

THE PILOT
Published every Friday by the
PILOT PRINTING COMPANY
Vass, North Carolina

STACY BREWER, Owner

Subscription Rates:
One Year \$2.00
Six Months..... \$1.00

Address all communications to The
Pilot Printing Co., Vass, N. C.

Advertising Rates on Application

Entered at the Postoffice at Vass,
N. C., as second-class mail matter.

GROWING SEED AT HOME

Mr. McCrimmon, of the Little River Stores, is doing a work in this section that is worth the help of the farmers, who will be the people chiefly concerned, for it is an effort to raise in this neighborhood as much of the seed for farm and garden crops as possible. It is well known that for most things seed grown in the neighborhood of where it is to be planted is the best seed. It has become adapted to the peculiarities of climate and soil, and usually produces the best crops. Already certain varieties of seeds have become a successful crop, particularly the cotton and corn seed raised in the vicinity of Eureka, and Abruzzi seed rye is pretty well established as a seed product on some of the farms.

One of the advantages in making seed here for home use is that it is under the eye of the planter. It is an unfortunate fact that frequently seed brought from a distance turns out to be inferior or of different variety. It is impossible for the dealer to know what he is selling, as he must depend on the seedsman he buys from. The seedsman buys much of his seed from growers and knows little of the quality he buys. So it is often the case that the local dealer here in the Sandhills as elsewhere, sells his customers unsatisfactory seeds.

Now if the farmers and gardeners here will join with this movement to grow seeds of a good type, and more than they need for their own use, Mr. McCrimmon will undertake to sell that surplus seed, and he will serve two or three useful purposes. He will make a market for another profitable farm crop. He will provide the community with dependable seeds, for every farmer can see at any time the kind of seeds the growers are making. Then there will be awakened an interest in the varieties of plants that the seeds will be made from and for, and a community of effort will bring about better farming, for better seeds are the basis of better farming. Mr. McCrimmon is trying to broaden the market for the things the farmers raise. If he can add several thousand dollars' worth of farm and garden seeds to the products of the neighborhood farms he will increase the income of the farmers to that extent, which is a desirable achievement. It is worth while for the farmers to talk over this scheme with him, and see what can be brought out of it.

THE INDIFFERENCE TO SUNDAY

The Pilot prints a lengthy article this week regarding the attitude toward the sabbath as a religious date, and the only excuse for giving so much space to the subject is that it is so extremely pertinent. The writer mentions evolution in his argument, and while he merely mentions it he might have gone on further and said that the thing that confronts the church is not evolution, but the absolute indifference that is growing up regarding even a semblance of sabbath observance. A few years ago the sentiment in America was that this country was in danger of the introduction of the European sabbath. Today few fear the European sabbath, for the American automobile sabbath has made the European sabbath look like a trival innovation. The sabbath of the past generation in this country has gone so far out of the habits and customs of the

people of this generation that it is only a memory.

What is to come out of this? The Pilot does not assume to know. What has come is apparent to every observing thinker. The sabbath day as recognized forty years ago is as completely wiped out of existence as the other habits of life that have given way to modern innovations. The commandment that says to remember the sabbath day and keep it holy and in it do no work, is as completely shot to pieces as it can possibly be, and it has few to even defend it in its literalness. Sunday has become not a day of rest and of holiness, but of recreation and diversion in which the religious phase enters in but the smallest degree. Sunday is a day of danger on the highways, a day of bloodshed, of forgetfulness of all serious things. And the attitude that is presented toward Sunday as a day of sabbath observance is the same attitude that is growing up toward any restraint and any law. The spirit that has thrown off the Sunday restrictions is throwing off all legal and moral and social restraint. Popular sentiment has come to stand with this modern method of employing Sunday. A few stand out against the modern innovations of sabbath observance, but they have little effect. The great mass is on the other side and Sunday instead of being a sabbath and the Lord's day is the recurring date of Vanity Fair, the day of complete abandon, the day in which the whole country gives itself over to more of irresponsible twenty-four hours existence than on another day of the week. That is what we are doing with Sunday. Instead of a day of rest Sunday is a day the experienced traveler likes to stay off the roads, for it is a day of terror and disaster.

THE UNUSUAL HOT WEATHER

At Southern Pines on Friday the government thermometer registered 106, which is the highest record ever made in this section so far as The Pilot has been able to find out. This is getting up toward California and Montana and Idaho weather, although not quite up to the extremes that are felt at times in those states. In spite of this high record every one of the most northern states of the Union from Minnesota westward has exceeded this figure, and California has gone above it by ten or twelve degrees.

It is not the extreme of heat that is disagreeable in the Sandhills, but the scarcity of rainfall that has been common in the last four or five years. In a dry open climate like this the heat is not as effective as a lower temperature in the more humid areas. But the shortage of rainfall has been disastrous. This year so far the shortage of rainfall has been in the neighborhood of twelve to fifteen inches, and in some parts of the state even more. In the last four or five years the total shortage of rain has reached three feet or more, and the result is that the ground has dried to a new, low level below the surface. Where ten or fifteen years ago digging post holes would find the ground wet within a few inches of the top it is possible now to dig down in many places two or three feet and find everything as dry as dust. That is what is doing the damage to growing things, and especially to the forests, which in many places are dying.

