

## THE WEEKLY PILOT

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### THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

On the first Monday in January the commissioners of the county will appoint a new highway commission to serve for the coming term. It is not believed that many changes will be made in the board as constituted at present, as it was chosen with much judgment. But as is usual in practically every case where men serve the community or the country some suggestions have been made of changes in the membership. Whether the county commissioners will make changes or not is perhaps dependent on two things. One will be the willingness of the present members to continue, and the other will be the sentiment of the people of the county as to their choice of representatives on the board.

From *The Pilot's* viewpoint the board has done good work. Taken as a body it has functioned to its credit, and should every man on the board be succeeded by new ones the job the present board has accomplished is worth to the county more than has been paid to the board which is nothing, or more than would have been paid if the members had been paid at all. From the little talk that drifts this way it looks as if the changes in the board will not be many, yet *The Pilot* has not gone into the subject very far, believing that the county commissioners will create a good board at its coming meeting. There is this to be said, however, and the commissioners have expressed their desire to that extent, that the people shall let their opinions be known if any man is favored in any district. It is possible that changes might be made that would strengthen the board, and also it is possible that mistakes might be made in making changes unless public opinion is made known to the commissioners.

As each township is represented on the road board any one in any township can offer to the commissioners the name of a favored candidate, and the reasons for regarding the candidate as a suitable man. But in recommending any man for the road board just one qualification should be kept in mind. Is the man the best man available for a place on the road board? He will pass in judgment on the entire road work in the county and ought to be a road man, seeing the whole county as well as the mile of road past his own house, and a man who has time and willingness to serve. Recommend no one except the best, and play no favorites. If you don't know a good man and a reason for his appointment don't bother the commissioners at all. They have troubles enough as it is.

### A GOOD LEAD

Some of the papers lay stress on the message of the president to congress last week, and say that enforcement of the prohibition law as he has laid it down in his official document is Mr. Harding's big bid for a second term, with prohibition enforcement as the method by which he expects to make a hit with the people.

Mr. Harding is president of the United States, and the chief executive therefore of the law. That he should recommend stringent enforcement of a law that involves as much as the prohibition law does is entirely suitable to the office he holds, and if other communities are like this one the president will awaken a response in every precinct in the country for his outspoken attitude. If he makes law enforcement a republican campaign cry, it is certain he could have done much worse if it is to go into politics his political antagonists could do worse than to jump into the ring with him equally decisive demands for law enforcement.

Moore county has been calling for enforcement of law. The enforcement of law is of more importance than the success of political parties. If Mr. Harding proposes to be a candidate again on the enforcement of law he has probably picked about the best campaign starter that is in the deck. But he should not forget that to win on that basis he must do more than talk about law enforcement. To talk and not to act will be to insure defeat. Having put his hand to the plow he cannot turn back.

North Carolina is democratic. Moore county is democratic. But both are in favor of the law of the state and nation. Presumably the dominant party in this state will undertake to beat Mr. Harding to the goal he has announced as his ambition. Mr. McDonald and Mr. Ross who will go to Raleigh in a short time to the forthcoming session of the legislature, are both democrats. They might impress on their fellow partisans that is not too late for North Carolina democrats to take from Mr. Harding the thunder that he is making about enforcing the prohibition law. It is mighty powerful thunder, and just now it belongs to anybody who can make it work. Mr. Harding played a mighty good lead in that card of law enforcement, and if the democrats allow him to have it for his own he is not licked in 1924 by a long shot. It is up to democratic states to beat him to his play by enforcing the laws before Mr. Harding gets to it.

### THE SQUAB FARM

Raising squabs is not a new occupation, in some places, but it is rather an innovation in this section. The proposition to establish a farm on which to bring young pigeons to sufficient maturity to put them on the market looks like a good move. With the decline in the supply of wild birds the demand for a substitute has for some time

been calling for young pigeons. The fact is that some time ago the thing became more or less of a fad, and many persons ventured into the unknown work of raising squabs, the most of them to venture out as soon as they found that it was like any other work that must be attended intelligently and energetically if it is to thrive.

And there the whole matter turns. Mr. Parrott and his associates are not figuring on any pot of gold at the end of a rainbow that is to be had for the digging. They are planning to raise young pigeons just as they would raise pigs, cattle, chickens or any other thing on the farm, making work and attention count with a product that will find a place in the market.

