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

Address all communications to
THE PILOT PRINTING COMPANY, VASS, N. C.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1925

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JIM JOHNSON IN BIG EXPERIMENT

To Make Sand Spur a Good Grazing Plant for Cattle

J. McN. Johnson, the Aberdeen lawyer, philosopher and research man, has a job on his hands that he wants some younger man to take an interest in so that it can be carried to its logical and deserved finish, and it is such a useful scheme that he has gone so far with it that it is printed in the hope that some earnest young farmer will become interested in the possibilities of it and carry it to the logical end. Mr. Johnson presents his scheme to a friend as follows:

"Let's figure a little; and since there is nobody here but us, suppose we make it chatty!

"It is now pretty well demonstrated that our Sandhill section in preeminently the Home of the Peach. The fact is it is our money crop.

"In ancient times the Bosphorus was called The Golden Horn because of the rich cargoes of Red Mullets the Phoenician fishermen caught there: In 1849 the harbor at San Francisco won the name of Golden Gate because of the fabulous output of real gold shipped from that harbor to enrich the world. But the Golden Horn has become a mere roadstead for dirty, wooden Turkish ships, and the Golden Gate, while it retains its dignity, as one of the world's principal harbors, its present importance has no relation to the precious metal that gave it its name in the mighty rush of '49.

"The question before us now is: Have we the wisdom and acumen to make our prosperity based on peaches, a permanent prosperity? 'How much money did you get for your crop of peaches?' 'How much per crate did your peaches net you?' These and similar questions all based on the money value of the crop are the queries we here discussed by every clump of men we pass on the street corners. There is great danger here.

"Let us look at the case of Old Midas: In Grecian Mythology Midas was a successful man of business. He was a money-maker. As his wealth increased his desire for gold increased in geometrical ratio. One day he made a wish that everything he touched might turn to gold; and this wish was granted by the gods. Oh, what a happy man he was! He touched a chair, and the chair was turned into gold. He touched all the articles of furniture in his room, and they all turned to gold. There he sat supremely happy in the contemplation of his untold wealth. By and by he became aware that he was hungry and thirsty, and he called for his servant to bring him food and wine. He touched the wine and it became gold. He touched the food and it became gold; so the poor man perished with hunger and thirst, the poorest man in the world.

"How is this old story applicable to our almost fabulous peach crop, and its cash profits? It is this: No country can long prosper from a

SCHOOL TAX LEVY RAISED

County Commissioners Hesitate To do the Job—But no Way Out

The Board of Commissioners of Moore County increased the tax levy for the year 1925 eight cents on each one hundred dollars valuation of taxable property. This increase was made upon the budget and request of the Board of Education of Moore County required by the school law and the levy was made solely for school purposes. The Board of Education pointed out that this increase was made necessary for the purpose of providing funds for the operation of trucks to haul children in consolidated school districts and for building school

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money crop unless that country also produces a large part of what it eats. "No people can long thrive physically who do not have good, wholesome food to eat, including good meat, preferably beef, and when the supply of beef must be imported the whole structure has become artificial and unsafe to depend upon.

"No country can raise its own beef unless it produces a good meat-producing grass. Now have we that grass? Yes, we have, but it is a grass that is detested, despised, and fought as an unmitigated pest because of one objectional feature.

"The grass referred to is the Sand Spur, a sprig of which I am mailing you today. I do not know its botanical name. This grass is not a native here, but has been brought in from the coast in crockery and other packing, and has gained quite a footing in most of our small Sandhill towns. It is an annual and grows in rich profusion in the most sterile sand banks; grows in sprangling stools, something like the crab grass, and in 10 days it grows 24 inches long, and is so sweet and luscious that a cow will hunt it out from among all other weeds and grasses; but when the seeds appear then there is trouble of a serious kind. Its seeds are imbedded as you will see, in a pericarp all covered with sharp spines, 10 times sharper and wickeder, and more tenacious than the cockle burr. These spiny seeds cling to the legs of animals and to the clothing of men with such persistence as to cause this splendid grass to be regarded a pest pure and simple.

