

## THE PILOT

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deen, N. C., as second-class mail mat-  
ter.

### THE OPENING TOBACCO MARKET

From reports from the tobacco growers market which opened this week in Aberdeen is satisfactory in its results. The price of tobacco is not as high as it has been, neither is it at its lowest point. It has regained some of its slump, but it has not gone back to the wild heights of the days of inflation, and probably never will again in the lifetime of the men who are now planting tobacco. Assuming that to be the case the situation is not as gloomy as some would have folks believe. The crop this year is not of the best, yet it is not of the worst. It was made with less cash outlay, which is one of the first things that must be considered in making a crop or anything else if it is to be profitable. While the price is not the highest, the comparative price is not as low as might seem, for a pound of tobacco will buy more stuff with the low price, for all other things are low now. It is not as if tobacco had fallen and other things remained high.

These things the farmers are considering. Hence the tone of the market is fairly cheerful. The crop does not seem to be large as compared with some of the previous crops. The demand for tobacco has not fallen off as much as the crop has decreased in volume. Possibly the tobacco returns this year will be better than in some previous years in which the results were accepted as satisfactory. In the seven years beginning with 1909 the price of tobacco averaged a slight fraction over ten cents, and farmers planted it right along and figured that it was profitable. Possibly with the readjustments of general conditions tobacco is to come into its own again, although, along with all other things, on a lower price basis than that of the high years. At any rate it is wise for everybody to try to fall in with conditions that prevail, for as they in the past brought a reasonable prosperity it is to be assumed that they will again. It is not to be supposed that we will starve today on what we lived on comfortably a few years ago. The probabilities are that things generally are improving and that we are adjusting affairs to the conditions that are to prevail, and which will not be so bad when the adjustments are completed.

### TWO KINDS OF ROAD JOBS

In these days of high taxes it is interesting to listen to the various criticisms of government policies. Money has been loaned to the Pennsylvania Railroad to build some box cars. It is to be repaid possibly, but by the taxpayers. Or if not repaid it will be paid by the taxpayers who pay the federal taxes.

The railroad in its rebuilding program employs labor. It has pursued a policy of employing labor since its first rails were laid nearly a century ago. Until the depression made curtailment a necessity the maintenance and improvement of the road employed 30,000 hands, which the road paid for not with money from the taxpayers but with money from its own earnings. For a number of years after 1925 it was laying annually over 200,000 tons of new steel rails, the making of which employed thousands of hands. These things it paid for. It and cost vast sums of money, bought ties in enormous quantities to carry the heavier new rails laid, and put down more stone ballast under tie and rail, and paid for these things from its own money. And to continue its improvements it borrows money from the relief fund which it will repay.

But it has to do business to

earn money to repay the fund borrowed. The highway does not borrow money from the government with the expectation of repaying. Its plan is to let the government in the future charge against the state the money given for the new roads building, and the taxpayer will foot the bill. The taxpayer is tying more stones around his neck in all these transactions, just as he is in all of the affairs that arrange for the payment of money from the federal treasury that does not have a definite arrangement for positive repayment. The only place the state, national or county government can get money is from the taxpayer. Every day a new piece of road is built by federal government the people have an additional mortgage laid on every dollar's worth of property they own, for the taxing power is a mortgage on everything that has a cash value, and that taxing power can call for the last cent a man owns and by tax foreclosure sell what he has and take everything. But the railroads if they build roads cannot collect the cost from the people. That is the difference in two plans of road financing by the government. One is repaid, the other is paid by the taxpayer.

### THE NEW JENKS HOME ON WEYMOUTH

The announcement of a large new house on Weymouth for George J. Jenks of Harbor Beach, Mich., is one of the most pleasing bits of information this fall. The plans call for a type of building that will be an outstanding architectural creation. The two-acre tract of land gives ample room for a proper setting. But one of the most pleasing features is that the building has such a site on the summit of the Weymouth ridge that its outlook covers all of the eastern country, and in return it is visible from the whole frontier over Fort Bragg and from the north and south of the reservation. Weymouth is so situated at the head of the James creek valley that the panorama from the Jenks location is one of the most comprehensive in the Sandhills, and also in such manner that the picture as seen from the Moore county eastward boundary is a complete layout of the escarpment of the hill for two or three miles in its sweep around the head of the valley. With this new house the circle of homes is almost full from the John Y. Boyd home, past the group to the immediate south around to the McKinney and Merrill houses, and at night when the lights are turned on in these homes the brilliant illumination is visible for many miles to the eastward. The entire hilltop, following the Highlands road, is swiftly working over to become a well-kept park, open for all who care to walk or drive along the roads of the vicinity. This new house will emphasize the underlying motive of design and creation, and it is certain to be followed by the few other houses that the still unoccupied space will give room for.

It is hard to imagine anything more attractive than the home creation that has been the steady outcome of Weymouth from the beginning. The Jenks home gives the development one of its most substantial advances, and at a time when it can be most appreciated.

### POLITICS AND BUSINESS

Wake county finds itself in an unpleasant plight because its sinking funds set aside for the ultimate redemption of county bonds as they mature have been invested in various loans on security that turns out to be of little value, and the county seems to be several hundred thousand dollars loser because the loans have defaulted on both interest and principal. Money that was to have been available when the bonds became due is not available because the securities are not paid, and it is reported that they cannot be paid.

