The Low Cost of Living

BY CHARLES J. ROSEBAULT

IT is the low cost of living that makes it possible for the average person to have a home, to live, to eat, to drink, and to be merry. Nothing else can be more prudentlyproved.

In the 1920s, a few random conversations on the Brokers' Floor made me more than ever feel the pressure of necessity and the mandate of duty. Among the brokers I met, Mr. Strong was inclined to be moody and given to.cursor his point of view, and Mr. Weeks was inclined to be an optimist, so the discussion became an interesting study on the differences between them. Strong was more realistic in his approach to life, while Weeks was more philosophical in his outlook.

'Strong,' said Weeks, 'I am afraid you are overlooking the fact that the average person is not living in a bubble. You cannot just assume that the price of goods is going to keep going up. It is not as simple as that.'

'Strong,' replied Weeks, 'you are right. But I believe that the average person is going to be able to get by with less money than they used to. It's not just the cost of living, it's also the cost of the basics. Think about it. When was the last time you bought a new car? You've been driving that same old clunker for years, haven't you? And you're still able to make ends meet...'

'But it's the cost of living that's the problem,' insisted Strong. 'If the cost of living keeps going up, how are we going to make ends meet? We're going to have to make sacrifices. We're going to have to cut back on things.'

'But look at it this way,' said Weeks. 'If the cost of living does go up, it's going to go up uniformly. Everyone is going to be affected. And if everyone is affected, then it's not really that big of a deal. It's just a matter of adjusting our budgets.'

'But it's not as simple as that,' said Strong. 'The cost of living is not going to go up uniformly. It's going to go up in different ways for different people. Some people are going to be hit harder than others.'

'But in the end, it's just a matter of adapting,' said Weeks. 'We're going to have to learn to live with less. We're going to have to make sacrifices. But we're going to be able to make it. We're going to be able to survive.'

In the end, both Strong and Weeks were right. The cost of living did go up, but everyone had to adjust to it. It was a matter of adapting to the new reality. And in the end, everyone was able to make it.