

## SECTION V.—INVESTIGATIONS INTO VARIATIONS IN PURCHASING-POWER-OF-MONEY 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), and of the fourth in Report No. 7 (Section V., pages 393 to 403).

2. **Index-Numbers shewing relative Purchasing-Power of Money.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1917, are set out in the tables on pages 48 to 51. *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, 1917.* (See end of last column on page 51). 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 51) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 937 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 51), the index-number 699 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the index-number 238 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 301 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 992, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 923,

of which 658 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 265 the expenditure on house rent. Again, the expenditure in Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1092, or 9.2 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 723, the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 369 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 1013, of which 756 represents the expenditure on food and groceries and 257 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, 1917.\***

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.
<b>New South Wales—</b>					
Sydney .. ..	723	305	369	1,028	1,092.
Newcastle .. ..	717	203	276	920	993
Broken Hill .. ..	810	194	255	1,004	1,065
Goulburn .. ..	689	232	310	921	999
Bathurst .. ..	693	152	205	845	898
Adelong .. ..	691	95	113	786	804
Albury .. ..	706	223	283	929	939
Armidale .. ..	715	222	284	937	999
Bega .. ..	721	169	219	890	940
Bourke .. ..	752	232	283	984	1,035
Bowral .. ..	702	247	309	949	1,011
Casino .. ..	752	175	211	927	963
Cobar .. ..	750	146	192	896	942
Cooma .. ..	712	178	220	890	932
Coonamble .. ..	757	185	232	942	989
Cootamundra .. ..	708	214	283	922	991
Corrimal .. ..	739	152	181	891	920
Cowra .. ..	703	237	294	940	997
Deniliquin .. ..	722	174	225	896	947
Dubbo .. ..	705	188	283	893	988
Forbes .. ..	703	181	214	884	917
Glen Innes .. ..	710	188	247	898	957
Grafton .. ..	756	206	257	962	1,013
Grenfell .. ..	740	209	277	949	1,017
Gunnedah .. ..	707	232	309	939	1,016
Hay .. ..	758	165	233	923	991
Inverell .. ..	734	249	293	983	1,027
Juneee .. ..	705	255	305	960	1,010
Katoomba .. ..	750	285	357	1,035	1,107
Kempsey .. ..	720	139	208	859	928
Lismore .. ..	766	227	283	993	1,050
Lithgow .. ..	732	227	260	959	992

\* These results are based upon the regimen referred to on pages 20-22 Labour Report No. 8.

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, 1917—*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.
<b>New South Wales—<i>cont.</i></b>					
Maitland .. ..	701	173	250	874	951
Moree .. ..	750	309	361	1,059	1,111
Moss Vale .. ..	715	278	384	993	1,099
Mudgee .. ..	709	180	232	889	941
Narrabri .. ..	749	216	299	965	1,048
Nowra .. ..	716	206	258	922	974
Orange .. ..	686	203	285	889	971
Parke .. ..	759	186	240	945	999
Queanbeyan .. ..	749	186	224	935	973
Tamworth .. ..	728	230	286	958	1,014
Temora .. ..	731	232	276	963	1,007
Wagga Wagga .. ..	679	251	340	930	1,019
Wellington .. ..	716	227	289	943	1,005
Wollongong .. ..	730	211	260	941	990
Wyalong .. ..	735	188	257	923	992
Yass .. ..	749	203	256	952	1,005
Young .. ..	701	242	282	943	983
Weighted Average for State .. ..	725	273	337	998	1,062
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Melbourne .. ..	658	265	334	923	992
Ballarat .. ..	651	112	169	763	820
Bendigo .. ..	644	140	201	784	845
Geelong .. ..	657	166	242	823	899
Warrnambool .. ..	659	186	243	845	902
Ararat .. ..	686	165	224	851	910
Bairnsdale .. ..	673	151	199	824	872
Beechworth .. ..	672	116	134	788	806
Benalla .. ..	685	170	209	855	894
Bright .. ..	695	139	175	834	870
Camperdown .. ..	651	174	230	825	881
Castlemaine .. ..	664	157	208	821	872
Colac .. ..	684	186	229	869	913
Creswick .. ..	677	90	129	767	806
Daylesford .. ..	651	104	149	755	801
Dunolly .. ..	680	80	116	760	796
Echuca .. ..	688	121	171	809	859
Euroa .. ..	661	134	167	795	828
Hamilton .. ..	667	175	265	842	932
Horsham .. ..	684	186	232	870	916
Korumburra .. ..	668	165	206	833	874
Kyneton .. ..	666	136	206	802	872
Maldon .. ..	685	83	103	768	788
Maryborough .. ..	672	111	153	783	825
Mildura .. ..	744	277	344	1,022	1,088
Nhill .. ..	696	178	227	874	923
Omeo .. ..	767	103	139	870	906
Orbost .. ..	703	194	258	896	961
Portland .. ..	674	144	197	818	871
St. Arnaud .. ..	708	114	162	822	870
Sale .. ..	644	146	182	790	826
Shepparton .. ..	671	160	255	831	926
Stawell .. ..	685	157	209	842	894

