

# THE PILOT

Published every Friday by  
THE PILOT, Incorporated.  
Aberdeen, North Carolina

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

Subscription Rates:  
One Year .....\$2.00  
Six Months .....\$1.00  
Three Months ..... .50

Address all communications to The  
Pilot, Inc., Aberdeen, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at Aber-  
deen, N. C., as second-class mail mat-  
ter.

## THE DAWNING NEW YEAR

This issue of The Pilot greets the New Year, 1931. With all that is mystery tied up in the days that are now about to unfold one key to the future is reasonably certain; the story of yesterday, as long as the human race has lived, with few and slight basic variations, is the story of tomorrow. In the Greek mythology of ancient days the Fates ruled the destiny of man. With the Stoics reason held an influence in governing the accidental phenomena of life. To the Moslem the inexorable laws of Allah are fixed and their results are positive. The more recent Calvinist with his doctrine of predestination arrives at about the same point as all his predecessors. Certain underlying laws govern all things, and while subject to momentary variations they cannot be changed or ignored. We are cast in a mold that admits but little difference. Our habits of thought and of action are the hereditary gift of that morning of creation when

"Of earth's first clay they did the last man knead,  
And there of the last harvest sowed the seed."

Tomorrow will be yesterday when it has passed, and yesterday tells the tale of tomorrow when it comes. We will grope our way into the New Year except as we follow the old year that is gone, and the slight changes that we think we may note have been noted by countless generations from the day when that first Adam awoke in his mental vision to look on life and to consider it. When we knock down the pine in the alley a boy sets them up again and we start another volley of balls in the game. A new group of players comes and the old one goes, and we walk our little path from infancy to senility and the tale is told. Possibly a perceptible margin of difference in the joys and sorrows, in the abundance or the limitations of a few of the things we some times rate as important, but in the real gifts of the great Jehovah, in the things that are within the provinces of mental conception, the range is about balanced by the capacity for enjoying or suffering, and who shall say that there is much change. Even Vanity Fair is about as it has been.

Financially we think we are in hard luck. Yet what a marvel of accumulation of material wealth we have added year by year without once slipping backward in the entire story since Columbus caught the first glimpse of the new world. But we cannot see. We measure everything material by the daily rate of progression. What was splendor ten years ago is contemptible poverty today. Who wants a 1920 car or radio? Who is content with the things that elated our fathers and mothers? We clamor for a new color in the suds that top the frothy drink in Vanity Fair, and by that test we measure our success and our apparent happiness.

In 1931 we will go on building new houses, and buying new toys in the way of flying machines, and any other ingenious invention that will catch the momentary fancy. We will possibly grow more lawless or possibly more lawabiding. We will dance to the jig time if our notion inclines that way, or we will languor along to the dirge or the other slow measures. Yet Vanity Fair does not rule. It is only a symptom, and at the bottom of all is that sincerity of character, that honest integrity of purpose, that fairness toward each other that has enabled civi-

lization to develop and expand, and 1931 will be a better year than 1930 or 1830 or any other year, because men are learning day by day, and comprehending more clearly the divine purpose in creation. We will pile up still further material wealth, for that is a custom we like to play with. We will take deeper interest in searching out the secrets of existence for an active mind delights in being employed. We will have a broader humanity, for that is one of the features in which man is created in likeness to the image of his maker. Remembering these things it is plain that tomorrow will be as yesterday, with a slight advance toward higher ideals and that we can look forward with confidence. The skill that built this world was that of a master who never bungles, and a comparison with the past is a definite guarantee that we are not going to the dogs, for such a complicated piece of machinery as creation can not be wasted in the junk heap.

## PAYING THE FIDDLER

There is no question but that we have had our little joy ride and that we are now going to get off and walk a while. This applies to government, to industry and to everything else. We have been running ahead, buying everything in sight, borrowing money to pay the bills, and deluding ourselves into the belief that we would always be increasing our incomes to be able to meet increased buying obligations. Then comes the pay day and the pocketbook is found to have a hole in it. We have eaten the cake. Now we are asked to pay for it.

It is a little inconvenient but we will make the riddle all right. In doing it we are going to forget some of our fanciful airs and get out our working harness again. That high standard of living will be set aside as a fetish and living will be the game rather without the trimmings. State, nation, county, municipality and individual now face paying off the scores and at the same time keeping the pot boiling, and all the glamour of debt is showing a naked offensiveness.

The thing comes up in the report of the state tax commission. We have been rolling high and calling on the tax payer to foot the bills. The taxpayer has found that note in the pocket and the tax commission intimates that we must cut our appropriations and start now to live within our means. It will have a shoddy feel for a little while until we see that it will not be fatal, and then we will get our feet under us and start on a more rational line, and out of it will come a type of thrift and prosperity that will be real, not the kind that is founded on blown up bladders filled with air.

The tax commission, from its advance reports appears to have taken a sensible and courageous look at the situation and fairly diagnosed the ailment and the remedy. We are going to have a lesson in cutting our coats according to our cloth and not many people are going to be fooled this trip. Economies are certain because they are compulsory. And it will be so in national affairs and in the communities. The public treasuries are about to cease to be grabbags whether we want them to or not. The taxpayer has been heard and that is the voice of necessity. It is not as pretty as it looks but we are going to pay some now whether we buy now or not.

