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THE PILOT

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

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McLEAN SITS IN THE BOAT STEADY

Not Troubling the Waters Any Nor Being Rushed

(R. E. Powell)

Revenue officials who have been scratching heads and sitting up late on nights to find new sources of income for the state are authorities for a report in circulation now that the legislative auditing commission, an official group interlocking—as it were—with the Budget Commission, have employed a new set of auditors and the books of the treasurer are in for another high priced inquisition.

Confirmation of the report cannot be had but any moment may bring the official announcement. Senator Lyeurgus R. Varner, former law partner of Governor elect McLean and vice-chairman of the Budget Commission, would not admit the employment of the auditors. He did not know what the special committee, which everyone seems to have overlooked, is doing or expects to do. He did know that there will be an audit of the books as of December 31st, next, as forecast in this correspondence, but he did not say that it would be made on a bill of particulars to be supplied the accountants by the outgoing governor.

If correct, it will set the tongues a-wagging and yet there are many who believe this the proper course for Mr. McLean to pursue. If such an audit is undertaken in the direction of the legislative committee, it will be with the approval of Mr. McLean, for Mr. McLean is distinctly working in harmony with legislators and, needless to add, legislators are working in harmony with Mr. McLean. These beautiful relations are almost certain to continue through one session of the legislature.

Mr. McLean will not sit with the Budget Commission and take a chance on clashing with His Excellency. Against a course chartered by members some weeks ago, the commission is meeting in Governor Morrison's office and hearing petitioners for more funds. After they go through the day, they see Mr. McLean in his suite at the hotel. And it is a tradition that more castles are built and more hopes buried in the lobbies than on Capitol Hill.

More Violations Reported

Anti-Saloon leaguers, including Associate Justice Heriot Clarkson, of the Supreme court, who wrote the Turlington law, see in the increase of prohibition law violations in the state for the past year only evidence that the officers have been more diligent in enforcing the statutes since the National and state laws were harmonized.

There is probably something in the contentions, as there is in the argument that the growth of the state in some fashion accounts for a general increase in crime. Figures contained in the bi-ennial report of the Attorney General, made public this week, show that there has been nearly a fifty percent increase of "intoxicating liquor charges" in ninety-five of the one hundred counties in the state since the Turlington act went into operation.

Practically all crimes, barring first degree murder, show an increase for the spring and fall terms of superior court in 1923-24 as compared with the same courts in the fall of 1922 and the spring of 1923. The total indictments in all the counties for the last year was in excess of 14,000 against approximately 11,000 for the year previous. More than four thousand of the total were prohibition cases.

The figures will be presented to the legislature, not only for a more stringent prohibition law but as an argument for the creation of a state constabulary. An effort will be made, it seems assured, to put the Attorney General's office on a better salary and provide that official with several assistants and a staff of sleuths. The final turn this move will take is awaiting the recommendation of the commission which is studying the bus line situation for it may recommend state police, too.

There has been for several years a mild agitation for making the office of the Attorney General the main Spring of crime prosecuting in North Carolina as it is in other states. Many lawyers recall the fall down of the state in the prosecution several years ago of Gaston B. Means for the murder of Mrs. Maude King, his wealthy employer. Precedent and lack of authority prevented a vigorous prosecution of Means by North Carolina. New Yorkers and Georgians furnished the heavy artillery but the local bar knew the jury. And Means is still talking.

Speculating on Jobs

Presence in the city for the week of Governor elect McLean is the occasion for more political business than usually precedes the inauguration. Mr. McLean is the target of many job hunters and likewise of those who have something for the legislature to do. He is a very busy man and will be as long as he keeps open house to his friends.

Anticipating the usual rush after he goes in, Mr. McLean has fortified himself, according to reports, with about the best available timber in North Carolina for a secretary. As a shock absorber, C. H. England, of Greensboro, can't be beat in the country. He was many years with Claude Kitchin in Congress and there he had a man's job and he handled it to the Queen's taste. As an executive, Mr. Kitchin regarded him highly and when the second district leader passed off the stage England received many offers to stay in Washington.

Commissioner of Labor and Printing elect Frank D. Grist, Mrs. Grist and one of the little Grists have been here this week to inspect their new home in Hayes Barton and the commissioner to be, like Mr. McLean, is finding troubles, too.

Mr. Grist has gone Mr. McLean one better in matters of patronage. He has announced to the world that, with once exception, he expects to put his friends in office. His biggest difficulty will be in reconciling many friends to a few places but the legislature may create more work for him and make more employees necessary.

