

SECTION V.—INVESTIGATIONS INTO VARIATIONS IN PURCHASING-POWER-OF-MONEY PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS IN 150 TOWNS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1. **Introduction.**—In order to supplement the information as to variations in the purchasing-power of money, which is collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding Section, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, as to purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers in 70 additional towns in the Commonwealth. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120, and it is intended to carry it out in that month each year, thus making information available annually in all for 150 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the second investigation (November, 1914) were published in Labour Bulletin No. 8 (Section IV., pages 231 to 240); of the third in Labour Bulletin No. 12 (Section IV., pages 356 to 361); of the fourth in Report No. 7 (Section V., pages 393 to 403), of the fifth in Report No. 8 (Section V., pages 47 to 57), and of the sixth in Report No. 9 (Section VI., pages 52 to 61).

2. **Price Index-Numbers shewing relative Purchasing-Power of Money.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1919, are set out in the tables on pages 56 to 59. *The basis for the whole of this table is the weighted average aggregate expenditure for the 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, in November, 1919.* (See end of last column on page 59). This weighted average aggregate expenditure is made equal to 1000, and the aggregate expenditure on these items for each individual town is shewn in the last column in the form of index-numbers relative to this average. In the preceding column similar index-numbers are shewn for food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, and these index-numbers are again computed to the same base indicated above. That is to say, that while the index-number 1000 (see page 59) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 940 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses. Similarly, in the remaining three columns, if 1000 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses (page 59), the index-number 717 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the index-number 223 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 283 the expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. It follows, therefore, that the figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for all 150 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses as equal to 1000, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 996, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 921,

of which 674 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 247 the expenditure on house rent. Again, the expenditure in Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1074, or 7.4 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 742, the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 332 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 947, of which 735 represents the expenditure on food and groceries and 212 that on rent.

In the following table, the first column shows the index-numbers for food and groceries only, while the second and third show the index-numbers for the rent of houses having four and five rooms respectively. The fourth column shows the aggregate index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of four-roomed houses, and the last column the index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of five-roomed houses :—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1919.*

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
New South Wales—					
Sydney	742	277	332	1,019	1,074
Newcastle	742	233	319	975	1,061
Broken Hill	802	185	231	987	1,033
Goulburn	730	196	263	928	993
Bathurst	691	153	199	844	890
Adelong	673	87	104	760	777
Albury	695	232	290	927	985
Armidale	741	182	235	923	976
Bega	727	143	186	864	907
Bourke	783	114	151	897	934
Bowral	761	203	253	964	1,014
Casino	742	143	225	885	967
Cobar	806	69	100	875	906
Cooma	769	157	214	926	983
Coonamble	782	173	259	955	1,041
Cootamundra	708	244	300	952	1,008
Corrimal	758	121	155	879	913
Cowra	749	238	315	987	1,064
Deniliquin	691	166	219	857	910
Dubbo	726	227	281	953	1,007
Forbes	720	184	242	904	962
Glen Innes	705	173	238	878	943
Grafton	735	181	212	916	947
Grenfell	751	231	334	982	1,085
Gunnedah	753	170	233	923	986
Hay	723	140	229	863	952
Inverell	797	226	266	1,023	1,063
Junee	733	214	286	917	1,019
Katoomba	745	255	324	1,000	1,069
Kempsey	718	134	196	852	914
Lismore	758	215	281	973	1,039
Lithgow	738	211	250	949	988

* These results are based upon the regimen referred to on pages 20-23 Labour Report No. 6.

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1919—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
New South Wales—cont.					
Maitland	724	188	231	912	955
Moree	806	233	276	1,039	1,032
Moss Vale	728	233	298	961	1,026
Mudgee	743	199	225	942	968
Narrabri	807	192	272	999	1,079
Nowra	757	212	268	969	1,025
Orange	721	164	254	885	975
Parkes	737	194	259	931	996
Queanbeyan	748	167	214	915	962
Tamworth	760	191	234	951	994
Temora	724	205	274	929	998
Wagga Wagga	689	234	302	923	991
Wellington	749	182	236	931	985
Wollongong	751	196	235	947	986
Wyalong	760	184	238	944	998
Yass	785	185	225	970	1,010
Young	738	194	242	932	980
Weighted Average for State	743	252	309	995	1,052
Victoria—					
Melbourne	674	247	322	921	996
Ballarat	663	192	152	765	815
Bendigo	633	132	184	765	817
Geelong	666	168	241	834	907
Warrnambool	658	200	258	858	916
Ararat	691	138	190	829	881
Bairnsdale	712	144	182	856	894
Beechworth	646	123	150	769	796
Benalla	661	162	225	823	886
Bright	695	112	155	807	850
Camperdown	600	162	220	822	880
Castlemaine	681	132	188	813	869
Colac	686	171	209	857	895
Creswick	689	59	86	748	775
Daylesford	695	95	132	790	827
Dunolly	633	91	117	724	760
Echuca	667	112	151	779	818
Euroa	650	145	171	795	821
Hamilton	657	187	233	844	890
Horsham	638	186	250	874	938
Korumburra	652	159	204	811	856
Kyneton	644	143	99	787	843
Maldon	649	78	95	727	744
Maryborough	669	110	147	779	816
Mildura	720	268	314	988	1,034
Nhill	669	167	185	836	854
Omoo	739	69	113	808	852
Orbost	699	160	232	859	931
Portland	693	148	212	841	905
St. Arnaud	683	162	202	845	885
Sale	657	148	195	805	852
Shepparton	693	155	242	848	935
Stawell	706	132	192	838	898

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1919—cont.

