

THE PILOT

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HOW WE CAN DELUDE OURSELVES

In the last few days the papers have been printing some comment on the reduction of dividends on United States Steel, and the reduction of salaries of employees. Comment has been going with the tiding to the effect that wages must not be reduced. From Washington some of the political color assumes to indicate that the President of the United States has been committing himself to the proposition that wages must not be reduced. Which you take with as big a grain of salt as you like. Other geniuses are saying that wages must not be reduced. And it would all be highly pleasing were it not the fact that wages are being reduced, and that no power on earth can prevent.

If such a thing as maintaining wages could be at the power of man it would be a nice thing for the wage-earner. Unfortunately he is subject to the same economic laws as the man who pays the wages, and we might as well realize that fact. The factory may decline to cut wages, but it cannot make its sales department sell goods at prices that do not suit the buyers of its products, and that is the factor that says what wages are to be.

When the buyer balks it is either cut wages and costs of production at all points and reduce selling figures, or shut down the plant. Cold as that sounds no man has yet found any other solution, and that is what has been going on in all directions, and will go on further before the recovery becomes very strong and definite. The mill cannot run unless it can sell its goods, and the matter of wages is of secondary importance in enabling it to run. In a situation like this it can sell its products only by the closest paring of every cost, for now the buyer, after his high flight of indifference, is once more asking the price before he says to wrap up the purchase. If the price does not suit he does some shopping. And that is what fixes wages and all the other costs of production. In a narrow market the factory that can get its costs the lowest sells the goods. It may not sound pleasing, but if anybody has found any other way to fix prices in the final showdown than by the costs of production he has a cinch on his business that others would give much money to find out. Wages have been going down and wages are certain to continue to go down, and the sooner we discount the certainties of the near future and attempt to put our affairs on the best possible basis to fit the changing conditions the quicker the recovery will be here. If anybody imagines for a minute that the great industry of farming can be so completely shot to pieces as it is without industries feeling the effect of the slaughter, that deluded individual needs to take another look at his hand. Agriculture has been walking behind in the dust until the farmer has ceased to be able to buy the product of the other industries. Those other industries are now chewing the hard cud of idleness and infrequent pay checks. Harsh as it seems it is the fact, and how soon it is all to be adjusted again nobody can tell you. But it is a safe bet the adjustment will not take place at the high point in the clouds from which we have fallen.

A LITTLE ENLIGHTENMENT

A recent letter from G. W. Hill, president of the American Tobacco company, to the leaf buyers as they prepare for the coming buying campaign, gives some information that is worth

wider knowledge by the tobacco growers over the state. Mr. Hill says that the four principal cigarette manufacturing companies buy less than 35 per cent of the tobacco grown in North Carolina, which is important for North Carolina growers to bear in mind. These four companies are working in the keenest kind of competition, and no one of the four buys as much as 15 per cent of the North Carolina crop. The portion of the crop not bought by the four companies is largely sold for shipment abroad, and that 65 per cent makes the price of leaf.

Three times as much bright tobacco is raised as the American companies can use. They could not buy enough tobacco to affect the price if they could find a much bigger outlet for cigarettes, for a surplus of 65 pounds for every 35 pounds needed is wholly impossible to deal with. If the tobacco farmer will realize this situation, and either arrange to limit the production of his crop or find a way to make it for less cost that he may compete with the rest of the tobacco growing world he will have come closer to a solution of his troubles than by deluding himself in the belief that the cigarette manufacturers can affect the price by any attempt they might make to give the leaf a higher market rating.

The amount of tobacco available to the whole world that uses tobacco and the eagerness of the world to procure what is offered in the markets of the entire globe, determine how much tobacco will be taken and how much will be refused. North Carolina bright leaf tobacco that goes abroad goes in competition with the rest of the tobacco of the other producing companies. It is rather plain that the companies buying American tobacco for export are not going to pay more here than they will pay elsewhere for what they need. No matter how much we would all like to see the exporting buyers pay higher prices we know they must buy at prices which will permit them to compete with tobacco of other lands. No power can maintain a high price for leaf when the market is overloaded with it, and that is all there is to the situation, hard as it seems.

HIGHWAYS AND RAILROADS

A curious and interesting situation, which has been foreshadowed for a considerable time, has moved to the front at once in three different quarters. In Pennsylvania the highways are preparing plans for higher rates for big vehicles, some of which will not be permitted on the roads except under special license for the trip indicated, and the outlook is a fixed maximum of weight and size of vehicle because of the crowded condition of the highways and the wear on the roads when traversed by big trucks and cars.

