

# THE PILOT

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## A PROMISING POLITICAL ASPIRANT

Many persons who know Colin Spencer of Carthage, would be pleased were the prospects favorable for him to be elected to Congress, for which he has announced himself as a candidate on the Republican ticket. If Mr. Spencer had the wide acquaintance over the district that he has in Moore county he would give Mr. Hammer a very interesting race this fall, for the Moore county man is of good material, of sound judgment and business ability, and with good standing in his own community, one of the best credentials a man can possess. But he is facing such odds that a giant would be necessary to overcome them, and he is contending with a Democratic aspirant who has had much experience in Congress, and who has likewise many friends and staunch followers. Though Mr. Spencer may not make the record in this contest that a man of his character deserves, it will be none to his discredit. He will suffer nothing in the esteem of his people, for they will continue to have the same high appreciation of his valuable traits that have made him prominent enough in his county to be offered for such a task as making the Congressional race.

## PLANTING THE PINE TREE

From time to time comes talk of paper mills in the South, a theme that has been up for a number of years and one that is making considerable progress. It will be given much more attention in the days to come, for in the South is a great asset in the swiftness of the growth of trees. With the longer season a tree in the Southern Coastal plain makes much greater addition to its size than in any of the country from which paper material is taken in any quantity at the present time. A crop of wood will yield a merchantable supply in Moore county every ten or a dozen years, while in much of the North that same quantity of wood will not be available in three times the period. So it is apparent that ultimately a large wood resource for pulp and viscose mills is to be found in North Carolina's low grounds and sandhills.

Moore county is one of the fortunate pine producing counties. It has been said that the Deep river valley makes wood on the pine tree at a more rapid gait than in almost any other place of similar latitude. Throughout the whole of Moore county, and for that matter in the immediately adjoining counties, pine reproduces rapidly. An attempt to determine the growth added to pine trees was made during the week with the result that some stumps two feet in diameter showed in their ring count an age of from twenty-five to thirty years, and in one exceptional tree a ring growth of over an inch on a side was found, or an addition of two inches in the diameter of the tree with one season's contribution. Such a growth as this is exceptional, and in fact this is the only one recalled in the examination of a great many stumps and logs. But it shows the wonderful faculty of Sandhills timber to reproduce.

Pine is not the only tree that grows rapidly in this latitude, but it is the chief tree, and it is one that deserves to be encouraged, because along with its virtues of producing lumber or pulp wood it is a magnificent tree to add to the attractive appearance of the region. A piney woods is always sought out by

the people in search of the picturesque. And when the picturesque adds to its charm of the picture that power to create wealth in quantities it is doubly valuable. Every unused acre in the Sandhills should be encouraged to grow pine trees in its greatest volume. Long leaf, short leaf, any kind, for all will make lumber and pulp wood, besides being a thing of unmatched adornment for the community.

## THE CONVENTIONS AT PINEHURST

It has become common enough to appraise the Sandhills of North Carolina as a place to play and make use of winter vacations and to find a desirable winter home. So golf has made its winter headquarters in this section, and tennis joins the southward movement, and horses and dogs, and the hunt clubs anchor their fortunes to the sandy black jack knobs and the marshy edges of the stream heads, and we rejoice over the increasing number of visitors who are lured to the community by these varied agencies. But another that is becoming pronounced in its effects is the multiplying number of big conventions that are now turning to Pinehurst for their annual or other meetings.

For nearly a month this spring conventions of magnitude have been almost continuous or will be by the time the last one closes along toward the approach of the last third of the month. Those in attendance come from over the state, from over the nation, and each separate group brings together in Pinehurst from one to several hundred congenial persons, affiliated by ties of business or other influences that tend to enthrone the mass with each other and with their surroundings. They attend to their tasks in connection with their gatherings, and they find time to play golf and the other games in progress during their stay. They observe the weather conditions, the peculiar scenery of the Sandhills, the configuration of the knobs and valleys, the roads, the fine homes, the interesting villages, and they go away with agreeable remembrances of their stay in this part of the country.

By and by they will be back, and meanwhile they will all tell the folks at home of the agreeable outing surroundings they found, and the fame of the sandy barrens, well provided with all that goes to make a stay in this neighborhood pleasant for a longer or shorter time. The conventions bring a lot of folks that are of a good type, and from whose ranks it is desirable to recruit new settlers and neighbors. Delegates to a convention are as a rule selected folks from their communities, and when a big bunch of them sweeps in at once it is a welcomed and valued arrival. The convention movement is gathering strength, and its momentum is shown just at the right time, in the fall before the usual season has entered on its busy period, and in the spring as many of the winter visitors are gone. These meetings extend the season materially each year and at each end.

## AN IMPOSITION ON THE TAXPAYERS

From Aberdeen to Raleigh, as from point to point elsewhere in the state, are two lines of travel. One is the railroad, the other the highway for smaller vehicles operated by individuals. On the railroad facilities are provided by the company that owns it for moving freight and passenger traffic at fixed rates of payment, and the railroad affords the service, pays the costs, builds the road it travels, keeps it up, is responsible for damages done people, and in every way is subject to state law. On the highway the individual drives his own vehicle. The road is built with the money of the taxpayers. It is kept up with the same money. Damage done to life and property on the highway is not remunerated as similar damage done by the railroads is. Rules that govern the railroads are rigid and those that govern the highways are lax, resulting in reckless driving, a heavy death roll, and endless injuries to people and damage to property.

