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

CONGRESS SHOULD GET ON THE JOB.

The nation has been getting out of patience lately with the persistent delay of congress in important war and reconstruction work.
 The most exasperating case has been that of the revenue bill, which ought to have been passed months ago. Just now there are two reconstruction matters in which the public is vitally concerned: Adequate provision for taking care of returning soldiers by some such plan as Secretary Lane's land reclamation program supplemented by measures for industrial employment; and provision for payment of the vast body of war bills involved in "informal contracts."
 The latter is of immediate and transcendent importance. There is \$1,500,000,000 due American manufacturers and held up partly by governmental red tape and partly by congressional failure to sanction prompt validation of the claims. This matter was supposedly near settlement when a senate committee the other day threw a monkey wrench into the machinery by proposing an entirely new plan, involving great additional delay.
 Congress by its procrastination in this and other matters is making hard times. It is subjecting the nation to a period of industrial depression and misfortune which could be almost wholly avoided by prompt and enlightened legislation. It is time for congress to realize its responsibility and get on the job.

LLOYD GEORGE'S PROGRAM.

The platform on which Lloyd George was overwhelmingly endorsed in the recent British elections contained these seven pledges:
 1. Trial of the Kaiser.
 2. Fullest indemnities from Germany.
 3. Abolition of conscription in all lands.
 4. Britain for the British, socially and industrially.
 5. Adequate provision for returned soldiers, particularly for the crippled and physically broken.
 6. A square deal for Great Britain at the peace conference.
 7. A happier country for all.
 With one or two possible exceptions, this looks like a pretty good American platform, too. Americans seem willing to waive indemnities. They are pretty well agreed on wanting the Kaiser tried for his crimes, wanting Germany to pay in full for the damage she has done to neighboring countries, wanting militarism abolished everywhere, wanting "America for Americans," adequate provision for returned soldiers, a square deal for American ideals and a country that will be happier than it used to be for all classes of people—not merely the privileged classes.
 As a result of the definite stand for justice, international and domestic, taken by the British premier and his fellow-leaders, there is said to be no Bolshevism in England—nothing corresponding to our I. W. W. movement, nothing but legitimate trades unionism in industry. It will probably be the same in the United States if there is a similar policy of fair play toward labor.

THE CASE AGAINST WILHELM.

The German Crown Prince has maintained that the Hohenzollerns were not at all responsible for the inhuman outrages perpetrated by their army in France and Belgium, because, after all, my father and I are gentlemen."
 Testimony of a different and sterner sort has been presented in a report from eminent French jurists who were asked to pass on the question of the former Kaiser's criminal responsibility. The most impressive item is a letter written by Wilhelm, early in the war, to the emperor of Austria, in which he said:
 "My soul is torn asunder, but everything must be put to fire and sword. The throats of men and women, children and the aged must be cut, and not a tree nor a house left standing.
 "With such methods of terror, which alone can strike so degenerate a people as the French, the war will end within two months, while if I use

humanitarian methods it may drag on for years. Despite all my repugnance I have had to choose the first system."
 This is a frank admission on Wilhelm's part that the decision rested with him, personally, and that he deliberately chose a policy of terror and destruction which modern law regards as no less criminal in war than it would be in peace. There is apparently no question of Wilhelm's free will in the matter, and therefore no question of his moral and legal responsibility. Such, at least, is the judgment of the French jurists given to Premier Clemenceau.

It may be expected, then, that this arch-criminal will be brought to trial for his misdeeds like any other malefactor, as soon as the peace conference can get around to his case.

ANOTHER WAR.

The peace conference must hurry. War may be averted between Italy and the Jugo-Slavs, but civil war has lifted its head right here at home. Boston is going to mobilize the poets. She has summoned them from far and near, the good ones and the bad ones, the new war poets, and the old domestic bards. Each may speak his piece and it will be decided what is good and what is bad poetry, and the poetic world will be made safe for democracy too.
 O noble Boston, willing to revive the memories of her revolutionary days! The shot that was fired by the embattled farmers will be but the puff of a pop-gun compared with the opening shot in the battle between rhymed and free verse.
 But let the fight go on by all means! For in battling for the merits of their various forms doubtless many poets brave and true will die of apoplexy, and then who shall say that all is not done for the best?
 As well, peace hath her heroes. As a beloved poet almost said:
 "Not braver he who storms the wall,
 By level musket-flashes litten,
 Than he who steps before them all
 And dares to read what he has written!"

A "BULSHEVIA" BLUFF.

