

## THE WEEKLY PILOT

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### A SATISFACTORY SEASON

This is March. Another month and the tourist season will have been about ended. The latter days of April see little of the winter visitors in Moore county. By that time the spring has so warmed up that all but the closing guard have departed, and the Sandhills turn from caring for the stranger to the business of the farm and field.

Much curiosity was felt last fall as to the winter prospects, for Moore county's prosperity depends largely on the coming of the winter patron from the north. A chief industry here is that of affording recreation for the temporary population. Then the condition of the winter business is a fair indication of the general business of the whole country. The winter business has been right satisfactory. Perhaps some of the visitors did not stay so long this winter as on previous occasions, but they came earlier in the season, and so far they have held on toward the coming of spring.

With this season out of the dividing line between doubt and confidence the next winter will be regarded with more assurance, for it is believed that business is on the upturn again all over the world. Next year should be a better year than this has been, which means in fact that next year should be a better year than the Sandhills country has ever seen. The increased facilities for caring for people will be one reason for expecting more visitors, and the impression made on the country by the knowledge that at Knollwood, Pinehurst and Southern Pines more people can be accommodated and on a satisfactory basis, and that a broader system of recreation has been provided will add to the prospect.

This winter has been a good one, and it has followed a good summer last year. The summer this year looks good in the county. Road building will be active again this year. General building will be right vigorous, and from present appearance the farmers have a good prospect ahead. It would seem that Moore county has no reason to be apprehensive about the future.

### THE DEADLY AUTOMOBILE

A few days ago four young men were killed at a railroad crossing while attempting to drive their car across the track. It was the same old story.

"The little dog was running round the engine.

There was a little yelp, which the engineer couldn't help, for the engine couldn't run around the dog."

The young men were on their way to Chapel Hill where three

of them were students at the university. The other was the driver of the car. Two others in the car were hurt.

Now this all sounds tragic enough, but the most tragic feature about it is that in a few days it will be forgotten by all but those directly associated with the victims. We talk about the horrors of war, but war is a piker alongside of the automobile and injuring the people of the United States. Since the automobile entered the business of slaughtering and wounding the people of the United States it has put war in second class, and the worst of it is that while we are not expecting any more destruction is the direct result of carelessness on the part of automobile drivers. Too many of them disregard all the laws made by the state, and too many more disregard all laws of common sense in handling their cars. The state law limiting the speed of cars to twenty-five miles an hour is looked on as a useless joke. Except where there is a local police force, it is respected about as much as the law against profanity or buying a seat in the United States senate. The people and the state are alike guilty in this respect. The legislature gives us a good law, but it turns its back on that law and expects it to enforce itself. The people give the law little heed, and the undertakers thrive on it. The killing goes on, and we ignore the whole proceeding.

We scare like rabbits when influenza is mentioned, but the automobile is more deadly than the influenza, and will continue to be. The man who wants to be careful has no chance. The reckless fool who thinks the road is his and that he is in a hurry can hit the careful driver and kill him just as easily as the speeder can kill himself. Nobody has any defense against the reckless driver. Hardly any one who drives the road no matter how carefully he proceeds, but can tell of narrow escapes from the fellow who runs past as if he was trying to escape from the sheriff, and mighty few drivers have missed the experience of taking to the ditch to dodge these outlaws. The people are the power in this thing. If they want to stop the slaughter they can stop it by insisting that the laws be enforced, and the state can enforce the laws by the proper authority. But first and last it is the people, for the state is nothing but the expression of the popular will. If we are too indifferent to these constantly recurring examples of our tolerance of the murderous carelessness concerning automobiles all we can expect is a continued death list. But there is no use to try to salve it over with expressions of sympathy. Sympathy is the egotism we offer in place of our negligence. Prevention goes much farther than sympathy.

### A SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY

The taxation scheme of North Carolina has just one thing to its credit. It has probably no superior in its ingenious compli-

cation of absurdity. Now that may strike some of the faithful as raw criticism of what some of the statesmen regard as a model of admiration, but it is just as well once in a while to be truthful even if a little radical.

Just one example is prominent now. The other day Governor Morrison addressed the chamber of commerce at Hamlet, and he referred to the effect of the North Carolina tax system on the Gates family down at Hoffman. A few years ago Mr. Gates was induced by Ralph Page to buy several thousand acres of land in that section, which was a good job. Mr. Gates set to work honestly and energetically to create a big farm there, and he employed an army of men. He cleared about 800 acres of land and put up a lot of good buildings, and commenced a big development work that added more to that section than any one thing ever done there. Then our wise tax system got after him. It taxed the property he had bought, which was wise, and as he made it more valuable he was able to pay much more taxes on it than it paid before he bought it. He increased the income to the state and county from that land many times in the way of taxes, and without a whimper. He improved his property steadily, and his taxes increased steadily, which was all right. He provided income for a lot of men who paid taxes, which was satisfactory.