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Victoria—cont.					
Swan Hill	672	222	292	894	964
Waihalla	702	43	60	745	762
Wendilgong	697	89	86	766	783
Wangaratta	691	167	204	858	895
Warracknabeal	647	176	210	823	857
Wonthaggi	700	216	259	916	959
Yackandandah	657	121	149	778	806
Weighted Average for State	671	215	284	886	955
Queensland—					
Brisbane	739	183	237	922	976
Toowoomba	727	145	187	872	914
Rockhampton	764	141	177	905	941
Charters Towers	798	150	199	948	997
Warwick	734	140	184	874	918
Bundsberg	739	134	173	873	912
Cairns	822	247	302	1,069	1,124
Charleville	809	259	317	1,068	1,126
Chillagoe	824	69	86	893	910
Cloncurry	965	250	317	1,215	1,282
Cooktown	826	78	98	904	924
Cunnamulla	772	147	199	919	971
Goondiwindi	740	160	199	900	939
Gympie	773	157	193	930	966
Hamilton	787	259	311	1,046	1,098
Hughenden	869	302	389	1,171	1,258
Ipswich	757	183	243	940	1,000
Longreach	800	181	259	981	1,059
Mackay	782	205	257	987	1,039
Maryborough	740	109	143	849	883
Mt. Morgan	737	164	208	901	945
Roma	756	216	268	972	1,024
Townsville	802	270	341	1,072	1,143
Winton	870	259	345	1,129	1,215
Weighted Average for State	754	177	227	931	981
South Australia—					
Adelaide	700	225	299	925	999
Moonta & Kadina	703	157	212	860	915
Port Pirie	709	231	277	940	986
Mt. Gambier	641	136	174	777	815
Peterborough	706	175	238	881	944
Gawler	687	164	213	851	900
Kapunda	681	104	134	785	815
Murray Bridge	665	212	248	877	913
Pt. Augusta	765	227	288	992	1,053
Pt. Lincoln	733	156	190	889	923
Pt. Victor (Victor Harbour)	692	220	302	912	994
Renmark	710	274	313	984	1,023
Weighted Average for State	699	216	286	915	985

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (=1000), November, 1919—*cont.*

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms, Index No.
Western Australia—					
Perth & Fremantle	682	213	263	895	945
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	822	237	285	1,059	1,107
Midland Junction & Guildford ..	678	151	202	829	880
Bunbury	736	163	207	899	943
Geraldton	704	240	299	944	1,003
Albany	741	205	253	946	994
Broome	806	*	*	*	*
Carnarvon	762	253	307	1,015	1,069
Cue	796	117	141	913	937
Katanning	641	240	275	881	916
Leonora	895	173	216	1,068	1,111
Menzies	952	86	104	1,038	1,056
Northam	696	201	262	897	958
Ravensthorpe ..	912	86	130	998	1,042
Weighted Average for State ..	717	212	261	929	978
Tasmania—					
Hobart	720	241	316	961	1,036
Launceston	727	187	266	914	993
Zeehan	754	86	115	840	869
Beaconsfield ..	731	43	60	774	791
Queenstown	761	173	216	934	977
Burnie	730	201	259	931	989
Campbelltown ..	697	81	143	778	840
Devonport	704	210	251	914	955
Franklin	704	155	207	859	911
Oatlands	684	73	99	757	783
Scottsdale	653	138	155	791	808
Weighted Average for State ..	723	200	266	923	989
Weighted Average Commonwealth	717	223	283	940	1,000 †

* Not available. † Basis of Tables.

3. **Food and Groceries.**—Comparing the index-numbers for food and groceries alone (column I.), it will be observed that, taking the weighted average for all the towns in each State, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania are above the average for the Commonwealth, Western Australia is the same, while Victoria and South Australia are below. Queensland is the most expensive State (5.2 per cent. above the average), and Victoria the cheapest (6.4 per cent. below). Of the other States New South Wales is 3.6 per cent., and Tasmania 0.8 per cent. above the average, while the index-number for South Australia is 2.5 per cent., below the average. In all the States except Queensland some of the towns are

above and some below the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the most expensive town is Narrabri 12.6, per cent. above the weighted average for the 150 towns, while the cheapest town is Adelong, which is 6.1 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Omeo is the most expensive town, 3.1 per cent. above, and Bendigo and Dunolly are the cheapest, 11.7 per cent. below the average. In Queensland the most expensive town is Cloncurry, 34.6 per cent. above, and the cheapest Toowoomba, 1.4 per cent. above the average. In South Australia the most expensive town is Port Augusta, 6.7 per cent. above, and the cheapest Mt. Gambier, 10.6 per cent. below the average. In Western Australia, Menzies is the most expensive town, 32.8 per cent. above, and Katanning the cheapest, 10.6 per cent. below the weighted average for all towns. Queenstown is the most expensive town in Tasmania, being 6.1 per cent. above, while Scottsdale is the cheapest, being 8.9 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns.

4. **House Rents.**—There is a far greater divergence between the relative expenditure on house rents in the various towns than on food and groceries. As might naturally be expected, the general tendency appears to be that the cost of housing accommodation is greater in places where there is great centralisation of people than in sparsely-populated districts. That this is not always the case, however, is at once apparent on comparing the index-numbers for Sydney with its 828,000 inhabitants and such towns as Hughenden and Townsville in Queensland and Geraldton and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Comparing the weighted average of the towns in each State, it will be seen that, in the case of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 13.0 per cent. above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the average; Queensland 20.6 per cent.; Tasmania 10.3 per cent.; Western Australia 4.9 per cent.; Victoria 3.6 per cent.; and South Australia 3.1 per cent. Turning now to houses having 5 rooms, it will be seen that again New South Wales is above the average for the whole of the towns, by 9.2 per cent. Of the remaining States, South Australia 1.1 per cent., and Victoria 0.4 per cent. are above the average for the whole of the towns, while Queensland 19.8 per cent., Western Australia 7.8 per cent., and Tasmania 6.0 per cent., are below the average for the 150 towns.

