

Burning Question of the Day Is the High Cost of Living

Comparisons in Prices Prevailing Ten Years Ago and Those of Today Show That, Taken All in All, Foodstuffs Have Advanced on an Average of 74 Per Cent—What Some Salt Lake Experts Have to Say on the Subject.

COMPARATIVE SCALE OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS ON SALT LAKE MARKETS JAN. 12, 1900 AND JAN. 12, 1910.

Commodity.	1900.	1910.	Per cent Increase.
Apples.....	\$1.75 bu.	\$2.60 bu.	33
Turkey.....	15c lb.	32c lb.	100
Chickens.....	15c lb.	25c lb.	50
Eggs, fresh, 25c; case.....	20c doz.	25c doz.	25
Butter, creamery.....	25c lb.	45c lb.	80
Butter, dairy.....	20c lb.	35c lb.	75
Lard, home rendered.....	11c lb.	20c lb.	82
Ham, sliced.....	20c lb.	30c lb.	50
Beef, dressed.....	7@17c lb.	7@20c lb.	50
Pork, loin.....	12c lb.	20c lb.	67
Pork, shoulder.....	8c lb.	15c lb.	87
Oysters.....	60@70c qt.	80c qt.	33
Salmon and white fish.....	15@20c lb.	15@20c lb.	14
Other varieties.....	12c lb.	15c lb.	25
Potatoes.....	55@60c bu.	80c bu.	45
Cauliflower.....	20c lb.	15c lb.	25
String beans.....	20c lb.	15c lb.	25
Lettuce.....	5c head.	15c head.	200
Flour, high patent.....	1.85 cwt.	3.30 cwt.	78
Flour, straight grade.....	1.70 cwt.	3.20 cwt.	78
Flour, baker's.....	1.60 cwt.	3.00 cwt.	87
Bran and shorts.....	90c cwt.	1.40 cwt.	53
Wheat.....	1.20 cwt.	2.20 cwt.	83
Sugar.....	14 lbs. \$1.	14 lbs. \$1.	169
Bacon, fancy Breakfast.....	13c lb.	35c lb.	169

Why is the cost of living so high?

Scarcely a man, woman or child who has not asked this question many times the last few years. In the last decade the cost of almost every article included in the list of commodities going to make up the sum total required for human sustenance has increased in price. There are very few exceptions to this rule, and while some articles have increased only a little as 20 per cent, others have mounted the scale until they soar as high as 269 per cent over prices 10 years ago. This statement is true in regard to that homely product, breakfast bacon, which in 1900 retailed at 13 cents, but is now an aristocrat on the market shelves at 35 cents for a single pound!

Other items show not quite so great, but nevertheless an increase almost as astounding. Wheat has advanced 83 per cent, and flour has advanced to nearly 80 per cent. Butter has risen from 25 cents in 1900 for the best grade creamery brand to 45 cents at present, a clean advance of 80 per cent, while turkey, whose succulent femur joint might in the blessed year 1900 have been purchased for the price of a few cents, is now within reach only of the bondholder who is able to stand a 100 per cent advance and can purchase his "turk" at 32 cents. On twenty staple articles enumerated in the accompanying comparative list, the aggregate increase in cost over the figures of 10 years ago is nearly 74 per cent. In some instances the increase is more than double, as in the case of bacon. In some articles the price remains the same, as in sugar, which although slightly higher in the wholesale market now than in 1900, is today selling at 14 pounds for a dollar at retail, which is exactly the same price prevailing 10 years ago. Fish remains practically the same, while cauliflower and string beans are a little less expensive than in 1900.

While wages as a general thing have not increased anything like the proportion in the cost of living, and those of the day laborer least of all, yet the earnings of mechanics and skilled laborers are considerably in excess of the scale in vogue 10 years ago. The salaries of clerks have increased perhaps 20 to 25 per cent, and of carpenters upwards of 50 per cent, and of plumbers—well, this is the time of year when it is painful to think of the wages plumbers really do get.

COSTS MORE ALL ALONG LINE.
In seeking for the reason for the great increase in the cost of living, The News has asked a number of leading dealers for an expression. A. H. Woolley, manager of the wholesale grocery department of Z. C. M. L., gave a few reasons for the increase. "Expenses generally are higher than they were 10 years ago," said he. "It costs more to rent a house than it did then, rentals on business property are sky-high, electric light costs more; telephone service costs more; men's wages are higher, delivery service costs more, the price of wagons has increased while the value of horses has doubled. Then again, people demand better service now than they used to; we deliver goods by wagon to Murray and Big Cottonwood, and this costs money. "There is another point which cannot be overlooked. While the population of the country is increasing, the production is decreasing, and the cost of living has advanced in proportion. I remember ten years ago, most of us used to have our own chicken yard, and eggs and chickens then cost very little. Grain was not so high, and the cost of producing chickens and eggs was not so great. How many have their hen yards in the city today? The same is true of cows. Each family had a cow and produced its own milk and butter. The decrease in production has operated to raise the price of dairy products, and as a result we have 45 cent butter.

