

THE PILOT

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AN INTERESTING TAX DISCLOSURE

The Pilot has been pursuing a curious lead in tax affairs in the county and the results that are disclosed are more or less surprising and as equally interesting. That the chief use of the taxes collected is to maintain the schools is about as satisfactory as could be. More than half of the money collected by the county-wide tax goes to the schools, and besides that a large contribution is added separately by most all the districts, some even doubling the amount for their districts for school purposes alone.

Another interesting disclosure is that a few big taxpayers pay so large a proportion of the taxes. Another is that the townships of the lower end of the county carry so large a share of the total burden of taxes. And another is that the development of the Sandhills has had such an influence in bringing Moore county to the position it holds today among the counties not only of the state but of the entire South.

Before the man from the North began to come this way to escape his colder winters this section was a region of little activity and scant population, its vast resources almost wholly unsuspected. Now that the change has been sufficient to show that this sandy barren country is in reality a country of unlimited charm more and more people are coming each year to live or to stay for a play spell, or for longer or shorter time, and the outcome is the building of a neighborhood that has brought the natural advantages of the sandy area into such use that it has become profitable and progressive.

The folks who come here and make homes and pay taxes are getting the value of their money, and they are affording a market for much stuff that is made by the farms and encouraging employment of large numbers of people whose employment adds to the comfort of the population. And in ways that have not been fully realized, the development of the winter resorts has been of the greatest consequence to the entire county and its surrounding neighborhood.

If from the study of the tax situation the composite population of the county can be brought to appreciate more and more all the time the various elements that compose it the time spent in unearthing the facts will not have been wasted. Pinehurst and Southern Pines are doing more for this section than merely to bring visitors to the Sandhills in winter. They are making of Moore one of the most desirable counties of North Carolina.

CHRIS PAGE AND TOBACCO

When Frank Page was named as a possible head of the tobacco co-operative movement The Pilot was much pleased, and regretted that his business affairs compelled him to decline the work, for work it certainly is destined to be. But in the selection of Chris Page another piece of cloth is torn from the same web. Chris Page was trained in the same school, work, contact with industrial, agricultural, financial conditions, and he has the same heritage of sense and clear-thinking, and with all a character that is free from taint.

So Chris Page comes to the job. He has that power of analysis that will lead him to inquire into the work that is assigned to him, and without muddling the situation he will proceed to dig for the causes of the trouble that have made his drafting into the task necessary. No doubt he comes with some opinions as to

what needs to be done, and no doubt with a mind that is receptive for what is to be demonstrated as the inquiry proceeds. But for one thing he is not likely to be any residuary legatee of the failures of the past. He will have no occasion to suffer from the grave mistakes made in the past, and his slate will be clean as all that has been done is wiped off. The dead co-operative movement was foredoomed as it was conceived. The new co-operative movement has the world before it, and all the advantage of experience that the old one gained. These things Mr. Page will have as a long suit in his game, and there he starts out with an advantage that the old association could not have until it had burned its fingers trying out the impossible and the fantastic.

It is altogether likely that Chris Page will propose some new ideas, and if they seem to be radical, all the better. He may be bold enough to propose some things that may seem autocratic, and if so all the better. That is what made Frank Page the unqualified success that he was in road building in North Carolina. He accepted his big job as an engineering proposition and he fought it to the finish on that one basis. Chris Page will win if he makes his job a pure and workable business proposition. The Pilot is confident he will recognize no favorites, carry no dead wood, play to no grandstand, worship at the shrine of no sentiment, carry no chip on his shoulder, and that he will exercise diplomacy rather than antagonisms, and call to his help every man who can help to win this case. But he cannot do it alone. He must have the genuine backing of everybody whether farmer, merchant, banker, beggarman or thief, and it must be more than perfunctory backing. He must have help enough to ensure next year a crop of tobacco of a quality that will sell, and that does not have to be excused for its low price because it is of a quality that nothing can excuse. Chris Page must be aided by beginning at the bottom of the whole process of making a crop of tobacco and making stuff that a wooden man can sell. He must be given something to show on the market, something that will appeal to buyers because of its value, and he can sell that. In fact any man can.

The success of this new co-operative movement is essential to the prosperity of this whole tobacco belt, and if tobacco is redeemed the means that will redeem it can be applied to other things. All industry is grounded on the same basic principles, and if the people will stand by Chris Page and help him to pull tobacco's feet out of the tar barrel this neighborhood, and all the rest of the country, can see a new lease of a brighter life.

