1903. NEW ZEALAND.

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF COMMODITIES IN 1893 AND 1903

(REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RESPECTING).

Laid on the Table by leave of the House.

REPORT CONCERNING COMPARATIVE PRICES OF COMMODITIES IN 1893 AND 1903.

Department of Labour, Wellington, 4th September, 1903. I have made inquiries among traders in Wellington as to the prices of the necessaries of life ten years ago and at the present day. There were few retail shopkeepers able to supply such figures, as in most cases price-lists and sale-accounts ten years old had been either lost sight of or were difficult of access. From those which were reliable I find as follows, the detailed prices being also attached:—

Rise in price from 1893 to 1903.

				Per	cent.
House-rent has risen (in Wellington)	at least	 			25
Meat (portions commonly ordered) ro	ose	 			30
Coal (in quarter-tons, the common or	rder)	 			10
Firewood, cut into blocks		 			50
Men's clothes (to order)		 			16
Timber, sawn for house-building		 	• • •		40
Ham, bacon, eggs		 			25

Flour, being a commodity very dependent on supply, has fluctuated from £8 to £14 a ton—the present average being about £10 7s. 6d.—and can hardly be considered stable enough to enter into a comparative statement. Bread also, depending on the price of flour, has ranged from 2½d. to 3½d. for the 2 lb. loaf. Oatmeal is about the same price as in 1893.

Tea, through the remission of 4d. per pound duty three years ago has fallen 3d. to 6d. per

Rice, sago, tapioca, sugar, jam, dried fruits, currants, raisins, and kerosene are all slightly cheaper than in 1893.

There is little difference in ten years in the average price of tobacco, factory-made clothes, and boots.

EDWARD TREGEAR, Secretary.

LIST OF HOUSES IN TE ARO DISTRICT SHOWING RENT PAID IN 1893 AND 1903.

								1999	i.	1	903.	
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Three rooms (sam	e house)	•••	• • •		•••		0	9	0	0	12	0
"	"				• • •		0	8	0	0	10	0
"	17				• • •		0	7	0	0	8	6
"	"	•••	* * *			• • •	0	5	0	0	7	0
n .	"	***		•••	• • • •	• • •	0	10	0	0	10	0
"	"			• • •	• • • •		0	5	0	0	7	6
"	"		* • • •				0	6	0	0	$\frac{7}{2}$	0
u .	"			• • •			0	7	0	0	8	6
"	.,	• • •	• • •		* * *		0	8	0	0	9	0
"	44		• • •				0	9	U	U	11	0
Four rooms (same	e house)	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •		- 1	15	0	0	17	0
"	"						_	13	0	0	15	0
"	"	• • •					Õ	11	0	0	13	0
"	",			• • •		• • •		15	0	0	16	0
Six rooms (same	house)	• • • •	• • •				0	16	0	1	0	0
"	"	• • • •			• • •	• • •	Ţ	0	0	1	2	6
"	"			• • •		• • •	Ţ	Ţ	0	1	5	0

[Note.—These are comparatively old houses, upon which little or no improvements have been made. New houses of the same number of rooms are let at higher rents, as there are more conveniences, for which the tenant has to pay.]

RELATIVE PRICE	ES OF	Butchers'	MEAT.	&c	FOR	1893	AND	1903.
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						Beef.	,	ĺ								
						,						893.			19	903.
Qilt						_					s.				s.	d.
Sirloin,	per pou	na	• • •		• • •			•••		•••	0	4 1/2			0	6
Prime ribs,	"		• • •		• • •			• • • •		• • • •	0	4: 7			0	$\frac{5}{8}$
Rump-steak, Ox-tongues,	$\operatorname{each}^{''}$		• • •		• • • •			• • • •		• • • •	$\frac{0}{2}$	6			$\frac{0}{2}$	$\stackrel{\circ}{6}$
Gravy-beef,	per pou	nd	• • •		• • •			• • • •		• • • •	o	4			0	5
Brisket,		щ	• • •		• • •			• • •			0	2 <u>1</u>			ŏ	$\frac{3}{3}$
Back and top ribs	"		• • •								ő	$\frac{2}{3}$			ŏ	$3\frac{5}{2}$
Corned round,											0	4			ŏ	6^{2}
Ox kidneys,	each										0	$\hat{6}$			ŏ	$\check{6}$
Corned briskets,	per pou	nd									ŏ	$\tilde{2}$			ŏ	$3\frac{1}{2}$
331134	Por Pou											_			v	0.5
						3										
						Mutton.										
Hind quarters,	per pou	nd									0	$3\frac{1}{2}$			0	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Fore "	"										0	$2\frac{1}{2}$			0	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Legs,	"									• • •	0	4			0	5
Chops,	4									• • •	0	4			0	6
Kidneys,	each	_	• • •			• • • •					0	1			0	1
Shoulders,	per pour	nd			• • •						0	3			0	4
Loins,	"									• • •	0	4			0	5
Cutlets,	"				• • •						0	5			0	8
•																
						Pork.										
Don nound											٥	Ē.			0	8
Per pound	• • •		• • •		• • •			•••		• • • •	0	5			U	0
						Bread.			-							
There is little diffe	erence in	the pr	rice-	2 lb	, lo	oaf, 2 3 d. to	3 1 0	ì.								
						. 2	-									
						Coal.										
						Cour.					^					
A quarter ton			• • •		• • •			•••		• • •	9	0			10	0
						Firewood.										
Cut blocks, per ba	ď					1 0,000000.	٠				1	0			1	6
Out mocks, per ba	ة				٠					•••	L	U			1	U
						Тімвев.										
						Red-pine.						100	superficie			
						riou pino.					93.	,			1903	
Oudiname building											s. č 9 i	1. 0		£	$\frac{s}{12}$	d. 6
Ordinary building	Qin by	in.		• • •		• • • •	• • • •		• • •			0		.9	7	
Tongued and groo	8 in. by	уш. bv 3	in	•••		•••	• • • •		• • •	0 1		6			15	
	vea, σm. δin.	and $\frac{a}{4}$	R in	hv 1	in	•••	• • •		,,,	0 1		Š			16	ő
"	o m.	and	<i>J</i> 111.	Бу 1	. 111	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • •		•••	0 1.		J		U	10	U
											1	Par 1	100 lineal	foot		
						${\it Matai}.$				189		. 61 .	TOO HIDE		903	
										£		i.			s.	
O.B. rustic and flo	oring					• • •				0 19	2 0	6		0	17	0
						77					Par	100	superficia	l feet		
						Kauri.					93.		- aportion		903.	
										£	8.	d.		£	8.	d.
Heart, sawn		···		• • •		•••	• • •			0 19		0		1	4	0
Tongued and groo		by 1	ın.				• • •		• • •	0 19		0		1	7	0
Dressed, 12 in. by		•••		• • •		•••	• • • •		• • • •	0.1		0		1	7	0
" 12 in. by	$\frac{1}{2}$ in.	•••		• • •		•••	•••		••	0 10	ь (0		1	1	0
						_										
						Totara.										
Heart, sawn										0.10	6 (0		1	2	0

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