

# Luxuries Boost Cost of Living

Taste for New Foods, Garments and Amusements Acquired by the Public.

## PROBLEM SUBJECT OF STUDY

Prices Have Not Risen so Much as the Number of Commodities Regarded as Necessities Has Multiplied.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly all the strikes in recent years have been to obtain higher wages or to prevent the reduction of existing wages. In some strikes only issues involving hours of labor and other working conditions have been involved, but, generally speaking, the strikes have been wage strikes.

Since prices of commodities started to go up with the outbreak of the European war special stress has been laid on the elements of the cost of living as the principal argument for wage increases or for retention, rather than reduction, of established wage rates.

This has led to special studies of the problem of the cost of living. One fact established is that prices have not risen so much as the number of commodities regarded as necessities has multiplied. In truth, the prices of some staples are substantially lower than they were years ago. Further, many commodities are within the range of comparatively low-waged workers which, because of rarity or high price, were formerly wholly out of their reach. The net result of the study is that the whole question of the cost of living is relative.

### Exact Comparisons Can't Be Made.

There is scarcely any one who does not agree that the people should have the additional things which they enjoy under modern conditions, but there is a desire to emphasize that exact comparisons cannot be made and that to say that the cost of living has increased is not wholly fair. The more precise statement is that the cost of modern living has increased.

Take the single item of ice cream. Formerly it was altogether a luxury. Today, everyurchin on the streets has an ice cream cone daily and sometimes several a day.

Every American city spends several thousand dollars a day for ice cream. This is an entirely new addition to the cost of living, and it may be pointed out that it is not fair to call this an increase in the cost of living. It merely is an addition to the cost of living. If a given city spends \$30,000 a day for ice cream the citizens of that city have added \$30,000 a day to their cost of living by making this expenditure. This is an addition, not an increase, in the cost of living of \$210,000 a week; \$10,920,000 a year. We spend, in addition, \$1,000,000 a day for ice, a comparatively modern convenience.

Another immediate comparison is the motion picture show. Two decades ago movies were scarce. A few were operating, but the universal admission charge was 5 cents. Today the American public spends approximately \$1,000,000,000 a year on the

## Centenarian Must Stay Sober for Thirty Years

John Higgins of Chicago, who says that he is one hundred and four years old, admitted in court that, after 30 years of total abstinence, he had imbibed too freely. He was put on probation for 30 years and promised to stay sober during that time, which will allow him his next drink when he is one hundred and thirty-four years old.

movies. This is \$10 apiece for every man, woman and child in the nation.

These instances could be multiplied almost endlessly. The country is flooded with novelties in the way of new foods, new sorts of wearing apparel, new amusements and a thousand and one other new things totally unknown to and unused by the man of only one generation ago.

### What Automobiles Cost.

Perhaps the single biggest addition to the cost of living is the automobile. Not so many years ago the horseless carriage was a curiosity regarded as practical only by visionaries. Today every tenth person in the United States has one. This means that every second family has one. A low average cost of running an automobile is \$1 a day. This means that the American people spend \$10,000,000 a day for automobile upkeep, as there are 10,000,000 automobiles. This amounts to \$3,650,000,000 a year, admittedly a conservative figure.

A fair average price for an automobile is \$1,000 and an automobile will last, on an average, five years. Then, if a \$1,000 car lasts five years, it costs \$200 a year, in addition to the upkeep. There are 10,000,000 cars in use. This makes \$2,000,000,000 a year.

What the economists point out is that the American standard of living is so high that it misleads many people. Our people spend a lot but they get a lot. Recently two Scandinavian-born Americans met. One had been to his old home and was telling the other of the good fortune that had

befallen one of their mutual friends. He said that the man had become rich. He had done so well, the man explained, that he had bought himself a bicycle!

There is a concrete example of what is meant by saying that the cost of living has not increased in America so much as the scale of living has increased. Americans have more than any other people in the world; they are surrounded with a bewildering variety of goods, most of which are within reach of the comparatively deep purses of the wage workers. It is an old adage that he who pays the piper is entitled to call the tune. Americans call an expensive tune.

## DUPONT FOUNTAIN



After months of waiting for the approval of congress, the water has been turned on in the beautiful Dupont fountain at Dupont circle in Washington. This memorial to Admiral Dupont, a hero of Civil war fame, is the most beautiful fountain in the capital.

