

THE PILOT

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NELSON C. HYDE, Managing Editor
BION H. BUTLER, Editor
JAMES BOYD STRUTHERS BURT
RALPH PAGE
Contributing Editors

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BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

The probability is that business over the country is beginning to pick up, in spite of the many efforts of every imaginable influence to butt in. The certainty is that basic economic laws are active now as always, and that whatever comes will come not because of any impossible dreams of help from legislation or silver or any of the other impotent remedies so freely suggested, but because things are adjusting themselves after our riot of unbusinesslike policies that always follow war or other grave disturbances.

It is doubtful if we will ever in this generation see again such another wild runaway of business. Probably one of the most assuring indications is that the railroads have been given little comfort in their request for rate increase. Not that they do not need an increase, which they do, but that they can go to the government and bargain for increases as absurd as if the man who sells shoes or flour or lumber or any other things fixes his rates by government fiat. Business will determine its rates in spite of statute law and government meddling, for government cannot compel men to buy at any price that does not suit. If the railroad rates are not sufficient, which seems to be the case, the roads must lower cost of operation or default on their bonds and lower their wages. And after all it is a matter in which the people are interested more in these things than in rates. If rates are not paid to permit high wages low wages must follow or receiverships for the roads.

It is not the railroad that cares, but the stockholder, the bondholder, and the employe. The bondholder is the first power to consider, for he can foreclose and sell the roads on the block. A railroad in bankruptcy is a mighty poor factor in the country's work, for the life of the nation depends on the railroad service. Trucks and automobiles and airplanes can handle the trimmings but the railroads are necessary to do the bulk of the job. Railroad bonds are held largely by savings banks and life insurance companies as investments for their money received from depositors and from insured patrons. If railroad bonds and stocks are depressed they knock the props from under the savings banks and insurance companies, and there is the greatest menace at the present time. For that reason it is not likely that the people will permit the roads to face disaster. But the adjustments will be made by the roads and the patrons of the roads, just as prices in every direction will be made by the buyer and the seller, and not by fiat of law or any other attempted interference. Business adjusts itself to conditions, which is a thing worth remembering, and all laws are powerless as against equitable and satisfactory adjustments. This applies as much to farm stuff as to other stuff, and includes all things.

The most assuring feature of the present situation is that improvement is in sight, and the certainty that out of all tangles, no matter how much we knot the threads the ultimate readjustments come of themselves and are logical and beneficial. Tomorrow is the day of economy, of industry and of the rule of the immutable laws of economics instead of the imaginary rule of human dreams and fantasies.

AN UNDERVALUED RESOURCE

As winter approaches the question of fuel supply is prominent. Until the last few years this section depended on its wood supply to carry through the cold weather. Later coal made a place for itself. But wood is so abundant in Moore county that it still affords a valuable resource and the means of gathering in a big amount of money if the wood can be made available to the householders of the villages. An ample supply of fat pine is still to be found in reasonable distance of the towns, while the hard wood is of excellent quality and exists in vast quantities in such area that if rightly handled transportation should not make the price unreasonably high. Wood is a clean and friendly fuel. It is as good for a short fire as for a permanent one, and as good for a continual fire as coal, for the furnace supplied with pieces sufficiently large to burn slowly will keep a fire overnight as well as coal will. In cost wood should be a more economical fuel, for its actual heating value as determined in the chemical and physical laboratories is equal to that of coal in cost and convenience of handling in the home.

But the farmer who still has a wood lot, or the man who has considerable forest area has to use more economy in supplying wood. No great profit can be found in the small jag of stuff hauled a long distance at the price the buyer can pay in preference to coal. Wood should be delivered in loads of not less than half a cord, and a cord is better, and it should be regular in size and quality and of the type the buyer can use to best advantage. Moore county until a few years ago depended on its own fuel resources, and can do it again if the people so elect. But the supply must be such as will meet the demand of the consumer, for he has the last word in the choice of his fuel, and the price must be one that will compete with coal hauled three or four hundred miles to this section. Moore county can raise its own fuel indefinitely if it cares to cultivate its market. But the market must be one that satisfies the buyer and gives a profit to the producer. Both these conditions are easily possible.

