Government—Madriz Puts Up A Bluff And Talk About Rushing More Troops Into The Field.

Managua, Nicaragua (Special).—President Madriz announced that General Estrada's reply had served to end abruptly the peace negotiations and that reinforcements had been ordered to the front with the purpose of striking a decisive blow at the insurgent army.

General Estrada's reply was to the President's message inviting the insurgent leader to send peace commissioners to meet representatives of the government at Greytown. The communication, which was signed by Estrada and General Chamorro, stated that they would accept Greytown as a meeting place for peace commissioners provided Madriz would recognize the revolutionists as constituting a provisional government.

President Madriz declared that the insurgent terms were preposterous and their acceptance by him would be tantamount to legitimizing his own government. He added: "This means an open break in the negotiations for peace and the resumption of military activity. I regret deeply that this is so, as I am sincerely desirous of effecting a reconciliation of all factions. Apparently this is impossible without further bloodshed, and orders have been issued to send more troops to the front."

All of our energies will be directed now to administering a swift and decisive blow. It will be better to have one severe battle than an endless season of inconclusive skirmishes. The government troops are in fine fettle and not apprehensive of the result of the conflict."

San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua (Special).—Salomon Selva, who appeared as prosecuting attorney before the court-martial that sentenced Groce and Cannon, the Americans who allied themselves with the insurgent cause, and General Medina, who was charged by President Zelaya, with the execution of the sentences, were arraigned in court accused of having convicted the prisoners illegally.

Walsh Goes To Prison.
Chicago (Special).—John R. Walsh, 72 years old, after winning his way from the newsboy rank to the control of millions of dollars in banks, railroads, newspapers and coal fields, left here for the Federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., to begin a five years' sentence for misapplying the funds of the Chicago National Bank, of which he was president at the time of its failure three years ago. The start for prison followed the denial by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of his petition for a new trial, on the ground of alleged misconduct by the jurors who found Walsh guilty.

Japan's Note To China.
Peking (Special).—Japan has notified China informally through the Japanese Legation here that Japan and Russia with concerted action will decline the proposals of the United States for the neutralization of the Manchurian railways. Japan charges China with having been responsible for the proposal, and thus of having committed an act unfriendly to the former.

WASHINGTON BY TELEGRAPH

Senator Bradley, of Kentucky, declared in a speech in the Senate that the Tobacco Trust, and not the night riders, is responsible for the lawlessness in Kentucky.

The government suit for the dissolution of the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads will not be dropped.

A thirty-million dollar river and harbor bill is to be reported to enable Army engineers to carry on important projects.

The Interstate Commerce Commission decided that the freight rates on asparagus were excessive.

The State Department issued a review of our trade relations with the six countries that the President said should have the minimum tariff rates extended to.

Howard Thompson, Paris correspondent of the Associated Press, has been given the cross of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

The State Department is informed that grave fears are entertained over the boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador.

The fossil head of a prehistoric bird has been found in Culebra Cut, Panama Canal Zone.

President Taft has been elected a member of the Society of the Mayflower.

President Taft issued a proclamation declaring that Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Switzerland are entitled to the minimum rates imposed by the new tariff law.

The President and Mrs. Taft gave a reception at the White House in honor of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Secretary of War Dickinson decided not to revoke his order detaching Lieutenant Colonel Craighill as engineer secretary of the Lighthouse Board. Colonel Casey was ordered to Baltimore.

A PROCLAMATION ON THE TARIFF LAW

The Countries Entitled to the Minimum Rates.

They Are Italy, Great Britain, Russia, Spain, Turkey And Switzerland—Germany Not In The List—A Warning To Italy That It Must Make No Change In Its Regulations Affecting American Commerce—Germany's Reply.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—The President issued his proclamation in which it is declared that under the new tariff law the countries of Italy, Great Britain, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Switzerland are entitled to the minimum rates imposed by the act. The proclamations, which are identical, read as follows:

"A proclamation by the President of the United States of America: Whereas, It is provided in the act of Congress approved August 5, 1909, entitled an act to provide revenue, equalize duties and encourage the industries of the United States and for other purposes."

"The President here quotes the provision of the act referred to and continues as follows: 'And whereas, satisfactory evidence has been presented to me that the government of Italy imposes no terms or restrictions either in the way of tariff rates or provision, trade or other regulations charges, exactions or in any other manner, directly or indirectly, upon the importation into the sale in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy of any agricultural, manufactured or other products of the United States which unduly discriminate against the United States or the products thereof and that the government of Italy pays no export duty or prohibition upon the exportation of any article to the United States which unduly discriminates against the United States or the products thereof, and the government of Italy accords to the agricultural, manufactured or other products of the United States treatment which is reciprocal and equivalent.'

"Now, therefore, I, William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by the aforesaid act of Congress, do hereby make known and proclaim that from and after March 31, 1910, and so long thereafter as the aforesaid act of Congress is in existence and the government of Italy imposes no terms or restrictions upon the importation or sale in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy of the products of the United States, which unduly discriminate against the United States, all articles when imported in the United States, or any of its possessions (except the Philippine Islands and the islands of Guam and Tutuila), from the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy shall be admitted under the term of the minimum tariff of the United States as prescribed by section 1 of the Tariff Act of the United States, approved August 5, 1909."

"Provided, however, that this proclamation shall not take effect from and after March 31, 1910, but shall be null and void in the event that, at any time prior to the aforesaid date, satisfactory evidence shall be presented to the President that the government of Italy has made such change or changes in its present laws and regulations affecting American commerce in the kingdom and colonial possessions of Italy as to discriminate unduly in any way against such commerce and in the future event that a proclamation by the President of such fact, revoking the present proclamation, shall have been issued."

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this 15th day of January, A. D. 1910, of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-fourth."