That Swiss professor who came back from Russia with the horrific yarn about Trotzky's plans of conquest must be either a Bolshevik convert or vodka victim.
 According to the Prof. Philippe Jeanneret, the Russian "Reds" now have 1,900,000 troops marching on Poland, Germany and Austria, and are raising an army of 5,000,000 men to sweep over western Europe and crush "bourgeois" France and England. He presents Herr Trotzky, alias Braunstein, in a new role, as an Alexander aspiring to conquer the world for Bolshevism.
 The Bolshevist menace is serious enough, goodness knows. But its ways are not the ways of Alexander and Caesar, much as its hypocritical or lunatic leaders would fain copy those great captains. It moves by stealth. It fights not with guns, but with propaganda—lies instigated by class envy and racial hatred.
 As for a great army, that is absurd on the face of it. Nothing less than an army of 5,000,000 could hope to have any effect against the Allies in western Europe, for France and England alone are keeping at least that many men in the field. A modern fighting army, as everyone knows, requires an industrial army at its back. If it were possible to rally millions of Russians to fight again, where is the industry to provide them with guns, shells and supplies? Where is the transportation system to convey and provision that army? Where is the financial system to support it? Russia is reduced to economic chaos. Russians in millions now would be formless mobs, incapable of aggression against trained troops anywhere.
 The invasion will rather be the other way. The Allies may invade Russia, when they can get around to it—not to shoot down the misled natives, but to feed and police them and get their industries in order.

Industrial Alcohol.

The distillers have been talking of spending \$1,000,000 to fight the federal prohibition law. If they have any such fund at their disposal they might very much better use it to promote the manufacture and sale of commercial alcohol. The country needs alcohol for industrial purposes a great deal more than for drinking purposes, and has never yet been able to get it in sufficient quantity and at low enough price.
 Commercial alcohol now sells, in most places, at about \$1.25 a gallon. The distillers were able to make whiskey for less than that, using good grain. Surely, with the cheaper materials available for turning into commercial alcohol they could make it to sell at a good deal less than that. And their plants, presumably, can be more easily adapted to this purpose than to any other.
 Gasoline is likely to give out sooner or later. In the meantime there is plenty of use for alcohol as fuel, be-

cause of its cleanliness and safety. And its uses in the manufactures and arts are almost infinite. It is time now to begin realizing all the fine prophecies the experts were making for alcohol a few years ago.

A HOMESICK WOMAN.

A correspondent to the New York Times is authority for the statement that the Kaiserin is homesick. Probably she is. Because we are not German, we do not war upon women, and therefore will omit a lot we might say on the subject of that particular woman's homesickness.
 But is it presumably any more bitter than the homesickness of many a Belgian and French wife and mother, who is not only separated from her home by weary miles, but by the stone-by-stone destruction of that home? Is the longing of the Kaiserin to spend her declining days among her children and grandchildren any more intense than that of the thousands of her husband's victims, and who may long till death takes them, but until then may never more see their beloved?
 It is especially heart-rending that the Kaiserin longs for her own home at Potsdam, a beautiful estate wooded and watered, gardened and tended, when so many acres of what was smiling country lie waste under the imprint of the Kaiser's heel?
 Is there not a certain justice in this punishment by her natural longings of one German woman? A woman proud and important, who condoned by her silence and her presence at the Kaiser's side, unspeakable wrongs? Vengeance is mine; I will repay," saith the Lord. The Kaiserin is homesick.

ONLY FOUR MONTHS MORE.

The country is now definitely voted dry. More than the requisite three-fourths of the States have ratified the federal prohibition amendment. Others will ratify it during the next few weeks for good measure. It is not likely that more than half a dozen will withhold their approval.
 The amendment does not become immediately operative. It is to go into effect one year after ratification. That means a little more than one year from the present time, because the ratification is officially dated at the time the secretary of State receives formal notice from the State governments. This constitutional amendment, therefore, must wait until January 16, 1920, for fulfillment.
 Actually, though, the whole country will be dry long before that, as a result of the congressional act which becomes effective July 1, this year. That act provides only for prohibition until the army is demobilized, but it is hardly possible that the demobilization will be completed before the amendment is effective. Actually, then, the liquor traffic has only a little more than four months' lease of life.
 Wet States and wet communities will probably make the most of it. The more they make of it, the gladder most people will be when it is all over and the nation can settle down to a period of permanent sobriety.

