

THE PILOT
STACY BREWER, Owner

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**SELLING LAND
FOR TAXES.**

A few days ago in Raleigh a large amount of land was sold for delinquent taxes, and the general attitude seemed to be that the law was not only to be regarded with disregard, but the bidding for the land was almost wholly by the county which bought in \$5,000,000 worth. This situation is probably more serious than most folks suspect, for if it indicates an inability of people to pay their taxes it is serious enough, but if it says that many people are beginning to look lightly on paying their legitimate share of taxes it presages a condition that this State may have to face when conditions are much more grave.

Probably thoughtlessness is at the bottom of most of the trouble, for it is believable that the people generally are inclined to tote fair enough to take their legitimate share of the public burden. But the fashion has grown to kick at taxes until we are gradually making ourselves believe that tax is a thing to avoid, and not only to avoid, but to ridicule.

It may be that landowners are not able to pay their taxes for last year, but it is doubtful if so many as are noted in Wake county are really in such straits. If they are it is time to make some radical change not only in our system of collecting taxes but likewise in our system of levying taxes and of appraising property, and also in our system of spending our money for some of the things we buy that are not as essential as that which our taxes bring us. It is not worth while to say that North Carolina cannot pay its taxes. We pay many times as much for other things as we pay in taxes, and if it comes to a matter between taxes and some of the fripperies, which in the total cost us millions annually, it might be wise to begin the economies at the frivolous expenditures. But probably we have nursed the notion about our taxes until we have magnified the burden far above what it really is and that we should take a new look at the real conditions.

But there is no doubting that something needs to be done, and done in seriousness.

**THE ISSUE
IS DEFINED.**

The Pilot had not expected to have much to say on politics this year, but it seems that this is to be a somewhat talkative campaign, and the gravity of the situation is the excuse for reverting to the subject. With the announcement of Smith that Raskob is to be the manager of the national Democratic organization which has set out to ratify Tammy's rape of the Democratic party, Raskob clears the decks by his clear statement that he believes in all that he has previously said about trying to bring about the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and the freedom of liquor in those places where the people may want it, which is as plainly as he can say that he wants to wipe out the entire work that has been done in restricting the sale of intoxicants. He thus throws the country into one of the most aggressive struggles that has taken place since the Civil War, and there is no longer any effort to conceal the definite purpose that actuates the whole Smith movement.

Elsewhere The Pilot prints an editorial from the News and Observer of Sunday which shows

pretty clearly where a large and influential portion of the North Carolina Democrats will stand. Solid for the State and local ticket but highly unsatisfied as to the National ticket with nullification as its campaign cry, and Tammy as its managing director, and contempt for the entire South as its attitude toward that section of the union on which the Democratic party has depended for sixty years for whatever of national success it has gained, and practically always in spite of Tammy which has been the bitter and persistent enemy of about every Democratic ticket that has been offered in the nation.

The Democratic party owes Smith nothing. It owes Tammy nothing. The slaughter of Davis four years ago in New York can tell Democrats every place what kind of a deal they can have from this bunch. Four years ago the county of New York gave Smith 202,000 majority, but it gave Davis 7,000 less than Coolidge. Queens, another of the counties that includes New York City, gave Smith 43,000 majority, and Davis 43,000 less than Coolidge. Kings, another of the counties in which the city is, gave Smith a majority of 150,000, and 80,000 behind Coolidge. The counties in which New York City is gave Smith a majority of about 400,000, but it slaughtered Davis by a vote of 127,000 less than was given Coolidge. Tammany and Smith allowed their national candidate to be murdered by more than half a million votes less than they gave their candidate for governor. That's the way New York politics serves the man who is presented by the Democratic party of the nation. And now that same New York organization ask the Democrats of the South to stand by that kind of treatment when the proposition is to crucify the South and to ridicule it into submission to all that the South detests and defies.

Mr. Daniels dresses down pretty fairly the New York World in its attempt to ride on the neck of this State, and probably it will have its effect.

**BILL PAYABLE
NONE.**

A few days ago the Page Trust Company was called on for its periodical statement of the condition of its finances. It makes a good statement, but the feature that stands out in interesting fashion is that the item "bills payable," is followed by the word "none." Bills payable is sometimes a good thing for a bank to have, but there are times when that item is equally a good one to be free from. Often the Page Trust Company and other banks of this community, when demand for loans exceeds the cash available to loan, secure money from other sources than their own dependencies. But the bank that has too large a line of bills payable is often in danger of becoming merely an endorser for its customers, and in that respect it lends its credit and its name where it needs to be careful of its steps.

A bank is frequently a misjudged institution. Too many folks are of the opinion that when they want money a bank should procure it for them, and are irritated when it will not. But many bank loans are loans that never should be made. In many cases credit is far too easy to be good for either the borrowing customer or the bank, for it is no benefit to any man to lend to him money that he does not have a business use for, or that he is going to have difficulty in paying back when due, and certainly it is not good for a bank to make loans of that type.

Moore County has a group of banks that have excellent standing where they are known. They are helpful as far as judicious banking permits, and on known occasions have gone out into the big world to dig up money when it has been desirable to have more money than local sources afforded. Yet they are also dis-

creet in caring for the deposits of their customers, and they are pretty sure to know that loans are wise to grant to the borrowers and also that the borrower will be in shape to return the money when it is due or may be called for. And this is one essential feature, for in the final showdown it is the depositor's money the bank loans, and not its own.

**THE BASIS OF
OUR FUTURE.**

A sage who watches the game of golf North and South and who is an analytic chemist on things of this sort one day told The Pilot that most men of affairs spend from one-fourth to one-twenty-fourth of their waking hours playing golf. This sounds like a big proportion of their time, but the man is such a devotee of precision in his facts that his statement has to be accepted until someone equally precise and persistent in digging up positive evidence shows something to the contrary. His statement runs about as follows: When his examples are in the North they play golf during their seven months up there one or two rounds on Sunday and one or two rounds during the week days, and through their summer vacation they raise that to 14 to 28 rounds during the vacation period. Most of them take at least two weeks in winter for golf when they play from 14 to 28 rounds. This makes a minimum of 60 rounds, which with the time to get to the club, practice a few putts, a few drives, play 18 holes and get home means about 240 hours a year or one-twenty-fourth of a man's waking time. Some play much more.

The correctness of the figures is accepted. The conclusion is that the chief industry of the Sandhills, playing golf, is one that is facing a continuing and persistent increase, and this is further buttressed by the disclosure that the one thing that is increasing its sales faster than possibly anything else offered in Central North Carolina is golf balls. The number sold in the past winter increased in such proportion over previous years that golf balls are becoming a staple article of merchandise like flour and ice cream cones.

The reason for all this is that the fame of the Sandhills golf belt is spreading faster with each recurring season, and at the present time the North is talking about Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Pine Needles and other places in the community in a vastly greater degree than ever

before. Big men are getting enthusiastic. All the new houses in the different villages is not the result of local booming, but of the cold fact that the Northern vacationists have found here in the neighborhood a lot of conditions that those of us who live

in the territory have not fully visualized, and the development pressure is emphatically from the outside. There is no shadow of doubt that the coming winter will eclipse anything ever seen here, and that from then on the tide will run swift.



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in its marvelous handling ease**

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Pinehurst Lumber Yards

Pinehurst, N. C.

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Mrs. Jewell
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Miss Kate Har
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of Aberdeen.

Mr. and Mrs.
Margaret Thow
and I. S. Thoma
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