

The detail of Unit Costs is given below. In the food list there are very few increases during the year, except in the case of meats which show a sharp advance. These prices show a lack of uniformity between the various towns. Even adjacent towns, such as Brush and Ft. Morgan often show a marked divergence in the retail prices of the same commodity. The general trend of grocery prices in Lovell are considerably higher than in Missoula and Billings for the same commodities. There are four grocery stores in Lovell, but the competitive spirit seems to be lacking. There is only one shop in which meats are sold, but the meat prices seem very fair.

Clothing prices show the sharpest advance of any of the family commodities. Our estimate is quite incomplete on this item, but it has been calculated on the same basis as was used last year, and the data are strictly comparable. We found prices very unstable and much at variance between competing retailers in the same town. The reason given for this was the constantly advancing market and its bearing upon stocks on hand. It was the general impression that the advance is so far only begun, and that, especially, suits of clothes and overcoats will soon advance to unheard-of prices. We were told on several occasions that \$75.00 will buy only an overcoat of medium quality before the coming winter is over. There is a general bitterness among dealers against the so-called "Overall Trust." The standard bib-overall has shown perhaps the greatest percentage advance in wholesale price of any of the standard commodities a workman must purchase. Within the past two years, the wholesale price has advanced from \$9.00 per dozen pairs, delivered, to \$36.00 per dozen pairs F. O. B. Factory. When dealers re-stock at this price, it will be necessary to retail them at \$4.00 per pair. There is a tendency among workmen to purchase clothing of inferior quality as prices advance, the poorer quality garments giving necessarily shorter service. The clothing estimate, even with the arbitrary addition referred to above, seems entirely too conservative.

The data we have gathered on rent, fuel, light, etc., when compared with the data of a year ago, create a false impression. Several of the towns show decreases in the total expenditure for these items. This is because of the manner in which the data were secured last year. All of the apparent decreases are due to rent alone. A year ago we endeavored to secure rental data from representative real-estate and rental agents. The prices we secured were prices asked for available houses, or houses which had recently been rented. This year we have secured our data through the various Factory Cashiers, from at least ten representative permanent employees who are renters. Houses which have been occupied by a tenant for some time generally are bringing the owner less revenue than he would ask were they to be rented at the present time. Gering is probably the only town in which rents have actually shown a decrease.

To arrive at the average rental paid, we have calculated the average rent per room in houses not modern, in houses modern except heating plant, and in houses modern with heating plant. Our average rental in each case is the direct average of a four room house not modern in any way, and a five room house, modern except heating plant.