NEW ADDITIONS AT SOUTHERN PINES

Jackson Boyd Buys the Old Abraham Orchard—Will Convert into Lots

Last week Jackson Boyd bought from Sam Richardson and Max Backer the 13-acre tract formerly the Abraham Orchard in Southern Pines on the hill at the head of Connecticut avenue. They have had the tract mapped, and will at once begin the construction of a new street which will extend Pennsylvania avenue through to the Weymouth Heights. New Hampshire avenue will go about half way through to the Weymouth road, leaving several acres that will be made into a park. The west side of Pennsylvania avenue fronting on the Jenks property will be left with the grove of pine trees that are there now. A dozen or more building lots will be opened to builders, the sizes being 109 by 150 feet. Work will commence at once to get this new addition ready for the home-maker, and it will be planted in shrubbery and trees as the work moves forward.

TO ADVERTISERS AND CORRESPONDENTS

The Pilot will be published one day earlier next week on account of Christmas, so let us have copy by Monday.

FISH SUPPER

The Womens Auxiliary of the Eureka, Presbyterian church, will serve fish and other refreshments in the dining room of the Farm Life School, Saturday night, December 27th. Proceeds will go to the church building fund. Everybody come.

Meet me at Hotel Vass, Christmas Day. Turkey Dinner \$1.00 (adv)

FINANCIAL STATUS OF MOORE COUNTY

Mr. Bell Shows Definitely What the Income and Expenses are for the Year

(Bion H. Butler)

Last week The Pilot printed a statement of the general county fund showing what each particular check given out had paid for. It is instructive to read that statement and it would not be a bad plan to lay it away in the event that some day the question comes up when you would like to know where your money has gone. A lot of little things go to make up the county expenses as paid for from the general fund. Every citizen and tax payer has a perfect right to know what these figures are and to approve or condemn each particular item. The important point is that before he does either he should know what the outlay is for. Every item in the statement last week is worth the examination of every reader of The Pilot. Not merely from curiosity to see who gets the money but to pass in judgment in that particular expense that all of us may know whether the money gets for the county a return for what it paid.

The amount involved in the statement of last week was about forty-four thousand dollars. This is by no means the total outlay of Moore county. In fact it is only about one-eighth of the entire fund collected and spent. Elsewhere in the paper today appears another statement as shown by the books of the county auditor which illustrates further how the county money has gone. There are road funds, school and building funds, interest on county debt, which after all are the big outlays of the county. The whole thing may be whittled down almost to roads and schools. While the general cost of carrying on the strictly government administration of the county runs around \$44,000, roads and schools with the interest and payment on their bonds take many times as much as the general county funds.

When the new board of commissioners came in the first of this month Mr. Bell had a statement for them of the work the county had done in the year that closed with December 1. His statement showed that the tax levy made for the year just closed amounted to \$337,738.11. In addition to this amount Mr. Bell discovered property that had escaped the assessors, which yielded \$10,692.99. Further additions were special school tax and licenses bringing the total up to \$349,358.21. This was the amount Sheriff Frye was asked to collect.

As is usually the case, some persons were insolvent, some errors had been made and some lands had to be sold. But at the meeting of the new board in December here is the way Sheriff Frye accounted for the tax lists put in his hands. Reliefs granted, \$6,217.83; insolvents allowed, \$1,747.06; tax sales to county, \$7,165.75; cost of tax sales, \$367.20; commissions to sheriff, \$9,614.17; paid to funds, \$324,246.20.

It will be seen that the sheriff turned over to the county \$7,165.75 in lands that were bid in and \$324,246.20 in cash. Some of that land will be redeemed. Leaving that aside for the present the county has received about \$325,000 to carry on the year's work. Every item is accounted for. The money is in hand or already paid for the county's expenditure. Mr. Bell's statement tell where every dollar has gone. He tells what our income is as a county and what our expenses are. That he discovered \$10,000 in taxes in property that had not been listed shows that in that one item he earned his salary for several years, and the satisfactory condition of knowing how the county stands is a further gain.

The county now begins to understand its financial shape. Mr. Brewer tells me he expects to have The Pilot keep in touch with the auditor's office that the people may know at all times what this big business of the county government signifies and what it costs the people and what they are getting out of it.

Moore county collects and spends during the year a big amount of money. But I believe that in the schools and roads and the government of the county in a general way, the tax payers get good value for what they pay.

REMEMBER THE ORPHAN

An orphan boy, Rev. Braxton Craven, founder of Trinity College, lived to see the day when he was acclaimed as one of the foremost men of the State. The following from one of his addresses to Trinity students is declared to be an epitome of Dr. Craven's own life:

"In all your ways, let me entreat you, remember the orphan by day and by night; his is a hard, oh, it is a bitter lot! There is much more poetry than truth in the world's pretended kindness to the poor, sorrowful-faced little boy that has no mother to love him and no father to protect him. He is sorely oppressed in his boyhood; he may dig himself a home in the mountain granite, but orphan haunts him like a midnight ghost. In his manhood the lingering curse of his sad condition rests upon him. The world has no cavern to shield him from the oppression. I have seen the tears flow as if the fountains of his soul were broken up, and have seen him bow before God and ask for love to bind up his broken heart, and I have seen the cold combinations of this world grind him to powder. Always, my young friends, have a kind word for him and treat him as a brother."—News and Observer.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors who so kindly rendered aid and comfort in the loss of our home and contents by fire on December 7. The assistance rendered and the sympathy shown did much to help minimize an almost overwhelming grief at the loss of our home in our advanced age.

