

THE PILOT

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BILL ALLEN, EDUCATOR

The other day a group of women were talking about their families as women often do, and with other things they reverted to the experience of the young sprouts in school. A rather harmonious lead in the discussion was the approval of the Southern Pines School and the successful management under Mr. Allen, who is piloting the second generation through the intricate paths of knowledge in the village. Southern Pines School has a reputation beyond the village, and at the colleges students arriving from Allen's bailiwick are received with the approval of the institution to which they go. They are taken as the output of a thorough and careful trainer, and as such the most of them make good.

Allen was educated in that somewhat freshwater college of Bowdoin, Maine, founded 136 years ago, handling about 500 or 600 students a year, but turning out men who include Hawthorne, Longfellow, Fessenden, Reed, Frye, Franklin, Pierce, Justice Fuller, Gen. Howard, Prentiss, and that type, a rather long list taking one year with another, but no great number at any time. It has never set the river on fire, but it has made a name for breadth and thoroughness and substantial education that makes Bowdoin known wherever a school is carried on in more than elementary manner.

Allen came to Southern Pines in the early days of the town, and with the exception of a few years when he went to a bigger place in the state, he has put in a big portion of his life in the community. He has piloted the public school from a small group of a few dozen students up to where in the schools of both colors in the Southern Pines town he has jurisdiction over more than 1,500 children and their educational training. His rigid methods at first aroused some antagonisms, but as the folks came to know him his precise way was accepted, and each new class he turned out at the end of its school period was a bunch of Allen partisans. Few teachers anywhere have a stronger bond of friendliness with their scholars than Bill Allen, and from all sides they give him credit for making for them the most that the school facilities enabled him to bring about.

THE SLUMP IN BUSINESS

The New York publication, "The Week in Business" last week noted a definite although a not very great increase in business in the general lines. The comparative index showed 81 per cent of normal, a gain over the preceding two weeks, and reports that indicate further improvement. General trade is cited as making seasonal gain above the normal, demand for small homes is stimulating construction, net railway earnings show gains, money turn-over is rising, and other things indicate a better outlook.

But in spite of the more hopeful note one thing remains to afford disquiet and that is the farm position. Wheat is the sick brother, for in spite of the abnormal and probably impossible attempt of the Federal government to raise the price of wheat, the market at Winnipeg, across the Canadian border, is about twenty-five cents a bushel less in open trade than in the government-boosted markets of the United States. The world is long on wheat. Russia, in the past a wheat exporter, is in shape to sell wheat again, and in spite of the growl because Russia chooses to sell wheat at

a price that will move it the great and developing Russian nation is making a decided place in the sun. In other things Russia is fast giving evidence of becoming a world competitor, and no fooling ourselves with the notion that Russia is crazy will change the relation that exists between that land of unfathomable natural resources and the other countries. Russia and South America are taking a hand in establishing the pace of the agricultural world, while the other European nations are improving their agricultural production. Denmark is putting America's bacon export trade in the ditch. Where we last year exported 36 per cent less bacon than in the years before the war Denmark exported last year 149 per cent more than before the war, and Denmark, a small country as compared with ours, is now exporting two-thirds as much pork as we are. Denmark raises the type of hog Europe wants. We raise the type we want to raise and Europe is turning it down to buy the Danish pork.

Our farms have the world to compete with, and they are not paying the attention they should to the competition. We may talk all we want to about American standards, but the buying world buys on the basis of efficiency of the producer and the price of his product. That leaves the American farmer between the devil and the deep sea, for while he can not sell his crops at the prices that are proportionate to what he has to pay for things he buys in his home market, he can not compete with the old world farmer and pay the prices at home that he must pay for his supplies. Probably there is the greatest single factor in our disturbed business situation. The farm export market is wrecked, and the low export prices of his product fix the price which he must sell for at home. This nation is affected by the low price of cotton in foreign markets and by the low price of tobacco, which is equally affected by the foreign trade. The whole American farm region is crucified by the foreign price of wheat, corn, pork and other farm stuff that has depended on the export trade for a large surplus above the United States market.