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, 1917—*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.
<b>Victoria—<i>cont.</i></b>					
Swan Hill ..	694	275	322	969	1,016
Walhalla ..	705	52	75	757	780
Wandiligong ..	702	88	104	790	806
Wangaratta ..	682	191	240	873	922
Warracknabeal ..	637	175	239	812	876
Wonthaggi ..	705	237	320	942	1,025
Yackandandah ..	653	104	124	757	777
Weighted Average for State ..	659	230	297	889	956
<b>Queensland—</b>					
Brisbane ..	681	176	231	857	912
Toowoomba ..	701	137	183	838	884
Rockhampton ..	677	160	203	837	880
Charters Towers ..	748	165	219	913	967
Warwick ..	695	126	185	821	880
Bundaberg ..	714	134	191	848	905
Cairns ..	797	258	314	1,055	1,111
Charleville ..	783	254	333	1,037	1,116
Chillagoe ..	792	41	83	833	875
Cloncurry ..	879	314	425	1,193	1,304
Cooktown ..	791	79	105	870	896
Cunnamulla ..	724	157	185	881	909
Goondiwindi ..	698	154	219	852	917
Gympie ..	709	142	180	851	889
Hamilton ..	684	310	361	994	1,045
Hughenden ..	761	309	361	1,070	1,122
Ipswich ..	720	160	216	880	936
Longreach ..	780	217	289	997	1,069
Mackay ..	731	216	263	947	994
Maryborough ..	693	137	155	830	848
Mt. Morgan ..	728	196	237	924	965
Roma ..	731	217	284	948	1,015
Townsville ..	776	282	366	1,058	1,142
Winton ..	818	258	361	1,076	1,179
Weighted Average for State ..	703	178	231	881	934
<b>South Australia—</b>					
Adelaide ..	664	232	304	896	968
Moonta & Kadina ..	690	154	228	845	918
Port Pirie ..	722	235	284	958	1,006
Mt. Gambier ..	647	171	213	819	860
Petersburg ..	711	186	247	897	958
Gawler ..	676	158	199	834	875
Kapunda ..	673	103	144	776	817
Murray Bridge ..	671	196	278	866	949
Pt. Augusta ..	746	275	343	1,020	1,089
Pt. Lincoln ..	725	186	216	910	941
Pt. Victor ..	683	165	206	848	889
Renmark ..	716	254	317	970	1,033
Weighted Average for State ..	670	223	291	892	961

**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, 1917—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.
<b>Western Australia—</b>					
Perth & Fremantle	683	238	294	921	977
Kalgoorlie & Boulder	852	280	346	1,132	1,198
Midland Junction & Guildford ..	684	180	240	864	924
Bunbury .. ..	723	130	209	853	932
Geraldton .. ..	757	281	352	1,038	1,109
Albany .. .. .	751	245	296	997	1,048
Broome .. .. .	944	†	†	†	†
Carnarvon .. ..	871	245	335	1,116	1,206
Cue .. .. .	834	170	200	1,004	1,034
Katanning .. ..	714	240	293	954	1,007
Leonora .. .. .	901	155	206	1,056	1,107
Menzies .. .. .	1,015	103	124	1,118	1,139
Northam .. .. .	950	103	139	1,053	1,089
Ravensthorpe ..	752	206	283	958	1,035
Weighted Average for State ..	733	237	296	968	1,027
<b>Tasmania—</b>					
Hobart .. .. .	782	242	296	1,024	1,078
Launceston .. ..	727	201	280	928	1,007
Zeehan .. .. .	795	97	124	892	919
Beaconsfield ..	779	52	73	831	852
Queenstown .. ..	789	218	251	1,007	1,040
Burnie .. .. .	711	224	271	935	982
Campbelltown ..	728	97	111	825	839
Devonport .. ..	691	225	271	916	962
Franklin .. .. .	746	185	247	931	993
Oatlands .. .. .	733	82	103	815	836
Scottsdale .. ..	718	131	185	849	903
Weighted Average for State ..	759	209	265	968	1,024
Weighted Average Commonwealth	679	238	301	937	1,000*

\* Basis of Tables. † Not available.