Comparing individual towns it may be seen that in New South Wales, Sydney has the highest index-number for houses of four and five rooms, 24.2 per cent. for the former and 17.3 per cent. for the latter, above the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole. Cobar has the lowest index-number for both kinds of houses, being 69.1 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 61.7 per cent. for 5 rooms, below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the highest for houses of 4 rooms, 20.2 per cent. above the average, and Melbourne is the highest for houses of 5 rooms, 13.8 per cent. above the average. Walhalla has the lowest index-number in both cases, 80.7 per cent. below the average for houses having 4 rooms and 78.8 per cent. below for houses having 5 rooms. In Queensland, Hughenden has the highest index-number for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms, being 21.1 per cent. for the former and 37.5 per cent. for the latter above the average for all towns. Chillagoe has the lowest

index-number in both cases, being 69.1 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 69.6 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In South Australia, Renmark has the highest index-number for house rents for houses of 4 and 5 rooms, being 22.9 per cent. for the former, and 10.6 per cent. for the latter above the average, while Kapunda has the lowest index-number, 53.4 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 52.7 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms below the average. In Western Australia, Carnarvon has the highest index-number for both 4 and 5-roomed houses, being 13.5 per cent. for the former and 8.5 per cent. for the latter above the average. For houses of 4 rooms, Menzies is 61.4 per cent., and for houses of 5 rooms 63.3 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns. With regard to rent for houses having 4 rooms, the index-number for Ravensthorpe is the same as for Menzies. Hobart has the highest index-numbers for Tasmania in both cases, being 8.1 per cent. above the average for houses of 4 rooms, and 11.7 above the average for houses of 5 rooms. Beaconsfield has the lowest index-numbers in both cases, being 80.7 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 78.8 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole.

5. **Food, Groceries and House Rent.**—The index-numbers in the last two columns of the table on pages 56 to 59 shew the relative cost of food and groceries combined with rent of the two classes of houses indicated. The general order and arrangement, both of the separate States and of individual towns, as regards relative cost of the commodities and house rent included, is the same whether the rent included refers to four or to five-roomed houses. Taking the combined expenditure in the case of four rooms and five rooms, the weighted average index-numbers for New South Wales are above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-numbers are below in the remaining States. Taking combined expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 5.9 per cent., above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while the remaining States are below the average; Victoria 5.7 per cent., South Australia 2.7 per cent., Tasmania 1.8 per cent., Western Australia 1.2 per cent., and Queensland 1.0 per cent. For combined expenditure on food, groceries and houses having five rooms, the index-number for New South Wales is 5.2 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number for Victoria is 4.5 per cent., for Western Australia 2.2 per cent., for Queensland 1.9 per cent., for South Australia 1.5 per cent., and for Tasmania 1.1 per cent. below the average.

Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales the index-number for the combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed houses is greatest in Moree, being 10.5 per cent. above the average, while the combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of five-roomed houses is greatest in Grenfell, being 8.5 per cent. above the average. The index-number is lowest in Adelong, whether the comparison be made with four or five rooms. In the former case it is 19.1 per cent., and in the latter 22.3 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura has the highest combined index-number in both cases, 5.1 per cent. and 3.4 per cent. above the respective weighted average index-numbers. Dunolly has the lowest combined index-number for four rooms, being 23.0 per cent. below the average, while Maldon has

the lowest combined index-number for five rooms being 25.6 per cent. below the weighted average for the Commonwealth. In Queensland, Cloncurry has the highest index-number, whether the combined expenditure include four or five rooms. The index-number for Cloncurry is 29.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 28.2 per cent. for five rooms, above the Commonwealth averages, while Maryborough has the lowest index-number for four and five rooms, being 9.7 per cent. for the former and 11.7 per cent. for the latter below the average. In South Australia, Port Augusta has the highest, and Mt. Gambier the lowest index-number in both cases. The index-number for Port Augusta is 5.5 per cent. for four rooms, and 5.3 per cent. for five rooms above, and for Mt. Gambier 17.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 18.5 per cent. for five rooms below the weighted averages for the Commonwealth. With regard to the combined expenditure on five-roomed houses, the index-number for Kapunda is the same as that for Mt. Gambier. In Western Australia, Leonora has the highest combined index-number for houses of both four and five rooms, being 13.6 per cent. for the former, and 11.1 per cent. for the latter, above the average. Midland Junction has the lowest combined index-number for both four and five rooms. In the former case it is 11.8 per cent., and in the latter 12.0 per cent. below the Commonwealth average. Hobart has the highest combined index-numbers in Tasmania, being 2.2 per cent. for four rooms, and 3.6 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Oatlands has the lowest combined index-numbers, being 19.5 per cent. below the average, when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 21.7 per cent. below the average for five rooms.

