

for production, or in the way of meeting their daily wants in the lines of food, clothing, housing, fuel, transportation, amusements, and luxuries of various kinds.

On the other hand, high earnings and high profits lead to increased personal expenditure, thus making an increased demand not only for all manner of the necessities of life but for most of its luxuries as well. Further, where light labor and personal services are in demand there are increased openings for women and the junior members of families. Thus a larger proportion of the total population left in the country after the departure of the troops is finding profitable employment. When there is added to this the further fact that supplementary allowances are made to the wives and families of most of the overseas troops, it is obvious that an exceptionally large spending fund, in proportion to the total population, is in circulation. This manifests itself not only in exceptional demands for the ordinary means of life, but also for most of the luxuries and amusements available for modern urban dwellers. As will be pointed out later, these broad facts are effectively exhibited in the trade statistics of the country.

Only those who receive fixed salaries or other unexpansible incomes, in the way of annuities and returns from permanent investments, suffer without compensation from the ever-increasing prices which prevail. High prices, however, may outrun even the increasing profits and wages obtained by those in the secondary economic classes dependent upon the primary beneficiaries of war supplies and service. As, however, these classes are either well organized or have other methods of protecting themselves by insisting upon increases in wages and profits, there results a general clamor for increased incomes and diminished outlay. In the latter case this takes the form of demands for lower prices for at least the most essential requirements of life. These claims tend eventually to concentrate upon the