**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, Western Australia, and Tasmania are above the average for the Commonwealth, while Victoria and South Australia are below. Tasmania is the most expensive State (8.6 per cent. above the average), and Victoria the cheapest (5.7 below). Of the other States New South Wales is 3.7 per cent., Queensland 0.6 per cent., and Western Australia 4.9 per cent. above the average, while South Australia is 4.1 per cent.

below the average. In all the States some of the towns are above and some below the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the most expensive town is Broken Hill, 15.9 per cent. above the weighted average for the 150 towns, while the cheapest town is Wagga Wagga, which is 2.9 per cent. below the average. In Victoria, Omeo is the most expensive town, 9.7 per cent. above, and Warracknabeal the cheapest, 8.9 per cent. below the average. In Queensland the most expensive town is Cloncurry, 25.8 per cent. above, and the cheapest Rockhampton, 3.1 per cent. below the average. In South Australia the most expensive town is Port Augusta, 6.7 per cent. above, and the cheapest Mt. Gambier, 7.4 per cent. below the average. In Western Australia, Menzies is the most expensive town, 45.2 per cent. above; and Perth the cheapest, 2.3 per cent. below the weighted average for all towns. Zeehan is the most expensive town in Tasmania, being 13.7 per cent. above, while Devonport is the cheapest, being 1.1 per cent. below the average for all 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 700,000 inhabitants and Geraldton, in Western Australia, with under 4000 inhabitants. It will be observed that in the case of the latter town the index-numbers for housing accommodation is only slightly lower than Sydney.

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 14.7 per cent. above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the average; Queensland 25.2 per cent.; Tasmania 12.2 per cent.; South Australia 6.3 per cent.; Victoria 3.4 per cent.; and Western Australia 0.4 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 12.6 per cent. Of the remaining States, Queensland is 23.3 per cent., Tasmania 12.0 per cent., South Australia 3.3 per cent., Western Australia 1.7 per cent., and Victoria 2.3 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns.

Comparing individual towns it may be seen that in New South Wales, Moree has the highest index-number for houses of four rooms, and Moss Vale for houses of five rooms, 29.8 per cent. for the former and 27.6 per cent. for the latter, above the average for the 150 towns considered as a whole. Adelong has the lowest index-number for both kinds of houses, being 60.1 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 62.5 per cent. for 5 rooms, below the average. In Victoria, Mildura is the highest for houses of 4 rooms and 5 rooms, 16.4 per cent. for the former, and 14.3 per cent. for the latter above the average. Walhalla has the lowest index-number

in both cases, 79.2 per cent. below the average for houses having 4 rooms and 75.1 per cent. below for houses having 5 rooms. In Queensland, Cloncurry has the highest index-number both for 4 rooms and 5 rooms; 31.9 per cent. for the former, and 41.2 per cent. for the latter, above the average for all towns. Chillagoe has the lowest index-number in both cases, being 82.8 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 72.4 per cent. for 5 rooms below the average. In South Australia Port Augusta has the highest index-number for house rents, 15.5 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 14.0 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms above the average, while Kapunda has the lowest index-number, 56.7 per cent. for houses of 4 rooms, and 52.2 per cent. for houses of 5 rooms below the average. In Western Australia, Geraldton has the highest index-number for houses of 4 and 5 rooms, being 18.1 per cent. for the former, and 16.9 per cent. for the latter above the average, while for houses of 4 rooms, Menzies and Northam are 56.7 per cent., and for houses of 5 rooms Menzies is 59.8 per cent. below the average for the 150 towns. Hobart has the highest index-number for Tasmania in both cases, being 1.7 per cent. above the average for houses of 4 rooms, and 1.7 below the average for houses of 5 rooms. Beaconsfield has the lowest index-numbers in both cases, being 78.2 per cent. for 4 rooms, and 75.7 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 48 to 51 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, Western Australia and Tasmania are above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number is below in the remaining States. Taking combined expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 6.5 per cent., and Western Australia and Tasmania 3.3 per cent. above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while Queensland is 6.0 per cent., Victoria 5.1 per cent., and South Australia 4.8 per cent. below the average. For combined expenditure on food, groceries and houses having five rooms, the index-number for New South Wales is 6.2 per cent., for Western Australia 2.7 per cent., and for Tasmania 2.4 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns, while the index-number for Queensland is 6.6 per cent., for Victoria 4.4 per cent., and for South Australia 3.9 per cent. below the average.

