

*The inspection of factories and machinery* was established under an act of Althingi 1928, containing various provisions respecting the arrangement of work, to protect the lives and health of the workpeople, and prescribing special care and inspection of steam-boilers and machinery, which without strict preventive measures might be dangerous to life or detrimental to the health.

### PRICES AND WAGES

As in other countries, there have in Iceland been enormous changes in the level of prices since the outbreak of the Great War; but available statistics relate only to the fluctuations of prices in Reykjavík. Data concerning retail prices quoted for 50—60 different articles of food, fuel and light have, for a number of years, been collected once every quarter (and since autumn 1925 once every month) by the Statistical Bureau. Index-numbers are then compiled illustrative of the fluctuations in the prices of these goods. But another set of index-numbers for total cost of living is prepared once a year, in October, based on the retail prices ruling in Reykjavík in the beginning of that month, and on several additional data respecting other items of household expenditure.

A calculation has been made as to how the expenditure of an average family (consisting of husband, wife and 3 children) with an income, in 1914, of 1800 krónur, was distributed over the various commodities consumed. Then, on the basis of an unchanged standard of living and guided by continuous statistical information on retail prices, the cost of this consumption for the same family at different times has been calculated. The household budget is divided into the following 6 groups: 1) foodstuffs, 2) light and fuel, 3) clothing, 4) rent, 5) taxes, 6) sundries. Besides the general index-numbers, special index-numbers are worked out for each group. In the case of group 6, which accounts for one-fifth of the expenditure, the index-number is not based on independent investigations of the fluctuations in the prices of the goods coming under this head, but the price is assumed to have for this group increased proportionately to those of the goods included in groups 1—4. According to these calculations the general index-numbers, since 1914, have been as follows (July 1914 = 100):