

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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## SEABOARD DOING GROWING TRAFFIC

Road Has Best Summer Business  
Ever Known, and Had Best  
Winter Season

BION H. BUTLER

The station agent at Southern Pines, Mr. Stutz, says the Seaboard is doing the best business this year that it has ever done in the summer, and that the winter traffic was better than during any winter season in its history. For one I am glad to know it. It is fashionable to damn the railroads, and the Seaboard gets its share along with the rest of them. But without the Seaboard it would be a long hard walk to the places we want to go from Southern Pines and other points in the county. It is argued that we might go in an automobile, but as the automobiles are brought here by the Seaboard and the gasoline comes on the Seaboard, and the other things come by the Seaboard we would miss the road if it should pull up its rails and quit business.

It is said that 21,000 visitors came to the winter resorts of the Sandhills during the past season. How many of these came in automobiles I have no idea, but I know that a large proportion of them came on the train, and the train that brought them was the Seaboard. The other two roads coming into Moore county do not carry many passengers from a distance. Nearly all winter the trains on the Seaboard were so full that Pullman space could not be secured except by arranging for it several days ahead. If the business of the resorts increases next winter as it has been doing the road will be obliged to increase the number of its trains, and that will be difficult, for already it is a task to get all traffic up and down the road, or the scramble for accommodations will be annoying.

This year the fruit and vegetable freight from farther south is bigger than ever. The Georgia and Florida truck shipments continue to increase, as they will keep on increasing, for all down the line more stuff is made each summer to feed the hungry folks in the North who are all the time increasing in numbers faster than the farms and gardens up there are increasing their food supply. Here in the Sandhills we are preparing to dump onto the side tracks at least a thousand cars more of peaches than was ever taken away from this section before, and the Seaboard must handle the bulk of that probably. The Georgia peach crop is to be split this year, and a lot of it is moving by the Seaboard, as the Southern has the same kind of an increase in business. Passenger traffic on the Seaboard is holding up just like freight traffic, for the two features of transportation business run in similar ratios about all the time.

It is gratifying to see this evidence of expanding business in the Sandhill country and on all the length of the Seaboard road, but there is also the other side of it. A railroad in a growing country is about the hungriest thing on earth. It is always calling for something to live on. It may be able to pay its going expenses, but that is by no means its principal troubles. Far more pressing is the money to permit the extension of facilities for doing business. The Seaboard should be double tracked from Hamlet to Norlina right away, but it has no money, and as an investment, it, or any other railroad, looks promising enough to the man with money to persuade investors to buy railroad stocks. The price of Seaboard stock on the market last Saturday was eleven dollars for a share of the common stock, and twenty-five dollars for one of the preferred issue. It has not paid a dividend in years, and the bonds of the road have to hustle to meet their interest charges. Nobody wants to buy stock in a concern that can not do better. And that is what this section faces. The railroads are criticised without limit, which has no possible effect. Criticism cannot get

money for them. On all sides new stations are asked for, and overhead crossings, and longer sidings, and other things to please the people of the communities. But the road knows better how much these things are needed for it is in contact with its wants every day. And it also knows that money is necessary to secure such things, but it does not know where nor how to get the money.

Fortunately I do not have to find the money for the Seaboard, nor do I have to carry its burdens. It is merely an interesting bit of speculation on my part as to what any of the big roads are going to do as their traffic increases, for there is not a road in existence that is in shape to handle its business. The roads are getting ready to move the twenty-five hundred cars of fruit shortly, but they are going to flax around while they do it. It is no boy's job this year.

### BURNED BY GASOLINE

Gasoline caused a serious accident early Sunday morning when Orville Gilbert attempted to start a fire with the dangerous explosive. Young Gilbert lives with his wife and baby on a farm near Southern Pines and is employed in one of the local garages. When the flames came in contact with the gasoline, trouble resulted of so grave a nature that the life of the young man in a serious condition. The burns over his body are of severe character. After the accident he started for help in his automobile unassisted. In his painful condition he lost control of the machine and turned it over on the way. He was later rescued and taken to Aberdeen where medical aid was given.

The trouble with having a "Father's Day" is that he would have to go around next day and pay for the presents the family gave him.

A Detroit man dropped dead in a garage. He must have found that they had fixed his car when they said they would.

## SEN. SMITH SAYS CO-OPS WILL WIN

Farm Bloc Leader Tells Southern  
Belt Farmers to Stick by  
Association

At the largest mass meeting of tobacco farmers held in North Carolina this year, United States Senator E. D. Smith, told members of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association from the South Carolina belt that the associated farmers of the tobacco and cotton co-operatives may look, next year for 75 per cent payments on delivery to their association, if the bill which he has introduced to help finance the marketing associations becomes law at the next session of Congress in Washington.