"Well, then, what are we going to do about it? I cannot answer that question, but I can tell you what I have done, and what I am trying to do. I have sent a stalk of this grass just seeding to Luther Burbank at Santa Rosa, California, and asked him to examine it, and give me his opinion, as to the feasibility of educating the wicked spurs off the seeds, and stated to him that if this could be done it would convert an unmitigated pest into a source of untold wealth to this peach growing section.

"His reply is guarded and conservative. He tells me how it ought to be undertaken, but says that the time required will depend upon how firmly

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BOLL WEEVIL NOT SERIOUS IN MOORE

Dr. Leiby Says Hot Dry Weather Has Held Pest in Check

The hot and dry weather has certainly checked the boll weevil this summer and the damage from Moore county northward has thus far been extremely light, says Dr. Leiby of the State's insect laboratory at Aberdeen. He finds however that in Hoke, Scotland and Richmond counties the weevil has been present in numbers to justify poisoning and this is being carried out with success.

A unit of 3500 acres is being dusted with poison by airplane in Scotland and Richmond counties by the Huff-Deland Dusters corporation of Macon, Ga. This concern agrees to apply the calcium arsenate dust three times to the owners fields of cotton at such times as are designated by the entomologist for the sum of \$4.00 per acre. Subsequent applications are made if necessary for 75 cents per acre each. A field must be at least 25 acres in size before it can be included in an airplane unit. The dusting is done late in the evening or early in the morning preferably when there is little or no breeze stirring. The planes are specially designed with a hopper holding 600 pounds of poison which is sufficient to dust 125 acres. A field of 100 acres can be poisoned by the airplane in 20 minutes. The plane flies as low as five feet over the cotton.

Experiments in the dusting of peach orchards by airplane have been con-

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NON-MEMBERS ASK CHANCE TO SIGN

First Advance By Co-ops. Al- most Stops Another "Steal" of Crop

Delivery of more than a million pounds of tobacco to cooperative warehouses in the South Carolina belt during the first few days after the season's opening met a cash advance of sixty-five per cent of bankers' valuation on the 1925 crop and the result is that hundreds of non-members are appealing to the association for an opportunity to "sign-up" before they put any more of the weed on the market.

Turning of tags on several auction floors during the past week was almost epidemic. The boasted average on the auction floors during the first three days the markets were opened has dwindled three to four cents in the light of figures compiled by warehousemen and made public in the Monday papers.

It is not, however, the purpose of the association at this time to re-open the books. As is now generally known, the tenant farmer is enabled to deliver his tobacco to the association under the provisions of the landlord's contract. This procedure has been followed more during the opening days of the season than ever before in the history of the association.

Summing up the situation in the South Carolina belt a few days after the markets had opened, the Florence, (S. C.) News-Review had the following to say:

"One of the most encouraging features of the opening of the South Carolina tobacco market was the strong pace set by the cooperative marketing association. In advancing to members 65 per cent UPON THE BASIS OF PRICES EQUALLY AS HIGH AS LAST YEAR, the association threw a bomb-shell into the tobacco camp. It was hailed with delight by members of the association and received as an indication of the strength of the organization."

The significant thing about the high advance made possible this year to association members is, in the opinion of everybody, the degree of confidence which the Federal government and the great financial institutions have in the tobacco association. The sixty-five per cent advance is the highest ever made by an agency of the government in assisting to finance the marketing of a crop of tobacco.

Striking, also, is the readily perceptible increase in the amount of the advance made on all grades of tobacco since the organization of the association, a factor which indicates to students of the marketing problem that the chances of another "steal" of a tobacco crop are gradually disappearing.

"The first advance made this year," according to a statement just made at association headquarters in Raleigh "is a greater payment at the time of delivery of tobacco than the total payment OF ANY FIVE YEARS' AVERAGE on the auction floor, excluding, of course, the war years."

