

**LESS THAN A LIVING**

What do you consider a bare living for yourself and family? Government statistics have tried to figure this out, if you haven't. They have estimated, according to the cost of living in different cities, just how much it costs to feed, clothe and house the average family of man, wife, and a couple of children, at the most economical level, without any trimmings or luxuries or even a second-hand car.

This "maintenance level," as the WPA researchers call it, calls for an income ranging from \$1,190.90 a year in Mobile, Ala., to \$1,502.29 a year in New York City.

In other words, in any of the larger cities of the United States, a family must have an income of at least from \$22.90 to \$28.89 a week—and have it every week in the year—to be able to eke out a bare existence.

Yet the Survey of Current Business of the U. S. Dept. of Commerce shows that in the last year the average wage of boot and shoe workers ranged from less than \$16 to a little more than \$19 a week. Textile workers got from \$16.36 to \$17.72 a week; lumber and sawmill workers from \$17.08 to \$19.45. The average for all American factory workers was only from \$24.01 to \$25.81 a week.

If most American factory workers with a family to support can live at only a bare maintenance level even when working steadily, what can be said for the level of existence of those millions who are laid off much of the time or are unemployed?

People can and do exist for a time at less than a living wage, but only at a cost of malnutrition, stunted growth, ill-health and general wretchedness that saps a whole people's strength.

By organizing the workers to obtain decent wages, organized labor is performing the greatest possible patriotic service to the American people.

**LACK OF STAMINA**

Some of the military men say that the young men of today are lower in stamina than those who were drafted in the World War; that they are less able to withstand hardship, fatigue and disease.

The reasons given, according to the United States News, are soft living, automobiles, bad and irregular habits.

Those reasons, while they may affect some young men, appear incomplete.

- How about poverty?
- How about unemployment?
- How about slums?
- How about lack of sufficient nourishing food?

You can't bar 30 or 40 million people from regular family incomes for a whole decade without impairing the stamina of the young and the not so young.

This is one of the reasons why organized labor has been lustily hollering, all these 10 years, for a genuine effort to abolish unemployment.—Summit County Labor News.

All the political "Big Boys" seem to be turning to the soft drink business. Apologies to Jim Farley and Ben Douglass.

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**NAT. LABOR DAY  
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The campaign to secure legislation making Labor Day a national holiday began in the 1884 convention of the American Federation of Labor which unanimously adopted the following resolution introduced by Delegate A. C. Cameron of the Chicago Trades and Labor Alliance:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

By 1893 the legislatures of twenty-three States had enacted Labor Day laws, and 1923 the roll was completed by Wyoming. Congress enacted the national Labor Day law in 1894.

If your argument is weak, use stronger words.

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