

PAY AND ALLOWANCES AND C.P.A.

Much has been said on many occasions by Cabinet Ministers and others that the Pay and Allowances of the Canadian soldier were higher than those paid by any other Allied Government. Quite apart from the fact that both the Australian and New Zealand soldiers were paid a higher rate than that paid the Canadian soldier, **the real question is—Did the Canadian Government pay enough ?**

According to the findings of the Parliamentary Committee on Re-establishment, as contained in the fourth and final Report, October 31st, 1919 (page 47), "The term" wage is but relative. A wage is low, sufficient or high, only in proportion as it enables the wage-earner **to reasonably provide for his wants in the country where he lives.**

The daily wage of the ex-member of the C.E.F. was \$1.10 for a single private—plus \$20.00 a month (subsequently increased to \$30.00 a month) as separation allowances for married men. **This rate was fixed, no doubt, after taking into consideration the current cost of the necessities of life in 1914.**

Was this rate **low, sufficient or high ?**

That it was certainly not high, but low, cannot be disputed ; that it was **not sufficient** is more than proved by the action of the Government in allowing the Canadian Patriotic Association—a semi-state charity—to **assume the obligations of the State in the matter of adequate pay and allowances which it was the bounden duty of the Government to shoulder themselves.** The fact that it was necessary to supplement the Government scale of Pay and Allowances with contributions from the funds of the **Canadian Patriotic Association** proves conclusively that the rate of Pay and Allowances fixed by the Militia Department was not only **low, but insufficient** to provide for the reasonable wants of the soldier wage-earner and his family in the country in which they live.

If the term "wage"—or \$1.10 a day—is but relative, and it is to be regarded as **sufficient** only when it enables the **wage earner to provide for reasonable wants** (such as sugar, butter, bread, beef, milk, bacon, house rent, clothing, and coal, etc) **at prices ruling in 1914**, then it is obvious that any person in receipt of wages based upon commodity prices in 1914, could not possibly purchase the necessities of life at **1918 prices**, unless a corresponding increase in wages had been granted, **and as no such increase of soldier's pay and allowances was ever granted**, it is equally certain that specific portions of vital daily food disappeared from the table of the soldier's family **for the simple reason that their daily rate of pay did not enable**