6. **Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1919.**—On the map facing page 63, index-numbers are given which represent the relative purchasing-power-of-money in each of the 100 towns in 1913 and 1914, and also shew the increase or decrease in 100 towns between *November, 1913*, and the same month in 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919. In these index-numbers the *weighted average expenditure in 1913* on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is taken as base (= 1000, see end of first column). The second column represents the proportional expenditure in each town on food and groceries only, so that the difference between the index-number in the first column and that in the second column for any town represents the relative expenditure on rent in *November, 1913*. In the third and fourth columns shewing purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers for *November, 1914*, the same base is retained, with the result that the figures shew not only the relative cost in that month, but also the increase or decrease in cost during the periods indicated. Similarly, the index-numbers in the fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth, ninth and tenth, eleventh, and twelfth and thirteenth and fourteenth columns are again computed to the original base, so that they shew both the relative cost of food and groceries as between the several towns, and the variation in cost in each individual town since *November, 1913*. Thus it may be seen that in Sydney the purchasing-power-of-money index-number increased from 1109 to 1586, a rise of 23.7 per cent., between *November, 1913*, and *November, 1919*. The figures shew, moreover, that the purchasing-power-of-money index-number in Sydney (1109) was 10.9 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1000) in *November, 1913*, while twelve months later the index-number (1124)

was 8.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1035); in November, 1915, it was 1321, or 7.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1234); in November, 1916, it was 1305, or 8.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1204); in November, 1917 it was 1352, or 9.2 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1238); in November, 1918, it was 1372 or 7.0 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1282); and in November, 1919, it was 1586, or 7.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1477). Again, as regards cost of food and groceries only, the index-number in Sydney in 1913 was 634, or 2.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (621); in November, 1914, the corresponding number was 651; in November, 1915, 861; in November, 1916, 851; in November, 1917, 895; in November, 1918, 896; and in November, 1919, 1096, showing that the cost increased from November, 1913, to November, 1919, by 72.9 per cent., and was then 3.5 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1059). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475; the corresponding difference in 1918 was 476, and in 1919 was 490. This shows that rent of five-roomed houses was approximately the same in November, 1918 as in November, 1913, but in November, 1919, had increased 3.2 per cent.

It has already been explained that the list of towns from which information as to prices and house rents are collected annually has been extended, and for November, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 was 150. The index-numbers for the 50 additional towns for November, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 are shown in columns 15 to 24 on the map. They are computed to the same base as the 100 towns, and are therefore comparable with them in all respects. Thus, it may be seen that comparing Melbourne and Bright, the index-number for food and groceries in November, 1915, was 852 for Melbourne, and 921 for Bright, showing that the cost of food and groceries was 8.1 per cent. higher in Bright than in Melbourne. Again, taking the difference between the two index-numbers for November, 1915, in each case, it may be seen that the index-number for rent of five-roomed houses was in Melbourne 388, and in Bright 197. Thus the rent of five-roomed houses was at that period 49.2 per cent. less in Bright than in Melbourne.

7. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and Quarterly Results.—In order to ascertain the degree of accuracy to which the investigations as to variations in the purchasing-power of money made prior to 1912 for the capital towns only, and those made since the beginning of 1912 for the thirty towns, reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Commonwealth, comparisons between the three sets of results were made in connection with the inquiry of Nov., 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1919 inquiry. In the following table the first line in each section shows the results obtained, as to relative purchasing-power of money, from the special inquiry covering in all 150 towns. The second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1919, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received, and the last line the results obtained from the November returns for the capital towns only. The capital towns are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns":—

Relative Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and from Ordinary Periodic Returns, November, 1919.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'ght Aver- age.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns*	1,037	936	1,052	975	1,000	1,009	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,046	942	1,048	983	1,002	1,022	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,046	950	1,042	987	962	1,015	1,000
RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.							
All Towns*	1,090	1,002	801	1,008	922	938	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,097	1,007	749	978	895	929	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,062	1,032	758	957	842	1,011	1,000
FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.							
All Towns*	1,052	955	981	984	978	989	1,000
Five Towns in each State	1,061	961	960	981	971	995	1,000
Capital Towns only ..	1,051	975	955	978	925	1,014	1,000

* For list of towns included, see Table on pages 56 to 59.

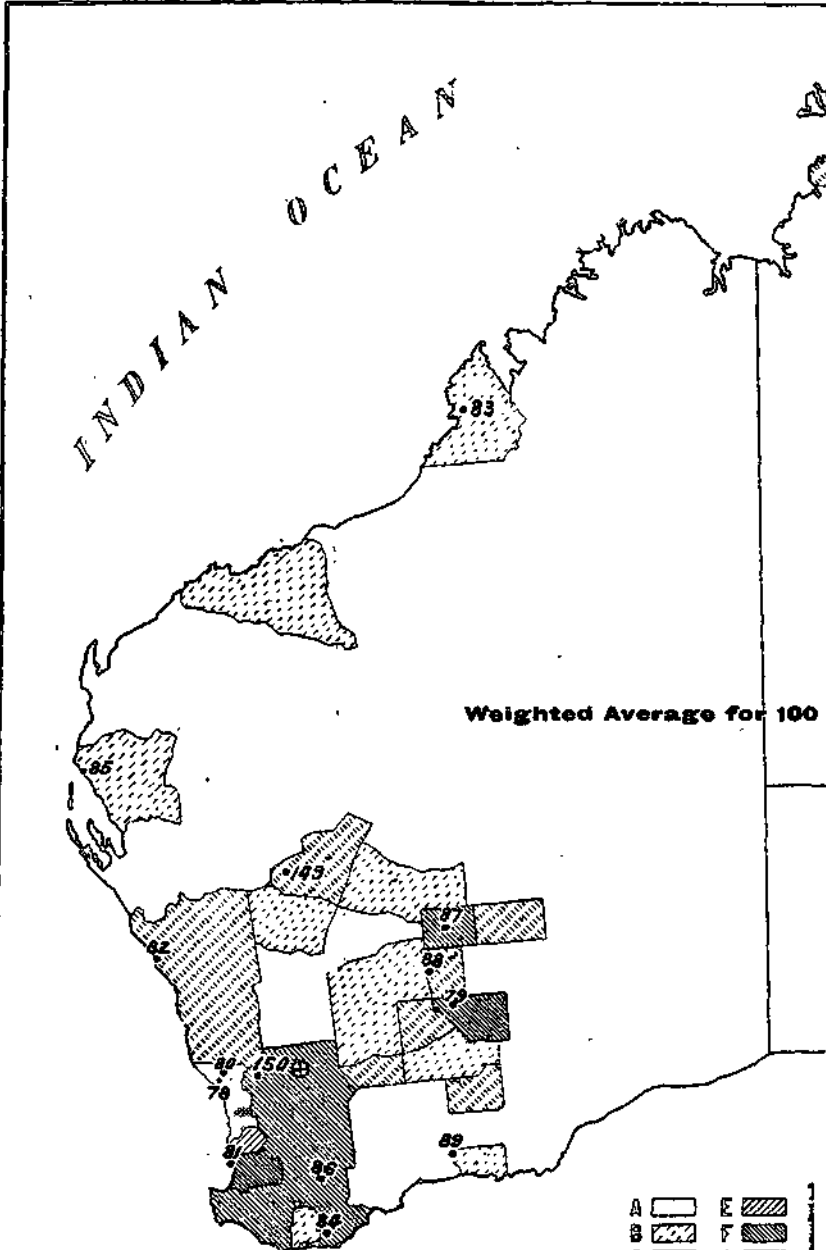
As regards variations in cost of living for November, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919, compared with November, 1913, the index-numbers for November, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above, are shown in the following table:—

