

## LIVING COST UP SEVEN PER CENT.

Board Announces Average  
Four Month Increase —  
94.8 Per Cent. Increase  
Since 1914.

The average cost of living in U. S. communities rose seven per cent. between November 1919, and March, 1920, according to a preliminary announcement made by the National Industrial Conference Board. This makes a total increase of about 95 per cent. since July, 1914, and an increase of 21 per cent. within the last twelve months. These figures are the result of the board's sixth survey of changes in the cost of living in the United States.

Increases between July, 1914, and March, 1920, in the cost of each of the five major items making up the family budget were as follows:

Food, 100 per cent.; shelter, 49 per

cent.; clothing, 177 per cent.; fuel, heat and light, 49 per cent., and sundries, 83 per cent. This makes the average increase during this period 94.8 per cent. During the last four months, since November, 1919, the increase were as follows:

Food, 4.2 per cent.; shelter, 8 per cent.; clothing, 17.9 per cent.; fuel, heat and light, 7 per cent., and sundries, 4.6 per cent. Based on these estimates the average increase during this period amounts to 6.9 per cent.

The board announced that the information on which these estimates were based of retail dealers in clothing and food, and from brokers and others in close contact with the real estate situation.

In estimating changes in the family budget as a whole each of the major constituent items must share according to the expenditure for each by average wage-earning families. A number of reliable investigations, including some by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, have shown that before the war annual expenditures were apportioned approximately as follows: For food, 43 per cent. of the total; for shelter, 18 per cent.; for clothing, 13 per cent.; for fuel, heat and light, 5 per cent. These shares or weights were used by the board in estimating increases in the cost of living since 1914.

"Quotations on which the food estimates are based," says the Conference



Board's report, "were furnished by more than 2,000 dealers in fifty-one cities. Average food prices in March were no higher than in February and were six-tenths of one per cent. lower than in January. Since November, 1919, they had, however, increased four per cent., and since March, 1919, the increase was 14 per cent."

"In January, 1920, sugar cost 224 per cent. more than the average price in 1913, which has been accepted as representative of pre-war prices; and potatoes were 218 per cent. higher. These were the most sensational price advances up to that time."

"The rent increases refer to changes in rents for low and medium priced houses. Steam heated apartments and other expensive dwellings showed greater rent advances."

"Rents have gone up in all sections of the country and in cities of every size. In New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles the increase was apparently over 50 per cent.; in Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore, on the other hand, it was not more than 40 per cent. The same variation appeared among the smaller places. In the majority of cities the average rent increase since November, 1919, has been small, and in a number of places there has been no change."

### ABOUT A GREAT LANDMARK.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

One of the great landmarks along the east coast of Yorkshire is Whithy Abbey, which, after many centuries of sundry vicissitudes, in the way of ownership, has, at last, come to rest as a gift to the nation. High up on the summit of Whithy East Cliff, above the harbor, above the red-roofed town, above the "Old Church," Whithy Abbey certainly cannot be hid. For whether it is from the toy of Lythe Bank, to the north; from Saltwick Nab, to the south; from the moors, to the west; or the sea, to the east, the many turrets of Whithy Abbey stand up bravely against the sky.

With the story of Whithy perhaps more people are well acquainted than is the case with the stories of most English abbeys; how, in those wild, far-off days, when Saxon England was steadily submitting, kingdom after kingdom, to Christianity, Hilda founded the abbey, just a rude building of split tree trunks; how she was possessed of a veritable passion for learning, as well as good living after the ideal of her time; and how her fame went out into all the

countryside, until Whithy became a place of pilgrimage from far and near. It was here, in 664, was held the famous Synod of Whithy, at which Oswy of Northumbria "settled the fate of western Christianity," after so masterful a fashion. It was here, Caedmon, the herdsman poet, according to Bede, sang of "all the great events in sacred history, from the creation to the day of doom." And it was from Whithy, still in Saxon days, that Bosa went out, and, after him, John, to become Archbishops of York.

