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 The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

THE QUESTION OF LOWER WAGES

Clothing manufacturers, forced to lower prices to induce the public to buy their product and keep the factories running, declare that they cannot make the necessary reductions unless their production is materially increased. That puts the matter up to the employees.
 The same position is taken, with apparent justice, in several other industries, and may be taken by all industries sooner or later. First the employer's profiteering has to be eliminated, where it exists; then, finding himself down to hard-pan, it is natural for the employer to ask his workmen to share the burden.

That burden can be shared in two ways. The workmen can lower the cost of production by speeding up their work, as employers have been urging them to do, or they can accept a reduction in wages.

One or the other is inevitable. If they do neither, there will be closed factories and, in great numbers of cases, no work at all.

It is always a question to what extent the workman can or should increase his output. It is widely admitted that there was a good deal of easing up on the part of labor during the last year or two. Now most of the bad slacking seems to have disappeared, and industrial employees in nearly all lines are working more steadily and effectively. Still, it is believed that the majority could work a little harder without self-injury or hardship.

This, if it can be safely done, is the ideal way to meet the situation. I workmen can keep their boom wages as prices sag and living cheapens, they will enjoy incomparably the greatest prosperity they have ever had. If they are awake to their own interests, they will put forth effort accordingly. If they will not or cannot speed up general production, they will have to reconcile themselves to having their war wages sink along with their war prices.

THE ARMY BONUS.

Two recent developments regarding the military bonus are contradictory. One is the big majority vote given by the people of New York state for a bond issue of \$45,000,000 to provide payments to soldiers and sailors, such payments not to exceed \$250 in any instance. It is estimated that this means a tax of \$21 on every family in the state. The other development referred to is the semi-official announcement made by leaders at Washington that no bonus legislation need be expected from the next congress.

A popular vote approves the bonus plan. The emphasis of that vote seems to suggest that the people of other states would probably take similar action if they had the opportunity. Yet it is considered unlikely that congress will approve of national action along the same line.

These two positions, however, are not necessarily inconsistent. Most people might be expected to vote for a bonus for the war veterans, out of sheer good-will, without giving much consideration to the question of where the money was coming from. Those who would think of that might conclude that most of it would come from a minority of heavy tax-payers; therein they would be about right. Not every family in New York that \$21 by any means. The congressman is doubtless just as grateful to the soldier as the average voter, but he considers more carefully the money and the public credit. Any such action in such a manner is more caution.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

It was ominous for the fate of the New Irish home rule bill that its final passage by the British House of Commons was described as a purely perfunctory proceeding on the part of "a small and rather listless gathering of members." The Liberal and Labor members were absent. Most of those present seemed to feel the hopelessness of it.

tion and other expenses. Many persons, knowing only of occasional cases of student self-support, believe that they are the exception rather than the rule. Statistics recently published by the Harvard employment office must rather surprise outsiders.
 In 1919 Harvard men registered at the university employment bureau earned \$77,000, a gain over the figure of 1918, which was \$71,000. The report shows that \$42,000 was earned in term time and \$35,000 in summer work. It is quite likely that the other universities and smaller colleges could produce similar reports of the productive work of their students.

Ambitious seekers after learning are very democratic in their choice of labor. They will accept any decent task that comes to hand. They act as tutors, clerks, proctors, monitors, census-takers, choremen, ticket-takers; they serve as carpenters, salesmen, librarians, ushers, waiters, stenographers, dish-washers, janitors, and so on through the list of possible employments.

There are persons who consider the undergraduate a frivolous being, fond of stylish clothes and a good time and inclined to be facetious about not letting his studies interfere with his college career. This criticism seems over-harsh in view of the fact that so many of these young men and women are willing to work very hard, regularly or in odd hours, at any available job which will enable them to earn the necessary funds to pay for the desired education. It is well to remember, too, that good work in his studies is required of the self-supporting student.

BUILDING FRAUDS.

The building scandals revealed in New York City in the course of the special inquiry conducted by Samuel Untermyer have shed new light on the housing problem. It developed that a ring of building contractors has existed in New York, conspiring to keep up the cost of construction by pre-arranging their bids, allowing some designated member to make the low bid and get the contract, and then dividing up the profit. The "low bid" has been in every case made high enough to insure plenty of "velvet."

