

Inter-department Correspondence



FROM

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THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,

MCGILL UNIVERSITY,

MONTREAL.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, C.C.M.C., K.C.B.

note therefore, that the budgets of the Winnipeg Advisory Board and the City of Winnipeg are more generous as to range of commodities and to the allowance for sundries. The Nutrition Committee (of Montreal) would be themselves quite willing to recognize that the minimum budget does not contain commodities such as tea, coffee, soap, etc; that the variations in families specified are based on young children rather than adults; that there are always differences in individual requirements as to nutrition which do not run strictly according to average; and finally, that these budgets might not be entirely adequate if they are to be in force over a long period.

In the other constituents of relief it would also seem that the Winnipeg Advisory Board has, in the opinion of our Department, taken an enlightened view; for example, with regard to rent.

There is, of course, a difference between the relief system from the point of view of its allowances (whether in quantities or money) and the relief system from the point of view of its administration (e.g., the questions of food vouchers, municipal stores, leaving choice of groceries to the purchaser, and other questions). In the opinion of our Department it is not possible to make an unbiased report without an analysis of all the other important existing systems of relief. This analysis has not yet been adequately made by anyone.

We suggest that if you wish to have some further examination made on the aspect of relief sufficiency, you approach either

1. Miss Goodeve, Nutritionist, Child Welfare Association, Montreal Social Agencies.
2. Miss Marjorie Bell, c/o Visiting Housekeepers Association, Toronto.

The problems of relief budgets are so much more than merely a question of simple or ideal diets that it is a matter more for those engaged in actual welfare work than for a specialist examination.

I am sorry we are not able to be of more help to you.

Yours faithfully,

Principal