

All inquiry pointed to the fact that Peoria and Springfield District bituminous coal was generally used, and prices for this kind of coal were entered in our computations by taking data given by local dealers for the months in each year considered. The monthly prices were then averaged.

The rates on gas and electricity for the years considered were obtained from the local Light & Gas Company.

It will be noted that gas and electricity are the only two things on which the prices were reduced during the period considered.

Table 4 shows the average quantities of coal, gas and electricity used per year by our average family,

per cent of this amount for depreciation. In a great many cases the men gave us only the taxes paid in 1919, and when this occurred, we figured the taxes for the other years by using the same assessments for the various years and using the old tax rates. In computing for both Peoria and East Peoria, the assessments are changed only every four years, but tax rates are changed every year. The taxes for each year were calculated from the tax rate and the assessed valuation for the year prior; i. e., 1912 taxes are actually paid in 1913.

In figuring cost of ownership, we included total taxes for each year, 2 per cent depreciation for each year and total insurance for each year. We then re-

TABLE 4: FUEL AND LIGHT COSTS

Item	Average amount used per year	Annual Cost for				
		1913	1915	1917	1918	1919
Coal						
Peoria or Springfield District bituminous	17.6 tons	\$46.64	\$50.16	\$60.19	\$95.92	\$89.94
Gas	33 M cu. ft.	29.70	29.70	28.05	28.05	28.05
(For cooking)	299					
Electricity	KWH	29.60	29.60	20.93	20.93	20.93
(For lighting)						
Annual Cost		105.94	109.46	109.17	144.90	138.92
Daily Cost		.353	.364	.363	.483	.463

as well as the total annual and daily cost for each kind of fuel for each year.

4. SHELTER

The data from which we compiled our final figures on shelter were obtained from the answers to the questionnaire.

In securing our final figures, we attempted to show a comparison of the cost of ownership to the cost of renting. However, in our total cost of ownership for each year, we took into consideration combined taxes, depreciation and insurance only.

From the questionnaire we found that an equal percentage owned their homes in the north and south ends respectively, about double that number owned homes on the bluffs, and about 18 per cent owned their homes in East Peoria. In compiling our figures on cost of ownership, we selected seventeen houses distributed according to the above percentage figures. Ascertaining the total assessments, we then took 2

duced these total figures to a daily cost by dividing the annual cost by 300, always considering that a man must earn enough in 300 working days to care for himself and family during a year of 365 days.

We then found the average monthly rentals for each year considered from the data given in the questionnaire. We averaged the monthly rentals as paid in Peoria and East Peoria for each year and reduced this to a daily rental cost. We then used the daily rental cost as the daily cost of shelter.

We find that the percentage increase of the combined taxes of Peoria and East Peoria for 1919, is 28.6 per cent over 1913, while rentals have increased but 24.3 per cent. This shows that rentals are increased in about the same proportion as taxes, but rentals are not increased as much in cases where the tenant has rented the same house for a number of years. The landlord then assumes part of this expense as he considers it more profitable to have a steady tenant than one who is moving continually.

We found that the ratio of the daily cost of ownership, including only taxes, depreciation and insurance, to the daily cost of renting was 1 to 3 in 1913, and gradually increased through the various years to a ratio of 1 to 3.37 in 1919.

5. SUMMARY

Combining the four principal essentials of cost of living, that is, food, clothing, fuel and shelter, we found the total daily cost of living for the years 1913, 1915, 1917, 1918 and 1919. The result was that the same articles, used in the same quantities by the standard family of five throughout those years, could be purchased in 1913 for \$4.06, whereas in May, 1919 those same articles would cost \$7.39, an increase of 81.6 per cent in daily living cost from the base year, 1913, to May, 1919.

C. SPECIFIC DATA ON WAGES

1. ACTUAL WAGES PAID

In compiling the figures on wages for the various years considered, we included only factory departments and classified these into productive and "non-productive" labor. The daily wages for each department were obtained by going through the payroll for each year and securing the daily earnings for each representative class or grade of work in that department, and then taking an average of the total grades for the daily wages of that department.

In the above manner daily wages were found for both productive and non-productive labor and the per cent increase computed for each year considered. The two classes of labor were then combined and the average daily earnings computed for 1913, 1915, 1917, 1918, and also for 1919 up to May 28th. Percentage increases for 1915, 1917, 1918, and 1919 before May 28th were then computed and used in the comparisons with the increased cost of living over the same years.

2. SUMMARY.

Investigation proved the average wages for all departments has risen from \$2.48 in 1913 to \$4.15 in 1919 prior to May 28th or 67.1 per cent.

IV. COMPARISONS MADE, CONCLUSIONS DRAWN AND ACTION TAKEN

Obviously if the cost of living had increased 81.6 per cent in the same period in which wages had risen only 67.1 per cent there was an adjustment due which would bring the current daily wage into the same re-

lation with the daily cost of living in 1919 as prevailed in 1913. There was a widening gap between wages paid and actual living costs, as evidenced by the fact that conditions which were apparently equitable and acceptable in 1913 were becoming daily strained in 1919, and the general basis used by our men in justifying their individual requests on their foreman for raises was the present day "high cost of everything." (Cf. Figs. 3 and 4).

It was therefore decided by the management to put through a wage advance in recognition of this discrepancy as shown by 81.6 per cent increase in living cost, and a 67.1 per cent increase in wages for the same period.

In reviewing the payroll, it was plainly evident some classes had advanced more than others. This was due largely to the greater pressure exerted by the organized element of skilled workers, which was greater than that exerted by the unorganized element composed of lesser-skilled men. We, however, made no discrimination, but put through an advance varying from 2 1-2 to 8 cents per hour on all classes of labor employed, those receiving the largest increase being, of course, in the classes which were most underpaid, considered on this cost of living basis.

V. RESULTS

In the adjustment, our final calculations show it has cut the margin of difference between 81.6 per cent and 67.1 per cent—14.5 per cent—to a difference of 3.9 per cent—i. e., the increase in wages after the adjustment was 77.7 per cent as against 67.1 per cent before the adjustment. This difference of even 3.9 per cent was not intentional, for all classes of labor were brought up 81 per cent or better from the prevailing 1913 daily wage; but when averaging the individual rates for each man in a department, and then averaging these composite rates for all departments, the new scale ranging from \$3.60 (or 45c x 8 hours.) minimum, to \$7.20 (or 90c x 8 hours.) maximum, gave, when weighted by the number of men receiving these rates (or those in between) a new average of \$4.41 and this is 77.7 per cent higher than the average of \$2.48 for all classes in 1913. The next wage adjustment involving recognition of cost of living will, we intend, make up for this slight deficiency for we will have the benefit of this research to increase the accuracy of our aim. Further there was not the same number of men in each department in 1913 as in 1919, and this variation further accounts for the variation in the weighted average of