THE SHRINE CLUB AND THE CHILDREN

A glimpse at the records of the Moore County Hospital indicate that a hundred and forty-six children have been treated at that institution through the aid of the Sandhill Shrine Club. This work has been entirely surgical, much of it dealing with the tonsils, of orthopedic character and other deformities. The Shriners, with their funny little red hats, their military outfit and their friendly cordiality, have their serious side. They do more than talk about antiquity and mysteries. They lift many a load from some unfortunate that they do not talk about a great deal, and it is from no suggestion of theirs that this bit of information gets out. Gloma Charles is secretary and treasurer of the club and a quiet source of dynamic energy in the work that is carried on, but he has the help and backing of his whole unique outfit, and it is a good idea if at times when the Shrine has on its hands some relief project, some ball or other plan for gathering a few dimes for welfare work, that other folks than the Shriners should reach down and dig up a few kopecks.

A hundred and forty-six children is a right sizable bunch when it comes to counting the relief that is afforded that that many individuals as a total, but it is especially a big number when it is known that that many have been the beneficiary of a quiet body of kindly-disposed citizens who without making any fuss in the public places have gone into the highways and byways and brought in the ailing little people and overcome their difficulties and put them on their way to health and to comfort.

This world is full of men who follow the Scriptural admonition of not telling their left hands what their right hands may be doing. The Shriners have an outside attitude which is seen when they appear in public with their holiday attire. But that does not say anything about the doing of the right hand, nor why it

is frequently down in the pocket bringing out things. The hospital records are not so reticent. Humanity moves under some novel disguises at times in carrying out its errands of helpfulness, but in the case of the Shriners the disguise does not

interfere with the seriousness of the purpose. Something of this sort seems to be included in Parson Stimson's analysis of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been talking about in the Baptist church in Southern Pines.

GRAINS OF SAND

More honor for one of our contributing editors. Struthers Burt's "Festival," which one English publisher refused to bring out after he had contracted to do so, because he feared the English censor might deem it objectionable, has just been selected by the English Book Society as its choice for November. Hugh Walpole has included "Festival" among those books which he considers to be the "best of the year." "Festival" was published last February by Charles Scribner's Sons and was the choice for that month of the Book League of America.

Speaking of books, R. W. Leiby contributed a glowing review of Katherine Ripley's "Sand in My Shoes," to last Sunday's Raleigh News and Observer. "All who have contacted the Sandhill section will find her book fascinating reading," he says, "for her story is humorously, humanly and truthfully told. Those not acquainted personally with her characters will find her book a compelling story of life told in a way that the reader will enjoy."

"Amusing anecdotes are numerous and the tales of her trials during lean years are unfolded so that the reader gains a sympathetic understanding for authoress and her husband."

An airplane bearing license No. N. C. 249-H flew over Aberdeen at 11:37 A. M. last Friday at a dangerously low altitude. With a dead stick it could not have avoided crashing inside the city limits. This is illegal flying; the pilot is liable for the suspension of his license. It is dangerous to himself, to the life and property of others. If he has passed his flying tests he knows better. And if he hasn't passed his flying tests, the charge is more serious.

If we are correctly informed, the Aberdeen High School football team is not an Aberdeen High School football team. If we are correctly informed, a majority of the members of the eleven which played against Rockingham last Friday do not attend Aberdeen High School. School athletics are beneficial. Every boy in school should have a chance to play on the school's team. The team should represent the best efforts of the school to organize from its own student body. Every purpose of school athletics is defeated by organizing a team with "ringers." School pride, civic pride should frown upon this practice.

An old Scotch neighbor dropped in the other day about noon at an unpretentious farm house where dinner was about ready and he was asked to sit down and have a piece of pone and some cowpeas and baked potatoes. Which he did, for they are good rations. He was called on to say grace, but previously he had been admonished that they had no butter for the potatoes, and that a man from town might miss butter. But the philosophic Scot recalled as nearly as he could the sentiment of his favorite bard and recited:

"Oh, Thou who kindly dost provide
For every creature's want,
We thank Thee, God of Nature wide,
For all Thy mercies lent.
And if it please Thee, Heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
Yet if though granted or denied,
Lord make us still content."
To which he added further,
"Some hae meat, and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat."
And sae the Lord be thankit."
For as he explained, "Gude sweet potatoes with nae butter beats nae butter and nae sweet potatoes."