THE CURVES OF DEATH

The compound curve south of Vass where the State Highway, Route 50, passes under the Seaboard Railroad, is a curve of death and disaster. When the road was built the engineers figured, that the radius of the curve was sufficient to carry traffic safely around the project ends of the railroad grade, and they were correct, for with any reasonable degree of care cars can negotiate the curves with absolute safety if drivers approaching from the other way will use the same care. But no driver is safe on those curves when an irresponsible driver comes whipping around the curves at a gait that prevents him from holding his car on his track when he makes the turns. One day last week two men took time to observe the action of drivers at those curves, and it seemed that so little attention was paid to keeping on the right side of the middle white line as to justify the waste of paint in making a line there at all. On both curves coming or going either way, the drivers straddled or crossed the lines as freely as though the whole width of the road had been assigned to drivers going either way. A state patrolman should be stationed at those curves long enough to put the fear of God into the hearts of reckless drivers, and then a sign with emphatic language should be erected at either end. One sign should caution about speed there, for many of the accidents are distinctly the result of excessive speed in approaching the curves, and the result is

loss of control of the car when the turns are made. Unfortunately the careful driver at that point has no protection. The reckless driver comes around the turns and smashes into the man using the greatest care. If it is necessary to make fifty arrests at that point the work should begin right now. Reckless driving has no excuse no matter how many speed fiends insist on their ability get away with fool risks, and the sooner we start to make the roads safer than they are at such dangerous points the more we will cut down hospital and funeral bills, and until we do that the whole community is responsible for every death that takes place at such a death trap of devilishness recklessness.

THE CONTINUED AUTOMOBILE SLAUGHTER

The Legislature to be elected shortly and to convene in Raleigh after the year should take on its hands the task of lessening the growing automobile slaughter. The daily papers now are in a way featuring the daily kill in the state and the papers of wider than state circulation tabulate from time to time the ghastly totals that are climbing up toward a thousand a week of deaths, and so many injuries and so much of property damages and hospital bills and sickness and idleness from accident that it suggests nothing else than a peaceful, but effective war.

It looks now as though we will have a death roll by the automobile for the year of something like 40,000 persons, and an injury list of hundreds of thousands. Every day the papers have their recurring lists, until keeping up with the automobile is one of the regular jobs of the doctor, the hospital and the undertaker. And the whole thing is so inexcusable, and so useless and so terrible. A little threat of an epidemic of disease and the entire nation with all its prohibitive powers is aroused to check the thing. But the automobile is accepted with the utmost indifference, and we have arrived at the point of familiarity where we read the papers and note indifferently the account of the slaughter and pass on to the next thing.

Some protest is heard against the increase of more state patrolmen, because of the cost. But a moment's thought will see that hiring a man to prevent killing is cheaper than the incessant drain of funeral bills and hospital costs, and the weeks and months of inability that follow these things, and the death of those who have families dependent on them. But what is essential is more drastic enforcement of the laws, and a determined attitude of the law and the courts toward the speed fiends, the careless, the drunk, the incapable, and any other drivers that make the highways dangerous. No bigger task faces the legislature this year than that of making the world safe for a man who wants to travel on the highway. That need overshadows the old doctrine of making it safe for democracy, for democracy is not killed by the thousands and injured by the hundreds of thousands every year. And democracy has somewhat of a defensive habit, while the automobile victims are powerless.

PROSPERITY AND SAVINGS

Considerable advice these days tells the man who is earning money to be free in spending it, on the theory that spending money makes business. Possibly it has its place, but a single thought will show that spending money merely to make business is putting the task of maintaining business on the man who has been able to save some money, and that as soon as he has relieved himself of his money the other fellow has it and he may have none himself. Business is not charity and never can be, and no successful business, big or little, local or national, can ever be sustained on a charitable basis.

It is highly probable that one of the leading causes in the present financial upheaval comes from spending too much money before it was earned, and that scarcity of money in business comes from the tying up in credits of money that has been spent, but which was obtained on the debt of future payment, and which now cannot be paid. Far more essential advice to men who are earning some money is

to get their debts paid as fast as possible, and thus put in circulation the money that should be in circulation, and then, after paying legitimate current expenses, put as much money as possible in the savings fund or some legitimate investments. For every dollar put in savings funds is at once put in circulation by those who use it for carrying on business, building houses, expanding existing business institutions, and in similar lines. Money saved is not withdrawn from circulation. It is put into employment to make further business and to stimulate further prosperity.