But Mr. Gates is a rich man, with much property in other states. Our wise system of taxation insisted that Mr. Gates should pay taxes in North Carolina on property that is in other states. Mr. Gates could not see the philosophy of that and he disposed of what he had here,

quit the work he was doing, moved away with all of his enthusiasm and effort, and we have lost one of the most aggressive forces we ever had in this part of the state. Probably if Mr. Gates had stood for the taxation of property he has elsewhere the state might have pulled a considerable sum of money out of him in that manner but certainly nothing like as much money as if he had been encouraged to stay in the state and help on with the development he was making on the plan that he had started. Mr. Gates was adding rapidly to the common income of the Sandhills country. He was setting a profitable example to a lot of people in his section. He was paying a fair share of the taxes of his state and community, and developing his community so that every year it would pay more. He was a worker in the direction of progress. But he would not stand for that which the state had no claim on.

Governor Morrison thinks such a taxation system is absurd. North Carolina is big enough and has resources enough that we can live on what we have without trying to levy taxes on property that is in New York or New Jersey or any other state. If it were so that we could not then it would be better for us to move out now and try some place where people can live on their own resources. But we will never get any help in developing our resources if we proceed to tax to death the man who comes from somewhere else to help us, taxing not only what he has here but what other state tax elsewhere.

We understand the Russian soviet government has changed its motto from "Let me also speak" to "Let me also eat."

## CAROLINA THEATRE PINEHURST No. Carolina

WEEK OF MARCH 5th.

MONDAY and TUESDAY, March 6-7 at 8:15 and 8:30 p. m. respectively. Big, Special Production of Mark Twain's Famous Story—

### A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SEASON

This production ran four solid months in New York and is now running in London.

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, 8th and 9th, at 8:15 and 8:30 p. m. respectively, Wesley (Freckles) Barry and a lot of other clever kids, in a special Marchall Neilan production of Booth Tarkington's famous stories.

No Boy or Girl between the ages of 6 and 76 can afford to miss this treat.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, March 10th and March 11th, 8:15 and 8:30 p. m. respectively, Wallace Reid in

"THE WORLD'S CHAMPION"

and "Bobby" Vernon in

"A BARNYARD CAVALIER"

YOU CAN'T BEAT THIS BILL!

:-: MATINEE :-:

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT 3:00 P. M.

THE BIGGEST WEEK OF THE SEASON

## PERSONALS AND BR

Mr. W. H. Keith was in last Tuesday.

Miss Gamaliel Coats, of Co the week-end guest of her Mr. Freeman, of Raeford, Vass on Tuesday.

Miss Vivian Byrd has from a visit to relatives in Jo Mr. R. P. Beasley came ov Apex Sunday, returning on Mr. Carl Morris, of Raeford several days of this week in business.

Mrs. Wm. Welch and little Norfolk, Va., are the guests parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Mr. Neill M. McKeithan spe day night with home folks ford.

Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Rosser tle son, Robert, went to B last Friday.

Messrs. W. F. Thompson a and Turney Matthews were ford last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. T. J. Brooks, of Gr was the guest of Mrs. Geo. V last Thursday.

Dr. M. L. Matthews, of was a visitor to our town l day.

Mr. Frederick L. Taylor Sousa's concert at the City um in Raleigh last Monday

Miss Margaret Keith retur nesday from a visit to re Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. John McCoy Blue, of Mr. Bob McNair, of Hamlet, Lillian Hasty, of Rockingha on Mr. N. M. McKeithan

Miss Mayme McGill, wh at Hopewell school in Up was the guest of Mrs. T. Sunday evening.

Mr. Make McKeithan, of Misses Jessie Brooks and E motored to Raleigh Mond they attended Sousa's conc

Mr. Picquet tells us th the best bunch of attraction week, at the Carolina, th ever had before in a sing Messrs. W. D. Smith, C thews and Arthur Thomps Ethel Coats, Annie McGill, Brooks spent a while in C day.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Tys tle son, J. McLeod, visit home of Mr. and Mrs. W. of White Hill, on Wednes week.

Mrs. H. C. Callahan d home here on Thursday of



Freckles Barry in Marshall Pinehurst Wednesday and Th March 8-9