At the CAPITAL

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

Second of a long series of steps leading toward a rewriting of North Carolina's antiquated Constitution was taken last week when the Constitutional Commission, provided by the 1931 General Assembly, met, organized and laid plans for work during the next year. Chief Justice W. P. Stacy, of the N. C. Supreme Court, is chairman, and Charles Brantley Aycock was employed as secretary. They meet again November 27.

Governor Gardner, who named the members, met with them and told them of the importance to the people of the state of the duties they have undertaken, in reworking the Constitution adopted by the "carpetbag" Legislature of 1866, when the state was almost entirely agricultural, and of the needs for changes to meet the changed condition of the people and their activities, now bound down by restrictions of the organic law.

The Constitutional Commission idea took the place of the Constitutional Convention plan. This kind of a commission was created in 1913, but only part of the suggested changes were made. The present group will go into the entire problem and may completely rewrite or amend the Constitution. Its work will be presented to the 1933 General Assembly for submission to the people.

The Commission is composed of Chief Justice Stacy, Judge John J. Parker, of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Fourth District; Superior Court Judge Michael Schenck, Hendersonville; Major George Butler, Clinton; Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, Raleigh; Burton Craige, Winston-Salem; J. O. Carr, Wilmington; Congressman Lindsey Warren, Washington, and Dr. Clarence Poe, Raleigh.

North Carolina's general fund showed a cash balance of \$875,500.32, as of September 30, while the highway funds showed a balance of \$7,387,553.99, the combined statement of the Auditor and Treasurer, issued by Governor Gardner, shows.

The State's total debt is shown as \$179,611,371, including \$2,502,371 in temporary loans and a funded debt of \$177,109,000, of which \$109,237,000 is in highway bonds, to be paid by automobile and gasoline taxes, and \$1,

800,000 in bridge bonds, to be repaid from tolls collected by the bridges.

A special session of the General Assembly was urged upon Governor Gardner last week by two groups, one interested in tobacco acreage reduction, headed by Senator W. G. Clark, of Edgecombe, and the other, headed by E. G. Bartlett, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce, interested primarily in cotton acreage reduction legislation.

While many are urging the session, others are just as insistent that the special session not be called, including the North Carolina merchants, who say business and industry would again be almost strangled by another seige like the first five months of this year. Josephus Daniels continues to urge legislation, suggesting that this state is "seceding" from the South, in not following Texas and two other states in reduction of acreage by legislation, while Louisiana and South Carolina enacted laws prohibiting cotton planting.

Governor Gardner heard the groups and told them he would do what, in his judgment, is best for all the people of the state. He said he had talked with governors of the other states at Yorktown the week before, and none have ideas of calling special sessions. Although pressure is great from some sections, Governor Gardner is known to be against calling the legislature to meet at this time, fearing results, and seeing no solution of the problem.

Critics who accuse him of retracting from his position as shown in his message to Governor Sterling of Texas, for unified "legislation" are reminded that he suggested "uniform action," not legislation, and points out that while three states have adopted the Texas plan, two have adopted Louisiana's plan, and others have done nothing, showing lack of "uniform action," while Egypt's suggestion of international action, called by Gardner, has been turned down by the Federal Government.

Contracts has been let for the erection of a handsome Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, costing \$222,194, plus additions for trimmings, to be located at the south end of Fayetteville street, on the site for many years, and until the War Between the States, of

the Governor's Mansion, and since a school. The architecture will conform to that of the State Capitol, at the other end of the street. Plans are to have it completed by next June, in time for the next State Democratic convention.

The only rifle to break the otherwise placid political waters for some weeks is the announcement of David P. Dellinger, Gaston county, that he will be a candidate for lieutenant governor. He has broken the ice in this race, although it has been accepted for some time that A. H. (Sandy) Graham, of Hillsboro, and D. F. (Fatty) Giles, Marion, will be candidates. Mr. Dellinger has represented Gaston county in the General Assembly.

Frank D. Grist, candidate for U. S. Senate, says that "Bob is all wet; Cam will dry up; Tam will be an also ran," believes A. L. Brooks, Greensboro, will get in the race and that "I will be Senator." He reports unusual political lethargy, most people giving little or no thought to candidates.