North Carolina is tangling up in a border war with South Carolina over the travel of big trucks back and forth across the line, and a few days ago came another border squabble on the North, Virginia protesting against through bus travel on the big bus lines without some salve to the state treasury. In Ohio the question of surrendering the highways to the bus lines from travel to New York is vigorously protested because it is argued that the heavy traffic is making congested roads more dangerous, more difficult for the light vehicles, and entailing costs of road maintenance never contemplated when the highways were built. One concern is mentioned which on a capital stock of \$20,000 is undertaking to use the highways of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey and a through route for traffic on a wholesale basis, and the folks are vigorously objecting to building and keeping up their highways to serve as the way for the big freight and passenger business the concerns propose to build up.

Here in North Carolina the tendency is toward bigger vehicles, and especially during the fruit season that danger has become notable. Some of the large trucks pretty well crowd small drivers of the roads. Not long ago a case was mentioned where a heavily laden truck had trouble and stepped to fix its machinery. It was afraid to go off the pavement as it possibly might not have been able to get back on, and there, until repairs were

completed, it stood blocking one side of the road holding up travel during the lengthy period of repairs.

It becomes plain that heavy traffic must be considered by states before long, and probably the initiative will come in the Northern states where travel is much more congested than in the South. But it is pretty clear that no state is going to permit this indiscriminate use of its road for heavy traffic much longer. In this state the roads which have been built at a cost that is as heavy as the state can bear will have to be rebuilt. And where money would come from to rebuild when we cannot pay off the road debt now existing in the next thirty years is a matter we will all be considering pretty soon. A very small proportion of the roads of North Carolina, costly as they are, have been built so substantially as to stand the strain that is being put on them.

HELPING FARMERS AND EVERYBODY

Commenting on the big peach crop in the Sandhills the Charlotte Observer deplores the fact that in Charlotte and likewise probably most other places in reach of the Sandhills it is practically impossible to get a piece of peach pie in the restaurants or hotels, or, if possible, the peach is liable to be a hard peach

from California brought east in cans. Col. Harris also laments that Sampson county huckleberries, plentiful to the limit, failed to connect with his town of Charlotte.

But our own George Ross found a solution for one tangle of this sort. In his farm relations he comes in contact with farms all over the state, and to an eastern potato grower who complained that he could not sell his spuds as he could not sell his spuds George referred a Sandhills peach man who complained that he could not sell his potatoes because he could not sell his spuds. George switched them together and the potato man traded a truck-load of potatoes for a load of peaches and all are happy. George found out how to unravel that obstacle of exchange of commodities that holds off the entrance to markets, and brought things back to the primitive days when men traded with each other in what they make. If we could have a system of exchange in state products that would enable the people who make things in North Carolina to swap with others who make things, so that we do not have to wear out all our state products dragging them all over the United States and back again we would probably find more farm relief than in borrowing money when we already owe more than we can ever pay.

GRAINS OF SAND

Here it is Orgust and we can eat oysters again.

We know Fall is approaching. The papas and mammas are beginning to wonder which teachers are coming back. And hoping for the best.

Wonder if it would be possible to get up a boys' band around here. It would be good for the boys and good advertising for the Sandhills.

These local baseball games are attracting good crowds and much interest. Southern Pines and Carthage have teams; Aberdeen none this year. There have been some good games with teams from other towns. In Southern Pines there is talk of a better ball field, possibly a grandstand. The team is getting good support. Baseballs for use this season have been donated by the Highland Hardware House, and other business men are lending substantial aid. We should like to see a league of Sandhills towns next season.

The sub-rosa liquor making industry of Dare county is glowingly described by our own Ben Dixon MacNeill in last Sunday's New York Tribune Magazine. eBn Dixon is writing regularly for this magazine of late, and his stories are good stuff.

North Carolina had 5,825 school-houses valued at \$110,421,315 during the school year 1929-30, of which 3,460 houses were for white children, valued at \$98,946,273, and 2,365 were for colored children, valued at \$1,474,042, the July issue of School Facts, just issued from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, shows.

Moore county, in its white school system, has 26 houses, the total property value being \$435,830, an average of \$16,763 for each building and an average of \$139.42 for each pupil enrolled. In the negro system, the county

had 21 houses, valued at \$56,140, or an average of \$2,673 for each building and an average of \$35.11 for each pupil enrolled.

"Tired, Sally,?" the mistress of the house asked her colored assistant after a busy afternoon in the canning department.

"Tired, ma'am? Laws I've always tired. I stays tired so I won't git tired."

