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VASS, N. C.

Bill In Legislature For Reduction In Local Taxes

U. L. Spence Offers Measure to Fix Salaries of
County Officers and for Bridge Repairs
on County Roads.

ADDITIONAL TAX ON GAS WILL HELP

The Pilot has the following document from Hon. U. L. Spence, representative in the Legislature:

I am enclosing you copy of bill I am introducing, which fixes the salaries of the Sheriff, Recorder and Solicitor of the Recorder's Court of Moore County. Under the existing law, these salaries are required to be fixed by the board of County Commissioners, and it is the wish of this board that these salaries be definitely determined by law and this seems to be the opinion of everybody. These are elective offices and it seems but fair that it be known in advance by persons seeking these offices and by the people just what the salaries will be.

The salaries of County Recorder and Solicitor are named in this bill at the amounts now being paid and these amounts seem to be reasonable and generally satisfactory.

I have found more difficulty in determining what ought to be paid to the Sheriff and his deputies. The commissioners have heretofore allowed a salary of \$3,000 to the Sheriff in addition to fees for service of process and \$1,500 to the first deputy, but there have been varying amounts or expenses for automobiles, gasoline and perhaps a final elimination of these expenses. There has been likewise the question of allowance for one office assistant. By adding \$500.00 to the salary of \$3,000 to the Sheriff, making his salary a total of \$3,500 and making provision that this shall include expenses of every nature, it occurs to me that this situation is met fairly to the Sheriff's office and to the people.

Rural Policemen have heretofore been employed by the county. They have performed their duties, as this act provided, independent of the Sheriff's office. Necessarily law enforcement can be better secured by operation under one directing head, and this work has been transferred by this bill to the Sheriff's office and can be done by deputies appointed by the Sheriff, acting under his control, but no deputy can be appointed with pay from the County unless it is approved by the County Commissioners and the salary of the additional deputy can in no case exceed \$100 per month, and this can be stopped at anytime in the discretion of the Commissioners.

It does not seem to be generally known that there has been a substantial saving to the County by reason of the act requiring the appointment of a tax collector. The audit of the County's finances shows that if the Sheriff had collected the taxes of 1927, he would have received as commissions for this service under the general law \$11,638.85. The salaries of the Sheriff and tax collector were paid for that year with a saving in this amount of over \$2,000.00 to the County as shown by the audit.

The salary fixed for the Sheriff and his deputy under the bill introduced by me will enable the County to continue this saving.

The question of replacement of bridges washed out by the floods is one that must be solved. The people cannot do without these bridges, or some of them, and they cost money.

Taxes are already too high, but the situation, nevertheless, must be met. If a man's house burns down or washes away he must have another in some way, and such a situation confronts the County as to bridges. To pay for these bridges in one year by taxation would impose too heavy a burden on the people. There has been a demand for the issue of bridge bonds in the sum of \$100,000.00 for this purpose, but after going over the situation carefully, I came to the conclusion that the County can go very far toward these replacements with \$50,000, and I have introduced a bill for the issue of bridge bonds in this amount, but I have provided in the bill that to the extent that it is necessary to levy taxes to repay this in-

debtedness, the levy of road taxes for maintenance shall be correspondingly reduced so that the taxes levied for roads in the future cannot be increased.

It so happens that if the general road bill already passed by the house is enacted into law, as it will be by the senate, Moore County will receive from the additional tax on gasoline each year over \$30,000, which sum will be applied to county roads to be gradually taken over by the State or to the payment of road bonds of the County as may be determined by the County authorities, and the taxes in the County on land and personal property must be reduced correspondingly. It will result, therefore, that even with this issue of these bridge bonds, our taxes will be

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MOORE COUNTY RATE FOR TAX COLLECTING LOW

Ranks Eighth of 100 Counties in
State With \$1.12 Per
Hundred

McLEAN JUSTIFIES JOB

Last week The Pilot printed an article on the delinquent taxes of the counties of the state, showing that Moore ranked among the leaders in collecting the taxes assessed. The information came from the University News Letter, which in turn depends on the State Auditor's office for its figures. The matter excited some comment, one letter suggesting that the costs of collection in Moore are too high. Fortunately on this subject another clip sheet comes from the University, which shows that Moore county has a strikingly low rate for collection of taxes.