LABOR AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Why should a peace conference, meeting to wind up a great war, drop the obvious activities connected with that task and busy itself with labor reform? Millions of people must have asked themselves this question of late, on reading the news from Paris. It may be all right, they admit, for the conference to deal with labor problems after its other work is done, but it did not assemble for that purpose. Why take the time for it now?
 A little reflection, however, tends to the assurance that the peace conference very likely knows what it is about. The plans for international labor legislation, presented by the British delegation, looking to the establishment of a permanent labor commission working under the jurisdiction of the League of Nations, have certainly not been devised without definite and statesmanlike purpose.
 These delegates regard the labor problem as fundamental and imperative. They see Russia staggering under the incursions of Socialism in its most dangerous form. They see Central Europe, and indeed all the rest of Europe, not to mention the other continents, menaced by an unprecedented wave of radicalism. This economic unrest grows largely out of the wrong adjustments of labor and capital and the determination of those who regard themselves as underdogs to get a fairer share of the world's wealth and power.
 Before peace can be assured for the future, and even before peace can be restored for the present, the toiling masses everywhere must be made to feel that the war which they have fought and in which they have suffered so terribly is going to profit them as well as others. They must be convinced that new and better things are going to have a square

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deal. Otherwise all the fine settlements of the peace conference may be made in vain, and the governments making them may be swept away by a wave of proletarian fury. The precedence given to labor is meant for justice to labor and for safety for the world.

Safe Farming in 1919.

Clemson College, Jan. 29.—Mr. Bradford Knapp, Chief of the Office of Extension Work in the South, suggested at the recent annual meeting of the Extension Service forces, the following as some of the principles governing safe farming in the South in 1919.
 1. Speculative farming on any one-crop system unbalances farming as a safe business. The cotton farmer who puts cotton prices on the toboggan by over-production is gambling to lose.
 2. The South must produce food and feed for home consumption. The high prices prevailing, the difficulties of transportation, the probable lower "exchange value" of the cotton which would have to pay for bought foods and feeds, all say, "Make the farm self-supporting."
 3. Emphasis should be placed upon the non-perishable staple crops. Perishable crops should be increased only in proportion to improvement in transportation and marketing.
 4. Corn should be made the basis of Southern food production, since the wheat-belt farmers who have land left for food crops will plant spring wheat instead of corn as they might otherwise do, because of the government's guaranteed wheat price.
 5. The South's meat, milk, and egg supply must be further increased, since the world is short on fats and will be for some years.
 6. Excess products, aside from the main staples, should be marketed for cash throughout the year. Provision that will insure ample foods and feeds for home consumption will be sure to result in having something

The Legislature To-Day

Gibbes Confirmed as Game Warden—Senate Votes for Constitutional Convention.
 Columbia, Jan. 30.—By a vote of 22 to 16 the State senate today confirmed the appointment of W. H. Gibbes as chief game warden. The confirmation was in executive session.
 A bill providing for the adoption in this State of a budget system similar to the Virginia budget system was introduced in the house today by Representative Hart.
 With only three dissenting votes the senate passed the joint resolution providing for election on a constitutional convention.

Will Get High Place

Unnamed South Carolinian to Receive Federal Appointment.
 Washington, Jan. 29.—Rumors which have been current both in Washington and South Carolina for some time that one of the leading men of that State would soon be appointed by the president to a position of the federal trade commission or something equally as good, were partially confirmed here today when the matter was brought to the attention of Washington newspaper men as being practically a certainty.
 The name of the person who is said to be in line for this position, which would pay him a salary of \$10,000 a year, is for obvious reasons not made public. He is, however, already in public life and holds a high place both in the esteem of the people of South Carolina and administration officials generally. From what was learned of this matter today, the appointment, if made, will be announced some time during the early spring, possibly in March or April.

Better Gasoline Soon

Pre-War Quality of Oils to Be Again Required.
 Columbia, Dec. 30.—Now here's a little item of news that will be of interest to a lot of folks. B. Harris, commissioner of agriculture, commerce and industries, has issued an order to the oil companies giving them a reasonable length of time in which to regulate their shipments into this State so that they will get back to pre-war standards. During the war the people have had to suffer the run of the mine coal and run of the spring gasoline. But now Mr. Harris proposes to have the standards raised to where they were before the war. He will allow the shippers ample time to get right and after that their stuff must be in good order or it can not be sold in South Carolina. This State has had better laws and better enforcement than neighboring States and this same high standard is to be observed again.

ABANDON ARMY CAMPS.

Secretary Baker Recommends Abandonment of Fourteen Camps.
 Washington, Jan. 29.—The abandonment of fourteen of the sixteen National Guard camps and the purchase by the government of the sites of all national army encampments including Camp Sevier, S. C., was urged today by Secretary Baker and Assistant Secretary Crowell before the house military committee.

All New.

New middy suits, new coat suits, new spring top coats at the Sumter Dry Goods Co.—Advt.

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