Sanford's new and handsome County Hospital will be formally opened on August 18. This, like our own Moore County Hospital, is a Duke endowed institution.

"I was very much interested to see the other day that plant patent number one had been issued by the Federal Government," Dr. R. W. Leiby, entomologist for the State Department of Agriculture, whose hobby is gardening, observed last week.

"You know the United States Government decided to patent unusual plants which had been developed, giving to the holder of the patent exclusive sales privileges," he continued. "Number one patent was issued on a new climbing rose named 'New Dawn.' It is without thorns, and unlike other climbing roses which bloom but once a season, blooms several times during the summer."

Heretofore, he explained, when some nursery developed a superior plant such as the "Talisman" rose, it was customary for the nursery to keep the matter secret for several years while a stock of around 50,000 plants was being developed. When the rose was put on the market the nursery which had developed the plant cashed in on its stock, but this was the only reward possible.

An exhibit in the Charles Drug store in Aberdeen is a weird looking vegetable called a quail melon. It was grown on the McFarland farm by Alex Blue, and weighs 18 1-2 pounds.

At the CAPITAL

By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

Democratic leaders in many parts of North Carolina are beginning to wonder and to ask questions as to how much longer and to what further end will extend the attacks of Josephus Daniels, both on the public platform and through his Raleigh paper, upon the Gardner administration and the acts of the 1931 General Assembly, which in large measure constitute the record of the Democratic party in the state.

These leaders are not surprised at the attacks upon the Gardner regime. They recall the "Asleep at the Switch" editorials in the News and Observer directed at Governor Kitchen; they are mindful of the "Come Home, Governor" call to Governor Morrison, and memory is fresh as to the numerous thrusts at Governor McLean. Senator Simmons and later Senator Bailey have received their roast-

ings at the point of the Daniels pencil. In every General Assembly for many years that same pencil has expressed the views of its pusher on the acts of the members of the two houses and the programme of the Governors.

But the leaders are raising questions as to why the extension of the attacks on the 1931 General Assembly and the Gardner program, most of which received the general approval of Mr. Daniels at the time, even though there were divergences on methods. Heretofore, they say, he has criticised while there is still time for changes, but when the General Assembly had adjourned and its policies sealed, he would accept its acts as those of the Democratic party and bow to its will.

Now it is pointed out, long after the General Assembly adjourned, he

is denouncing about the state the leadership of his party and describing the work of the overwhelming Democratic legislature as "indefensible," instead of his usual policy of rallying to the support of his party—the party which, some have the courage to say, raised him from a "provincial" editor's desk to a mighty seat in the councils of the nation. Some are asking if he is trying to bring about a repudiation of the Gardner administration, the defeat of all members of the 1931 Legislature who may come up for re-election, or is seeking to foment discord in the ranks of the party which has honored him. That, it is asserted, is a role more suitable to a dashing actor like Marion Butler.

This apparent change in policy is apparently calling for a motive, an explanation as to the objective. Some profess to see in it a desire of Mr. Daniels to become Governor, his "don't choose" statement to the contrary, notwithstanding. They are confident he would not offer for the office unless he was certain in his own mind of attaining it, but they claim it is his method of preparing the soil for that kind of harvest.

In a recent discussion of the possible elimination of present prospective candidates before primary time comes around, the belief was expressed that the two remaining then would be A. J. Maxwell and R. T. Fountain. To which one close to Mr. Daniels remarked: "In that case, Fountain would be forced to withdraw, Mr. Daniels would become a candidate and beat the h— out of Maxwell."

More than 1,400 farm men and women were registered at the convention held at State College last week, many expressing the belief that they will be better and better housekeepers as a result of the training and instruction received. While politics was relegated to the background, the convention heard men in politics, including Senators Josiah W. Bailey and Cameron Morrison.

Noting that four of its five resolutions last year, including the State taking over the schools and the roads, improving the banking laws and giving the County Government Advisory Commission more power, had been enacted by the 1931 General Assembly and a fifth, relief from land taxation, was partially achieved, the convention last week adopted 16 resolutions, having to do with further tax relief, full support of schools by the State, and 14 others about all calling for expenditures of money, as follows: continuing county agents in each county and without salary cuts deeper than other county officers; continue vocational agriculture in the high schools; that agricultural instruction, research and extension be paramount in the greater university; that full facilities of the Farm Board and cooperatives be used by the farmers; that forests be protected from fire; commencing crop improvement work; that local Granges be supported; that the State be made more

beautiful; commending the State Fair, that soil erosion be studied; increasing the work at State College in economics and rural sociology and marketing activities, and expressing gratitude to Dr. Carl C. Taylor, recently dropped from the State College staff.

