

THE PILOT

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NELSON C. HYDE, General Manager
BION H. BUTLER, Editor
JAMES BOYD STRUTHERS BURT
RALPH PAGE
Contributing Editors

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A TIMELY THANKSGIVING

May be you have not thought about it, but probably this is the most timely Thanksgiving day we have had for a long while. The world has been crying about the wolf of poverty and starvation that is crowding about our doors, but when we step to inquire the calamity is seen to be largely imagination. As compared with the vast majority of the years that have gone before us this year is a time of prosperity, progress and promise.

Never were so many people any place in the world so well cared for, so high up in their standards of living and in the abolition of drudgery in their work, or in the outlook for a still broader future. Panics have come and gone, and stories of suffering and poverty and dread of the days ahead have been much more terrible than anything we have so far contemplated. The signs are that we are getting on a normal and substantial basis. In this immediate vicinity every sign tells of prosperity and business that in the years past would have seemed a dream beyond realization. What we need is to turn the telescope around and quit looking out of the little end.

It is a good thing to have holes in our pockets once in a while, for as the small change dribbles down our legs we note the difficulty and proceed to sew up the rents. We need an overhauling at times to tell us where we stand. That's all that what we call hard times now signifies. Our present prosperity and outlook for the future is so enviable that folks twenty years ago would have said the present is so good that it would never be possible. Measure the present by the past and forecast the future from the same basis. Then get your turkey or your fat hen or what you will have for Thursday dinner and be glad and be content. God is still in his heaven, and the world has not yet gone to destruction.

"And if it please thee, Heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
But whether granted or denied,
Lord Bless us with content."

A VALUABLE NEWSPAPER

The Charlotte Observer last week issued an edition devoted to the progress of the Carolinas. It goes without saying that when the Observer undertakes a thing of that sort the result is creditable, for the management of that publication knows what is a good descriptive paper and how to make it. Much that was printed in the big edition is worth cutting out to file, for it has the merit of being authentic fact gathered from positive sources and written by men who know how to present their material.

It is always a matter of gratification to those of us who are country members of the North Carolina newspaper craft to see the Observer turn itself loose, for it has made for itself an undisputed place in the front rank of all that newspaper world south of a line drawn from Washington to Los Angeles, and its standing is based on its reliability, its ability and its power of understanding what a modern newspaper is.

MOORE COUNTY'S POULTRY PROSPECT

The organization of the Moore County Produce Association is one of the most promising things that has arisen in this section in a long time. It is the creation of men of intelligence and means to carry it on, and it is based on the possibilities

of Moore as a poultry section, and the excellent local market that is found here during a considerable period of the year and the convenience to New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, four other good outlets for the crop. The association comes into existence as a logical project, if the farmers will join in and produce the material that is desired.

Farming must get on a better footing than it is or much more serious financial straits are ahead of this country than have been reached yet, for the success of the farm is one of the positive necessities of general prosperity in the nation, and something more than promises from politicians and bluffs at farm help are necessary. The only help that is in reach of the farmer is the help he gives himself, for no one else can do any great thing to change his condition. This may sound cold-blooded, but now is not the time to be fed up on soft sawder.

Moore county has not advanced very far yet in making good poultry, but the success of some men indicates that poultry is possible here, and the outlook for a good market is favorable in the direction of making poultry profitable. If the farmers will take hold of the industry with no illusions about getting rich, or of the work that is required in making poultry or anything else that is worth while and will realize that no calling is likely to return big prices for stuff that can be made without effort, it is likely that a definite addition can be made to the farm income through this channel. The local market brings much poultry to the Sandhills from other states now, which may or may not be necessary. That is for the farmer to determine. If good poultry cannot be made in Moore county that is another story, but if it can be made, here is the time to try out the proposition. The Produce association is ready to discuss the matter with the farmers, and looks like a Moses to lead them out of bondage. The scheme is worth talking over with Mr. Blue, who is ahead of the affair.