Charlotte is making a strong bid—and with fair chances of success—for the second annual Jackson Day Dinner, plans for which are beginning to get under way, according to Tyre C. Taylor, chairman of the North Carolina Young People's Democratic Or-

ganization, under auspices of which the dinner is to be held.

While plans are immature, it is expected to have several national figures, such as Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, of New York; Newton D. Baker and Owen D. Young, prospective Presidential candidates, as chief speakers, while other leading Democrats from this and other states may be invited. Jouett Shouse, of the National Democratic Executive Committee, was principal speaker at the first meeting, nearly two years ago in Raleigh, at which leading political figures of the State were present.

Charlotte is probably the only city with a building with sufficient space for the diners, since the Raleigh auditorium was burned, and, according to Mr. Taylor, has a good chance of being the host city. The date has not been decided but the dinner will probably be in January or in March.

Extensive preparations are under way for getting ready to cope with the unemployment and distress relief problem of the State during the winter months. While the problem will be primarily local, Governor Gardner's commission will head up and direct the efforts from Raleigh. Representatives of several social and governmental agencies have met to consider methods of meeting what is expected to be a pressing need in many communities this winter. The work is being directed by R. W. Henninger, as executive secretary.

FROM THE STATE PRESS

GOING AFTER TOURIST TRAFFIC

The Piedmont Highway Association, organized for the promotion of tourist traffic over United States Highway No. 29 between the North and the South, came into being and became active none too soon. While it is boosting the highway through Charlotte, Greensboro, Danville and Lynchburg, and striving to raise necessary funds for the purpose, it has sharp and active competition in United States Highway No. 1, and the so-called Carolinas-Florida Short Route, both of which cross the Carolinas to the east of the Piedmont route.

The Fayetteville Observer, seeking to arouse active interest on the part of the cities and towns through which the "Florida Short Route" passes, calls attention to the fact that representatives of communities along Fed-

eral Highway No. 1, which runs through Henderson, Sanford, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Rockingham, Cheraw and Camden, met in Raleigh last week and prepared a budget of \$12,000, practically all of which is to be spent in advertising the route.

The Fayetteville paper says the "Short Route" between New York and Florida is not getting the traffic it should have "because of the fact that towns and cities along the highway are not advertising the route as it should be" and urges the raising of a healthy advertising fund. The route passed through Rocky Mount, Wilson, Fayetteville, Lumberton, Rowland, and on through Florence, S. C.

The towns and cities along Route 29 might well take notice of what those along Highway No. 1 are doing and of what those along the more eastern route are urged to do.—Charlotte Observer.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AT EUREKA SCHOOL SATURDAY

The public is cordially invited to attend a supper and hallowe'en party at Eureka school Saturday evening, October 31. There will be plenty of good things to eat at reasonable prices. The money goes to add some much needed equipment to the school. There will be fun for every one.

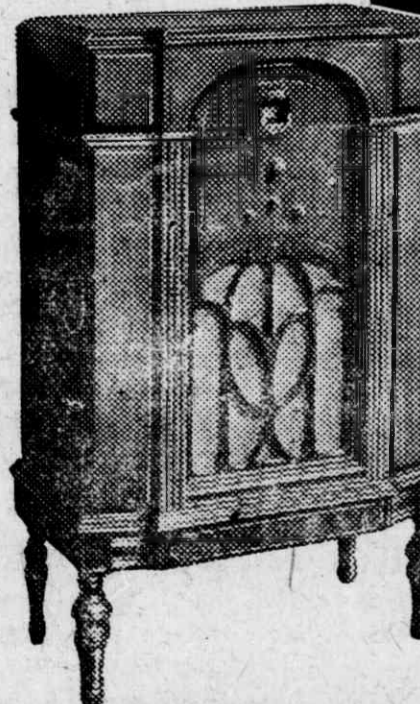
TO MEET AT SANFORD

The November meeting of the Alford Moore Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution will be held at the home of Mrs. J. R. Ingram in Sanford on November 3rd, at 2:30 p. m. All members are urged to be present.

Miss Janette Leach is visiting in Atlanta, Ga., this week.

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