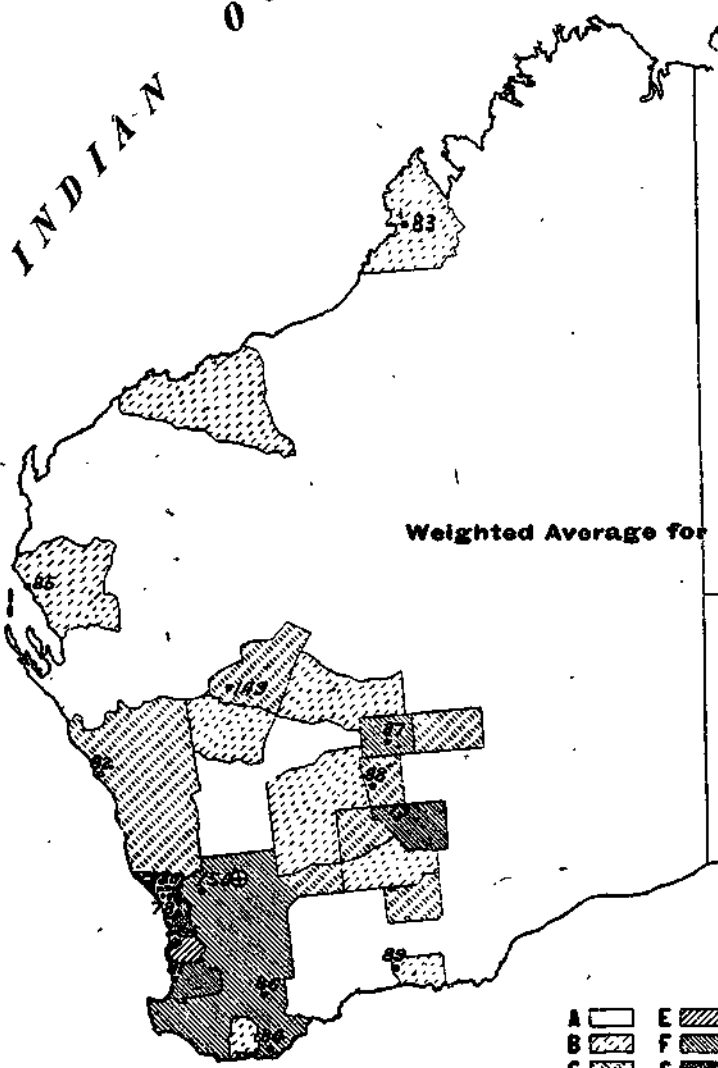
Comparing individual towns, it may be seen that in New South Wales the index number for combined expenditure on food, groceries and rent of four-roomed and five-roomed houses is greatest in Moree, being 13.0 per cent. for the former, and 11.1 per cent. for the latter above the average. The index-number is lowest in Adelong; whether the comparison be made with four or five rooms. In the former case it is 16.1 per cent., and in the latter 19.6 per

cent. below the average. In Victoria, Mildura has the highest combined index-number in both cases, 9.1 per cent. and 8.8 per cent. above the respective weighted average index-numbers. Daylesford has the lowest combined index-number when houses of four rooms are taken, and Yackandandah when houses of five rooms are taken. Daylesford is 19.4 per cent., and Yackandandah 22.3 per cent. below the Commonwealth averages. In Queensland, Cloncurry has the highest index-number, whether the combined expenditure include four or five rooms. The index-number for Cloncurry is 19.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 30.4 per cent. for five rooms, above the Commonwealth averages, while Warwick is 12.4 per cent. for four rooms, and Maryborough 15.2 per cent. for five rooms below the average. In South Australia, Port Augusta has the highest, and Kapunda the lowest index-number in both cases. The index-number for Port Augusta is 8.9 per cent. for four rooms, and 8.9 per cent. for five rooms above, and for Kapunda 17.2 per cent. for four rooms, and 18.3 per cent. for five rooms below the weighted averages for the Commonwealth. In Western Australia the combined index-number is greatest for houses of four rooms in Kalgoorlie, 20.8 per cent. above the average, and for houses of five rooms in Carnarvon, 20.6 per cent. above the average. Bunbury has the lowest combined index-number for four rooms, and Midland Junction for five rooms. In the former case it is 9.0 per cent., and in the latter 7.6 per cent. below the Commonwealth average. Hobart has the highest combined index-numbers in Tasmania, being 9.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 7.8 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Oatlands has the lowest combined index-numbers, being 13.0 per cent. below the average, when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 16.4 per cent. below the average for five rooms.

**6. Variation in Purchasing-Power-of-Money Index-Numbers, 1913 to 1917.**—On the map facing this page, 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 and 1917. 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 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, and ninth and tenth 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 1352, a rise of 21.9 per cent., between November, 1913, and November, 1917. The figures



INDIAN OCEAN



Weighted Average for

A	[White]	E	[Diagonal lines /]
B	[Diagonal lines \]	F	[Cross-hatch]
C	[Horizontal lines]	G	[Vertical lines]
D	[Vertical lines]	H	[Cross-hatch]