The proclamation is signed both by the President and by Secretary of State Knox.

Germany's Reply.
Berlin (Special).—The German government cabled to Washington a reply to a memorandum recently received from the United States relating to the tariff on shipments between the two countries. While it does not accept the American wishes in various respects, and especially concerning the importation of meat, the German response is sent in the hope that it will be satisfactory and as all that the German government can do.

AGED WIDOW MURDERED.
Found With Throat Cut And Stomach Terribly Gashed.
Rockford, Ill. (Special).—Mrs. Mary E. McIntosh, an aged widow, who lived as a recluse, was found murdered in her home here. Her throat had been cut and her stomach horribly gashed. The crime does not appear to have been committed for robbery. She was poor and lived in a squalid home.

The murder is almost a counterpart of that of Mrs. Margaret Grippen, a woman of about the same age, who was killed at her home in Winnebago, eight miles west of here, last spring. The perpetrator of that crime was never discovered.

Kansas Sues Meat Packers.
Kansas City (Special).—Attorney General Jackson, of Kansas, began suit in the District Court of Kansas City against the Armour and Swift packing companies. He charged that they are members of a combination illegally to raise prices; that they belong to the Kansas City Produce Exchange and are, therefore, liable under the Kansas law providing a penalty of \$100 a day for such membership.

MINISTERS KILL THEMSELVES.
One Takes Poison For Love; Other, In Poor Health, Uses Pistol.
Greenville, Ill. (Special).—Leaving a note in which he declared his love for a young woman, Rev. Harry Koenece swallowed poison and died in the arms of her father.

The minister took the poison at the gate of the girl's home, thrust the note in at the door, which had been opened at his summons, and fell dead.

THIS AVIATOR RUNS A PASSENGER LINE

Paulhan Carries Wife 22 Miles Across Country.

AND THEN HALF MILE OUT TO SEA.
Frenchman Then Takes Another Passenger 12 Miles And Three More Companions On Short Trips, One At A Time—William H. Hearst Makes Journey—Dummy Bombs Dropped From Aloft—Up 1,000 Feet.

Aviation Field, Los Angeles, Cal. (Special).—By carrying his wife in his biplane on a 22-mile cross-country trip from the Aviation Field to a point half a mile out over the ocean and back; by taking another passenger on a 12-mile flight over the fields, and by taking three other passengers, one at a time, on short flights, Louis Paulhan established new world's records for heavier-than-air flying machines. No other aviator has taken up so many passengers in one day and no other aviator has taken a woman for a high flight over fields and woods and villages and surf for more than 20 miles. Paulhan flew at an altitude of from 500 to 1,000 feet over Redondo Beach, Venice by the Sea and other resorts toward Point Pinos. There were no life buoys tied to the machine to save them from death in the waves should they fall. He made this trip and other perilous flights with ease.

The passenger carrying record is held by Orville Wright, who flew with Captain Englehardt for 1 hour and 35 minutes at Berlin last fall; but Wright did not leave the course. Paulhan flew 33 minutes on his 22-mile trip with his wife. His 12-mile trip was made with Clifford B. Harmon, of New York. Besides these, he took up Mrs. Cortland F. Bishop, wife of President Bishop, of the Aero Club of America; Lieut. Paul Beck, of the United States Army Signal Corps; William Randolph Hearst, a newspaper publisher, and a newspaper reporter.

The flights were made under perfect atmospheric conditions. Earlier in the afternoon the wind had been "guffy" and the other aviators had gone back to their tents after trying the course for a few laps.

While the crowd waited patiently in the sunshine, Paulhan went over the parts of his machine. At 2:27 o'clock, after putting on his yellow cloak and helping his wife to her high perch, Paulhan flew out over the grandstand to give the big crowd a greeting. With their cheers sounding faintly, he left the course on his next lap and headed for the ocean. In ten minutes he had become a blur against the sunlit clouds that curtained the Pacific.

At 2:50 o'clock Paulhan again came in sight, and at 3 o'clock he landed directly in front of the grandstand. He was carried down the narrow aisle of frantic people so that all could get a good look at him.

As he was in an amiable mood, he was besieged with pleas to take up friends. He returned to his machine and began to run an aerial bus line.

15 MEN BLOWN TO PIECES.
Five Others Badly Hurt When Nitroglycerin Explodes In New York Tunnel.

Fishkill Landing, N. Y. (Special).—Fifteen men, three of them Americans, were killed by a premature explosion of nitroglycerin in a tunnel which is to form part of the great aqueduct to carry water from the Ashokan dam, in the Catskills, to New York.

Five men were terribly mutilated, but happened to be so near the mouth of the tunnel that they could be rescued alive. The other 15 were found beneath a mass of rock and debris, literally hammered by the force of the explosion into a bleeding mass of heads, limbs and torsos.

The squad of 20 men involved in the accident, having drilled the holes and placed the explosive, were trooping from the excavation, the 15 killed in the rear, and 5, all of whom were foreigners, in the lead.

As the five neared the mouth of the tunnel there was a terrific roar, the country-side shook and the five foreigners were hurled senseless to the ground near the opening. Inside death was instantaneous to the others.

The contracting firm, R. K. Everett & Co., employs 150 men in all, and the explosion indicated immediately that there had been a disaster. A hundred laborers rushed to the mouth of the tunnel and, after dragging forth the injured, set to work clearing away the rock and earth to get at the dead.

As the nitroglycerin had been purposely set to shatter rock, it did not damage the interior of the tunnel more than the contractors had planned, and after two hours work the bodies were reached.

The scene of the accident was near the top of a small mountain, a mile and a half southeast of Cold Spring, eight miles south of this place.

The explosion marks the first serious accident on any work connected with the aqueduct.