

The Rise in Prices.

The Bureau of Economic Research, whose thorough and impartial work we have previously had occasion to commend, has now issued two carefully prepared bulletins comparing prices during the present decade with those which prevailed during the eighties. The prices of sixty six staple commodities—all the important ones of which there is a standard grade—were investigated for every year since 1879, their average price during the eighties was represented by the figure 100, and their price in each particular year compared therewith by percentages. In this way the tables are made singularly clear. The most interesting figures are those showing the changes during the last four years. These are as follows for the various groups presented:

	Average Price 1879-89.	Price Sept. 1896.	Price Sept. 1900.
I. Live stock.....	100	72	97
(Cattle, hogs and sheep.)			
II. Slaughter products	100	76	95
(Beef, tallow, pork, etc.)			
III. Dairy products....	100	77	92
(Butter, eggs, milk, and cheese.)			
IV. Breadstuffs.....	100	58	79
(Wheat, corn, etc.)			
V. Plants and fibers..	100	64	93
(Potatoes, beans, cotton, etc.)			
VI. Metals.....	100	69	85
(Pig Iron, copper, etc.)			
VII. Minerals and lumber	100	90	101
(Coal, yellow pine, etc.)			
VIII. Iron manufactures.	100	55	56
(Bar iron, steel rails, etc.)			
IX. Mineral manufactures	100	78	94
X. Manufactured farm products.....	100	66	84
(Print cloth, leather, etc.)			

In nearly all grades, it will be observed, there has been a marked rise in prices during the past four years, the greatest increase appearing in the agricultural products.

Among these the average advance has been nearly one-third, showing that the gains of farmers during the recent period of rising prices were as phenomenal as were their losses during the previous four years of falling prices. In either period the impossibility of changing the supply of farm products to meet the changing demand probably accounts for the violent fluctuations in prices. Taking all the products together, and weighing each according to the amount produced in this country, the "Bulletin" shows that the general level of prices has changed as follows:

	Average Price 1879-89.	Price Sept. 1896.	Price Sept. 1900.
66 staple articles.....	100	71	88

These results for the United States correspond closely with those obtained by both Sauerbeck and the London "Economist" for England, and those obtained by Conrad for Germany. In all these countries during the past four years there has been a general advance in prices amounting to over twenty per cent.; \$1,200 will not today buy as much food, clothing, furniture, and building materials as would \$1,000 in 1896. Certain charges strongly influenced by custom, such as car-fares, fees, and even rents, have changed relatively little, but in general the purchasing power of money has fallen about fifteen per cent. Whether or not wages have risen that amount cannot yet be determined. Reliable figures would indicate that wages have not risen half as much as prices, but, as his figures indicated also that wages did not half fall as much as prices during the four years of hard times, they can hardly be accepted as reliable. Nobody who has observed industrial conditions believes that wage-earners are worse off than in 1896, or that they were then better off than in 1892, before the world-wide fall in prices set in.—New York Outlook.

Now I Feel Real Well

Mr. W. H. La Blance, Bonfield, Ont., writes:—"I was once a sufferer from catarrh, and while using Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure I was recommended to use also Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to build up the system. My nerves were exhausted and I was too weak to do a day's work when I began using it, and now am strong and healthy, and feel real well. I am perfectly sure that anyone who uses Dr. Chase's Nerve Food will believe as I do, that it is the best strengthener and restorative obtainable."

The Sacrifice of Canada to Germany.

Ernest Williams in the National Review of London criticizes the British government for what he thinks is its bad treatment of Canada. The treaty of which Mr. Williams speaks has not yet been ratified. It will be time enough for Canada to cry when she is hurt. Mr. Williams says:—

What is called the most-favored-nation clause is common in treaties between civilized powers. Its operation in practice in the case of Germany will be seen, when it is explained that Germany has two tariffs—a heavy "autonomous" tariff and a treaty tariff. That is to say, in order to obtain concessions from other powers, reductions are made in the general or autonomous tariff, and every power sharing most-favored-treatment, besides the power which directly negotiated the reduction, has the benefit of the reduction. The British empire, for instance, has the advantage of all the reductions which were made in the German tariff in the Russo-German treaty of 1894; and if, in the forthcoming

Speechless and Paralyzed.—"I had valvular disease of the heart," writes Mrs. J. S. Goode, of Truro, N.S. "I suffered terribly and was often speechless and partially paralyzed. One dose of Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart gave me relief, and before I finished one bottle I was able to go about. To-day I am a well woman."—43

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treaty between England and Germany, a reduction should be made in the present tariff reduction rates in regard, say, to textile goods entering Germany, France also would profit by the same reduction. Most-favored-nation treatment is practically, therefore, part of the comity of civilized nations. From this comity Germany demanded that Canada should be excluded—and the English foreign office has agreed to the exclusion. Further, there is every reason to fear that the precedent set up by this temporary arrangement will be made permanent, and that England will agree to the exclusion of Canada from the forthcoming treaty, and will thus make herself the instrument whereby Germany punishes Canada for her patriotism. It is, in truth, a wretched story, and the only gleam of hope to be found in it—under the circumstances it is but a faint gleam—is the fact that the desertion of Canada is not yet crystallized into such permanence as a commercial treaty gives.