THE EVER PRESENT TAX THEME

The Pilot has been accumulating some letters and verbal communications concerning taxes until it seems proper to unload some of the suggestions and protests and explanations and demands. One interested individual calls attention to some apparently reliable figures which indicate that the tax bill of this nation totals about thirteen billion dollars a year, which is merely such a sum that we can not comprehend it. But it can be averaged, and the average indicates that every man, woman and child, black, white, Indian and everybody else represents a contribution of \$106.50 as the tax contribution of this American people every year. What one does not pay another does, but we average the sum stated as the ratio if we all paid alike.

We tax everything that has an odd dollar hanging loose, and we pry it if it is not loose. We fool ourselves in the belief that the rich pay the taxes, but if we soak the railroads and the corporations they pass the soak along, for they have no money except what they collect from their patrons, and the patrons pay all the bills, including the taxes in the long run. The folly of trying to pass the taxes to the other fellow is absurd, for the ultimate buyer pays all the accumulated costs, taxes and all. So we come to the one point that the only fair plan of taxation is one that honestly puts its burden on every fellow alike, playing no favorites, not trying to shift the taxes, but to honestly call on big man, little man and every man to pay his fair proportion, and probably in the long run that would resolve itself into an income tax or a sales tax, not on luxuries or privileges, or anything else than on everything that is bought. The subject will come up in the legislature ahead, but a tremendous amount of knowledge concerning taxation is necessary yet before the people will agree on any plan.

This brings up another phase of the problem. A tax commission composed of the best group of students of the subject available has been working on taxation and a report covering several hundred pages will be presented to the legislature for consideration. This report covers

taxation from all points, and is probably as complete a thing of its kind as obtainable. But heaven help it when it gets to Raleigh, for there it is destined to meet the army of destructive analysis that will tear it to pieces and rebuild and re-tear until no one can predict what will happen to it. The session will not be long enough to properly draft a thoroughly logical tax bill, but probably something wholesome will come out of this thing, and certainly education will start from it.

One thing should be borne in mind. A misguided crop of enthusiasts is already calling on the men elected to the legislature to promise to take one step or another regarding taxes when the subject comes up. These folks mean well, but probably not one of them has investigated taxes as fully as the commission which made the report that is to be presented, and for such people to ask Mr. Spence and Mr. Johnson to pledge themselves before hand to any policy is not to be entertained. These two men are not tax experts, nor are the rest of the men who will constitute the coming legislature. Therefore it is necessary for both of them to go to Raleigh with open mind, with the patience to hear all that is to be said on the subject up to the last day until the vote on

the matter comes, and then to vote as intelligently as is possible after hearing all the evidence. It is important that they do not allow themselves to be swept off their feet by any pressure of any kind, and that they make no impossible promises as to what they will vote for and what they will not, for they will certainly be more able to vote wisely after the case is thoroughly heard than before.

It is proper for everybody to offer these men any suggestions desired, for this is a government of the people. But it is equally proper for our members not to tie themselves to any theory or doctrine or group of advocates or anything until the last hat has dropped on the last day of discussion and they have heard the last word on every clause of the proposed measures.

Anything that involves taking from the people of the United States thirteen billion dollars a year is an important matter, and vital to the welfare of the nation, and the crisis of settling the matter seems to be arriving. The only settlement is one that is arrived at by full and tolerant discussion, not by hysteria or antagonism, and our legislators are to be encouraged to be deliberate and right, not emotional, hasty and intimidated by any political threats.

Correspondence

THE MAYOR'S COURT

Editor, The Pilot:
In justice to the town authorities of Southern Pines, (and, incidentally, to reassure the County School Board) one or two details in your account of the Southern Pines Mayor's Court, published last week, ought to be corrected.

By the Constitution of North Carolina, all fines and forfeitures for violation of the State's penal and military laws must be paid into the school fund of the county. This includes all fines levied in any Mayor's or other magistrate's court, for violation of penal ordinances. "Penalties," on the other hand, exacted for failure to comply with any civil ordinance, may be turned into the town's funds.

It is proposed (though the Commissioners have not yet taken final action) that all costs levied by the

Mayor's Court, including officer's costs for arrests, etc., shall be paid into the town treasury; the salaries of officers being raised by a sum sufficient to compensate them for the loss of such fees. All costs allowed by law to the Mayor, as a magistrate, are now being paid over to the town treasurer.