In the 100 counties Moore ranks eighth in the smallness of its percentage of costs. The cost in Moore county was 1.12 per cent of the levy, or \$1.12 on the hundred dollars collected. Lee county paid 1.45 to have its taxes collected, Randolph 2.55, Harnett 3.09, Scotland 3.62, Cumberland 3.89, Wake 4.03, Montgomery, our neighbor to the west, 6.17, and Jones, down in the eastern part of the state, runs up to 9.61, almost nine times as much as Moore.

The fact about Moore county is that the really direct cost of collecting the taxes for the year referred to was only 1.03 per cent, but added to this cost is .09 per cent which is charged to the costs because of the fact that it was interest paid on money borrowed to pay county bills before the tax money came in, and as the delay in getting the taxes in cost the county that nine cents on the hundred dollars it was charged to costs of collection. Twelve of the counties did not resort to this method of anticipating their tax collections, but some borrowed so much money while waiting for their taxes to come in that the interest charges were enormous. Jones topped the list with 6.55 per cent, or \$6.55 on the hundred dollars.

Office is Justified

The News Letter has a lengthy article on the costs of collecting the taxes but as the portion referring to Moore county is covered by the one statement that the percentage of cost was 1.12 it is hardly necessary to go further into the matter, as Moore represents one of the cleanest sheets in all of the hundred counties of the state. Much discussion of the creation of the office of county tax collector has been heard since that step was taken a few years ago, but it appears that the results justify the office. Mr. McLean has proceeded with his work from year to year, meeting the difficulties that he has encountered, but in the showdown he has secured a low rate of collection that

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CIVIC BODIES TO ASK PLAYGROUND BEAUTIFICATION

Joint Committee of Chamber of
Commerce and Civic Club
to Wait on Board

A proposition to beautify the public playground in Southern Pines, making the plaza more of a landscaped park, with restful benches among the trees and shrubs, was presented to the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce by a committee of the Civics Club of that town at the weekly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce directors Tuesday noon at Jack's Grill. The committee of the Civics Club appearing before the Chamber directors comprised Mrs. Charles R. Whitaker, Mrs. Emerson Hayes and Mrs. Charles Durgin.

Mrs. Whitaker pointed out that in other places of the type of Southern Pines, especially in Florida, the parks are the center of a town's activities, the meeting place, and the place where older people especially may drop down on a bench with a book and read while getting the benefit of the sun. The present "Central Park" of Southern Pines is now solely a playground for children, and not a park at all, it was stated. But with a little effort and a real plan, this playground can be made a great asset to the town, and a great attraction to visitors. Mrs. Hayes spoke of the early efforts of the Civics Club to beautify Southern Pines, work now mostly done under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, and of the willingness of the Civics Club to aid in the present project.

Visitors Need Park.

Mrs. Durgin referred to the need of such a park for the many visitors to Southern Pines hotels and boarding houses who have now no place to sit in the sun and enjoy the climate, many

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Claims Freight Rate Hurts Sand Company

Henry Page of Aberdeen Argues
Mileage Case Before Com-
mission at Raleigh

Claiming that the 3.3 miles of the Randleman loop on the High Point, Randleman, Asheboro and Southern Railroad is causing his company to lose large contracts, Henry A. Page of the Aberdeen Sand Company appeared before the Corporation Commission in Raleigh Tuesday to protest. Mr. Page maintains that this loop should not be included in mileage for which freight over the railroad's route is charged, inasmuch as the tracks circle the town and rejoin the main line.

This loop, Mr. Page claims, sometimes makes as much as 10 cents per ton difference in the freight rate on sand from the Aberdeen Sand Company, and that this differential had caused his company recently to lose a contract at Elon College. There was a spirited argument between the Aberdeen attorney and Charles Clark, Atlanta attorney representing the railroad, at the Raleigh hearing, the latter maintaining that the Randleman loop is not a spur track but a portion of the main line. The commission has not made public its decision.

Herbert Vail House at Knollwood Leased

Last of Available Residences
Spoken for Almost Before
Completion

On Tuesday Mason & Gardner leased to Mrs. Mary Nichols, of Rye, N. Y., the Vail cottage at Knollwood. The Vails had intended to occupy the new house themselves, but Mason & Gardner asked for it for Mrs. Nichols, and Mr. Vail consented. This is the last house on Knollwood Heights that is finished, and it is promptly taken, as all others have been as soon as ready to occupy. Either owners, buyers or lessees have taken the new buildings as soon as ready. The Donald Ross house is still to finish, and the Olmstead house on Fairway 18 is pushing along. Everything else is in the hands of occupants.