It has been proved, too, that contractors have been forced to pay blackmail money regularly to some representatives of the building trades to obtain men for their work and insure themselves against strikes. These representatives have preyed on labor as well as on capital.

There have been also revelations as to price-fixing combines of manufacturers and dealers in building materials, and intimations of exposures to come regarding usurious interest rates of "bonuses" charged for money needed for construction.

It is estimated that not less than 20 per cent of the recent high cost of building has been due to these combined extortions. It is also declared that, while the abuses are probably worst in the metropolis, they are found in nearly all the large cities and to some extent in the smaller ones.

Such offenses are particularly culpable at a time when the housing situation is so critical. The crooks have been preying on the most pressing necessities of the nation. The New York Times says:

"The burden of the housing shortage has fallen mainly on the poor, who were already sorely pressed by the cost of food and clothing. The result is registered in the weekly bulletin of the health department. There has been a sharp increase in infant mortality from respiratory and contagious diseases, which are caused mainly by 'close and indiscriminate contact.' The department attributes the increase to 'the present housing situation, which has necessitated the doubling up of families, making it impossible properly to isolate contagion.'"

And this is only one of the many evil effects of such grafting. The New York inquisitors are performing a national service in exposing the crooks. Putting them out of business will have a wholesome effect on the building trades everywhere. Meanwhile, every other city or state that has suffered from unduly high building costs might well do some probing of its own.

THE RED CROSS DOLLAR.

In issuing its annual Roll Call appeal, the American Red Cross announces its desire to continue and expand its overseas activities. Perhaps some Americans are surprised to learn that the Red Cross is still busy with work abroad. Col. Olds, director of the European commission, recently in this country, gave a few of the reasons why the great American relief organization is still needed in the war zone. In France and Belgium, where local committees have been organized in several thousand villages and communities, the American Red Cross remains the chief adviser and organizer of the relief agencies and their work. The Red Cross is teaching to the old world the best things in American

child care, public health and social care methods.
 Farther east, in European Russia and in Central and Southeastern Europe, the Red Cross and several other organizations, with big hearts for service still have more than they can do in clothing, feeding and strengthening the ragged, undersized, disease-stricken children of the refugees. A statement in one magazine which is helping to put across the Red Cross Roll Call says:
 "Possibly as many as five of an estimated eleven million war orphans need everything that money and social service can provide. Even where they are helped by their own governments, the provision made is often of the most primitive sort; these children are herded in barracks which no American would recognize as orphan institutions; their ailments are insufficiently attended to; they are not even clean. Help for them must come from the outside, since the countries where the evil is greatest are still almost completely disorganized."
 With this gigantic humanitarian task before it, the Red Cross does not forget or neglect its home service. It continues its good work of establishing health centers where the whole family from babe to grandparents may receive care and advice, of sending out public health nurses; of making communities safer, healthier and happier; of helping service men, civilians and their families.
 The answer to the Roll Call for any person is simply a dollar. In the approaching Thanksgiving season and the Christmas holidays which follow soon, no dollar could be better invested and none more thankfully used than the dollar contributed to the American Red Cross.
 To break a cold take 666.—Advt.
 Warsaw, Nov. 17.—The bolshevik cavalry has swept through the Ukrainian lines and the Ukrainians are fleeing defeated. They are evacuating Kiev and all the other towns they held.
 Rub-My-Tism cure bruises, cuts, burns, sores, tetter, etc.—Advt.
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grabbing on the part of all the major Allies. This has appeared particularly obnoxious in the case of Great Britain, because her possessions were already so great, and because she had made such fine professions of disinterestedness and generosity. The Irish policy of the present British government has been the chief cause of the revival of American distrust and enmity.
 All this is very unfortunate in the present critical state of international affairs. For their own welfare of the world, Britain and America ought to stand together in essential matters. They cannot stand together unless Britain will return to her own belief, and practise the precepts of democracy and fair dealing that she lately preached so eloquently. There are many evidences that the English people are at heart agreed with the American people in these essential matters, but their government seem out of tune.

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COOLING TOWARD ENGLAND.