A barbecue at Chadbourn, where the merchants and Chamber of Commerce turned hosts to the farmers of Columbus and adjoining counties on the meeting day of the Columbus County Unit of the tobacco association, last Tuesday, became a huge affair, featured by the roasting of twenty-two pigs and several beeves, a fiddlers' convention, at which old time tunes were enjoyed, and a reunion of the co-operative farmers who met from North and South Carolina. But the feature of the day was the prophecy by the veteran leader of the senatorial farm bloc that before the expiration of their present contract members of the tobacco association will receive 75 per cent of the value of their tobacco upon delivery and far more from it than they could hope to gain without organization.

Senator Smith earnestly warned the farmers to continue and fulfill the success of co-operative marketing they must do their share in signing up and delivering enough tobacco to the association to make the volume of the product guarantee a control of the price. "We must have a majority of the product," he warned the farmers, (Continued on page 8)

## ARTHUR NEWCOMB A SANDHILL FACTOR

Important Agency in Creating a  
Confidence Among People in  
This Section

For several years the name of A. S. Newcomb has been rather conspicuous in the Sandhills country, commencing with the time nearly twenty years ago when he appeared as an insurance and real estate agent in Southern Pines, and continuing until he sold his business at Pinehurst a few weeks ago. Newcomb came to North Carolina from Maine, where he had been a newspaper man. He began to mix in things in Moore county when he arrived, and has kept on mixing in larger and larger circles all the time, and now when some folks think he has quit business he is more directly concerned in an indirect way than probably he has been at any other time.

From now on he will likely attend to his own business instead of doing work through his agency for others, for he has gathered up considerable stuff of one sort or another here and elsewhere to be looked after, and he is about at a point where he is in a fair way to be of more use to the country than ever. Newcomb has always been a hopeful and confident chap. He has been a prophet of real values. In the past when town lots were selling in Southern Pines for not much more than the price of a postage stamp it was Newcomb who insisted that as long as the owners figured their lots worth so little prospective buyers would accept the price as about right. Newcomb bought cheap lots frequently, and sold them to folks he led to see greater value in them. When he came to Southern Pines sixty dollars would buy a fine lot that maybe could not be bought now for a thousand. Newcomb is to a considerable extent responsible for much of that advance. He insisted that newcomers would not have a very flattering opinion of a town that was rated on the basis of fifty dollars for a building site in a choice location. He advised to put more appreciation on what was in the town, if for nothing else to give the place a financial rating.

### IS THERE ANY GOOD IN IT?

Posters announcing the coming of a vaudeville show to Vass for a week are on display. We consider the coming of this or any other vaudeville show an unfortunate thing for the community. There is no use denying the fact that there is a financial depression at the present time. The cotton mills are able to run only a part of the time; the dewberry and peach men will tell you that they are seeing the results of the depression in the low prices received for their fruits; the business men in general are feeling the effects of it. It is up to the public to spend the money they have wisely. We believe in amusement of the right kind, but before we invest our time and money in things of this kind we should be able to answer satisfactorily not just the question, "Is there any harm in it?", but the more important one, "Is there any good in it?"

Just now, nearly every child in the country has money that he or she has earned in the berry fields. Invested in clothing or school books, it would bring pleasure and profit and help out the weakened family purse; if not needed for this, a bank account is a worthwhile thing and offers opportunity for much needed lessons in thrift. There are various ways in which it could be spent that would give pleasure indefinitely instead of for an hour or two, and that would keep it in the community instead of its being carried away by people who have no interest whatever in the town except the selfish one of what they can get out of it. Let's bear in mind the feeling of disgust we had for ourselves as we walked away from the Minstrel that was located on the school grounds a couple of years ago and that carried away such sums of earnings of hard working people; not that it was bad, but it lacked so much of being worth while.

ing. He set the example by his own actions, and the success of his argument is one of the surprising things of the whole Sandhill country.

Newcomb realized one fact about the price of land that most men overlook. A piece of land is not worth what the man has it says it is worth, but what the man who wants it is willing to give. Early in his career in the Sandhills he perceived the big advantages this section offers in the way of climate and location to the stranger from the less hospitable climate of the North. When Newcomb found a man of that kind seeking a home site in the South he estimated price by the probable interest the man showed in the property under discussion, and it was soon seen that a desirable bit of ground would sell as easily for two or three hundred dollars as for fifty dollars. The first step taken; the second was a mere matter of trying out, and before he had worked on his theory very long Mr. Newcomb discovered that the price of a building lot is a secondary matter to a man who has found the thing that suits him. So the thousand-dollar lots came along and then the whole country waked up, and it was perceived that locations here in the neighborhood of Southern Pines, Pinehurst and vicinity were just as salable at higher rates as they had been at the joke prices of twenty years ago.

