

Q. Where?—A. In the Montreal district.

Q. In the city?—A. No, we cover the military district, the eastern townships, the north shore of the St. Lawrence as far as Three Rivers, and the Laurentian mountains.

Q. Just tell the committee some of your experiences along the lines of Mrs. Morrow's testimony. Tell us about the rents?—A. So far as rents are concerned, they are very much higher in Montreal than in other parts of the province of Quebec, or in Nova Scotia. You cannot possibly get a house in Montreal for less than \$6 or \$7 a month, not even the so-called community houses that are put up by different organizations to be rented out to the men who are in their employ. Out in the country—

Q. Can you get houses in Montreal for \$6 or \$7 a month?—A. Yes.

Q. What sort of a house?—A. It will probably consist of a three-room house, built in the back of a yard.

Q. What would be a reasonable rent for a mechanic's house?—A. I would say from \$11 to \$16. Out in the outlying districts the housing is poor. The visiting in the district of Quebec, particularly up in the mountains, necessitates miles and miles of driving—sometimes requiring half an hour and sometimes three-quarters of an hour driving to one's neighbour, and even in these localities one cannot get a house for less than \$5 or \$6 a month, and that does not include an acre of ground—if there were some ground where the people could cultivate it would be different—but there is just a little bit of ground and the tenant does not dare to trespass beyond the limits of the small area. That would be a two-roomed house, reached by means of a ladder, and built right up against a bar with no dividing wall between, consequently the conditions are most unsanitary.

Q. No dividing wall between the house and the barn?—A. Well it is only just a plain wooden wall—the house is built up against the barn.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Do they keep pigs?—A. Oh, they keep everything, pigs included. Many times we have to push a pig away to get to the front door.

By the Vice-Chairman:

Q. What do you say about a \$40 allowance for a widow without children?—A. In many outlying districts it is more than the women have ever had in their lives before, but in so far as the city is concerned it is very hard for the women without children to live and with regard to the woman with four or five children—

Q. Supposing you take the widow without any children, do you think she needs more than \$40 to live in the city?—A. She needs \$50.

Q. Now the woman with one child first, a little child?—A. That woman according to the Pension Regulations gets \$52, and on the same basis that would give her \$62, which would seem to me to be inadequate.

Q. Now she is getting \$52 only and she should get?—A. \$62.

Q. Suppose she has two children, the present regulations would give her \$62. Can she live in the city if they are small children on that?—A. If they are small, yes, but once they begin to go to school and have to be educated, with a woman whose children are going to school it would be difficult owing to the educational system of Quebec. In very many outlying districts school fees have to be paid and books have to be bought and as a consequence there are a number of children who do not go to school; there is no compulsory educational laws in Quebec.

By Mr. Lapointe:

Q. They have free books in Montreal, have they not?—A. No, schooling is free but you must provide books and any child that has no books must go back home.

Q. Free books are furnished for poor people?—A. Well, my experience has been that wherever people are receiving an allowance from the Government, regardless of

[Miss E. M. Kearney.]