"The association has made progress," the statement adds. "We are beginning the 1925 season under the most favorable circumstances. We have settled for the crops of 1922 and 1923 and we have paid to our members 75 per cent of bankers' valuation on all grades received by the association and we have made settlement on 14 grades of the 1924 crop.

"This progress has been made, and this confidence of government agencies and great banking institutions has been inspired, with only one-third of the tobacco. What will the association be able to do when the deliveries are increased, as they will be, to fifty per cent?"

A WORLD'S PREMIERE SHOW IN MID-SUMMER

Will the Sandhills patronize the Carolina Theatres in the middle of the summer in sufficient numbers to

warrant the showing of the most costly productions of the new picture year? This question will be answered during the months of August and September of this year.

The new year in the picture calendar begins August first, and practically every year at this time, some of the biggest and best productions are released. This is especially true this year when the three greatest screen artists of America are offering their new productions. Douglas Fairbanks' new production, "Don Q. Son of Zoro" is now in its eighth week at the Globe Theatre, New York, and already, our Sandhill folks know that it is absolutely the best audience picture he has ever made.

Charlie Chaplin's new comedy masterpiece "The Gold Rush" opens in New York next week and already pages have been written by the critics lauding this as the greatest picture Chaplin ever made.

It remains for the Sandhills, however, to have the first showing in America of Mary Pickford's new, big comedy, "Little Annie Rooney," and here is our Mary in just the type of picture that made her "America's Sweetheart" and in which everybody wants to see her. All children between the ages of six and ninety-six are going to have a great time with "Little Annie Rooney." This production has its first New York showing sometime this fall.

Because these pictures are all big productions and because they are all so new, they are costly. In fact, they cost more than twice as much as any other picture ever shown in the Sandhills in the summer. There is not sufficient seating capacity in both Theatres to allow an even break at the regular admission prices, so a slight increase will be asked for certain seats in the Theatres. These prices will run from 40c for children to 50, 65 and 75 cents for adults.

Mr. Picquet says he thinks the folks would prefer to see one big production a week for the remainder of the summer, at a slight increase of admission, than two ordinary pictures a week at the regular prices and he is going to try it out.

If "Little Annie Rooney" gets sufficient patronage, "Don Q. Son of Zoro" will follow on August 28, 29, and Charlie Chaplin's "Gold Rush" will come on September 11th and 12th, with other big new productions in between.

"Little Annie Rooney" is here Friday and Saturday and all patrons are urged to be in their seats at 8:20 as the production is ten reels in length, which will permit of but one short preliminary subject.

Reserved seats for Southern Pines only are on sale at the Broad Street Pharmacy.

Taxes Collected for Last Month

Sheriff Fry Reports Over \$316,000 to August First

Report on the Public Taxes for the Month of July 1925

Subjects	Last Report	This Month	To Date
Ad Valorem and Polls.....	\$348,547.70		\$348,547.70
Sheriff's Discoveries & Unlisted.....	13,887.28	\$ 856.43	14,743.71
Schedule B, Nos.	858.63		858.63
TOTAL TAXES - - - -	\$363,293.61	\$ 856.43	\$364,150.04
Reliefs or Abatements.....	1,843.55	124.79	1,968.34
Collected (Down).....	312,213.01	7,691.41	319,904.42
TOTAL - - - - -	\$314,056.56	7,816.20	\$321,872.76
Balance, Receipt on Hand.....	49,237.05		42,177.28
CASH Collected (as above) -	\$312,213.01	\$7,691.41	\$319,904.42
Deposited County Treasurer -	299,750.00	7,000.00	306,750.00
Commissions Retained - -	8,901.84	200.00	9,101.84
Balance, Cash on Hand - -	\$ 3,561.17		\$ 4,052.58

I hereby certify that the above is a true account of the public taxes charged to me and returned by me, and that the return is a full and true record of all unlisted taxes collected.

R. G. FRY, Sheriff.