D. J. CAMPBELL and family.

Meet me at Hotel Vass, Christmas Day. Turkey Dinner \$1.00 (adv)

FINE ATTRACTIONS CAROLINA THEATRE

Management Has Secured Good Pictures for Christmas Week

The Carolina Theatres announce three attractions for Christmas week that insure the best of entertainment for those who are on holiday bent.

Monday and Tuesday, the great companion picture to the "Covered Wagon," Irvin Willet's special production of Emerson Hough's story, "North of '36," will be the attraction, and some reviewers claim that it is even better than the "Covered Wagon." Almost the same cast will be seen, consisting of Lois Wilson, Jack Holt, Ernest Torrence and Noan Beery. "North of '36" is a picture boasting of so many fine points, so many interesting sequences, so many big moments, so much fine acting that it would take at least two pages to enumerate them all.

There will be reserved seats for this attraction at Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

Then on Wednesday and Thursday comes a real human comedy. Harry Leon Wilson's famous Saturday Evening Post Story, "Oh, Doctor," has been made into a screen comedy that is par-excellence as good, clean wholesome comedy, combined with thrills and human interest.

"Oh, Doctor" concerns the adventures of a chap who imagines he is afflicted with a variety of diseases, afraid of his shadow and so sure that he will die in a very short time that he is glad to sign over his inheritance for a moderate sum.

How all this changes when the right girl comes along, and he blossoms out into a regular dare-devil, furnishes an exceedingly enjoyable story. "Oh, Doctor" is made for

SHIELDS CAMERON TELLS HIS STORY

Kiwanis Club at the Weekly Din- ner Gives Fund to Christ- mas Needy

At the dinner at the Country Club at Pinehurst Wednesday the Kiwanis Club expressed admiration at the fine new quarters provided last winter for the golf players, and they are justified. Shields Cameron was the biographer of the day, and he remarked that his name is Daniel Davis Shields Cameron and that it is no joke. Shields told of his boyhood, losing his father and mother when about five years old, his rearing by his grandmother and uncles and then he drifted in to the war where he went early in its outbreak, and where he stayed until after the peace had come. His narrative gave a lot of insight into the experiences of the soldiers, but probably the most important features in the young man's experiences are those that he did not tell, for the older folks hereabouts know the fine loyalty that Alex Cameron, the uncle, and the older brothers showed in caring for the boy in his younger day. Alex Cameron helped all the boys to make the grade, four of them, and they in turn helped each other, and when war came and other things came that have needed young men the four boys have been on hand to represent. The four of them are in responsible places now, and the struggles of the earlier days are interesting memories, for Easy street has wiped out the bitterness of the recollection of the years that are gone.

The club voted fifty dollars to the welfare chest to help folks who may need a little aid for Christmas.

BRAIN FAGS

The following was sent in by one of the Vass-Lakeview high school teachers:

1. Student explaining meaning of Amendment V. to U. S. Constitution: "There is not a person in North Carolina that is not tried for crime and if they are not tried they are treated unjust."

2. Amendment VI.: "The accused persons have a right to enjoy the crime to a trial as quick as possible."

3. Question—What is credit? .
Ans. "Credit means when you do something you should get credit for it."

4. What is a budget? "A budget is a bag or sack to carry things in."

5. Student discussing Alexander the Great: "He was born in Pella 356 B. C., at fifteen. He was placed under a great philosophy where he received his education."

"The first thing Alexander did after he became king, was the death of his father who had recently been killed by an officer of the king of Persia."

6. Question—Explain the expression: "No nation is bigger or better than the individuals who are citizens of that nation." Ans. "That expression means that no nation is bigger or better than the individuals who make up that nation for a nation is made up of people but people are not people."

7. Student describing a certain high school girl: "She has light hair and fair complexion, her mouth is medium size, and is five feet six inches high."

8. Question: Explain the construction of boy in this sentence: The father of the BOY came. Ans. (1) "Possessive case because the boy came to the father." (2) "Objective case because you would not say the boy of the father." (3) "Possessive case because the boy owns the father."

laughing purposes and spreads good cheer with every foot of the picture.

On Friday and Saturday comes an adaptation of one of the well known stories by Harold Bell Wright. "The Mine With the Iron Door," and needs no introduction. It is a pretentious picture from every viewpoint, and a feature that will afford entertainment to audiences everywhere.