It is doubtful if business will returned to what has been assumed to be normal, if it ever returns there, until the farm is placed on a fair parity with other producers. Two influences conspire against recovery unless the farm recovers. They are the ruined purchasing power of the farm, and the increasing migration of the farm worker to the industrial centers to enter into competition with the industrial worker. It is folly for the wage workers to imagine they can hold wages on a high level with the steady inflow of workers from the overburdened farms, and it is equally folly to suppose that with the farmer removed from the ranks of liberal buyers the industrial product can find a market.

The farm situation is not pleasant to behold, but it is fully as good as the industrial situation, for the one hangs to the heels of the other, and the farm can not suffer without the other dragging down ultimately to the same level. It is true that the farm must learn much greater efficiency and economy of operation, but that is only one phase of the trouble. The farm cannot thrive and live while the farm prices will not maintain a reasonable parity with prices of other things and farm wages compare reasonably with wages in other callings. It is impossible for this country to have prosperity while the farm worker is forced to be content with a third to a half as much for his day's work as the average employe in other industries. The farm is the fly in the ointment, and the whole national fabric must concern itself about bringing a more reasonable relation between the farm income and the prices the farm must pay for what it buys, or we are damned beyond hope. Getting the farmer into debt has not helped him. It has loaded him with burdens. Buying his wheat at unnatural prices will not help him. It may stimulate more wheat growing and increase the damage, and it will call on him along with other taxpayers to dig up more money to put into the Federal treasury to pay for the wheat. The local farmer is about to prepare for his coming crops of cotton and tobacco. He can increase his effi-

ciency to some extent, and lower his costs of production to some extent. But that will not solve the problem. He must have a basis on which he can buy more nearly in prices proportionate to what he sells or he will, through forces wholly beyond his control, wreck the whole industrial situation, not because he wants to but because the thing will work itself, and be independent of anything he wants or does not want to do.

OUR GROWING EXPENDITURES

Ten years ago, or in the school period of 1919, the expenses of the schools of North Carolina were \$6,768,062. Last year the total was \$35,941,318, or five and a half times as much in ten years time. This is justified by an increase of from four to six months in the school year, an increase of children in school, and an increase in building. In Asheville the annual cost of educating a pupil is \$66.99; in Caswell county \$18.53, in Moore county \$29.67. Last year in Moore county our total expense for schools was \$195,725.46. Of this \$1,958.73 was for new construction, the rest for current school expenses.

It is a pretty good thing for the people to study these figures a bit, as they tell where a major slice of our money goes. The man who has a child in school and pays less than \$29.67 in taxes is not paying that child's school costs. If he has three children in school and pays less than \$8 in taxes he is not paying the education costs. The Seaboard, the Norfolk Southern, the Carolina Light & Power Company and Pinehurst, Incorporated, are paying the school expenses of many hundred children.

But this is on the side. The schools are one item that take tax money. In the state and county we have others, the roads being the next in the big item of cost. But state and county are not all that take taxes. The Federal government eats taxes, and it is easy to see where the money goes if we look. War is the great looter of our income, but the Federal government and the local government are alike in that a constant clamor is put up for money from the public crib—for gifts, loans, appropriations in every direction until the forty acres and a mule after the Civil War is a feeble joke in comparison.

The Congress just convened is already beset by calls for money, and not a cent can be appropriated unless it is taken from the taxpayer. Singularly enough we do not think about stopping the holes where the money goes out. We are all there with our buckets to get our share, and the Congressman who can get something for his district is a hero and a popular pirate. If we want taxes lowered the first thing to do is to demand that expenditures be lowered, and that is the whole thing, and to encompass that we must stop clamoring for a hand-out, no matter what for, from county, state or national treasury.

