

The rents per room are generally very high, but exceedingly so in Lovell, Billings, and Sterling. Lovell and Billings present the most serious problem at present. In Lovell, only one of our employees who does not own his own home has a bath room in his house, and not one a heating plant. This is exclusive of Company owned houses. These houses are mostly in a run-down condition, but are bringing in rentals of from \$5.50 to \$6.25 per room per month, and there is a shortage of even such. In Billings, there seemed to be a few places available, down in the flats adjacent to the factory, but these were said to be practically untenable, being generally occupied by a low class of foreign labor. Places which were tenable were practically off the market, and the rents asked were beyond all reason. Houses which are occupied by divisional employees were not taken into consideration as these would not be representative, but these employees often pay \$45.00 to \$50.00 per month for four or five very ordinary rooms. A blacksmith in the Billings factory has been paying \$45.00 per month for two rooms and bath for nearly four months, because he is unable to find other quarters. This is a furnished apartment, but no suitable unfurnished place is available to him thus far.

Fuel prices have advanced somewhat, but are said to be regulated everywhere by the Fuel Administration. They are highest in the Nebraska towns, where the fuel requirements are also high, and they comprise no inconsiderable part of the family's annual budget. The problem of purchasing the winter supply according to the Fuel Administrator's wishes presents a great difficulty to our men, as all fuel dealers are on a strictly cash basis. Eight tons of coal are allowed for the year's requirements.

One hundred and twenty Kilowatt hours of electric service are allowed, and one thousand pounds of ice.

Room and Board for single men has advanced sharply everywhere. Bayard, Sterling, and Loveland show the smallest increases as their advance came before the last year's survey. In other towns, the increases are from thirty to fifty-five percent. In Billings and Lovell, also, this problem is most serious. We were unable to find in Billings one place, residence or otherwise, that was offering table board at a flat rate per week; nor even table d'hôte meals. Single men in Billings must either club together and operate a club house (usually proving an expensive undertaking) or buy their meals at the public restaurants from the regular a la carte service. It is only with much care and not too great satisfaction that the cost of such meals can be kept within \$1.50 per day or \$10.50 per week. Rooms cost usually from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month, but are generally occupied by two people. In Lovell, also, there are no boarding houses, but restaurants provide a table d'hôte service at fifty cents per meal.