PRICE OF FRUIT.
"In regard to fruit, the situation is the same. I was talking to a fruit-grower in the country last fall. He said that he would have no apricots for canning for the reason that eastern buyers had offered him double the local price for the fruit on the trees. What is the result? Fruit is away up in the air and canned goods have gone higher.

"Meat production is also decreasing, and as a matter of fact it is almost impossible to secure anything like the supply of hogs required to supply the demand. Therefore, ham has increased in price 50 per cent and bacon more than 100 per cent. These articles must go through the usual channels of trade, and each department must take its profit. But until a better and more satisfactory way of handling products is devised than that now in vogue, from manufacturer to jobber, from jobber to retailer and from the retailer to the consumer, this can not be otherwise. It would not do for the manufacturer to deal direct with the retailer, or the small dealer in the country side would not be able to live, hence the necessity for the jobber. It is just as idle to talk of the jobber dealing direct with the consumer, so the channel through which the goods now pass would seem to be absolutely necessary; and each one of these has to live. As to the just proportion of division of profits, that is not always regulated as it should be, but supply and demand usually operate to increase or reduce this in proportion to the production and consumption of the various commodities. I would like to see the cost of living reduced, for it affects all classes more or less, and is especially hard upon the laboring man.

PRICE OF BEANS.

"In my opinion, people should use more rice and beans than they do. In some of the old countries, rice and beans form the chief article of diet, and both contain, in large measure, all properties necessary for sustaining the human body. Our people use very little rice and even a less amount of beans. The prices of these products remains practically the same as they always were, and they are within reach of the majority of the people."

J. M. Marriott, who conducts one of the largest retail markets and grocery stores in the city, talked interestingly on the reason for the advance in the cost of living during the past 10 years. "One great cause for the increase in the cost of beef," said Mr. Marriott, "is the tariff of 4 1/2 cents on dressed beef from outside points, and 2 cents on Canadian beef. This operates to keep the price of the domestic article up. This fact taken in connection with that other fact that the production of beef does not keep pace with the increase in population of the country and the increased demand for meat, accounts largely for the present high price of that article. The position of the cattlemen discouraging small farmers from raising cattle also has its effect, and decreases to some extent local production.

"Then again, much is exported to other countries, and states as close to the seaboard as is Utah naturally feel the effects of high prices for grain, for example, and this reduces the supply at home and keeps prices of grain and its products up almost out of reach.

RETAIL PRICES OF BACON.

"Take the item of bacon. The retail price of the fancy article is now 35 cents per pound. This, of course, is for the very best quality obtainable. There are cheaper grades of a good article in the way of bacon, but 35 cents is the price charged for the fancy articles wrapped in three layers of paper. Now this paper also has a bearing on the price. I'll explain the bacon situation to you, so you will understand that the retailer doesn't get the enormous profit on this material which some people seem to think is the case. We pay 25 cents a pound wholesale for this same bacon. We are compelled to tear these three layers of wrapping paper from the meat, amounting to nearly a pound in weight on a slab of bacon weighing seven pounds. Then the retailer has to almost another pound in loss. This, with the shrinkage on the bacon, brings the profit of the retailer, even when the meat is sold out at 35 cents per pound, down to a minimum.

"Another thing in relation to hog meat. It is well known that no hogs ever leave this market or the market of surrounding states which weigh over 200 pounds. The hogs average weight is, in the east, the average weight is from 275 to more than 300 pounds per hog, and this amount of meat on every porker would have its effect in bringing returns for hogs. But the price is kept up, and the price is naturally higher than for those of greater bulk, as the lean ones do not make first class bacon.

MEAT GOING HIGHER.