State general fund collections for July amounted to \$1,388,325.38 as compared with \$1,088,409.06, or an increase of nearly \$200,000, while highway fund collections were \$1,541,266.63, as compared with \$1,212,336.67, an increase of \$329,629.85, over July of last year, Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell reports. Increase in almost every division of the taxes is due almost entirely to higher rates, although some items showed a small increase otherwise.

What the Governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of Texas was that if Texas and other Southern states had reduced cotton acreage in the past two years as much as North Carolina has "we would have gone a long way toward inviting the return of prosperity in the South."

Governor Gardner told Governor Ross S. Sterling in a message that North Carolina had reduced cotton acreage 28 per cent since 1929, in reply to an invitation to Austin, Texas, to attend a cotton reduction meeting. Texas governors have a habit of heading acreage reduction movements, but Texas, by far the largest cotton growing State, does not reduce acreage, seemingly desiring reduction in other states to benefit Texas. Governor Gardner and Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. Graham decided not to send a representative.

Governor O. Max Gardner plans to spend most of the month of August away from Raleigh on a vacation. He will be in Shelby this week for presentation of a portrait of his father-in-law, the late Judge James L. Webb, by the family to the Superior Court of Cleveland county. Clyde R. Hoey will make the presentation and Judge Wilson Warlick accept the portrait. The Governor expects to spend a part of his vacation traveling over the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

CARD OF THANKS

To our many friends and neighbors we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many deeds of kindness and of demonstrated sympathy during the long illness and the recent death of our beloved husband, father and brother.

MRS. SARA C. STEWART,
and Family.

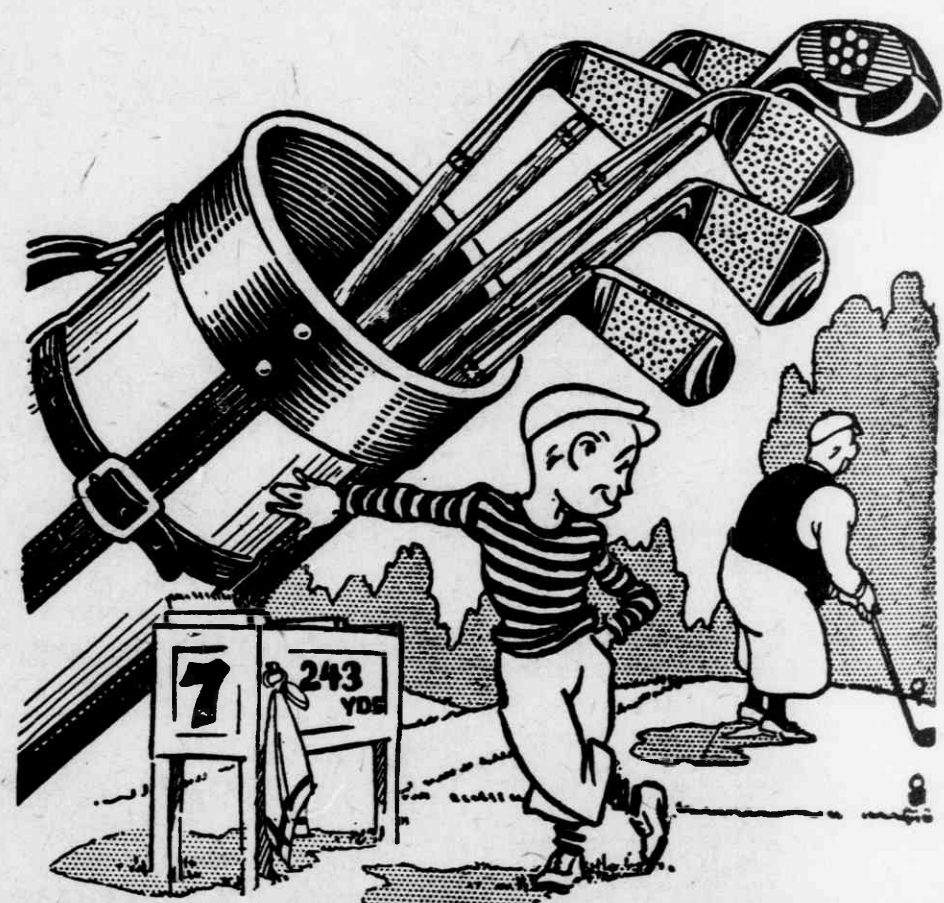
Vass, N. C.,



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