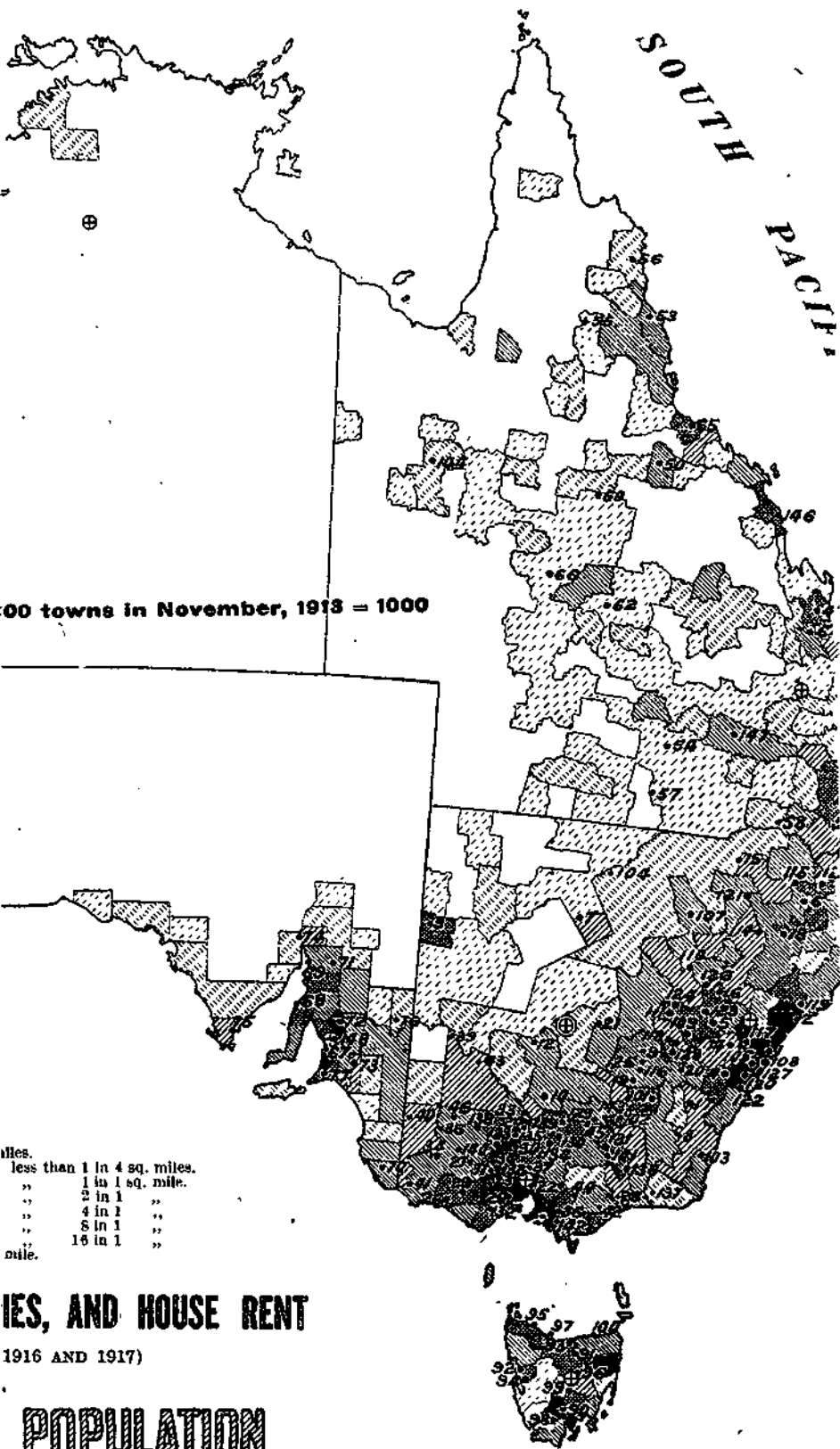
- A—Less than one inhabitant to 16 sq. miles
- B—From 1 inhabitant in 16 sq. miles to 4
- C— " 1 " " 4
- D— " 1 " " 1 sq. mile
- E— " 2 inhabitants in 1 " "
- F— " 4 " " 1 " "
- G— " 8 " " 1 " "
- H—16 inhabitants and upwards in 1 sq. mile

# RELATIVE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES

(NOVEMBER, 1913, 1914, 1915,

IN RELATION TO

# DISTRIBUTION OF



Reference to Numbers on Map.

