

Influences That Make Pinehurst

(By BION H. BUTLER)

A THING that strikes me as of the highest importance in the affairs of this section is the continually increasing number of new men of means and ability that is met at every turn. In the last few days I have encountered persons of prominence in business from various parts of the country who have dropped into Pinehurst and the neighbor villages to look over the prospects of the Sandhills country. They have come to see what the boasted climate amounts to, and to play golf, and to put in a few days of rest. Incidentally they become interested in what they see, and they inquire about orchards, and chances for business investments, and the wisdom of building permanent winter homes, and some of these men have been calling their friends to come and look with them until it seems to me that I have never noticed as much general interest shown by outside people.

Already some definite plans for joining in the development work of the community have been made by some of the newcomers. I have been shown the figures for some right ambitious projects, and heard propositions for other things, all of which show how surely a new element is working into the business atmosphere of Moore county. In the thirty years that I have known the Sandhill country I do not recall so many influences at work on significant lines as appear to be taking a finger in the situation this spring.

What impresses me most is this persistent manifestation of interest in Moore county at a time when the uncertainties of the war have passed, and the business conditions of the country are again on a sane basis. Men are seeing with a logical vision again, and when they begin to calculate on some new ventures they know pretty definitely where their feet are standing. Money is easy once more and schemes that are put on paper can be advanced to a cash stage. The hopes that served as the conspicuous element during the last two or three years have given way to realizations. What men want to do they can do now. It is no longer so much a question of what they would do if they had the money, but what they will do now that money is available.

In the last half dozen years all of Moore county has been pushing forward fast. In spite of war and financial stringency and all the averse obstacles a tremendous change has taken place. This change has been watched by visitors in the Sandhill country, and now that money is easing up many of the new things that have been undertaken have reached the point where they add their testimony to the successful prospects of the various schemes, and that is a pretty convincing argument to the spectator who feels disposed to take a hand in the game. Nothing has gone wild here, but the general advance has been on a sound footing, and that is what counts. It is such conditions that attract the attention of the type of men I speak of. They see in what has been done a forecast of what can be done on a much bigger scale, and here and there they are throwing off their coats and getting ready to jump in.

By way of illustration I stood the other day on the open road near the General office, looking over at the new theater. Now I have seen considerable of this little old footstool, but I never clapped my eyes on anything quite as significant as that theater building in a little village where the theater stood among the trees and shrubbery, and across the road from a bit of woods where no doubt quail and rabbits sport in the summer time. Amid rural surroundings, in the shadow of the original forest trees, away from city or even town restrictions, the road in front an ordinary road with a clay surface, the side walks the same city top walks, but the building one of the most complete and modern and artistic that architectural skill can devise and money procure. And the point about that theater is that it is not in the least out of place, but strictly in harmony with the conditions which have made it. It is such things as this that the newcomers see and realize, and it is

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