

PREFACE.

IN 1915 the Census and Statistics Office published its "Report on the Cost of Living in New Zealand, 1891-1914," giving details of the results of an inquiry into the course of retail prices for that period, together with an exposition of the technique of the method adopted.

Since then retail-price quotations and index numbers have been continued, first in the now defunct *Journal of the Department of Labour*, and more recently, together with wholesale-price quotations and index numbers, in the *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*. The present report brings up to date and revises the results of these inquiries, and also includes index numbers of producers' and export prices.

The index numbers for retail and wholesale prices for periods subsequent to that covered by this report will be found in the *Monthly Abstract of Statistics* issued from this office each month.

I desire to place on record my appreciation of the services of those retailers, wholesale merchants, and others, together with the officers of the Labour Department, through whom the returns have been received.

MALCOLM FRASER,

Government Statistician.

Wellington, 17th September, 1920.