

children, it would appear that to keep him in a reasonable condition of life, suitable to his position, it would cost probably \$90 per month without making any allowances for lost time, etc. This would be an average of about, in round figures, \$22.50 per week. If therefore, the Board is right in basing its calculation of the wages which a man ought to get upon the actual cost of living, then the wages should average \$22.50 per week instead of \$17 per week as at present."

Soldiers Underpaid \$65.00 a Month at Least.

This report was made in August 1915 and since that time, as shown by the Dept. of Labour's budget figures the cost of living has increased about 95%. Thus if \$90 was a fair wage for the mechanic in August 1915 it would mean that in August 1917 his salary should be \$120 per month. Admitting that the soldier is an equally useful man to his country and that his family is entitled to the same consideration we find that on the basis of the soldier's full pay amounting to \$35 per month and separation allowance to family amounting to \$20.00 per month (without considering Patriotic Fund allowance) he is underpaid to the extent of \$65. per month or is getting 70 per cent less than he needs to keep him in a reasonable condition of life." Even with the Patriotic Fund allowance he is heavily underpaid, and his family is told by the Food Controller (also a millionaire) to sign the Food pledge card and requested to "conserve" food supplies. But no attempt during all its regime of the Government was made to control food prices.

It was with a view toward improving the condition of the dependents of the soldiers the following resolution was moved by Mr. Copp, Liberal Member for Westmoreland in amendment to the Military Service Bill last Session.:

"That the further consideration of the bill be deferred until such adequate provision has been made for the dependents of soldiers enlisted for Overseas as will remove the necessity for raising money by public subscription for their support."

The motion was derisively voted down by the Government and Sir Robert Borden petulantly declared:

"When my Hon. friend, at this hour attempts to delay indefinitely the passage of this Bill, I say that I have no sympathy either with his motion or his motive, and without any hesitation whatever I declare to this House that the Government cannot accept it."

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR SIR THOMAS WHITE.

That Sir Thomas White stands in well with the Canadian Northern Railway was amply proven a week ago when this Railway corporation ran a special train from Westport to Brockville to take the electors to Sir Thomas White's nomination. All along this line stock and perishable goods are delayed on account of railway facilities, yet when it comes to a Convention for Sir Thomas White the Railway Company have sufficient rolling stock to see that he gets a special train.

Another evidence of the Big Interests getting preference over the farmers.

In 1911 the Liberal party was whispered out of office. That was the work of the "Slanderbund."

In 1917 the Liberal party is to be sub-marined by "The Hidden Hand." That is the work of the "Moneybund."

GOVERNMENT SIDETRACKED PENSION BILL

The contrast between the solicitude of the Government for its friends, the financial interests, and its disregard for the dependents of the soldiers, is strikingly emphasized in a passage which occurred in the House of Commons on September 19th, 1917 during the closing of the Session. The Liberal members criticized the Government for having shelved the question of increased pensions and for having neglected to pass a notice on the order paper in connection with the Pensions Board which had been there from the beginning of the Session and which had been sidetracked through the Government anxiety to pass the Canadian Northern Bill, the Franchise Bill and other nefarious measures.

The following remarkable excuse for the Government's action was given by Hon. Dr. Reid, speaking on behalf of the Government:

"The reason no Pensions Bill was submitted this Session is that we have not had an opportunity of submitting one. I think every member of this House would agree that we have had most important legislation from the time the Prime Minister came back in May down to the present moment, legislation that had to go through, legislation that could not wait. The financial Bills and the other Bills had to go through. There can be no doubt about that. Even the Canadian Northern Bill was a Bill which had to go through otherwise there would have been a financial crisis in the country."

Mr. Macdonald: "It is going to make one anyway."

Mr. Reid: "No, it will not."

Mr. Macdonald: "It will make a worse crisis than if nothing at all had been done."

Mr. Reid: "No, that Bill had to go through and the other Bills had to go through and this Session has been kept busy. I believe that in the 26 years that I have been here there never has been so much important legislation passed as during the present Session."

Mr. Macdonald: "There never was so much bad legislation."

In other words the question of caring for the dependents of the soldiers was subserved to the question of providing relief for the Government coterie of financial friends in Toronto.

Since then an indecent attempt has been made to influence the soldiers' vote by the passage of a pre-election order-in-council, providing for certain flat increases which have no regard for special cases. The matter of adjusting the present inadequate Pension provisions will be left for another Parliament.



Alex. E. May
Liberal Candidate

Federal Riding of
East Edmonton

Honesty
Economy
Efficiency