	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
1 SYDNEY ..	1,109	634	1,124	651	1,321	861	1,305	851	1,35
2 Newcastle ..	960	637	972	648	1,223	847	1,173	856	1,25
3 Broken Hill ..	1,116	768	849	773	1,192	1,013	1,341	1,042	1,31
4 Goulburn ..	974	629	1,035	667	1,271	854	1,247	864	1,23
5 Bathurst ..	892	583	908	608	1,102	825	1,109	832	1,17
6 Armidale ..	875	601	948	618	1,148	863	1,150	834	1,23
7 Cobar ..	987	661	831	742	996	907	1,159	909	1,16
8 Cooma ..	861	638	975	662	1,221	962	1,131	884	1,12
9 Cootamundra ..	977	632	990	658	1,290	892	1,228	864	1,22
10 Deniliquin ..	836	606	943	675	1,199	924	1,148	874	1,17
11 Grafton ..	919	632	922	654	1,181	913	1,164	830	1,26
12 Hay ..	918	688	989	740	1,277	1,006	1,235	948	1,23
13 Lismore ..	931	695	1,042	723	1,213	860	1,193	842	1,29
14 Lithgow ..	915	628	938	625	1,227	894	1,212	884	1,22
15 Moree ..	981	681	1,041	696	1,256	937	1,225	906	1,37
16 Mudgee ..	824	569	895	640	1,131	863	1,162	878	1,16
17 Queanbeyan ..	1,052	650	980	635	1,213	906	1,169	873	1,20
18 Tamworth ..	902	599	1,066	649	1,231	874	1,306	876	1,25
19 Wagga Wagga ..	967	584	949	670	1,172	834	1,207	818	1,26
20 Yass ..	943	637	1,040	676	1,251	948	1,201	899	1,24
21 West Wyalong ..	966	631	953	669	1,130	890	1,177	906	1,22
22 MELBOURNE ..	964	568	1,019	628	1,240	852	1,207	807	1,21
23 Ballarat ..	787	566	845	636	1,084	874	1,012	815	1,01
24 Bendigo ..	816	573	873	641	1,068	843	1,030	814	1,04
25 Geelong ..	872	579	943	639	1,145	849	1,125	809	1,17
26 Warrnambool ..	865	581	914	620	1,152	866	1,100	804	1,11
27 Ararat ..	833	577	915	641	1,179	895	1,119	852	1,17
28 Bairnsdale ..	798	579	838	615	1,155	903	1,053	811	1,07
29 Camperdown ..	866	572	915	625	1,101	818	1,079	800	1,02
30 Castlemaine ..	773	547	911	636	1,137	862	1,089	831	1,07
31 Creswick ..	730	577	808	636	1,056	883	1,039	860	99
32 Daylesford ..	779	590	817	638	1,073	885	1,000	821	99
33 Echuca ..	811	607	857	672	1,061	876	1,009	827	1,00
34 Hamilton ..	871	594	926	636	1,275	924	1,102	847	1,15
35 Horsham ..	849	534	938	670	1,202	921	1,179	860	1,17
36 Korumburra ..	839	596	892	625	1,162	907	1,088	798	1,08
37 Kyneton ..	766	562	790	611	1,114	887	1,040	824	1,03
38 Maryborough ..	745	573	808	626	1,029	844	1,037	836	1,02
39 Mildura ..	972	608	1,053	698	1,272	939	1,330	907	1,34
40 Nhill ..	897	593	906	656	1,121	887	1,142	883	1,12
41 Portland ..	796	592	904	624	1,220	928	1,121	869	1,07
42 Sale ..	784	551	874	634	1,070	824	1,022	780	1,02
43 Swan Hill ..	975	618	1,000	649	1,279	874	1,204	827	1,22
44 Waihalia ..	790	687	808	693	1,025	897	954	852	96
45 Wangaratta ..	825	589	965	662	1,173	876	1,108	824	1,12
46 Warracknabeal ..	810	555	877	647	1,082	814	1,048	783	1,08
47 BRISBANE ..	878	583	919	627	1,166	878	1,050	768	1,11
48 Toowoomba ..	840	603	898	646	1,119	894	982	760	1,06
49 Rockhampton ..	863	617	920	668	1,184	945	1,093	817	1,09
50 Charters Towers ..	907	658	997	752	1,188	942	1,130	884	1,11
51 Warwick ..	822	590	863	635	1,077	863	987	773	1,09
