

APPENDIX No. 4

her clothing or for her children; it was all going in medicines for her mother. They were living in a two-roomed house. The doctor's bills for her mother, an old lady of seventy who had epileptic fits every two or three days—that is why she was behind-hand. I went to the Next of Kin Association out there, and we arranged to send the old lady where she should have been sent in the first instance, to one of the institutions, because it was not fair to the children to be subject to that sick lady. I found afterwards she is doing quite well, but the money was not being applied for the purpose to which it ought to be applied.

By Mr. Cooper:

Q. Would you say that the pension for the widow and the child is a bare living under ordinary circumstances?—A. I would say there is nothing being put by.

By Mr. Peck:

Q. Do you mean to say that the pensions are adequate?—A. I do not express an opinion on that. I would say she is certainly not saving money, and I point to what was told me in Winnipeg by this lady. I will give you the name if you wish. She is well known in charitable work out there. I quote that to show there is not much of a margin, provided there is no serious illness. As a matter of fact there was a little fund left by a Russian, called the Doukhobor fund, somewhere between three and five thousand dollars.

By Mr. Cooper:

Q. The country is not concerned in that?—A. We have absolute discretion as to how we shall use that, and we use it very sparingly, but we have given it to widowed mothers and sometimes to widows to help them out in emergency cases, where their bills exceed their pensions and where they have pensions. In one case the child had spinal disease and we gave them allowance to provide for a nurse and necessary appliances.

By Mr. Clark:

Q. We had evidence last year and the year before I think, to the effect that it was adequate in the smaller centres, and particularly in Eastern Canada, but it was not adequate in larger centres, and particularly the larger centres of the West. What do you find in regard to that?—A. I think there is no doubt about it that there is a very great disproportion in the cost of living in those places. I suppose the Labour Bureau could be more specific about it, but in my mind there is no question that in Winnipeg the cost is the highest.

The CHAIRMAN: The *Labour Gazette* shows British Columbia highest, Winnipeg next and Prince Edward Island lowest.

The WITNESS: Does that take into account the cost of fuel.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, everything.

By Mr. Clark:

Q. Do you receive many complaints from the 100 per cent disability cases?—A. I have not had any.

Q. None at all?—A. No.

Mr. REDMAN: What about the helpless allowance cases?—A. I gauge them when I go into the cases. I have asked how the disability men were doing, if they were making ends meet, and I found in all cases they were placed, and when I asked them if they knew how the disability men were getting on, they told me they were getting on all right. The incapacitated man gets a helpless allowance according to his incapacity.