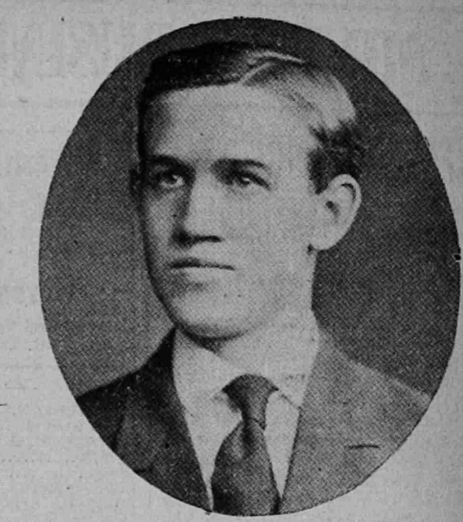
"Then horseflesh is higher. You could purchase a good horse 10 years ago for \$75; now you must pay \$150 for the same animal. Delivery wagons 10 years ago could be had for \$95; the last one I bought cost me \$160. My employees get from 75 to 100 per cent more than they did 10 years ago. I used to hire a driver for \$6 or \$7 a week; now I pay from \$12 to \$17. All my goods cost me from 40 to 80 per cent more than they did 10 years ago. All goods are higher, and I can say, that though meats are high now, they will be much higher in 60 days from now."

SUGAR IS CHEAPER NOW.

Joseph Geoghegan, a local merchant-broker who handles a great deal of sugar, said: "Sugar is the only commodity today in the United States which has not advanced in price in the last ten years. In fact, all conditions considered, with cost of production and cost of doing business increased, sugar is cheaper today than it was 10 years ago. And while the sugar trade is regulated by the law of supply and demand, yet I am free to say that the presence of sugar factories in this state operates to keep the price down in Utah. Sugar, as you know, is a world commodity, and because these happens to be a surplus in any particular part of the world, it does not argue that the product will be cheaper there than elsewhere, from the fact that there is such a demand for the commodity that it may be shipped out at a profit. It is the law of supply and demand, such as wheat and corn. The local price can not always govern.

"Raw sugar today on the New York market is \$4.17 per 100 pounds. It is \$4.67 at Hamburg, Germany, which regulates the price in Europe. This is the raw sugar which must go through the refining process before it is placed on the market. Beet sugar in 1,000 bag lots to the wholesaler in Chicago is \$5.07. Chicago is the sugar dumping market of the world. The jobbing cost of sugar here is \$5.60, but delivery cost is to be figured in this. So it will be seen that sugar is handled on a very small margin of profit. On the Missouri river, 600 miles nearer than Chicago, the jobbing price of sugar is \$5.17. In Denver the price is about \$5.40. From 25 cents to 50 cents must be added to these figures for delivery charges.

"As I said sugar is a world commodity, and the law of supply and demand regulates its price. Local conditions also figure to some extent, as in this state, where there are sugar factories, and where every man, woman and child is benefited by their presence here, the price is now on the same level as it was 10 years ago, if not even cheaper."



See us February 1st and get a nice Souvenir.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCREASE IN PRICES

Prominent Merchant of Los Angeles Blames Present Methods of Trusts, Jobbers and Retailers.

J. R. Newberg, a prominent retail merchant and business man of Los Angeles addressed the retail merchants, jobbers and manufacturers assembled in the Jennings hall, Friday evening, his subject being present high prices and who or what are the causes. He vigorously arraigned the present methods of the trusts, the jobbers and the retailers. He said at least 40 per cent of the consumer's money is absorbed in his purchases of four common necessities, potatoes, coal oil, flour and packing house products, all of which are practically under trust control. He placed the responsibility for most of the increase in prices on the manufacturer, the retailers being guilty only by submitting without protest to abnormal advances in prices. He said if the jobbers cannot be prevented from mixing with the retail business, then a buyers' exchange should be formed, as has been successfully done in San Francisco and Philadelphia, and thus exclude the jobbers entirely. He said the Pacific coast manufacturers have a fixed price plan, making a definite price at which all goods shall be sold, and he says it works out well. Among the other speakers were Jerry Hancock, who spoke of the evils of the present credit system, J. S. Carter, president of the Utah State Retail Merchants association, made a few remarks, thanking the speaker for his excellent address.

Making Life Saver.

Everywhere life is being made more safe through the work of Dr. King's New Life Pills in Constipation, Biliousness, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Liver troubles, Kidney Diseases and Bowel Disorders. They're easy, but sure, and perfectly build up the health. 25c at Z. C. M. L. Drug Department, 112-114 So. Main St., Salt Lake City.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Meeting at Labor Hall Tonight to Discuss Food Problems.

There will undoubtedly be a large audience at Labor hall this evening to hear the Rev. Elmer I. Goshen, Judge E. G. Gowan and others speak on the subject of present high cost of living, and to devise some method of co-operation. If possible, reduce expenses. It is said that in many of the European countries ways have been adopted that are working out well. The matter will be gone into thoroughly tonight, and no doubt committees formed, and the work started out on a basis that will insure not only its permanency, but its efficacy as well.