This flow of words is brought out by an experience that overtook Rev. W. J. Dillon, of Southern Pines, while driving in his automobile on the road near Wilmington. In front of him was a

big truck, hauling a trailer of large size, both of them wider than the automobiles, and longer. The truck and its trailer occupied the road so that Mr. Dillon could not see beyond them, to know what was ahead of them. As he approached the truck which was not running as fast as he desired to proceed he turned to pass them. At the same time the truck turned to pass a car in front of it. The Dillon car was drawing along side of the trailer as the truck turned to the left to pass the car in front, and as the trailer was of more than ordinary width the driver of the truck could not see what was coming behind to govern his movements, and Mr. Dillon was faced by a choice of running into the trailer or going over the bank, which latter alternative he took.

Father Dillon very justly figures that the large bulk of the people of North Carolina have built the public highways for general use and safety, and that if they are to be turned over to freight traffic that traffic should be confined to vehicles of a size not large enough to obstruct either the vision of other drivers or the traffic. Transportation concerns that move freight for hire should either provide their own roads and maintain them as the railroads do, or they should keep within the same bounds of safety and of size of vehicles that the bulk of the people make use of. If the highways are to go much farther in admitting freight traffic it is not hard to foresee that they must be recast for such traffic, and that ordinary vehicles will either have to be provided with new roads for their separate use, or be content with an unsatisfactory place on the general road. This is a matter that must be threshed out before long, and it might as well be started right away.

## Grains of Sand

Shop windows are full of bathing suits and the week-end exodus to the beaches and nearby lakes has begun.

There wasn't anything more exciting in the Southern Pines caucus than the motion to adjourn. Somewhat different from a year ago when fiery speeches kept everyone on the edge of his seat, and not until the last vote was counted was it known who was Mayor and who the commissioners.

Most of the criticism one hears of Aberdeen in traveling about the state is of its unsightly approaches due to billboard advertising, and its need of paint on buildings and houses. These are easily remedied. How about doing something about them?

Three men in Henderson were heavily fined for selling quart fruit jars containing water instead of corn liquor. North Carolina protects the customer regardless of commodity.

The Pilot last week reported the seeming laxity in census enumeration in and about Southern Pines, and ye ed. was waited upon a few hours after the paper came out. It pays to advertise!

There are 10,297 churches of 67 religious denominations in North Carolina, with 1,406,883 members. The property valuation is over \$90,000,000, and annual expenditures nearly \$18,000,000.

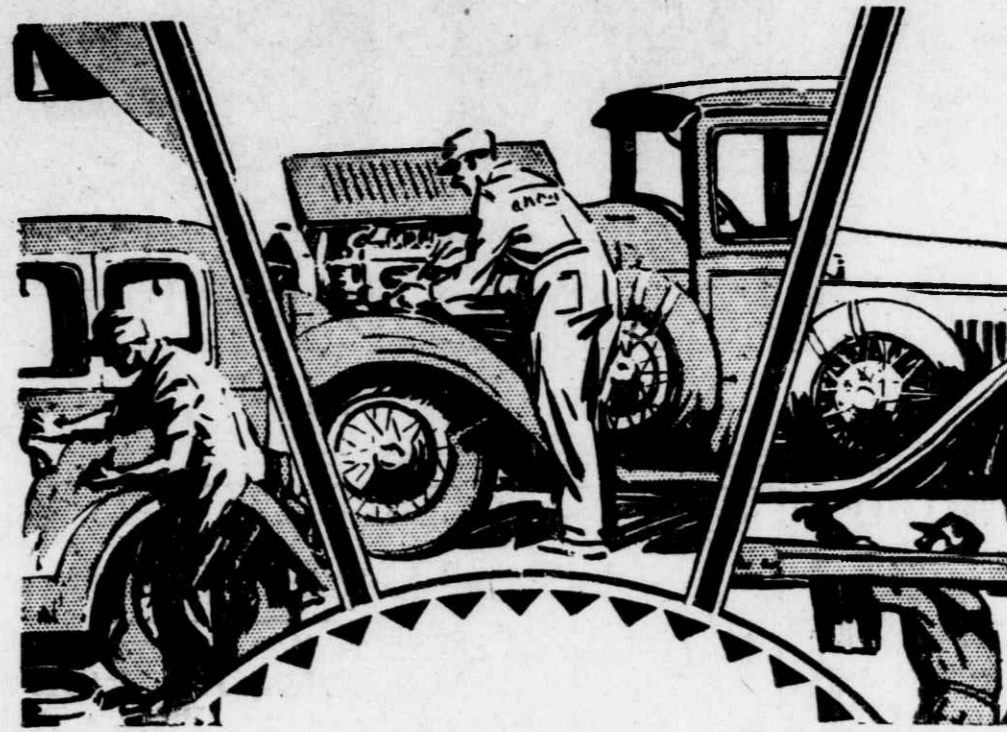
Decrease in resources of \$59,491,000 was shown by the State and National banks in North Carolina at the end of the first quarter as compared with the same period last year, figures based on the call of March 27, made public by Chief State Bank Examiner John Mitchell revealed.

"The decrease in resources shown by the banks of North Carolina are in line and comparable to the decrease shown by banks for the United States as a whole," Examiner Mitchell said.

In Scotland County 3300 bushels of pedigreed cotton seed has been bought cooperatively this season. Also enough commercial material to treat cotton seed for 6000 acres has been purchased.

Two hundred pounds of cucumber seed have been delivered to growers in Hoke county. More than 150 acres of the crop will be grown this season.

All available farm tenant houses in Burke county are occupied and more land has been broken for crops than in any year since the Great War, reports county agent R. L. Sloan.



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