# Washington Real National Center

Capital Is Headquarters for More Organizations Than Any Other American City.

## VAST RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

Their Establishments Range From Modest Quarters in Office Buildings to Magnificent Edifices—Run Gamut of Human Activities.

Washington, D. C.—This city has become the headquarters of more national organizations and associations than any other city in the country. This is evidence of the growth of Washington as a great national center, but it is even more indicative of the manner in which the federal government touches upon and affects every activity and every interest of the American people.

A recent compilation, admittedly incomplete, lists almost 300 of these organizations. They run the gamut of human activities—commercial, professional, political, patriotic, industrial, social, artistic, educational, fraternal, scientific, financial, religious, philanthropic and what not. Their establishments range from modest quarters in office buildings to magnificent edifices that represent investments running into the millions. They give employment to thousands of men and women. They expend millions of dollars annually.

### Vast Range of Activities.

They represent the selfishness and unselfishness, the achievements and undertakings, the aspirations and dreams, of a great people. They seek to do everything from rehabilitating convicts to immortalizing the nation's great, from lobbying bills through congress to scotching the demon rum, from practicing practical politics to inculcating high ideas of citizenship, from preaching peace to preparing for war, from encouraging art to con-

trolling world affairs, and from advancing the cause of labor to protecting the interests of capital.

Some are constructive, some are destructive. Some are boosters, some are knockers, and all are propagandists.

Some do their work to an accompaniment of brass bands and invite the whole world to know what they are doing. Others are secretive, and, like providence, work in a mysterious way their wonders to perform.

Most of these organizations are here to influence legislation or governmental action of one kind or another. It is not to be inferred that their efforts in this direction are anything but legitimate, as they represent people and interests that have a right to be heard in matters of that kind. Members of congress sometimes grow restive under the pressure and importunings to which they are subjected, but they recognize the fact in the long run they receive valuable information and assistance in their lawmaking.

The secret of the success of these organizations is that administrations and congresses come and go, but they stay on forever and keep everlastingly at whatever they set out to accomplish.

### Fine Building Erected.

A few of the 300 organizations that hold forth in Washington have erected fine buildings that contribute materially to the beauty of the city. The American Red Cross, the Daughters of the Revolution and the Pan-American Union all have magnificent homes in Seventeenth street on the way to Potomac park that rank high among the architectural beauties of the capital city. The American Federation of Labor has a splendid office building in Massachusetts avenue at Ninth street and close by a similar structure, reared and occupied by the International Brotherhood of Machinists.

Probably the feature building of them all will be the new home of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, now in course of erection, while the Scottish Rite temple in Sixteenth street and a new edifice on the old Dean estate on which the Masons will spend millions are illustrative of what fraternal orders have done to enhance the attractions of Washington. The National Geographic society is another organization that has a fine home of its own.

Of the political organizations established in Washington the most important are, of course, the Democratic and Republican national committees. Each occupies a great suite in a downtown office building and each maintains a force and equipment that is prepared to do anything except make money.

The Socialist party also maintains offices here, as does also that organization that is undertaking a coalition of the farmer and labor vote and that may ultimately take the form of a new party. The woman's national party is represented in Washington and the organizations that fought for and against suffrage maintain headquarters, although much of the political activity of women is now linked up with the organization work of the national committee of the old established parties.

Greatest of all the national organizations maintaining headquarters here are one that is popularly supposed to represent all the people all the time is the government itself. It is the colossal machine and all the others are but cogs or wheels within wheels.—Frederic J. Haskin in the Chicago Daily News.

## Hundreds of Tons Attend Family Reunion



These ladies are a few of the members of the famous Ton family who held their annual reunion recently in the forest preserve at Thornton, Ill. There are more than 700 members of the family living in the United States, and 397 of them attended the picnic.

# Big Profit in Silver Foxes

Two Canadian Farmers Start With Single Pair and Now Raise Thousands.

## RANCHES ARE WIRE CLOSED

Animals Like to Play and Do Not Mind the Coldest Weather—Farming Not Always Successful as Disease Carries Off Young.

Moncton, N. B.—Canada is the home of the aristocratic black and silver fox, the breeding of these regal little animals having become an alluring and lucrative industry in various parts of this country. It is very doubtful if California had anything on fox ranching when, in '49, the blast of her siren call resounded from coast to coast, and men became gold-mad in their frenzy to "get rich quick."