Cured of a Severe Attack of Bronchitis by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

"On October 13th last, my little three year old daughter contracted a severe cold which resulted in a bad case of bronchitis," says Mrs. W. G. Gibson, Lexington, Mo. "I tried everything I could find, but she got completely and was a very sick child. Fortunately we had a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I gave it to her according to the printed directions. On the second day she was a great deal better, and on the fifth day, October 23rd, she was entirely well of her cold and bronchitis, which I attribute to this splendid medicine. I recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy unreservedly as I have found it the surest, safest and quickest cure for colds, both for children and adults, except I have ever used." For sale by all druggists.

PROGRAM FOR REUNION.

Next Tuesday Old Twentieth Ward Association Meets Again.

At the reunion of members of the old Twentieth Ward institute, given under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement associations of the Twentieth ward in the ward annex, Tuesday evening, Jan. 18, 1910, at 7:30, the following excellent program will be rendered:
Opening hymn..... Congregation
Invocation..... William H. Tovey
Greeting..... D. P. Howells
Quartet, selection, D. J. Watts, J. T. Dunbar, John James, Evan
Address, "The Original Board, How Elected," etc..... Oliver Hodgson
Piano solo..... Prof. Joseph J. Daynes
Address, "Reminiscences of Old Salt Lake City,"..... George M. Ottinger
Solo, selection..... Willard Squires
Address, "The Index,"..... H. J. Foulger
Piano solo, Mrs. Kate Romney Stewart
Address, "Transition from Institute to Mutual,"..... Samuel Jenkinson
Recitation, Mrs. Cecilia Sharp Barker
Song, "Make New Friends but Keep the Old,"..... George M. Ottinger
Closing hymn..... Congregation

INSPECTOR FILES REPORT.

John C. Stay, the new horticultural inspector, filed his annual report Friday with the county commissioners for the year 1909. The department inspected 1,254,000 trees in the county, of which number 10,000 were destroyed. There were 1,240,000 seedlings imported during the year for budding. There were 32,000 bushels of apples inspected and 613 bushels were destroyed on account of worms. The pear crop was light in the county, 800 bushels being

inspected and 40 bushels destroyed. In addition to the fruit mentioned, 259 wagonloads of other fruits were inspected. The inspector and his deputies made 1,050 visits to orchards and 585 visits to stores in the year.

SIMON BAMBERGER HOME.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bamberger and their son Sidney returned Friday evening from New York, accompanied by Dr. S. C. Baldwin. They report the operation to remove a tumor from the young man's brain successful, and the patient is convalescent. Mr. Bamberger says they found the entire country snowbound, between this city and New York, the latter city having considerable trouble to get all the coal necessary. At one time the Pennsylvania

could not move a train out of Washington on account of the weather. Mr. Bamberger thinks the Salt Lake & Ogden road will be running under electricity by June, and says emphatically that his road is not for sale.

CHURCH IS FLOURISHING.

Physical and Financial Reports of Immanuel Baptist Church.
The annual roll call and business meeting of the Immanuel Baptist church was held Friday evening, at the church, with over 250 persons present. The year's additions were reported at 81, with a present membership of 540. The benevolences amounted to \$1,700; Ladies' Aid society reported receipts amounting to \$350,

and the young people's society \$140. The Sunday attendance ranged from 95 to 363. The receipts for the year amounted to \$533.

The Rio Grande Sunday school reported an attendance of 65. The total amount raised by the church and reported for all purposes amounted to \$6,667. In addition to this, in the real estate count, rentals have been received to the extent of \$960. The church also owns a piece of property which it expects to dispose of for \$13,000. The church also expects to raise this year \$15,000, to be known as the new edifice amount.

The church has also decided to employ an assistant pastor, the having grown so that Dr. Bowerman has more work than he can properly attend to. The ladies of the church served refreshments in the basement after the meeting up stairs.

AYER'S HAIR VIGOR
Stops Falling Hair
Destroys Dandruff
An Elegant Dressing
Makes Hair Grow
Does not Color the Hair
Composed of Sulphur, Glycerin, Quinine, Sodium Chloride, Capsicum, Sage, Alcohol, Water, Perfume. Ask your doctor his opinion of such a hair preparation.

ROYAL BREAD
The Better the Flour
the Whiter the Bread. Only the highest and purest grade of Kansas hard wheat flour is used at the Royal Bakery.

"TABLE QUEEN" BREAD
Royal Baking Co., Salt Lake
Baked in "The Mueller" Patent Bread Pan
NOTICE THE LABEL

NOTICE THE GROOVE
Shipped Everywhere in These Mountain States

Royal "Table Queen" Bread is the whitest bread made. It's also the freshest and most wholesome loaf, besides being the biggest.

ROYAL BREAD
Always Tastes Good
ROYAL BREAD