The London Nation says: "Europe has disgraced herself in the eyes of America. Sympathy with the Allies has evaporated and given place to suspicion and hostility. Never were the relations with England worse since the crisis of Venezuela. The infamy of our Irish policy, the grabbing of mandates, over representation of the British Empire in the League of Nations and our world struggle for oil are some of the ingredients in this brew of enmity."
 This statement may have been exaggerated a little for political reasons—the Nation does not like the Lloyd-George government. Still, it contains enough bitter truth to give Britons and other Europeans something to think about, and suggests the chief lines of justification for America's present coolness to her late allies.
 In some respects the conduct of European governments since the armistice has really been disgraceful, as their friends must admit. In a dignified effort to liquidate the war debts of the late allies, they have been too much unseemly

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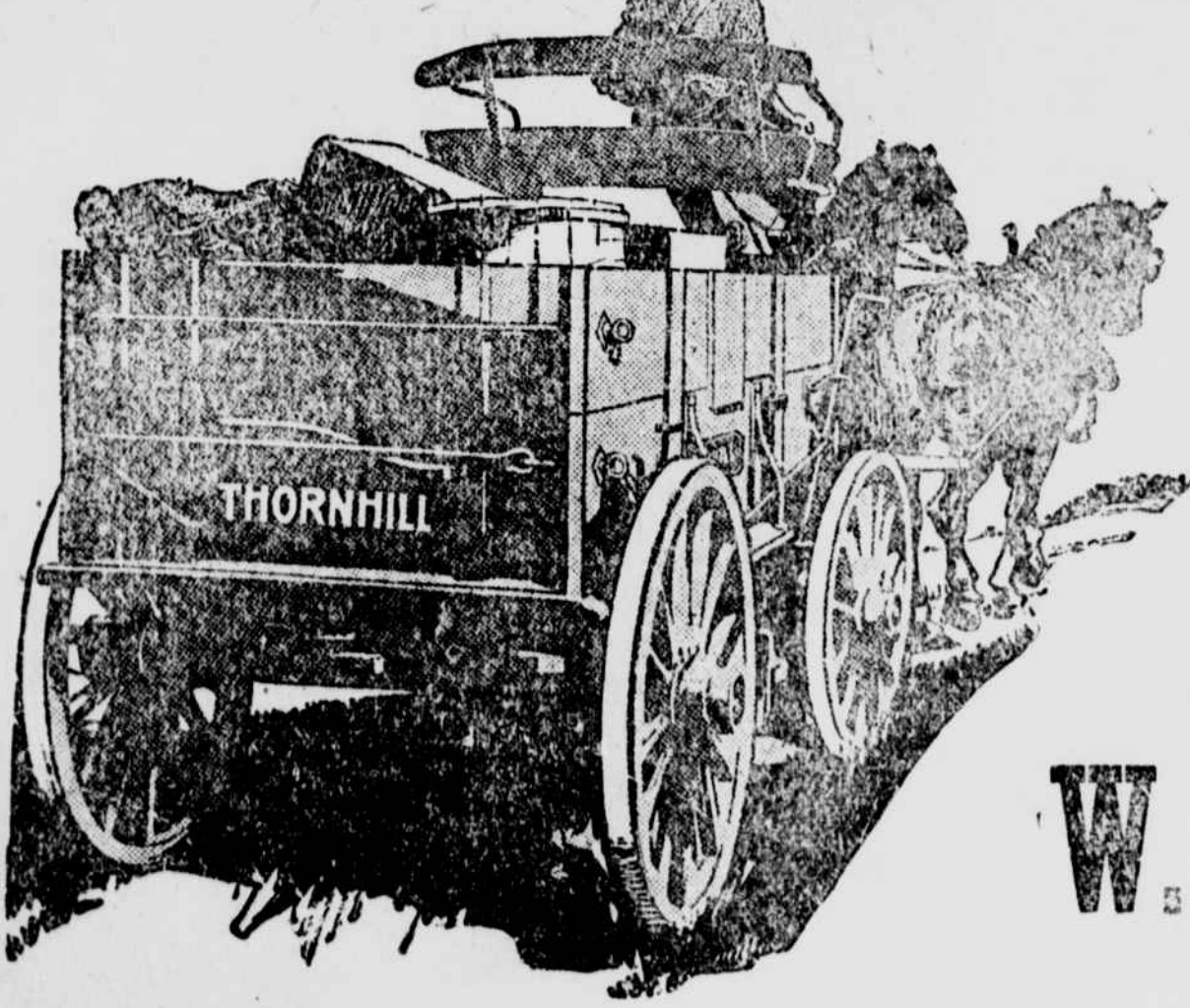
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