All fines levied are also paid into the town treasury; but are held for and paid over at stated intervals, as the law directs. Any penalties which may be exacted for noncompliance with the town's civil ordinances will be kept by the town.

Hoping that this small correction may clarify public understanding of the operation of the Mayor's Court, I remain,

Yours very truly,
—ERNEST M. POATE
Southern Pines, N. C.,
Nov. 24, 1930.

GRAINS OF SAND

He gets \$18 a week without a great deal to do or without being overburdened with intellect.

"The old fool kept me half an hour into my lunch hour today and I've been late getting away three evenings this week. This job isn't all its cracked up to be," he said one day last week.

"No," we replied. "But the funny part of it is that there are about two million men looking for that job right this moment."

He hasn't uttered a word of complaint this week.

Much to the amusement of passers-by a mouse towed a lion from Eagle Springs to Pinehurst Sunday afternoon. Jesse W. Page, Jr.'s baby Austin car hauled a great big Packard in for repairs.

The Pilot is getting to be a big boy now. It will be ten years old next week. And it's growing to beat the band. Printed and sold 2,000 copies last week.

Next week its baby brother, the Sandhills Daily News, starts for the season, coming out each morning except Monday until May 1st. This paper will cover all the resort news of Pinehurst and Southern Pines, important daily happenings in the rest of the Sandhills, and world news, in general through the Associated Press.

If this newly organized produce association will find a market for them, we can't see why all the farmers in the county shouldn't raise poultry. All that remains to be seen is whether the association can market it at a price the farmers can afford to sell it at, and it would certainly seem as if we could make a crop here to sell profitably in New York if California and Texas can.

And it looks now as if any crop would be better next year than cotton or tobacco. Try poultry, boys.

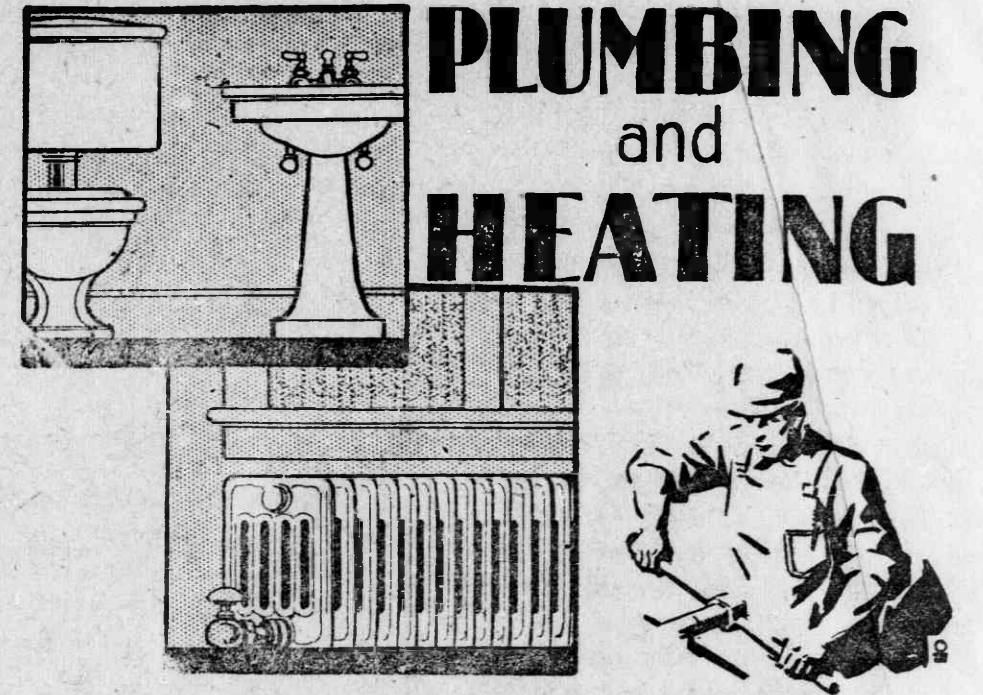
The more we read about conditions elsewhere, the better pleased we are with our habitat. The Asheville section was hard hit last week, banks failing right and left. The condition

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OVER Nine Million A DAY—IT HAD TO BE GOOD TO GET WHERE IT IS