The situation is more serious than is commonly suspected, for unless water enough to saturate the ground comes before a great while it is likely that many trees will be killed and that the forests will suffer severely. In these days of declining forests it is not pleasing to see the drouth kill the trees in large numbers. It is not to be supposed that these succeeding years of short rain fall indicate anything, for we will encounter later on a probable excess of rainfall to bring the average up to the normal. But the thing that is most threatening is the lowering of the water level in the ground

and the effect it may have on the crops from year to year and especially on the forests. The loss of the forests makes the ground still drier and increases the danger in this respect. A lot of rain is needed when it begins to come, and for a long period, for the ground is probably drier than at any period in the memory of the oldest living man.

THE PINEHURST BUILDING MOVEMENT

The start on a new group of buildings at the vicinity of the new station is rather indicative of the way Pinehurst is moving forward. The first building to be undertaken is the initial structure of the new warehouses. This is to be occupied in sixty days. It will be followed next year by another of the same ground plan dimensions, but of two stories. With these will be a new freight station and a new passenger station. All these buildings will be on ground that has just been cut out of the trees. With them is a new location for the railroad, and two new locations for the highways, making a shift for practically all the chief main through roads of the village, coupled with hard surface on these through roads. In addition to the hard surface on the highways the village is putting hard cover on some of the village roads.

All summer long building has been progressing in Pinehurst, with the addition of two enlarged and rebuilt hotels, a fine new business block of the first dimension, a number of new houses that will entail a cost of several thousands each, and now comes this important building plan that will in a group of big buildings bring an entire new portion of the town into action at once and change the whole quarter of the neighborhood on the west side of the railroad.

Pinehurst adds annually several hundred thousands to its building schemes. But it never adds enough to reach a point where building seems to slack up any. The construction of an establishment like the warehouses is made necessary by the broad expansion of the business of the warehouses. Much more floor room had become imperative. The growth from 5,000 square feet at present in use to the 10,000 feet that the new buildings will provide is about the best indication of how Pinehurst as a commercial center is appealing to the trade. Moreover the railroad work is a sure sign that the passenger traffic is compelling better rail facilities to handle more railroad business, and that the time has come when the future makes a call that has to be heard.

Coming on the heels of the summer's building this added bunch of projects for fall tells the whole Sandhill area what the prospects are that this section faces. Pinehurst is not by itself in its expansion. The whole of Central North Carolina is moving on. Pinehurst is conspicuous because we see here the things being done in our own neighborhood.

SANDHILLS GIRL IN NEW YORK STATE

From a town in the extreme northern part of New York state a Tarheel girl writes back to Moore county, asking for some of our long leaf pines to be used in an exhibit in the Lowville county fair. A few of the young trees, several branches of the boughs cut from bigger trees and some of the big cones were sent. They arrived for the fair and brought considerable comment. The exhibitor told every one they came from Southern Pines and as a booth was made up at three different fairs, the specimens are to be shown for three weeks more, and if a sprig of it is left it is to be handed over to Laura Ray, the North Carolinian of the story, "to be put in a vase on my book case in the office, so I can see North Carolina every time I lift my eyes from the labors of this desk," she stipulated.

North Carolina is getting recognition from many and varied sources, but it is probably the first time her pine trees have been in the limelight, arousing interest at such a distance, and letting folks know where the fa-

mous Sandhills are. In making pine trees, North Carolina does a good and interesting job of it, and they cause some admiration even in so remote a place from their native heath. The case is the same with the tarheel girl. She has won for herself some distinction in being quite alright as another North Carolina product. In fact she has assayed something like ivory soap, 99 per cent, a top notch near enough for anybody. And this was proved when she has been repeatedly discouraged in handing in a resignation where she is.

SANDHILL BROTHERHOOD OF PINEHURST

"Watch 'em grow." That seems to be the password over in Pinehurst these days, as men discuss the Sandhill Brotherhood. There are now over eighty men on the roll and each Sunday finds new members coming in. It is most inspiring to walk along the streets of the little village and hear old and young talking about the great interest and enthusiasm of the men

as they grow into a strong group of community builders. In the recent membership contest, the Blues were victorious and the Reds entertained them royally at a fish fry Saturday night. Messrs. John Fitzgerald, Henry Frye, and Ang Maples prepared for the crowd of seventy or eighty men and to them goes the credit for such a successful time. Singing, speeches, and jokes were thoroughly enjoyed.

The month of September finds an attendance contest in full bloom, and from the looks of things Sunday, it is to be quite a success, as the record was broken the first day. The Brotherhood is preparing to begin real outside activities, and the good they will accomplish may startle the whole community, for those men mean business. The Sunday School has outgrown the community house it seems, and the Brotherhood is likely to sponsor the construction of an edifice which will meet the needs of the village for years to come. Everybody is looking up and enthusiasm is at a high pitch. X. X.

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