Raising squabs is probably like raising anything else. A considerable number of the birds will find sale here at the winter resorts during the season. In the summer a less number will be called for in the same area. But over the state a field is open for them, and farther away still bigger markets are available. Pigeons seem to thrive in this climate. In the villages they are so plentiful that they come to be more or less of a nuisance, and they raise themselves in spite of the drawbacks put up against them by the people who get tired of too many of them around. But a wild peach tree and a profitable Elberta in the orchard are two different things, and so it is with pigeons. The farm that raises squabs will follow a course of close attention and feeding, and there the whole thing will turn. But it is to be presumed that the system will be successful, and that the squab farm will be a feature of Vass farm life. Should the one venture prove satisfactory possibly it may lead others to follow, for the world is big and many people are constantly looking for something to eat.

Incidentally it may be observed that Vass is also alive to the new things, and that here in this corner of the Sandhills we originate our share of the features that give zest to existence.

### TAXES IN NEW JERSEY

Some people in North Carolina who think they are being heavily taxed, giving no thoughts to the benefits derived from that taxation, ought to move about a bit and make observations. Certainly they would find comfort in the tax figures from New Jersey, where the aggregate of taxes levied for the year 1922 amount to the comfortable sum of \$169,944,939.

Making analysis of the New Jersey situation, Mr. McCready Sykes, writing in Commerce and Finance, says that this is \$17,000,000 more than was ever before paid for similar purposes in that state. It includes the taxes levied by local assessors, county tax boards, and state boards. Local or municipal taxes account for \$95,609,276. State school taxes are \$9,775,031; state road taxes in one year amount to nearly \$4,000,000; county purposes call for more than \$24,000,000.

New Jersey has a population of 3,155,900, so that her state, county and local taxes alone amount to the staggering sum of \$51 per capita. On the statistical average of five persons to the family these figures seem incredible. It seems impossible that the average family should be paying over \$250 per year in these local taxes alone, exclusive of all income taxes and federal taxes of every kind. New Jersey suffers an additional burden from the fact that a large part of her people make their living in New York and are compelled to pay income taxes there.

The average rate of taxation in New Jersey, as Sykes has it, is \$3.561 per \$100.

Compare that with the comparatively low rate in North Carolina, setting the North Carolina rate against the benefits secured, and be happy.—Charlotte Observer.

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### PERSONALS AND BRI

Mr. Jack Phillips, of Cameron in town last Friday.

Mr. J. M. Tyson is a visitor eight this week.

Mr. R. E. Boyd, of Farm School, was in town Tuesday.

Miss Ethel Coats spent the end in Raleigh.

Misses Bessie Cameron and Monroe went to Raleigh, Saturday.

Mr. J. A. Hulin, of Troy, Vass, Wednesday.

Mr. John A. Gunter, visitor, H. A. Gunter, of Aberdeen.

Your photo makes a good mas present. The fellow you can't give it away.

Messrs. John A. and W. Leod, of Eureka section, were last Wednesday.

A Vass woman can powder nose—but a man can't do the thing with a shiny pair of trousers.

Mr. Joe Bundy, of Raleigh the week-end with his sister A. G. Edwards.

Another nice thing about an old overcoat is you don't worry about somebody stealing it.

Mr. A. Cameron attended the meeting of Stewards of Rockingham at Aberdeen Tuesday.

And among other beautiful in the English language we point to these: "Pay to the order of..."

Mrs. Carl Maynard, of visited her parents near Vass last week.

Another thing this county is a good nickel cigar that is five cents.

Messrs. W. D. Smith, H. Thews and J. A. Keith spent of last week deer hunting in Moore county.

Nothing takes the joy out of a man's life quicker than seeing a woman wearing a hat just like you.

Mesdames Helen Mar D'A Sidney Gardner, of Lakeview in Vass Wednesday, and P. Pilot office a call.

### OYSTER SUPPER

There will be an oyster supper given in the auditorium of the graded school building (tonight), at 7:30 o'clock. Everyone cordially invited to attend. Proceeds will be for the benefit of the Community Club.

### W. N. INGOLD SUCCEEDS LIME

About seven years ago Mr. Ingold who lives in the Big Oak started to use lime on land. He used only 20 bushels of crushed limestone per acre.

He applied two tons of bone meal per acre which is equal to 20 tons of ground limestone. He planted alfalfa during the first and second year. He mowed the alfalfa twice the first year and the second year. In the spring of the third year he turned it under and planted oats. From these cut two tons of hay.

In the fall of the third year he planted wheat without the use of fertilizer and in spite of the freezes during the winter he got 48 bushels; while his other land beside this plot made only 12 bushels per acre.

In the spring of the fourth year he planted corn and this made that year of 48 bushels per acre. The spring of the 5th year he planted it in alfalfa, this, did not do well because the frost practically killed the crop. He did not get anything from it. He mentioned on account of alfalfa in the spring; but in the fall he gave his alfalfa a liberal application of stable manure about per acre. The 6th year, or began cutting hay from his