Variations in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Price Index-Numbers, Results obtained from Annual Inquiry for extended List of Towns and from Periodic Monthly Inquiries, November, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919.

Particulars.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
All Towns*	1,000	1,072	1,405	1,353	1,395	1,435	1,706
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,073	1,404	1,354	1,390	1,430	1,701
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	1,072	1,408	1,358	1,397	1,440	1,715
RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.							
All Towns*	1,000	974	952	959	981	1,031	1,103
Five Towns in each State	1,000	969	961	966	987	1,039	1,110
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	975	955	961	980	1,033	1,099
FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.							
All Towns*	1,000	1,035	1,234	1,204	1,238	1,282	1,477
Five Towns in each State	1,000	1,033	1,232	1,203	1,234	1,278	1,471
Capital Towns only ..	1,000	1,032	1,223	1,196	1,227	1,274	1,464

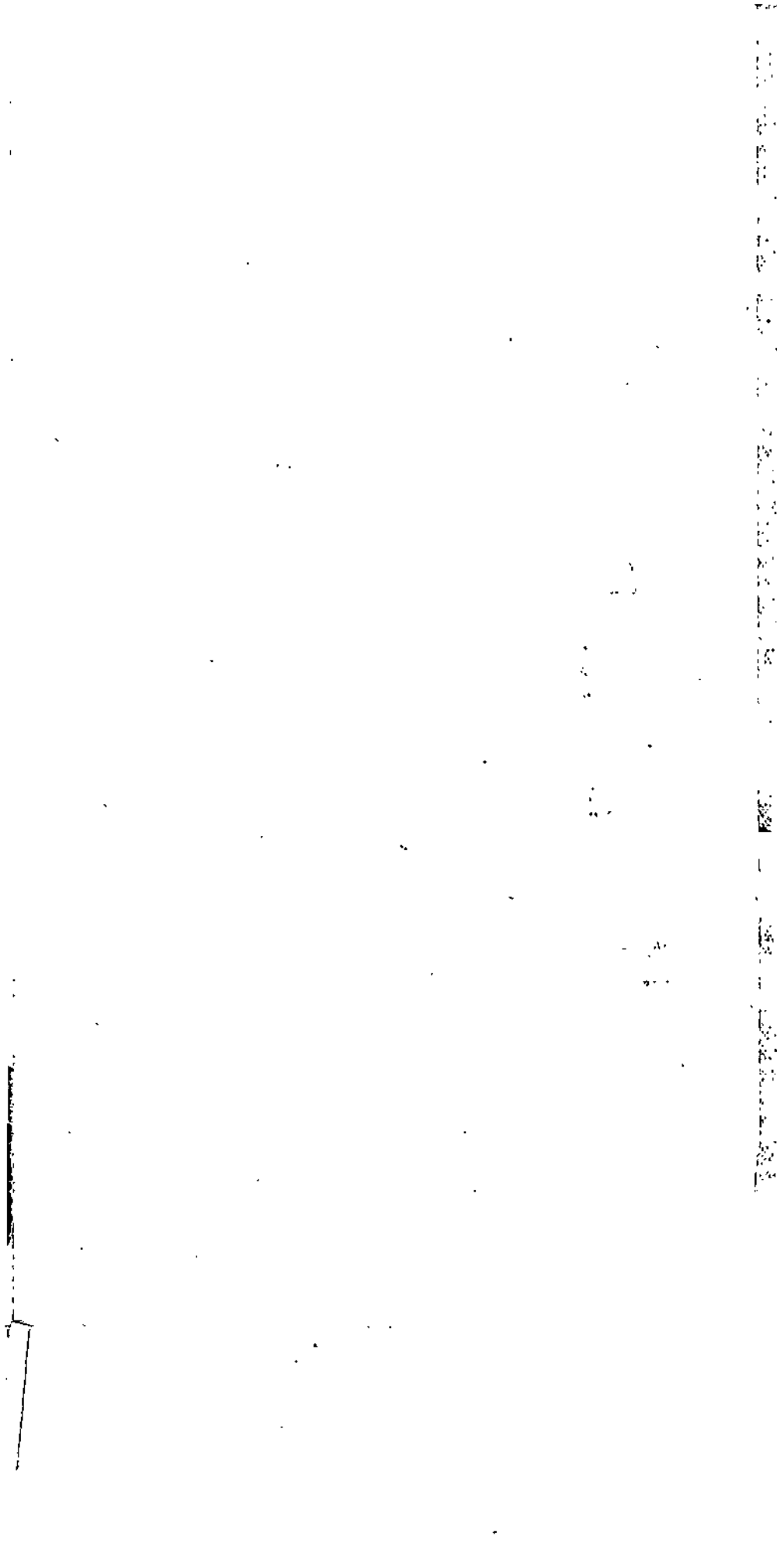
NOTE.—The figures in the vertical columns do not, of course, show relative purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers. They show merely the increase or decrease in cost in November of each year, compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns," "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Towns only" respectively.