Correspondence

THE HOSPITAL POUNDING

Editor, The Pilot:

On behalf of the Directors of the Hospital, I wish to extend our most grateful thanks for the happy inspiration in suggesting in the issue of Notation which you and your organization member 21st of The Pilot, that the community recognize the First Anniversary of the opening of the Moore County Hospital by a County-wide birthday celebration. The people responded very generously and the contributions made of food and groceries were most acceptable.

Your idea was certainly a splendid one, and we desire to express to you our deep appreciation for your splendid efforts and the fine publicity given us in the matter.

—PAUL DANA,
Treasurer.

THANKS COUNTY PRESS

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the publicity which you recently gave the hospital in reference to the pounding. I feel sure the valuable store of food which the hospital received is the result of the publicity through the columns of The Pilot and through the other papers of the county.

—DR. CLEMENT MONROE,
Surgeon-Manager.

Grains of Sand

Only ten shopping days before Christmas. Read the advertisements and start out. The local shops are full of attractive gifts for Ma, Pa and the baby.

With all our hunting and polo and riding around here, Moore county has only 652 horses, officially. They are valued at \$37,348, or an average of \$57.28 each, according to our Raleigh correspondent's weekly news-letter. Mr. Dunnagan also gives figures on mules, sheep, hogs and cattle in the county. Read his letter from the Capital each week and learn more about your state and county.

You will note that Moore county has the lowest average value for cattle in the state, \$15.53, as against \$56.28 high average for Avery county.

The way clothes and money have been coming in to the Christmas Daddies the poor and needy of the county should be well taken care of this Christmas. The more the merrier. Dig out that old suit and send it in. Old dresses, too, are needed. And toys, and books, and food, and MONEY. The need is greater than in years past.

We know a man in the Sandhills who is buying stock in ink companies because of the great demand this year for red ink.

If electric current is a criterion of a successful winter season in our resort towns, cheer up. Ralph Chandler says we are using more current than in past years.

Frances Polley, the piloter of The Pilot's baby Austin, tells us that she parked for a moment on a corner in Southern Pines the other day and three people stopped and posted letters in the car.

The Seaboard should be congratulated on its speedy work in removing the wreckage of the freight train which met a disastrous end near Niagara Saturday morning. Despite some seventeen cars piled up on what was before the crash the one and only main track, despite the downpour of rain and the difficulty in getting near the worst of the wreck with the wrecking train, the debris was sufficiently cleared by nightfall to permit the laying of a new track, and the passing of trains by 9 o'clock that night.

Someone at the scene of the wreck estimated that if placed end to end, the oranges and grapefruit scattered over the ground would make a deuce of a lot of cocktails. The only trouble with that idea would be in trying to place oranges and grapefruit end to end. Will some bright little girl in the class inform teacher which is the end of a grapefruit?

NAVY FLIERS HERE AFTER SEARCH FOR LOST AVIATRIX

Captain Lancaster of the United States Navy, with Lieut. P. I. Gunn as pilot, landed here in a Voight Corsair Thursday after a flight from Miami, Florida, where Captain Lancaster had engaged in the search for the missing Mrs. Keith-Miller. The navy plane refueled at Knollwood and proceeded on its way to Anacostia, D. C., the naval air station outside Wash-

ington. Mrs. Keith-Miller, it will be recalled, landed in the Bahamas after being blown off her course from Havana to Miami.

Major Lloyd Yost and Student Pilot Henry Dingley flew to Pope Field on Monday.

Twenty-five telegraph target matches have been arranged on a tentative schedule for the University of Kentucky rifle team.

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If you put in the banks the money you are not using that money goes into circulation, for it is immediately loaned out to some one who makes use of it in the community.

And the best of all is that when you want it for some of your own needs your check gets it out of the bank.

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It is gratifying to note the friendly regard shown by contractors on good jobs with the Pinehurst Lumber Yards. It is a common event for the Lumber Yards to sell high class stuff to go to points far beyond the county borders where the contractors working in this section have jobs other places. These men find in Pinehurst the quality and selection that suits them and they have Lumber Yard supplies follow them in many directions. A shipment loaded out for points fifty to a hundred miles away says the material is right.

'Nuf said.

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