The province of New Brunswick claims the honor of possessing the largest fox ranch in the world. This ranch is situated on the Little River, 15 miles from the city of Moncton. In 1913 the Colpitts brothers, who then were farmers living in a sparsely settled agricultural district, saw great possibilities in fox ranches and used to their advantage knowledge of the habits of wild animals acquired in hunting and trapping in earlier days.

Theirs was a modest venture of a single pair of foxes, while today they are the proud possessors of more than one thousand pups, apart from the old ones numbering 600, thus placing this ranch as the largest single ranch in the world. It may be of interest to follow the evolution and workings of this ranch. Besides the main Colpitts ranch, the Little River valley is dotted with smaller ranches, in all of which they have an interest. The largest of these smaller ranches is the Anglo-American, with about 300 foxes. All the foxes in these ranches are of the silver black strain and nearly all of them from the original Colpitts pair. Foxes breed but once a year, reported cases of more frequent breeding being not well authenticated. Litters of five, six and even seven pups are not uncommon, although the usual number is four and five.

### Ranches Inclosed in Wire.

The modern fox ranch at a distance resembles a war-time entanglement, being built entirely of heavy wire netting, seven or eight feet high, with an overhang to prevent the foxes from making their escape into the open or from getting from one to another. Formerly the ranches were inclosed by a high board fence with wire inside to prevent the foxes from burrowing holes and thus making their escape. The idea was to keep the foxes from view because of their timid and suspicious nature.

The best ranches, however, have discarded the high board fence and visitors are allowed not only to see from the outside but are taken through the ranches and into the pens right among the foxes. The Colpitts ranch covers several acres, the great inclosure being divided into hundreds of pens, each provided with a wooden box for shelter and a breeding pen. The fox likes the open and plays and runs about, climbing the wire netting and otherwise disporting himself, except in hot or wet weather, when he seeks shelter. They do not mind the cold and with the temperature below zero will remain out in the open without the slightest sign of discomfort. As a matter of fact they appear to enjoy the extreme cold.

### Care of Mother Foxes.

It is only in the mating and pupping season that the fox is kept in seclusion and outsiders barred from the ranches. Dr. E. A. Randall of Truro, Nova Scotia, an old fox farmer, says: "After foxes have mated and have been separated the ranchman makes daily visits to the female pen, opens it every day and shuts her in the house every night. She becomes accustomed to these visits and shows very little

fear or nervousness. Pups are due in 51 or 53 days after mating. When the pups have arrived the female is kept confined in the breeding pen for three days, at the end of which time she becomes attached to it and does not want to carry her pups out.

"If for any reason the pups are not thriving the female is examined and if her milk has dried up, which sometimes happens, the pups are taken away and reared by cats, who do not in the slightest object to such strange little 'kittens.' At the end of the eighth week the pups are taken from the mother and placed in the pen by themselves, to be fed sparingly of food, but when six months old they will be taking more food than the old foxes.

"The feeding of the foxes is a very interesting and essential part of their care. The fox does not rank high in an epicurean sense. He is not at all fastidious as to the quality of his food but it is regarded as essential to the health of the little animals that they should have variety. In some cases horse meat is fed but beef is preferred. The meat of rabbits is regarded as a delicacy and the ranchers buy up all that can be obtained."

The Colpitts ranch last winter paid out more than \$6,000 for rabbits snared in this province, and also imported several carloads from the West. A part of the fox ration is a coarse bread made of cornmeal or flour and bran, with a generous supply of fat. The refuse scraps from the biscuit factories are a rare delicacy and cow milk is given in generous quantities. The big Colpitts ranch takes the milk of forty cows morning and night.

### Loss by Disease 10 Per Cent.

All the foxes from the best ranches are registered with the department at Ottawa. Of course, registration is no certain guaranty of value, but no animal can obtain advanced registration unless it comes up to a certain standard, which includes pedigree, formation and everything else that goes for breeding and excellence. Not all who go into the fox ranching business are successful. The fox is subject to many diseases, and once these get a foothold it is difficult to eradicate them. Worms are one of the principal causes of mortality, and the loss of 10 per cent of the pups is considered a fair average. Instances are known of ranches being entirely wiped out by disease. As a precautionary measure some of the most successful ranches dip their foxes twice a year into a cresolin mixture.