FAMOUS RADIO ARTISTS COMING TO AID HOSPITAL

Benefit Concert for New Moore
County Institution Arranged
for March 7th

AT PINEHURST THEATRE

According to an announcement made jointly Monday by the committee in charge of the campaign for raising funds for the new Moore County Hospital in Pinehurst and by Charles Picquet, manager of the Carolina Theatre, residents and visitors here are to have the rare privilege of hearing four famous stars of the National Broadcasting Company, appearing in person, on the evening of March 7th. The occasion will be a concert to be given for the benefit of the hospital, now in process of construction on the Carthage road just outside of the village.

The nationally known artists, all of whose names are familiar to radio listeners, are: Genia Zielinska, soprano; Giuseppe Di Benedetto, tenor; Acadie Birkenholz, violinist and Lolita Cabrera Gainsborg, pianist. The concert will be held in the Carolina Theatre, at Pinehurst at 8:30 o'clock at a considerable advance over prices which patrons are used to paying into the box office of this popular playhouse but considerably less than prices paid elsewhere for grand opera talent. All proceeds over and above actual expenses involved in bringing the artists here go into the general fund for the new hospital. The theatre is being donated for the occasion, and the Steinyway Company is sending here a special concert grand piano for the event.

Seats go on sale February 22nd at the Carolina Hotel and the Carolina Pharmacy, Pinehurst, and the Broad Street Pharmacy, Southern Pines.

The Finance Committee of the Moore County Hospital Association comprises Simeon B. Caapin, chairman; John D. Chapman, and Paul Dana, Pinehurst; Jackson H. Boyd, Struthers Burt, Paul T. Barnum and S. B. Richardson, Southern Pines, and Wilbur H. Currie, Carthage.

The forthcoming event, besides being the artistic event of the season in Pinehurst, affords an opportunity

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Aberdeen Club to Plan for Campaign

Directors to Meet Monday Night
to Discuss Proposed Ex-
pansion Program

The Aberdeen Commercial and Agricultural Club directors will meet at the call of President Murdoch Johnson in Aberdeen next Monday night to further discuss plans for making the organization of greater benefit to the town. There has been much informal discussion during the past week over proposed expansion commercially and agriculturally in Aberdeen, as recited in last week's Pilot, and plans along these lines are to be discussed when the directors gather Monday evening.

There is also to be some talk of planting and beautification, and a discussion of what the club can best do to aid in increasing the scope of the Aberdeen tobacco market, it is said. From the talk The Pilot has heard, there is no doubt of the impetus behind the aggressive campaign the club is launching to make Aberdeen the commercial center of the Sandhills, and one director predicted yesterday that in a very short time new industries, probably of a textile nature, will be brought there, that Aberdeen has everything to offer which northern manufacturers are looking for in the south, and more than most towns have to offer in convenience of location, climate, accessibility, home life and proximity to America's winter playgrounds.

That the next few years will see marked changes and great progress in Aberdeen seems to be the consensus of opinion not only among members of the Commercial and Agricultural club, but among the citizens in general, and the program of expansion is to be mapped out at regular meetings of the club directors from now on.

Record Field Hunts Fox As Horse Colony Grows

Sandhills Attracting Large Numbers for Riding,
Forty-Nine Following Hounds
Last Monday

MANY ESTABLISH HOMES, STABLES

SPECIAL KNOLLWOOD SECTION WITH THIS EDITION OF THE PILOT

The Pilot takes pleasure in publishing this week a special supplement devoted to the development of Knollwood Heights which appears as the last four pages of this edition. This section is profusely illustrated showing the new Pine Needles Inn, the Mid Pines Club, scenes on the golf courses and the many homes that have been built in the last year. Five thousand copies of this supplement are being printed for distribution to those interested in the growth of Knollwood.

SOUND MOVIES FOR THEATRE IN ABERDEEN

Mr. Rosser Announces Installa-
tion of "Movietone Next
Week

R. B. Rosser, owner and manager of the Dixie Theatre in Aberdeen, announces the installation next week of talking picture equipment in the theatre, the first to be installed in any theatre in the Sandhill Section. The machine, a Movietone, is in transit to Aberdeen and will be installed immediately on its arrival. The first showing of a sound picture will be on Thursday night of next week, February 21.

Mr. Rosser has been negotiating for the purchase of this equipment for several weeks and has had the plan in consideration for three or four months. "Movietone" is a trade name, similar to the names of several other sound-picture machines, and Mr. Rosser chose this machine after having seen and heard several others.