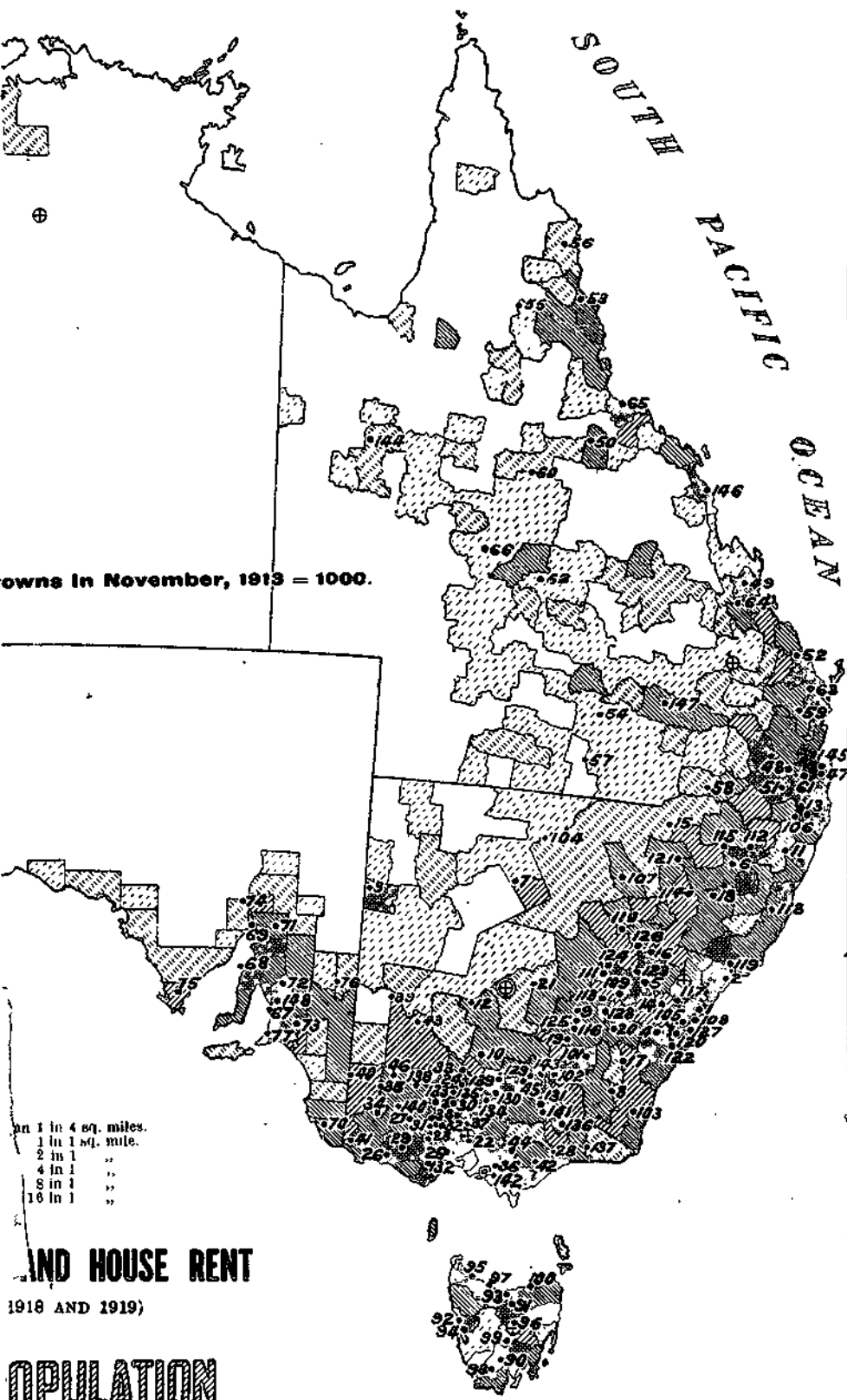
* See footnote to preceding table.



A—Less than one inhabitant to 16 sq. miles
 B—From 1 inhabitant in 16 sq. miles to 1 in 4 sq. miles
 C— " 1 " " 4 " " 1 sq. mile
 D— " 1 " " 1 " " " "
 E— " 2 inhabitants in 1 " " " "
 F— " 4 " " 1 " " " "
 G— " 8 " " 1 " " " "
 H—16 inhabitants and upwards in 1 sq. mile

RELATIVE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, (NOVEMBER, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917) IN RELATION TO DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION





A.—Heavy Figures denote index-numbers for Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-roomed House
 B.—Light figures denote index-numbers for Food and Groceries only.



REFERENCE TO NUMBERS ON MAP.

