

average increase in wages is available. There are groups of workers in Canada who have had advances which more than offset the increase in the cost of living. But there are also multitudes of workers who have not received increases equal to the advance in the cost of living and who are comparatively poorer than they were five or six years ago. In 1914, however, the wages and salaries of railway employees totalled \$111,762,972 and in 1918 \$152,274,953. For 1919, the first full year of the McAdoo increases, it is estimated that there was a further advance of 25 or 30 per cent. or an average increase of wages and salaries to Canadian railway employees, excluding general officers, of 73.4 per cent. This represents \$35,838,000 annually to the Canadian Pacific and according to Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways, in 1914 the average yearly wage of railway employees in Canada was \$700 and in 1919 \$1,447.

HEAVY STRIKE LOSSES

Added to great and general wage increases are the heavy losses from industrial conflict. The losses to labor in Canada by strikes during 1919 aggregated at least \$9,000,000 or \$10,000,000 and to employers a far greater amount. In the United States the loss to labor through industrial conflict in 1919 is put at \$723,478,000 and to capital at \$1,266,357,000. The loss in production of coal is estimated at 40,000,000 tons and of steel at \$300,000,000. In Great Britain 34,000,000 working days were lost by strikes and the hours of work were reduced by $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours a week for over 6,000,000 workers. The cotton strike and the moulders' strike in the last three months of 1919 cost the General Federation of British Trade Unions \$750,000, and Mr. Appleton, General Secretary of the Federation declares: "The saddest thing about this expenditure is its failure to

secure anything beyond what might have been secured without the strikes." According to Governor Allen of Kansas during the past three years there have been 364 strikes in the mining fields of Kansas by which the miners gained \$778.81 in actual monetary advantage at a cost of over \$2,000,000 in loss of wages while during 1919 the miners provided \$157,000 in dues and benefits to meet the expenses of their leaders. It is not suggested that wage increases were excessive or that there was no justification for the destructive contests in which so many workers have engaged. In many cases no doubt there was justification. In some there was not. But it is not intended to pronounce or even to suggest judgment one way or the other. It is enough to argue from the facts that food scarcity, decreased production and higher wages must raise prices of much that we eat and wear, and must involve higher charges for housing, transportation and all other necessary services.

INCREASES IN FARM VALUES

Between 1914 and 1919 farm lands with dwellings and buildings increased in value per acre from \$38 to \$52. The total value of live stock has increased from \$1,102,261,000 in 1914 to \$1,296,602,000 in 1920. The field crops in 1913 were valued at \$552,771,500 and in 1917 at \$1,144,636,450. Between 1913 and 1918 the price of wheat per bushel rose from 67 cents to \$2.02, of oats from 32 cents to 78 cents, of barley from 42 cents to \$1, of rye from 66 cents to \$1.42, of buckwheat from 64 cents to \$1.58, and of mixed grains from 55 cents to \$1.14. The wholesale prices of hay, per ton, increased from \$14.04 to \$26.50; of bran, per ton, from \$19.96 to \$45.00; of cattle, Western butchers', per cwt., at Winnipeg from \$6.77 to \$10.25; of beef, dressed, hindquarters, per cwt., at Toronto from \$12.80 to