

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. Would the result of the American investigation be available to us?—A. Yes. It has been published in a book called "Cost of Living in the United States". I might mention something which this investigation showed. At that time—1918—the investigators found that the average family covered was getting about \$1,400 a year income, and that would include the wages of the father and any earnings of the rest of the family. The investigation was confined to average families; that is, families with about three children. They found that when the income fell below \$1,400, the family did not get enough to eat.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. May I ask a question, Mr. Bolton, in connection with Canada? What is the average family, according to the figures of the Labour Department?—A. The one in the Labour Gazette?

Q. Yes.—A. We do not say the number in the family, but we say "the average family" and we also say that "the average family is about five." The food, fuel, and rent, come to about \$21 per week. Those are the only items.

Q. Supposing the other items which we considered—A. They add about half as much again.

Q. It would go to about \$31 or \$32 a week?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, have you any idea of what the average wages are in different groups in the Dominion of Canada?—A. No. In Ottawa, carpenters get 75 cents per hour and they work 44 hours per week when on steady employment. That is about \$33 per week.

Q. That is a highly skilled man, if he were working continually 52 weeks in the year, would be getting what is equal to the minimum family budget according to the Bureau of Labour.—A. Perhaps you were not in when I said that the budget was constructed to the rise and fall of the cost of living, and not the minimum. We do not know what the minimum is.

Q. \$33 a week might be a very low standard for many people.—A. The budget published in the Labour Gazette conforms practically to the third one mentioned by Paul Douglas—about \$1,650 per year.

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. There are a few questions I would like to ask you, Mr. Bolton. Judging from your experience, and the work you have done on this subject, how would you say the people actually live if they are getting less than the minimum subsistence budget?—A. I mentioned the United States investigators in 1918 found that when the family income was less than \$1,400, the family did not get enough to eat. They found they economized on their food to such an extent that they were not getting a healthy diet; they found they did not have enough rooms to live in; there would be perhaps five people living in four rooms; they might be living in a six roomed house, and renting two rooms, and that is a very common basis for economy—many people whose income is low and rent is high, rent part of the house. Another plan is to keep boarders, which is equivalent to the same thing.

By the Chairman:

Q. Humanely, that family would be neglected?—A. Yes.

Q. And educationally they would be making no advancement?—A. They might be getting enough to eat, but living in two or three rooms, which is not very healthy.

By Mr. Woodsworth:

Q. In a case of malnutrition, who pays the bill?—A. The death rate is usually high.

Q. Is it in direct ratio with the amount of malnutrition?—A. It affects the community indirectly in every respect.

[Mr. C. W. Bolton.]