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
1 SYDNEY ..	1,109	934	1,124	651	1,321	861	1,305	851	1,352	895	1,272	896	1
2 Newcastle ..	980	637	978	648	1,239	817	1,171	856	1,229	868	1,279	907	1
3 Broken Hill ..	1,113	768	849	773	1,199	1,013	1,241	1,042	1,319	1,002	1,233	954	1
4 Goulburn ..	974	629	1,035	667	1,271	854	1,247	864	1,237	853	1,237	903	1
5 Bathurst ..	993	683	909	608	1,103	825	1,109	832	1,111	858	1,187	868	1
6 Armidale ..	875	601	848	618	1,148	863	1,150	834	1,237	895	1,263	899	1
7 Cobarr ..	937	661	931	742	936	907	1,159	909	1,137	922	1,139	923	1
8 Cooma ..	861	638	975	662	1,231	962	1,131	884	1,154	851	1,195	898	1
9 Cootamundra ..	977	632	990	653	1,290	832	1,223	864	1,237	876	1,363	894	1
10 Deniliquin ..	936	606	943	675	1,199	924	1,143	874	1,173	894	1,190	904	1
11 Grafton ..	919	632	923	654	1,181	913	1,164	830	1,255	936	1,254	935	1
12 Hay ..	918	688	939	740	1,277	1,006	1,235	943	1,227	938	1,200	889	1
13 Lismore ..	931	695	1,043	723	1,213	860	1,183	842	1,299	949	1,353	938	1
14 Lithgow ..	915	628	938	628	1,227	894	1,212	884	1,229	906	1,233	912	1
15 Moree ..	931	681	1,041	696	1,256	937	1,225	905	1,375	928	1,406	960	1
16 Mudgee ..	824	589	895	640	1,131	863	1,132	878	1,165	878	1,175	889	1
17 Queanbeyan ..	1,052	650	980	635	1,213	906	1,169	873	1,204	928	1,194	914	1
18 Tanworth ..	908	599	1,065	649	1,231	874	1,206	878	1,235	901	1,247	911	1
19 Wagga Wagga ..	967	584	949	670	1,178	834	1,207	818	1,232	841	1,315	875	1
20 Yass ..	943	637	1,040	676	1,251	948	1,201	869	1,244	927	1,239	911	1
21 West Wyalong ..	966	631	958	669	1,130	890	1,177	906	1,229	910	1,278	925	1
MELBOURNE													
22 Balharat ..	984	568	1,019	628	1,240	852	1,207	807	1,239	814	1,304	861	1
23 Balharat ..	767	566	846	636	1,034	874	1,013	816	1,016	806	1,051	842	1
24 Bendigo ..	915	573	873	641	1,068	843	1,030	814	1,047	797	1,099	826	1
25 Geelong ..	973	579	943	639	1,145	849	1,125	809	1,118	813	1,123	821	1
26 Warrnambool ..	868	581	914	620	1,152	868	1,100	804	1,147	816	1,172	893	1
27 Ararat ..	833	577	915	641	1,179	896	1,119	852	1,126	849	1,160	879	1
28 Bairnsdale ..	796	579	838	615	1,155	903	1,055	811	1,079	833	1,138	876	1
29 Camperdown ..	866	572	915	625	1,131	818	1,079	800	1,091	806	1,143	865	1
30 Castlemaine ..	773	547	911	636	1,137	862	1,089	831	1,079	822	1,123	894	1
31 Creswick ..	730	577	808	636	1,056	883	1,039	860	993	868	1,065	853	1
32 Daylesford ..	779	590	817	639	1,073	885	1,069	821	991	806	1,050	853	1
33 Healesford ..	811	607	857	672	1,061	876	1,008	827	1,064	852	1,069	862	1
34 Hamilton ..	871	594	829	636	1,075	924	1,102	847	1,153	825	1,140	890	1
35 Horsham ..	849	534	933	670	1,202	921	1,179	860	1,184	847	1,189	890	1
36 Kerang ..	839	596	892	625	1,162	907	1,082	798	1,032	827	1,103	835	1
37 Kyrenston ..	766	542	790	611	1,114	887	1,040	824	1,080	825	1,098	846	1
38 Maryborough ..	745	573	808	626	1,029	844	1,037	836	1,023	832	1,040	856	1
39 Mildura ..	872	608	1,053	696	1,273	939	1,320	907	1,346	921	1,356	896	1
40 Nhill ..	867	593	905	656	1,131	887	1,143	833	1,142	861	1,170	889	1
41 Portland ..	796	592	904	624	1,220	928	1,181	869	1,079	834	1,170	872	1
42 Sale ..	874	551	874	634	1,070	824	1,022	780	1,022	797	1,098	838	1
43 Swan Hill ..	875	618	1,000	649	1,279	874	1,204	827	1,257	859	1,233	858	1
44 Wallhaalla ..	790	687	808	693	1,085	897	954	852	963	873	933	890	1
45 Wangaratta ..	825	589	965	642	1,173	878	1,103	824	1,141	844	1,163	843	1
46 Warracknabeal ..	810	555	877	647	1,062	814	1,043	783	1,063	788	1,032	804	1
BRISBANE													
47 Toowoomba ..	879	603	898	646	1,119	894	992	760	1,094	867	1,122	931	1
48 Rockhampton ..	863	617	880	668	1,184	945	1,063	817	1,090	838	1,175	924	1
50 Quthors Towers ..	907	653	997	762	1,188	942	1,130	894	1,197	923	1,301	1,015	1
51 Warwick ..	823	590	888	635	1,077	863	987	773	1,090	861	1,175	922	1
52 Bundaberg ..	851	621	898	650	1,123	873	1,041	829	1,120	884	1,245	905	1
53 Cairns ..	1,067	704	1,140	809	1,248	913	1,299	929	1,375	987	1,420	1,044	1
54 Charleville ..	1,069	704	1,041	722	1,396	1,001	1,328	936	1,331	989	1,423	1,031	1
55 Chillagoe ..	1,153	834	1,052	892	1,319	1,000	1,112	920	1,033	981	1,166	1,094	1
56 Gooktown ..	937	745	1,003	799	1,135	959	1,073	931	1,110	979	1,150	1,018	1
