

iron and steel was \$33.92, and (2) the D.B.S. weekly budget on which the cost of living index is based works out at present prices at about \$31.60. Clearly, a very large number of steel workers must be very close to, or below, the modest standard represented by the D.B.S. budget. (All the figures I quote are official Government statistics, unless otherwise stated.)

At present, a worker on base rate (45½ cents an hour) at Algoma, working 48 hours a week, gets a wage of \$21.84, and cost of living bonus of \$2.53, or a total of \$24.01. If he works 56 hours (i.e., seven days a week, as many of them do), he gets a total of \$28.61. (Nobody at Algoma, the Barlow report to the contrary notwithstanding, gets overtime for the seventh day.) At Sydney, he would get 43½ cents an hour; weekly wage for 48 hours, \$20.88; cost of living bonus \$4.25; total, \$25.13. If he works 56 hours in a part of the plant which is on a six day week, he gets overtime (time-and-a-half) for the seventh day, and also extra bonus of 71 cents (this last is probably illegal, but represents the company's opinion that the men are entitled to something extra because of a special provision in their contract antedating the official cost of living bonus.). If he works in a part of the plant that is on "continuous process", working a regular seven days a week (e.g., coke ovens or blast furnaces), he gets no overtime but does get the 71 cents. In the one case his total 56-hour earnings would come to ~~\$28.61~~ \$31.06, in the other, \$29.32. The Department of Labour has laid it down that a ~~pre-war~~ pre-war wage of \$25.00 a week would leave a family of five very little for anything above bare subsistence. At present prices this would work out to about \$29.25 a week. Clearly, men on the base rate are at best sailing pretty close to the wind; and evidence before the Commission showed that many men at or near base rate have families, and that steel workers' families are if anything larger than the average. I may add that all the available evidence suggests that the Department's \$29.25 is a very modest figure indeed. The Toronto Welfare Council's budget for the bare essentials of health and decency for a family of five would, at present prices, come to about \$33.00 a week. The Tisdall report on food for relief recipients does not cover anything but food. But if you take this as the same proportion of total cost of living as in the D.B.S. official cost of living index budget, or as in the Toronto Welfare Council budget, the total would come to about \$34.00 to \$37.50 per week. Applying the same procedure to the Canadian Medical Association's figures in "Food for Health", you get a budget of about \$33.80 to \$37.90. The Toronto Welfare Council budget provided for a man doing only "moderately active work"; the Tisdall report was for relief recipients; and the C.M.A. details of costs for various items of food suggest that its estimate is if anything very low. In other words, none of these budgets would indicate the real cost of the necessities of life for a steel worker, doing much more than "moderately active work", and having to buy his food at prices higher than those indicated by the C.M.A. pamphlet.

Another factor in the situation is the widening gap between the wage rates of American and Canadian steel workers. Canadian steel workers have always recognized that our industry cannot afford to pay American wages; they have accordingly never asked anything of the sort, and do not ask it now. But they feel that at least the gap should not be substantially widened, especially now, when American competition is no longer a factor. Yet actually the gap has widened very considerably.