52 Bundaberg ..	851	621	898	650	1,123	873	1,041	828	1,12
53 Cairns ..	1,067	704	1,140	809	1,248	913	1,299	929	1,37
54 Charleville ..	1,099	704	1,041	722	1,396	1,001	1,338	936	1,36
56 Obillago ..	1,153	834	1,052	892	1,319	1,000	1,112	920	1,08
56 Cooktown ..	937	745	1,003	799	1,125	959	1,072	931	1,11
57 Cannamulla ..	992	724	1,047	779	1,321	1,065	1,124	894	1,15
58 Goondiwindi ..	958	639	968	680	1,199	935	1,044	806	1,15
59 Gympie ..	791	600	819	653	1,068	890	1,001	816	1,10
60 Hughenden ..	1,145	756	1,269	803	1,334	951	1,274	907	1,33
61 Ipswich ..	874	606	900	632	1,180	800	1,062	780	1,15
62 Longreach ..	1,047	728	1,123	823	1,200	945	1,194	939	1,32
63 Maryborough ..	782	584	830	624	1,133	913	1,045	825	1,04
64 Mount Morgan ..	830	637	851	696	1,204	949	1,103	842	1,10
65 Townsville ..	998	696	1,123	769	1,343	952	1,245	856	1,41
66 Winton ..	1,147	803	1,136	817	1,443	997	1,342	934	1,47
67 ADELAIDE ..	1,066	619	1,078	698	1,243	876	1,219	852	1,11
68 Kadina-Moonta ..	862	636	941	690	1,150	891	1,170	889	1,11
69 Fort Pirie ..	972	644	973	729	1,189	922	1,239	893	1,24
70 Mount Gambier ..	918	568	894	614	1,100	838	1,067	804	1,06
71 Petersburg ..	998	613	1,099	742	1,214	895	1,196	890	1,18
72 Kapunda ..	847	618	901	690	1,066	893	1,057	878	1,01
73 Murray Bridge ..	911	618	1,004	640	1,210	856	1,211	854	1,17
74 Port Augusta ..	931	660	1,115	770	1,300	892	1,408	949	1,34
75 Port Lincoln ..	993	674	1,034	716	1,220	901	1,212	925	1,12
76 Renmark ..	956	666	1,041	696	1,222	897	1,203	872	1,27
77 Victor Harbour ..	924	687	1,103	720	1,192	863	1,223	864	1,10
78 PERTH ..	1,116	719	1,131	762	1,186	836	1,230	872	1,27
79 Kalgoorlie ..	1,277	912	1,344	988	1,451	1,036	1,459	1,030	1,48
80 Midland Junction ..	1,079	731	1,106	777	1,171	847	1,213	905	1,11
81 Bunbury ..	1,113	757	1,155	819	1,155	894	1,210	949	1,17
82 Geraldton ..	1,317	783	1,344	856	1,413	941	1,348	908	1,37
83 Broome ..	+	942	+	943	+	944	+	1,091	+
84 Albany ..	1,147	793	1,184	817	1,268	901	1,314	947	1,21
85 Carnarvon ..	1,343	960	1,316	965	1,296	961	1,447	1,033	1,46
86 Katanning ..	1,154	748	1,160	774	1,318	844	1,275	899	1,27
87 Leonora ..	1,286	1,042	1,324	1,069	1,361	1,139	1,374	1,119	1,37
88 Menzies ..	1,163	1,026	1,236	1,133	1,395	1,242	1,456	1,303	1,47
89 Ravensthorpe ..	1,147	1,019	1,150	1,010	1,260	1,119	1,322	1,172	1,27
90 HOBART ..	976	645	1,042	702	1,231	876	1,178	824	1,37
91 Launceston ..	911	596	999	668	1,209	868	1,185	825	1,27
92 Zeehan ..	934	717	928	758	1,141	975	1,069	909	1,11
93 Beaconsfield ..	789	654	806	710	1,083	987	988	885	1,06
94 Queenstown ..	939	724	1,062	746	1,314	982	1,248	915	1,27
95 Burnie ..	956	606	1,011	633	1,220	870	1,123	804	1,27
96 Campbell Town ..	701	599	758	660	+	+	940	815	1,05
97 Devonport ..	899	623	879	633	1,228	903	1,176	846	1,15
98 Franklin ..	909	654	919	703	+	+	1,066	836	1,22
99 Outlands ..	820	628	874	682	961	788	976	804	1,07
100 Scottsdale ..	768	570	844	632	1,032	846	991	795	1,11

Weighted Average .. \*1,000 \*621 \*1,036 \*665 †1,234 †872 †1,294 †840 †1,111

\* Weighted average of 100 Towns.  
 † Weighted average of 150 Towns.  
 ‡ Not available.

med Houses.

OCEAN



R		1915.		1916.		1917.	
		A	B	A	B	A	B
895	N. S. Wales—						
888	101 Adelong ..	1,110	922	1,016	837	996	856
1,002	102 Albury ..	1,174	868	1,169	847	1,225	874
853	103 Bega ..	1,137	873	1,100	864	1,163	892
858	104 Bourke ..	1,146	920	1,198	914	1,282	931
886	105 Bowral ..	1,135	841	1,153	859	1,252	869
928	106 Casino ..	1,165	884	1,102	822	1,192	930
881	107 Coonamble ..	1,202	883	1,263	944	1,224	937
876	108 Corral ..	1,078	854	1,118	901	1,139	915
894	100 Cowra ..	1,217	854	1,223	872	1,234	870
936	110 Dubbo ..	1,190	887	1,188	863	1,223	872
938	111 Forbes ..	1,131	886	1,063	834	1,136	871
949	112 Glen Innes ..	1,101	859	1,114	827	1,184	878
906	113 Grenfell ..	1,221	902	1,181	910	1,258	917
928	114 Gunnedah ..	1,252	870	1,244	868	1,258	875
878	115 Inverell ..	1,201	841	1,213	857	1,271	909
928	116 Junee ..	1,223	886	1,266	900	1,251	873
901	117 Katoomba ..	1,325	847	1,345	907	1,371	928
841	118 Kempsey ..	1,120	862	1,099	860	1,149	892
927	119 Maitland ..	1,087	822	1,148	830	1,178	868
910	120 Moss Vale ..	1,258	869	1,222	872	1,360	885
814	121 Narrabri ..	1,190	877	1,221	870	1,297	927
806	122 Nowra ..	1,060	856	1,100	845	1,205	886
797	123 Orange ..	1,210	834	1,155	846	1,202	850
813	124 Parkes ..	1,153	879	1,215	921	1,236	940
816	125 Temora ..	1,262	911	1,210	868	1,247	906
849	126 Wellington ..	1,197	859	1,193	902	1,244	887
833	127 Wollongong ..	1,141	838	1,194	881	1,226	904
806	128 Young ..	1,180	874	1,168	885	1,217	868
822	VICTORIA—						
838	129 Beechworth ..	1,059	893	1,091	874	998	832
800	130 Benalla ..	1,163	879	1,063	834	1,107	848
852	131 Bright ..	1,118	921	1,044	833	1,078	861
825	132 Colac ..	1,161	856	1,117	845	1,131	847
847	133 Dunnolly ..	1,045	853	977	811	985	842
827	134 Euroa ..	1,071	857	1,068	845	1,025	818
825	135 Maldon ..	998	875	1,003	846	976	848
892	136 Omeo ..	1,158	1,005	1,068	914	1,122	949
921	137 Orbost ..	1,162	890	1,167	864	1,190	871
861	138 St Arnaud ..	1,188	946	1,071	864	1,078	877
834	139 Shepparton ..	1,149	859	1,151	823	1,146	831
797	140 Stawell ..	1,186	942	1,070	834	1,106	848
859	141 Wandiligong ..	1,081	954	1,055	870	997	870
873	142 Wonthaggi ..	1,236	917	1,344	897	1,269	878
844	143 Yackandandah ..	1,038	873	983	830	962	809
788	QUEENSLAND—						
838	144 Cloncurry ..	1,447	1,032	1,367	980	1,615	1,088
807	145 Hamilton ..	1,279	896	1,222	776	1,294	847
888	146 Mackay ..	1,227	895	1,165	848	1,230	905
861	147 Roma ..	1,288	937	1,207	869	1,256	905
884	S. AUSTRALIA						
987	148 Gawler ..	1,160	873	1,175	863	1,083	837
969	W. AUSTRALIA						
981	149 Cue ..	1,315	1,092	1,316	1,090	1,280	1,033
979	150 Northam ..	1,259	879	1,343	968	1,348	1,176
896							
864							
878							
942							
291							
966							
858							
901							
961							
1,013							
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**ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA**

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), and in 1917 it was 1352, or 9.2 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1238). 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; and in November, 1917, 895, shewing that the cost increased from November, 1913, to November, 1917, by 41.2 per cent., and was then 3.4 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (866). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475, and the corresponding difference in 1917, 457. This shews that rent of five-roomed houses had decreased 3.8 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 and 1917 was 150. The index-numbers for the 50 additional towns for November, 1915, 1916 and 1917, are shown in columns 11 to 16 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, shewing 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 50.8 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 November, 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1917 inquiry. In the following table the first line in each section shews 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, 1917, 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, 1917.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'ght Aver- age.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
All Towns* .. .. .	1,036	943	1,006	958	1,048	1,085	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	1,046	947	993	964	1,039	1,105	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Towns only ..	1,049	954	988	963	991	1,135	<b>1,000</b>
<b>RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>							
All Towns* .. .. .	1,121	986	767	971	983	881	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	1,130	988	707	943	964	865	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Towns only ..	1,112	1,008	696	915	886	891	<b>1,000</b>
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.</b>							
All Towns* .. .. .	1,062	956	934	962	1,027	1,024	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	1,072	960	904	958	1,016	1,030	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Towns only ..	1,069	972	893	948	957	1,056	<b>1,000</b>

\* For list of towns included, see Table on pages 41 to 58.

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

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

Particulars.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>					
All Towns .. .. .	<b>1,000</b>	1,072	1,405	1,353	1,395
Five Towns in each State	<b>1,000</b>	1,073	1,404	1,354	1,390
Capital Towns only ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,072	1,408	1,358	1,397
<b>RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>					
All Towns .. .. .	<b>1,000</b>	974	952	959	981
Five Towns in each State	<b>1,000</b>	969	961	966	987
Capital Towns only ..	<b>1,000</b>	975	955	961	980
<b>FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.</b>					
All Towns .. .. .	<b>1,000</b>	1,035	1,234	1,204	1,238
Five Towns in each State	<b>1,000</b>	1,033	1,232	1,203	1,234
Capital Towns only ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,032	1,223	1,196	1,227

NOTE.—The figures in the vertical columns do not, of course, shew relative purchasing-power-of-money index-numbers. They shew 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.

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 and 1917. 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, 1917, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased over 39 per cent., while house rents declined nearly 2 per cent., the aggregate result shewing an increase of approximately 23 per cent.