State", from the beginning the half million men "promised" by Sir Robert Borden on January, 1916, would be in khaki to-day.

But for three years of war the Government has pursued a niggardly and pernicious policy toward the soldiers and their dependents while exercising care and solicitude for the profiteer and throwing the doors of a heavily taxed treasury open to that coterie of financial pirates which has bled the country for the past six years. Such a policy was to be expected from a Government of millionaires, not one of whom could at the present time truthfully declare that he wasn't financially better off to-day than he was when War broke out, when as a matter of fact if he were stripped naked and penniless on the street his sacrifice would not be on equality with the man who has risked his all in the trenches or the woman who cheerfully saw him go.

Pay Too Small.

For three years the pay of the soldier at the Front has remained the same, though during that three years, wages in all other lines of business and industry at home have been increased many times. For three years the assigned pay and separation allowances to soldier and dependents, (quite meager enough at the outset) have not changed, though during that three years the cost of living has doubled and trebled.

Industrial Wages Increased. Soldiers' Pay remained the same.

Turning to the question of wages: In an article published by the Financial *Post* in January, 1917, based on statistics of the federal Department of Labour, a review is given of advances in the cost of living and the upward tendency of wages during 1916. In that year, according to the *Post* there were over 122 changes in wages affecting over 80,000 employees and with but one exception these changes in wages were increases. Towards the latter part of the year increases were rapid, mines, railways and the metal industries being chiefly affected. Many increases were in the nature of war bonuses in view of the high cost of living, and advances as great as fifty per cent over the wages paid in 1914 occurred, and ten and fifteen per cent increases were common. The greatest increases were in industries in a state of great activity owing to war demands. The Post article closes with the statement that **"in recent months nearly every trade or industry has shown some increase in wages and no decreases have been reported."**

The scarcity of labour due to the absence from the country of so many of Canada's producers has been such that manufacturers of munitions and others reaping golden profits from the "Business" of war, in some cases willingly, in others grudgingly, have paid increased wages, in order that they might "make their pile", while the workingman's higher wages were barely sufficient to keep up with the ever rising cost of living.

Taking the first quarter of 1917 it appears from figures published by the Labour *Gazette*, the Official journal of the Department of Labour, that there were 61 changes affecting approximately 27,000 work people and all these changes were increases, running as high as 25 and 30 per cent. In the second quarter there were 150 changes affecting over 80,000 workmen, all increased wages or shorter working hours. In this quarter employees of railways alone to the number of 50,000 benefited by substantial increases. All classes of workmen were concerned in these changes with advances ranging from 5 to 25 per cent and in many cases where bonuses were granted increases were higher.

Wages Compared.

The assigned pay of a private soldier at the outset of the War amounted to about $15.00 per month. Separation allowance (which is not given unless pay is assigned) amounted to $20.00 per month or a total of $35.00 a month which was the same whether he had a family of one or ten. To-day the allowance is the same as it was then though living expenses have increased tremendously. Some appreciation of the injustice of the situation may be gathered from the following comparative tables:

1914

Assigned pay and Separation Allowance to soldier's family August 1914. $35.00 per month or $8.75 a week.

Cost of Budget of food for family for one week as computed by Labor Department August 1914, $7.42.

1917

Assigned pay and separation allowance August 1917. $35. a month or $8.75 a week.

Cost of Budget of food for family for one week August 1917. $11.62

Assigned pay and Separation allowance remained stationary in the interval. The cost of living increased 56.6 per cent according to the figures of the Labor Department. In other words so far as the State is concerned the family of the Soldier must depend for charitable contribution from the Patriotic fund to make up the difference between its allowance and the cost of existence. The Labor Department's figures refer to **"workingmen's families and are based on the standard of living of a workingman's family before the War."**

As an instance of the views taken by many arbitration boards in regard to the increased cost of living, the following from the report of a Board which dealt with Employees of the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission:

"The Board had to determine as to what elements should enter their consideration in deciding the question of pay, and they concluded that the cost of living—although not the only matter they looked into, is the primary basis of wages, and that an enterprise of the character of the Toronto Hydro-Electric System should have its calculations so made and its estimates so arranged that provision should be made for reasonable and moderate living expenses for all its employees.

"The Board received a very considerable amount of evidence both written, printed and verbal, with regard to the cost of living and with every desire to make it as reasonable as possible, in view of the complex conditions which exist in Toronto at the present time, taking a mechanic with an average family of say a wife and three