After this early period, however, about which so much, actual or traditional, appears to be known, the abbey "enters the mist." For the next five hundred years, it is only possible to gain, here and there, a very uncertain glimpse of its story. The picture, moreover, is always much the same, some invaders running his ships into the mouth of the Esk, swarming up the steep sides of the cliff, and laying waste. The Picts and Scots, the Danes, the King of Norway, in the days of Stephen or the second Henry, who entered the harbor, and in the words of the chronicler, "laid waste everything, both within doors and without," all carried out the usual work of destruction. In the early days of the thirteenth century, however, was begun and finished the beautiful building, the ruins of which are to be seen today.

After the dissolution of the monaster-

ies, in 1539, the abbey came into the possession of one Sir Richard Cholmley, who paid Henry VIII for it no less a sum than £380 8s. 4d. With the abbey went the manors of Eskdale and Uglebarnby, with "all their rights, members and appurtenances as they formerly had belonged to the Abbey of Whithy."

And so for a time, the story of Whithy Abbey becomes the story of the Cholmleys, and, notably, of that most worthy of men, Sir Hugh Cholmley, the defender of Scarborough against the Parliament in the Great Rebellion, and had belonged to the Abbey of Whithy. For, indeed, Sir Hugh set a great example of what a lord of the manor should be and do. Not only did he put the Abbey house in thorough repair and live in a "handsome and plentiful fashion," but he was forever caring for the needy of the town, and setting himself to secure for the townspeople all manner of betterments. He provided them with a market house and a new bridge across the Esk, and he undertook a special journey up to London in order to make sure of some improvements in the harbor. Finally, after the Civil War,

he returned to Whithy, took up his abode, once more, in an old Abbey house and set about securing a new prosperity for himself and the townfolk by developing some alum works at Saltwick Nab.

From time immemorial circus rings have always been forty-two feet nine inches in diameter.

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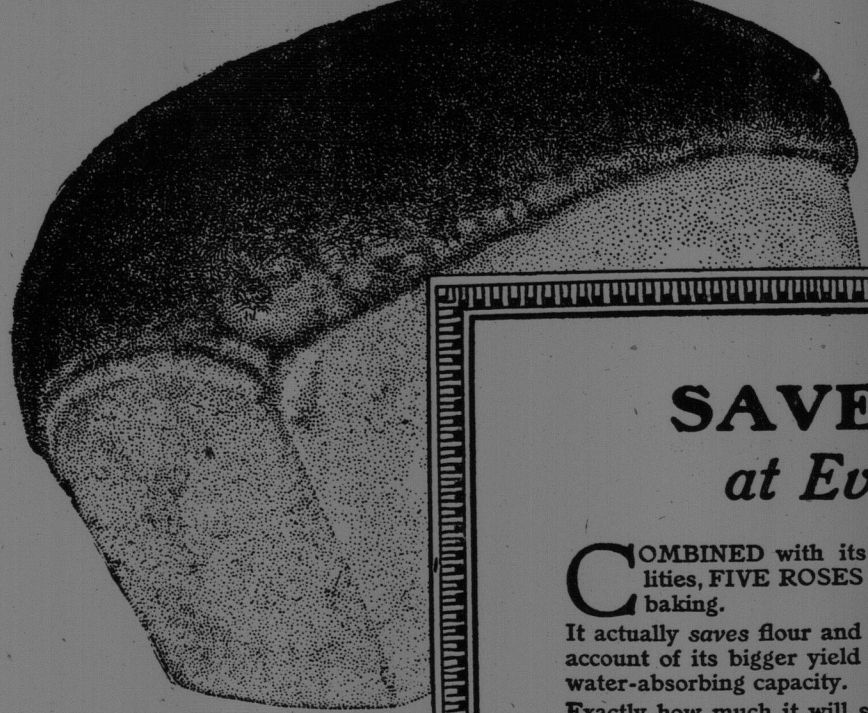
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