Further, the man who has saved some money can fall back

on it when money is not coming so abundantly, and by utilizing that recourse can help to keep business on an even keel. Those men who have been prudent in their expenditures and who are now able to pay as they go are doing business as usual. It is the men of thrifty habits who are carrying a large share of the burden of maintaining as much business as is going on. Thrift was never a vice, and profligacy was never a virtue. Business can not live on profligacy, but it universally gets into trouble where profligacy rules. The community that pays its way, pays its debts and saves some of its money rarely complains of empty bellies.

GRAINS OF SAND

Sign on stand near Saunders' Warehouse:

"Best Roasted Peanuts in the United States or Texas."

A lot of mothballs were dumped out of overcoat pockets in a hurry Tuesday morning when cold winds from the North hit the Sandhills. The same winds brought snow to northern and middle western states the day before, and Havre, Montana, reported a temperature of 12 degrees below zero.

The Aberdeen tobacco market is getting leaf from more distant points than ever before in its history, due to the fact that prices here have averaged better than on any Old or New Belt markets this season. Saunders' Warehouse had more tobacco in Monday than could be auctioned.

The Pinehurst season is on. The Carolina opens Monday, there's a tennis tournament next week at the Country Club, Chorton L. Becker, Tin Whistles captain, is down, and so is S. B. Chapin. And Harry Yorke is on the job to let the world know what goes on in the Sandhills this winter, Harry being the efficient representative of the Associated Press.

A lot of tobacco turned quickly into rubber in Aberdeen this week. We saw numerous farmers leaving town with new tires thrust in the back seat and the dealers report a brisk business.

Politics continue to be the main subject of conversation hereabouts. There is much speculation over the make-up of the next county commission, so much, in fact, that apparent-

ly all candidates have a fair fighting chance.

Speaking in Raleigh the other day Mrs. Palmer Jerman, president of the State Legislative Council of Women, said that there is no such thing as a so-called "women's vote," any more than there is such a thing as a "men's vote." Women divide on issues just as men do, she declared. She bemoaned the fact that "the average person, man or woman, takes practically no interest in politics, and turns the job of running the government over to a relatively small group of men we call politicians."

"And, I am sorry to say," she added, "that political interest seems to be lessening all the time."

However, there seems to be plenty of interest in the coming elections around here. The trouble is, we should say, that the average person is interested only around election time.

Rumor has it that Hemp is due for quite a boom in a change of ownership of its silk mills, meaning increased production and more labor. The plans are not as yet sufficiently definite for announcement, we are told, but what we have heard sounds good for Hemp and Moore county.

Democratic Congressional candidates Lambeth and James tried to watch the football game between Aberdeen and Rockingham at Rocking last Friday but were kept so busy shaking hands they missed most of the plays. Aberdeen won a good game, 12 to 0. The team has not been scored on this season.

Take down your signs. Struthers Burt is back.

Correspondence

THE LIBRARY INCOME

Editor, The Pilot—

Will you kindly correct a mistake made in last week's Pilot, in regard to the income of the Page Memorial Library? I know you copied your figures from the Library Bulletin, but it

was a tremendous mistake, nevertheless.

The income of the Library is \$150.00 a year. The Town contributes \$100.00 and for several years the Thursday Afternoon Book Club has contributed \$50.00 annually. Unless some friend adds something to this, the total income is only \$150.00. —Member, Executive Committee.

At the CAPITAL

By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

North Carolina's crop yield per acre as indicated on October 1, averaged 99.6 per cent of the past 10-year yield, with a 5.3 per cent general improvement during September, while for the entire nation the yield was 9.7 per cent below the 10-year average, The State-Federal crop reporting service shows.

This state was less affected by the drought conditions of the early summer than the average, but an increase in crop yield and total production was shown in less than half the main crops, including corn, tobacco, potatoes, peaches, grapes, oats and sorghum syrup.

