

Belgium with allowances will show, in some instances lower rates than certain rural areas, without the allowance. But, while Canada has recorded a slow decrease in the birth rate, it must be remembered that some 60,000 potential fathers of this generation lie in the battlefields of Europe,—“their sons unborn they gave, their immortality.” Allowing for this loss in the present birth rate, there is also another factor to be considered. Our infant mortality rate has shown a remarkable reduction in recent years. Since 1920, the rate in the registration area, which excluded Quebec until 1927, has been beaten down from 100 to 74.6 per 1,000 living births. Since 1920, the infant mortality rate in Quebec is even more amazing. It has been cut from 163 to 129.3 per 1,000 living births. The health and welfare knowledge and services that have recorded such a wonderful achievement in Canada have also effected a lowering of general morbidity and mortality rates. The general mortality rate dropped in the Registration Area from 10.6 in 1921 to 10 per 1,000 of the population in 1927, and had been brought as low as 9.9 in 1924 and 1925.

There is no doubt that the infant mortality rate in Canada can be carried down even lower, it would not seem too sanguine to set our aim at 50, a mark that has been bettered by the city of Vancouver. Toronto, with its enormous population has reached 70.8 and Winnipeg 60.6. Continued support of the work of our public health services in Canada will add sound population to this country, with perhaps more certainty than the expenditure of the Dominion Department of Immigration. Nor is it just to say that the element saved is a weakened portion. A study of the Vital Statistics will reveal, that in the year following a lowering of the infant mortality rate, we have actually a lower death rate from 1 to 2 years, and the next year from 2 to 3 years. The discovery and application of diphtheria immunization will save Canada 1,000 lives a year, alone.

Thus, there would seem to be little or no justifiable ground for grave misgivings as to our birth rate, and continued expenditure of public moneys on improved and extended health services would seem to guarantee more assured returns in population values than embarkation on the uncertain and expensive scheme proposed by family allowances.

LIVING STANDARDS IN CANADA

Wages are not generally, as deplorably low, as the agitation for these allowances would suggest. The general standard of life of the workingman in Canada would compare favourably with that of the middle class bourgeois in France, where allowances are in force. Further it must be remembered that free educational services, and extensive health and welfare services are provided in almost all the provinces of Canada. Many of these services are not available free or at a low cost in many of the countries compared with the Dominion. Canada's annual expenditure on all forms of public education can be set at over 140 millions a year with some 13 millions more on Universities and Colleges in the last year, for which statistics are available. Unfortunately, we have never been able to persuade the Government of Canada to establish a division of social statistics. Were the totals available, we who are in the work are confident, that at least \$100,000,000 per annum is being expended in Canada from public or private funds in various forms of social welfare care and effort.

The wage rates paid in Canada, as revealed in the reports of the Dominion Department of Labour conform as nearly to living costs on a minimum budget, as will be found anywhere in the world. In those industries in which they do not, constructive statesmanship would seem to lie in the establishment of a decent minimum wage, not in subsidizing a family beggary because the state lacks either ability or courage, properly to control the distribution of wealth