Frank Buchan came along about this time with the Edgemore property, and he sold a big acreage of that tract at a good figure, so much higher than it had been held previously that he put things on an entirely new footing all over the Sandhill country. And now that prices have gone away up from what they were. The selling values are not regarded by buyers a bit more objectionable than when James Boyd bought the whole Weymouth estate property, from the village line of Southern Pines two miles out to James Creek, for about five or six dollars an acre, land that his grandsons are selling for a thousand or more an acre, and to people who (Continued on page 8)

## UNION L. SPENCE ENDORSES GRIST

Chairman Local War Board  
Makes Plea for Ex-Soldier

On July 5th the democratic voters throughout North Carolina are again going to be called upon to express their choice for certain offices in which there was no candidate nominated on June 7th.

Among the names of those to be presented to the voters in this second contest will be that of Frank D. Grist, of Lenoir, a candidate for Commissioner of Labor and Printing. Much to the delight of Mr. Grist's many friends and supporters throughout Moore County, he carried the County by a substantial majority in the first primary and these friends and supporters believe that if his cause and fitness are sufficiently known to the public his majority in the primary of July 5th will be greatly increased over that of June 7th.

Frank D. Grist has had eighteen years practical experience as a printer and manager of a printing office and is therefore well qualified to properly handle in an efficient way the important duties of Commissioner of Labor and Printing. He has ever been a loyal democrat and commands the respect and confidence of the democratic party in the State of North Carolina. In 1922 he represented his County in the House of Representatives, Lenoir County having been represented by a republican in the previous session. As a member of the General Assembly he acquitted himself with honor and was recognized as one of the leaders of that body. He is the author of the Veterans Land and Home Aid Bill which will be referred to the voters of the State at the November election.

Mr. Grist is an ex-service man and has a war record of which any "Red-Blooded" American might well be proud. At the outbreak of war with

## PINEHURST SALE INVOLVES \$75,000

Massachusetts Banker Gets the  
Market Square  
Property

A transaction of considerable importance to Pinehurst in particular, and the Sandhill section in general, was consummated recently when Charles N. Taylor, president of the First National Bank of Wellesley, Mass., became the owner of the Market Square Company property in Pinehurst.

This comprises the lot adjoining on the north that is occupied by the Pinehurst General Office building, and is now the site of the two brick buildings occupied by Lewis's store, the Market Square Restaurant, Clow's Gift Shop and Conant's Shoe Store, with apartments on the second floor.

Originally the Pinehurst Bowling Alleys were located here, but about ten years ago this frame building was remodeled into a dwelling called the Orange Cottage. In 1920 W. C. Petty, O. H. Stutts and A. S. Newcomb purchased the property and shortly thereafter Mr. Petty sold his interest to Stutts and Newcomb, who, two years ago, removed the cottage to make room for the blocks before mentioned.

It is an interesting fact that when cleared, the land comprising less than a quarter of an acre had cost Stutts and Newcomb \$7,500, and in 1895 James W. Tufts bought this same land at the rate of \$1.00 per acre. In other words, what cost Mr. Tufts twenty-five cents cost Stutts and Newcomb seven thousand, five hundred dollars, a little matter of thirty thousand per cent increment. When the new Market street was opened they refused an offer of \$100 a front foot, which fixed the value at approximately \$20,000. Now let somebody versed in logarithms, integral calculus and the Einstein Theory of Relativity figure out how much enhancement that means.

Mr. Taylor, the new owner, is planning the erection of a new building to occupy the portion of this land now vacant, and the improvement of the road and square and completion of the sidewalks and curbing together with the construction of a brick building to be used as an engineer's office by Pinehurst, Incorporated, in the rear of the Harvard, all to be completed this summer, will definitely establish this as the business center of the "Model Village."

After the completion of the first unit of the existing building, Ralph W. Page and David S. Packard became associated with the enterprise, which was incorporated as the Market Square Company, with A. S. Newcomb, president, O. H. Stutts, vice-president and D. S. Packard, secretary-treasurer. This corporation will doubtless continue its activities in and on adjacent real estate.

Charles N. Taylor has for many years been identified with the real estate development of Wellesley, Mass., and is largely responsible for the remarkable rejuvenation and improvement that has occurred there recently. He is a very active business man, and will undoubtedly extend his operations here in due time. He is a decided acquisition to any community, and will be warmly welcomed to the Sandhill section.

It is understood the price he paid for his new holdings was in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

Germany he laid aside his business and took his stand with the defenders of his country. Reaching France in the early stages of our participation, he was, after a short time in a machine gun school, sent to the front, assigned to a machine gun company of the 1st Regular Army Division where after taking part in three major engagements he was wounded in action in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. It was at first thought that he would lose his eye sight but after several operations and eight months in army (Continued on page 8)