It is said that the loans have been made through political friendships, that small attention has been given to collecting interest or to retiring the loans when due, and that the county is in bad financial plight because of what has seemingly become impossible financial policy. How much may be salvaged is not known, but it looks as if the taxpayers of Wake county stand to lose upwards of a million dollars from this indifferent meth-

od of investing county tax money that has been collected from the people to pay off bonds when due, but which instead of being applied to bond payments has been loaned on security that will not bring it back. So the taxpayer has paid his money to retire the bonds which have not been retired, and now it appears that he will have to pay another similar sum for the same purpose. And he has no redress. It is the taxpayer who owes all the public bills and who must provide all the money for the operation of government, local, state and national, and the only limit is how much is cared for. He has no voice in saying how much tax shall be collected, how much money be spent, nor in any way can he act except to pay.

That is why taxpayers' leagues are being organized all over the United States. The taxpayers are not tired of increasing taxes. They are far beyond that state. They are helpless and at the end of the string.

### Grains of Sand

It looked like old times in town on Tuesday. B. B. Saunders was welcomed back to Aberdeen by more tobacco than there was room for on the floor of the Aberdeen Warehouse. The season started off with a bang.

Typographical errors are usually most untimely and uncalled for. This week's Kiwanis Weekly Letter, which informs members of the place of their next meeting, sprung one not called for but timely. Congressman Walter Lambeth was to be speaker of the day, the meeting to be held in the Congregational Church in Southern Pines. The letter announced the place of meeting as "Congregational Church."

A group of Democrats the other day was discussing a possible meeting place for a Democratic rally in Southern Pines. Mrs. E. A. Tracy, ardent Republican, overheard the discussion.

"Why don't you meet in Shields Cameron's office," she said. "All the Democrats in town can get in there." If perchance you don't know Shields Cameron's office, it is about nine by twelve feet.

Business is on the increase in his section (Thomasville), Congressman Lambeth said while in town Wednesday.

The occasional rains of the past week have done wonders for the grass seed. Lawns and parkways will be in fine shape to greet the first influx of winter visitors. Now to get "The Triangle" planted, the double road from Southern Pines to Pinehurst, the Pinehurst-Aberdeen highway and U. S. No. 1 from Aberdeen to Southern Pines. The State Highway Commission will help plant along these roads if local funds can be secured for the seed and fertilizer. The Kiwanis Club is working on this problem and deserves support.

There is no news from Niagara's "Stork" Market this week. Has anyone seen the big bird?

### Correspondence

#### COURT COSTS—A REMEDY

Editor, The Pilot:

During these hard times wouldn't it be possible to induce the Superior Court Judge to hold court for a couple of hours more a day. Court now sits for six hours except on Monday when since the judge is usually late it sits for about 4 1-2 hours, and on Saturday it often closes at noon.

At a recent criminal court there were 43 cases on the docket and 22 cases were continued, making less than half the cases tried. The court sat for six days or about 32 hours and it costs the County \$100.00 for jury fees, witness fees, sheriff fees, stenographer fees, etc., or \$45 a case. If the judge had been willing to work 48 hours probably the cost could be cut to \$30 a case.

From what I learn this was about an average performance. Before we had a Recorder's Court sometimes the Superior Court would have a docket of over 450 cases. This illustrates what a saving the Recorder's Court has been but over and above the direct saving the saving in the prompt dispensing of justice is probably even greater. I don't know much about law and courts nor how much the civil court costs the county or state, but not of course anywhere near as much as the criminal courts. Most of the bills in civil actions as I understand it are paid by the fellow that gets licked and why the contend-

ers shouldn't have their disputes, especially minor cases, decided at the Recorder's court, since it would cost them so much less. I can't see. Couldn't some good arguer induce the lawyers to get their clients to have Judge Humber decide on most of their civil cases? There are, as I understand it over 500 cases on this Superior docket now. Probably 25 will be tried, leaving 475 to await the next sitting of the civil court. Outside of lawyer's fees the average civil case costs for both parties about \$15. When tried at the Recorder's court and \$30 at the Superior court.

As a means of saving the county and state money would it be proper before the next criminal court sits to petition the judge to help us out by working overtime? And couldn't the judge run through those 500 cases at the next civil court and dispose of some of them some way? Would it do to suggest in some way to the disputants in the minor civil cases that they could get their cases tried for half price by the Recorder's court? Or for half of even that if before a justice of the peace.

I am the last one in the county to bring this up for I haven't been inside of a court room for 25 years and probably know less about it than any one.

—JOHN SMITH.

### LOCAL AUTHORS TO ATTEND GATHERING AT CHARLESTON

Some 30 Southern writers will meet in Charleston, S. C., October 21 and 22 for a house party similar to the gathering held last October at the University of Virginia, according to DuBose Heyward of Hendersonville.

Although plans for the event are not complete, among those who have accepted invitations are Ellen Glasgow, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Stallings, James Boyd, Donald Davidson, Elizabeth Maddox Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Martistan Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Struthers Burt, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Heyward. Among the Charleston writers expected to attend are Mr. and Mrs. Clements Ripley, formerly of Pinehurst.

The program will be informal. The writers will stay in the city at a place yet to be named and visit old plantations in the country side.

One Dollar will keep the son or daughter posted on home doings while away at school. Send him—or her—The Pilot.

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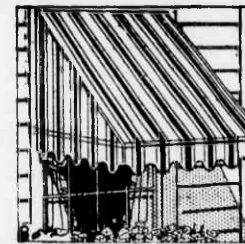
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With this prospect in view, the efforts of this bank will continue to be for the maintenance of the markets of Aberdeen and for the service of its patrons.

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