It is rather painful to impart this item of information, for it is not generally known that these little foxes are not unlike some folk who go through life clothed in purple and fine linen, using their gorgeous attire to cover many sins. Thus do these weepotatoes get by, blissfully unconscious of their natural aroma—which one cannot really compare to a peach garden.

### Silver Strain Developed.

The origin of the silver black fox is somewhat obscure. A Mr. Oulton, pioneer in fur farming in New Brunswick, says the original black foxes came from Newfoundland but the silver strain has been a development in breeding. The native fox of New Brunswick is red and the fur of little value.

The fox is a small animal of the cat species and in size between a cat and a small dog. When fully furred out, as in the winter season, it appears much larger. This little animal is seen at its worst at this season, and is rather lean and lanky looking. The silver streaks are just now beginning to appear, coming first in the forehead and gradually spreading over the body. By December the fur will be thick and heavy, and it is then those animals which do not prove satisfactory breeders are "pelted" for market. The fox is a very cute looking little animal, though not as shapely as the skunk. Timidity and suspicion are its chief characteristics, and it is not at all vicious, being handled with ease. Few of them become tame, although when the New

York Herald correspondent visited the Colpitts ranch the other day one of the particular pets would answer the call of the proprietor and would feed out of his hand.

Formerly foxes were caught in the wild state in all parts of Canada, but destruction of wild life goes on at a rapid pace in all parts of the world. Dr. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological park, is authority for the statement that in New York state there are 500 destructionists to every conservationist, while in the West and in Canada there are a thousand to one, in Alaska the ratio is two thousand to one and in South Africa there are one hundred thousand destroying wild life to every one preserving it. The buffalo, which once roamed the prairies, is quite extinct, except for specimens in the government reservations or national parks, and so it is with most other native wild animals.

### 758 Fox Farms in Canada.

Hence the fur farms, and fur farming official statistics show that there are 794 fur farms in Canada, of which 758 are fox, 12 mink, 9 raccoon, 3 marten, 2 skunk, 4 karakul sheep, 3 beaver, 3 muskrat. The increase in the number of farms over 1920 is 206. The number of animals on these farms is 22,455, valued at \$5,775,095, as compared with 16,529 animals valued at \$4,722,905 in the previous year. There are hundreds of small ranches which are not included in this enumeration. There are two fox breeders' associations in Canada and two in the United States. The Canadian associations are the Silver Black Fox Breeders of Prince Edward Island and the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders.

Foxes in the wild state form a colony and live together if not disturbed. The old couple remain at the home burrow year after year if food conditions hold out and will burrow dozens of holes in the same hillside. The young ones dropped in March will get out for themselves in October and find a burrow of their own. When the proper season comes they seek a mate. If the male finds a female burrow during the mating season and takes a fancy to her he will hunt and carry presents of rabbits, which he places at the entrance of the burrow. If she accepts his gifts they mate, if not he carries them away again.

### Male Is Good Provider.

After the little ones are born the female remains at home and the male spends his time hunting and keeping watch. He will starve himself if necessary to feed his mate and young ones. A good male will examine all food and if he gets a dairy morsel will carry it to the entrance of the burrow while the female is nursing the young and call her out and give it to her. Many fathers can take a lesson from the fox in providing for his family and yet many ranchers separate male and female after mating season.

In the United States are the American Fox Breeders' association of Boston and the National Silver Fox Breeders' association of Muskegon.

There are fur farms of different kinds in most of the United States as well as in all the provinces of Canada. States reporting ranches are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Oregon, Texas and Washington.

The United States bureau of commerce is engaged in the fur industry in Alaska, having taken over the work in connection with the Pribilof Islands in 1911, where blue fox herds are maintained at the public expense and skins have been sold to the value of over half a million dollars. A cash payment of \$5 is also made to the natives for each fox skin taken for the market. In Alaska the fox is fed on refuse from seal killings, which is especially preserved for them, the natives performing the work in return for fuel, food, clothing and other necessities furnished by the government. Probably no state has had a more progressive growth in fox ranching than New York. The climate in the northern part of that state is said to be admirably adapted for the raising of good fur and pairs taken from foxes are said to bring good prices.

China has a standing army of nearly 1,500,000 men.

## Keeping Exact Tab on Father Time



Three master clocks, buried underground to maintain constant temperature, keep tab on Father Time at the Naval observatory in Washington. The chronograph shown in this photograph records the time signals as they are sent out by radio to all parts of the United States.