57 Gunnahulla ..	993	724	1,047	779	1,321	1,065	1,124	894	1,156	866	1,239	959	1
58 Goondiwindi ..	853	639	943	680	1,190	935	1,044	808	1,135	864	1,193	917	1
59 Gympie ..	791	600	819	653	1,033	890	1,001	816	1,101	878	1,313	875	1
60 Hughenden ..	1,145	750	1,269	803	1,334	951	1,274	907	1,369	942	1,517	1,038	1
61 Ipswich ..	874	606	900	632	1,189	899	1,062	780	1,159	891	1,243	969	1
62 Longreach ..	1,047	723	1,122	823	1,200	945	1,194	839	1,223	966	1,246	1,024	1
63 Maryborough ..	763	584	830	624	1,133	913	1,045	825	1,049	858	1,121	920	1
64 Mount Morgan ..	890	637	951	696	1,204	949	1,103	842	1,194	901	1,232	929	1
65 Townsville ..	996	636	1,129	769	1,343	962	1,245	856	1,414	961	1,471	985	1
66 Winton ..	1,147	803	1,126	817	1,443	997	1,343	834	1,459	1,013	1,534	1,087	1
ADELAIDE													
67 Kadina-Mount ..	888	636	941	690	1,150	891	1,170	889	1,135	855	1,131	892	1
69 Port Pirie ..	972	644	978	729	1,169	922	1,239	893	1,245	804	1,339	921	1
70 Mount Gambier ..	818	568	894	614	1,109	838	1,067	804	1,065	801	1,115	858	1
71 Portborough ..	896	613	1,009	742	1,214	895	1,193	890	1,187	880	1,209	838	1
72 Kapunda ..	847	618	901	690	1,066	893	1,057	878	1,011	838	1,058	871	1
73 Murray Bridge ..	811	618	1,004	640	1,310	856	1,211	854	1,175	830	1,313	866	1
74 Port Augusta ..	921	680	1,115	770	1,309	892	1,408	949	1,346	923	1,381	945	1
75 Port Lincoln ..	963	674	1,034	716	1,230	901	1,212	925	1,185	897	1,199	944	1
76 Renmark ..	895	666	1,041	696	1,223	897	1,203	872	1,278	886	1,232	926	1
77 Victor Harbour ..	924	637	1,103	720	1,192	863	1,233	864	1,100	845	1,234	868	1
PERTH													
78 Kalgoorlie ..	1,116	719	1,131	762	1,186	886	1,230	872	1,219	845	1,202	893	1
79 Midland Junction ..	1,277	912	1,344	938	1,451	1,036	1,459	1,030	1,463	1,054	1,435	1,018	1
80 Bunnary ..	1,079	751	1,106	777	1,171	847	1,213	905	1,144	846	1,121	824	1
81 Geraldton ..	1,113	757	1,153	819	1,155	894	1,210	949	1,154	895	1,145	890	1
82 Broome ..	1,317	783	1,344	854	1,413	941	1,343	908	1,373	938	1,335	894	1
83 Albany ..	942	942	943	943	944	944	944	1,091	1,111	1,111	1,111	1,111	1
84 Carnarvon ..	1,147	798	1,164	817	1,266	901	1,314	947	1,297	930	1,289	922	1
85 Katanning ..	1,343	900	1,316	865	1,296	961	1,447	1,033	1,493	1,079	1,457	1,040	1
86 Leonora ..	1,154	748	1,180	774	1,213	844	1,275	899	1,246	884	1,276	895	1
87 Leonora ..	1,395	1,042	1,324	1,059	1,351	1,139	1,374	1,119	1,371	1,116	1,359	1,104	1
88 Menzies ..	1,153	1,028	1,226	1,133	1,395	1,242	1,455	1,303	1,419	1,257	1,312	1,159	1
89 Ravensthorpe ..	1,147	1,019	1,150	1,010	1,230	1,119	1,332	1,172	1,338	931	1,294	1,084	1
HOBERT													
90 Launceston ..	975	645	1,042	702	1,231	876	1,173	824	1,235	969	1,268	937	1
91 Zeehan ..	911	596	899	668	1,209	868	1,135	825	1,246	900	1,220	898	1
92 Beaconfield ..	984	717	929	758	1,141	975	1,089	909	1,122	965	1,122	997	1
93 Queensdown ..	938	724	1,063	746	1,214	982	1,243	915	1,233	977	1,224	1,007	1
94 Burnie ..	856	606	1,011	633	1,230	870	1,193	804	1,215	880	1,212	890	1
95 Campbell Town ..	701	599	756	600	1,030	790	1,040	815	1,039	902	1,050	916	1
96 Devonport ..	899	623	879	693	1,223	903	1,176	846	1,191	856	1,231	927	1
97 Franklin ..	809	654	919</										



ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

The index-numbers in the first line of each part of the latter table refer to 100 towns for November, 1913 and 1914, and to 150 towns for November, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919. The general closeness of the results shewn in these two tables is remarkable, and is a further confirmation of the conclusions previously stated, that the index-numbers published for the capital towns only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the thirty towns for 1912 and subsequent years, reflect, with a substantial degree of accuracy, the variations in the purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers, not only in each State separately, but also throughout the Commonwealth as a whole. The second table also shews that during the period November, 1913, to November, 1919, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased over 71 per cent., house rents increased over 10 per cent., the aggregate result shewing an increase of approximately 48 per cent.