

them to purchase the necessaries of life at the increased prices, and over which they had no control.

The soldier and his family were **entitled** to a daily wage which could be regarded as sufficient to **reasonably provide for the necessaries of life—no matter what their cost might be**. If the soldier's wife and family are entitled to a ration of butter when it costs 25c. a lb. they are equally entitled to just as large a ration of butter even if, and when, it costs 50c. a lb. Again, if the soldier's family is **entitled** to Pay and Allowances calculated to provide a lb. of sugar at 6c. a lb. they are equally entitled to a full lb. of sugar when it costs 24c. a lb., **or to increased pay and allowances** to enable them to purchase the sugar at the increased price of 24c. a lb.

It could never be considered just or right that the soldier's family be required to **lower their standard of living** (by going short of necessaries) in order to meet the new economic condition that had arisen. Such being the case, it must then be admitted that just as soon as prices of the necessaries of life increase, and create conditions such as make it impossible for the soldier wage-earner to **make both ends meet**, then the wage of the soldier becomes **insufficient** and it was, and is now, the duty of the Government to remedy that condition by **granting an adequate increase of pay and allowances**, based on the loss in the purchasing power of the dollar.

What did actually take place in this regard? According to the Parliamentary Report, already referred to (see page 47), it states:

“During the war millions of men were withdrawn from production—millions of others devoted themselves to purely war work. There was a tremendous shortage and destruction of the necessaries of life. As a result, **the prices of all classes of commodities gradually increased and with the increase came the demand on the part of labor for higher and higher wages to meet the new economic condition that had arisen**. Throughout the last three years of the war, the world round, **labour struggled to make both ends meet**. Unrest, disturbances and strikes were the order of the day, **not that the workman desired to amass wealth, but because conditions of living were such as to make it impossible to live upon wages received in pre-war days.**”

A comparative statement of the prices of the necessaries of life in the years 1914 and 1918, shows how very necessary it was for the wages of the workman to be increased: