

THE COST OF LIVING.

The new Tariff only came into operation on Friday morning, but already people are beginning to feel its effects. Retailers in most lines in the city have increased prices, and extraordinary anomalies will be discovered by those who buy. In the case of articles on which the duty has been increased, the extra amount is added to the retail price, with something additional. Moreover, these extra prices are being charged even on articles which were in stock before the Tariff came into operation. No doubt, this is fair business, and no one can blame those who act according to the ethics of commerce. But, not satisfied with this, there are some who increase the price of articles on which there is no additional duty. This, again, is quite according to commercial morality. The people who buy do not know the details of the Tariff, and when they are told by the shopkeeper that the price has gone up, they are quite content to pay, and grumble. Between the Tariff and the people who make it the reason for adding to charges, the unfortunate man with small wages and a large family is going to have a bad time. Indeed, he is having it already. We cannot mention specific articles without pointing to particular people. But we know that in some cases prices have gone up beyond the extra duty, while in others, where the duty is the same as before, charges have increased. There is this much gain, that the people will begin to discover, after a while, that there is something in the warnings which have been given them as to the need of looking after their own interests. This increased cost of living will hit many people very hard. If it teaches them some political wisdom, the lesson may be cheaply acquired.