Germany's contention is: "Canada, by instituting the inter-imperial preferential tariff, has denied most favored-nation treatment to us; we, therefore, will not give it to her." The allegation of the argument is false in fact. Canada has one tariff applicable to all foreign nations, and she gives preference to no one nation over any other. When, for example, in 1878, she inaugurated the "national policy" by raising import duties, they were made applicable to all foreign countries alike. When a few years ago reductions were made in the tariff list, Germany shared in them equally with the United States, although it was for the sake of trade with the United States that the reductions were made. Germany, therefore, does continue to enjoy most-favored-nation treatment in the Canadian markets. She can not point to any single foreign nation which pays a cent less duty upon any import than Germany pays. The sole ground, therefore, for Germany's argument lies in the preposterous assumption that Canada is to treat her mother country and her sister provinces of the empire as foreign nations. That the English government could have assented to this assumption is the most ironical comment upon the government's boasted imperialism which the government's worst enemies could wish to bring against it.

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VALUE OF GOOD ROADS.

Would Make an Immense Saving in Cost of Hauling.

The division of statistics of the department of the agriculture of the United States has made an investigation into the cost per ton per miles of transporting farm products over country roads to market. The result shows that the average length of haul in the whole United States is 12.1 miles, the weight of load for two horses is 2002 pounds, and the average cost per ton is 25 cents. The average total cost for the whole length of the haul is \$3.02.

It is estimated that the annual product of the farms of this country amounts to more than 200,000,000 tons. On this basis the total cost of transporting farm produce by wagon to market is over \$600,000,000. It is said that nearly two-thirds of this could be saved by good roads.

This cost of hauling is a heavy tax on the farmers, much of which could be saved. The amount paid out which could be avoided by good roads is absolutely lost. The farmers are unable to recover it in any way. It is a part of their expense which they must deduct from the gross returns on the sale of their products, and the only way that it can be avoided is by the construction of roads that would enable farmers to haul heavier loads in less time.

Of all men farmers are most deeply interested in the construction of good roads, but they are also the most reluctant to incur the expense which the improvement of highways involves. It is so all over the country and communities can be found in nearly every state where the good roads question has been under discussion for twenty years or more without the accomplishment of anything of importance.

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Old Hardcash—I didn't at first, but I've changed my mind. I told him he couldn't have my daughter till he had at least £1,000 in the bank. He got me to put it in writing, and then went out and borrowed the £1,000 on the strength of becoming my son-in-law. Such business ability as that mustn't be allowed to go to waste.

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Miss Effie McDonald, Liscomb Mills, Guy Co., N.S., writes: "I have found B.B.B. an excellent remedy for purifying the blood and curing sick headache. I had tried many remedies, but none of them did me much good. B.B.B. has made me so well that I feel like a new woman and I am constantly recommending it to my friends."

How the Ministers Stipend is Raised in England.

From the London Times of November 22nd we take the following:—Over thirty persons were summoned at Blackpool County Court yesterday for non-payment of tithes claimed by the Board of Agriculture for the vicar of Bispham. There were several conscientious objectors on the ground that, being Nonconformists, they ought not to be called upon to support a Church of England ministers. The objectors were ordered to pay, but they refused, and distraints will follow in the ordinary course.

Chatham's well known Barber, T. N. Murphy, writes June 22, 1900: "I can cheerfully recommend Bentley's Liniment, which I find is better than other."

Hostess—"Why, Mr. Smith, I've hardly seen you all the evening! Now, I particularly want you to come and hear a whistling solo by my husband." Smith (whose bearing is a trifle indistinct)—"A whiskey and soda with your husband? Well, thanks, I don't mind if I do have just one."—[Punch.

Miss Bullion—"No, Adolphus; I must not listen to you! My parents would never consent to my marriage with a man who had to work for his living!" Adolphus—"But I'm an artist, dearest." Miss Bullion—"True—but you sell your pictures!" Adolphus—"Oh darling, you wrong me. I paint pictures that don't sell."—[Tit-Bits.

The Governor's Wife a Prisoner.—Mrs. Z. A. Van Loven is the wife of the governor of the county jail, Nanapan, Ont., and was a great sufferer from rheumatism. When the best doctors in the community and "specialists" failed to help her, she buried her scepticism of proprietary remedies and purchased South American Rheumatic Cure. 4 bottles cured her.—42 Sold by Garden Bros.

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