"It represents," said Mr. Rosser, "a considerable outlay of money but I feel justified with the expenditure since it is virtually certain that the people of the Sandhills will appreciate having sound picture equipment here. Only recently has it been possible for the small theatre to secure a satisfactory sound picture machine but the Dixie will now have one of the finest machines made and I feel sure that the public will thoroughly approve."

A complete talking program, with the exception of the news reels and fables, will be featured Thursday, the opening night of the Movietone. The feature picture, "Alias Jimmy Valentine," with William Haines in the role of Jimmy is vastly entertaining. It is taken from the O. Henry story of the same name and it does credit to both its author and its producers. Jimmy Valentine, an amusing young man with a propensity for opening other peoples safes by a delicate sense of touch, goes to a small middle western town with two of his pals for the purpose of cleaning out the local bank. But the atmosphere of the town, the friendly banker and his pretty daughter caused a hitch in his plans. A metropolitan detective adds interest and suspense to the picture and a "dumb Swede" and a confirmed crook, in church for the first time, furnish much that is really amusing. Even the most critical theatre-goer will find the picture well worth seeing (and hearing) and the last reel furnishes a remarkably thrilling climax.

The last three reels of the picture are in dialogue, adding immensely to its entertainment value. As an additional sound attraction the management has secured an act made up of eight Victor recording artists among them Billy Murray and Henry Burr, and entitled "Rube Minstrels." The scene is a country theatre and the entertainment of dialogue and song is a riot of good humor.

There were forty-nine in the field following the Moore County Hounds on last Monday's fox hunt, the record number for this season and the greatest number for this time of year since James and Jackson Boyd started their pack in Southern Pines. The height of the season comes around Washington's birthday, when the fields have numbered more than fifty riders, and with nearly fifty out already, there is no doubt that another week or two will see the all-time records for followers of the local hunt broken.

That Southern Pines is rapidly becoming one of the leading horse centers of the country in winter is already acknowledged wherever horse people gather. Those who come here for the first time to ride recognize the reason for its growing popularity. It is, they say, an ideal country for hacking and hunting, with its sandy trails through the long leaf pines, its varied scenery its accessibility for those who can spend but a short time here, and its climate. There is seldom a day when the horse lover can not comfortably take his horse out, and rarely a scheduled hunt day when hounds cannot safely follow the drag or pursue the fox.

Famous Horseman Here

This is meaning much to Southern Pines and the whole section. Each year sees some horseman or horsewoman deciding on this vicinity as a place to establish a winter or all-year round home. One of the leading horsemen in America, James S. Wadsworth, of Geneseo, N. Y., master of the famous Geneseo Valley Hunt, came here a year ago for the first time, intending to remain but a few days. He stayed the balance of last winter, purchased land along the Bethesda road near the Lemons place, and is breaking ground for stables for some of his famous hunters and race horses within a very short time. The hunting attracted Miss Harriet Ogden here. She is a regular member of the field with the Boyd hounds. Last year Miss Ogden and her mother decided to establish a home here and purchased the attractive cottage they now occupy on the Midland road.

The land purchased a few winters ago by B. A. Tompkins, Frederick W. Ecker and Mrs. Landon K. Thorne, of New York, some 140 acres covering the Hamlin, Maples and Yeomans farms, was the direct result of the hunting colony and the riding hereabouts. This land has now been developed and is being further developed as a center for the visiting horse people, a place where they may school their horses over a variety of fences and over big, open fields. Mr. Tompkins has just completed a private stable for sixteen horses, where he and his winter guests have their hunters stabled this season. These mounts a year ago were stalled with W. A. Laing at the Halcyon Hall stables, but despite their transfer to their own home on the old Hamlin farm, Mr. Laing still has more horses this winter than he can care for in his two stables and has some quartered downtown. There are more horses today in Southern Pines than there have ever been since the development of riding here started. The growth has been consistent each year, and there is no reason to believe that it will slow up. Private owners are already seeking stalls for their horses for next winter, and one local resident has been commissioned to build a new stable for one group which comes here for the hunting every season.

New Stables Built

Thomas A. Kelly has just completed the remodeling of a section of his garage into stables for four horses, and has four hunters, the property of Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter of New York, already quartered there. The Hostetters are new comers to Southern Pines, leasing the Magnolia cottage, adjoining Mr. Kelley's residence, for the remainder of the season.

Among other developments in the local horse world is the completion during the week of the new brick stables for Augustine Healy, at his Firleigh Farm. Mr. Healy has a modern, fireproof stable for five hunters.