The production indicated as of October 1 in 16 main crops follows: corn, 49,240 bushels; oats, 6,632,000 bushels; barley, 858,000 bushels; buckwheat 100,000 bushels; peanuts, 175,725,000 pounds; tame hay, 711,000 tons; alfalfa, 17,000 tons; apples, agricultural, 2,555,000 bushels; commercial, 128,000 barrels; peaches, 1,665,000 bushels; pears, 108,000 bushels; grapes, 5896 tons, potatoes, 8,494,000 bushels; sweet potatoes, 8,460,000 bushels; tobacco, 529,095,000 pounds; sorghum syrup, 1,936,000 gallons.

The second installment of the State school equalizing fund amounting to \$1,330,500, will be sent to the 93 participating counties October 28, the first installment of \$1,141,000 having

been sent September 10. The total of the two installments, \$2,471,500, is a little less than half of the almost \$5,000,000 allotted from the \$5,250,000 equalizing fund by the board.

Moore county's first installment was \$13,000, and the second, to go out October 28, will be \$14,000, a total of \$27,000 of the year's total of \$55,710.01 allotted to the county. The balance will go out in two installments, one before and the other after the Christmas holidays.

Auditing costs for outside audits of county government operations in North Carolina counties were greatly reduced last year, as compared with previous years, due to improvements made in county accounting methods under the new laws, Charles M. Johnson, secretary of the County Government Advisory Commission, announces, following reports from the counties.

The total costs for the 75 counties making audits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, exclusive of reports of three small counties, was \$75,763.65, as compared with costs of \$164,868.49 for two years before. The costs of audits for a year ago amounted to \$203,878.79, as compared with \$204,581.92 for three years ago. Two-year comparisons are made because in many of the counties membership of boards of county commissioners change and the audits

made for the change years are more extensive generally.

The costs of outside auditing normally decrease with the improvements in the accounting methods used by the regular county accountants and will continue to be reduced with other improvements, Mr. Johnson reports. Moore county paid \$600.00 for its annual audit for the fiscal year 1929-30. The 1928-29 audit cost \$1,200; that of 1927-28 cost \$1,200, while the cost of the 1926-27 audit was \$1,400, Mr. Johnson's reports show.

Trapping of fur-bearing animals in 15 western North Carolina counties has been prohibited for two years, by order of the Department of Conservation and Development, following petitions from these counties, which are seeking to greatly increase the number of animals and later reestablish the fur industry on a large scale. The counties included are Buncombe, Clay Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Madison, Yancey, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Macon, McDowell and Mitchell.

Value of Governor Gardner's "live-at-home" program, inaugurated last year and stressed unceasingly, was admirably demonstrated in the exhibits at the State Fair last week. The judges of agricultural products report marked improvement was noticeable in the quality of products displayed this year and in all exhibits the improvement in seeds and sires was marked.

While the prices of cotton, tobacco and peanuts, principal cash crops, are low, thus reducing very much the amounts of money received by the growers, the food and feed crops were increased the past season, the State-Federal crop reporting service estimating the increase in value at fully \$16,000,000 in the state. This, it is pointed out, is the salvation of the North Carolina farmers, saving for them the \$16,000,000 which they do not have to spend for food and feed in the amount of home-grown products.

Because the movement has thus proved its value, Governor Gardner believes that North Carolina farmers, and those in other states as well, will grow next year an increased amount of food and feed products, increasing the yield by fully 10 per cent through improved seeds without a corresponding increase in production costs.

The much-heralded Nye committee, investigating Senatorial campaign expenditures, came to North Carolina, spent about 24 hours delving into the cost of the Bailey campaign and quickly moved on to other states, where, apparently, more cause for investigating exists than the members found in this state. In fact, they almost gave North Carolina a clean bill of health. They were not able to find anything appearing to indicate excessive expenditures, and, while saying they had little more delving to do, apparently were satisfied that they had been misled into coming to North Carolina.

Democrats, naturally, are charging that the Pritchard-Jones Republican forces are responsible, apparently assuming that if they could get even a little hud sling on Mr. Bailey, they would be able to hold it up to disgruntled Democrats and cause them to refuse to vote for Mr. Bailey, if not really vote for Pritchard. There is little or no evidence to indicate that Senator Simmons or his friends had anything to do with instigating the investigation, although there are those who think some of them may have welcomed the inquiry.

The result, contrary to the probable expectation, apparently will be of political value to the Bailey campaign in that it removes all intimation that large sums of outside money were used in his behalf and seemingly belies the charge that in some places the absentee ballot was used excessively and unlawfully.

Dr. J. I. Neal

Veterinarian
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