## THE PROPOSED GASOLINE TAX

It looks as if the proposition to increase the gasoline tax, and at the same time to increase the state authority over more roads of the counties, will be received with more or less favor in many quarters, and chiefly because it is a form of taxation that will widely distribute itself, and rest upon those shoulders able to pay and benefitting by its operation.

One objection to the sales tax is that many people regard it as a tax on special things or on a special class which is presumed to be the folks who sell. But in the case of the already existing gasoline tax it is found that no tax more fairly reaches the whole population than the gasoline tax, and everybody sees the directness of the application of that tax to the purpose for

which it was established and the transaction became popular much more rapidly than was anticipated. There is no quibble about assessment, about valuations or about anything else, for the whole matter of levying the tax is determined automatically by the buyer of gasoline. He knows how much his proposition is, so many cents on the gallon, and that is exactly every other man's ratio, and the affair is perfectly balanced between all the people who have it to pay. The man who has no car, who buys no gasoline and uses no roads can very well be overlooked, for with few exceptions he has little to pay with.

It is a fair guess that before long sales taxes are going to be more prominent in settling the tax problem, for the success of this one sales tax is so satisfactory generally that further experiments with the tax on other things can easily be imagined. Further reports from the tax commission will probably make the ground clearer in this direction, but it will be the legislature that initiates any definite steps. Next month will clear the sky materially regarding the tax scheme just ahead of us, for the air is saturated with tax talk and some of it will have to crystallize in action.

## REDISTRICTING THE STATE

One of the vital things that faces the new legislature is the task of creating new Congressional districts to take care of the additional member that comes to North Carolina through the increase of population. Already a number of plans are suggested, some to jockey the situation so a fair representation cannot be obtained. Many arguments are put forth, and far too many of them are based on what it will do in the way of giving to the political parties political advantage over their opponents. The representatives from Moore county should not tolerate such tactics, and for several reasons. The first is that they are not square, and dishonesty in politics cannot be justified any more than dishonesty in anything else. Moore county gained a political advance in November by coming clean politically with the people, trying no trickery, and putting the cards on the table. The decisive majority, and at a time when circumstances might have given different results, leaves no doubt that honest politics can be more effective and certainly far more lasting, than crooked shenanigans.

This state is Democratic. It is up to the Democratic party to make a strictly fair apportionment of the districts, and to do

it without regard for any political gain that may accrue to anybody. The people of North Carolina will not be deluded by anything that is not absolutely straight, and these things always react in the long run. We are entitled as a state to all representatives from this on. We should in the name of honesty have 11 districts as nearly similar in population as can be arranged, giving each district any advantage that its growth and development has indicated. No justification can warrant putting off the apportionment for that is only an attempt to hold over the right of each district to be created now rather than at some time when possibly its situation will give it less or more argument in its separate behalf. The founders of this government entered into a fair agreement as to representation in Congress, and it is only common honesty that we all stick by that agreement, for to cheat any district for the benefit of another is as reprehensible as to steal in any other manner.

Honesty and fairness is the only political policy that can ever win. It is the only course that can win the real approval and support of the people, and we might as well realize that the Democratic party at this juncture can easily commit some blunders that will require it to pay through the nose. For seventy years it has been the victim of conditions that have compelled it to suck the hind teat, and with the exception of the victory of Tilden which it lost, it has not won a national victory except through accident. Nothing is accomplished by saying the Republican party is worse, for where two men are accusing each other of trickery the argument appeals to no one. No political party can ever triumph by means of the iniquity of its opponents. But honesty and fairness in politics can appeal to a substantial following just as in other lines of human action, for the morals of the American people as a mass are not yet so depraved that they will follow the black flag of piracy, or rejoice over the capture or division of stolen goods.

North Carolina Democracy can afford to be fair when it has the whole state in its hands. It can never afford to be unfair at any time. It can not win the approbation of its people by anything but a square deal, and every member of the legislature can perceive very easily what a square deal is. Nothing pays so well as a fair deal in any line, and when dealing with the whole people in politics the policy of a square deal will bring a better return than anything else under the sun.

## GRAINS OF SAND

Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

Moore county ranks well up in the state in urban gain in population. Under the 1930 census the total population of all incorporated places in the county was 7,630, a percentage of increase over 1920 of 106.7, giving us tenth rank in gain in this regard in the state. The incorporated villages of Moore county are Aberdeen, Cameron, Carthage, Hemp, Pinebluff, Southern Pines, Vass and West End.

North Carolina is one of the rapidly urbanizing states of the union. During the past decade the incorporated places of the state have grown more rapidly than during any previous decade, the University News-Letter tells us. And this without loss on the part of the population living outside corporate limits, for it too has grown, though not nearly so great in proportion. The state has a total of 498 incorporated towns and cities, ranging from Charlotte with its 82,675 to Dellview, with just ten inhabitants.

Basing their conclusions upon mortality statistics of 19,000,000 industrial policy holders, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company calls the year 1930 "the record health year of all time for the people of the United States and Canada." It says the year has been free from widespread prevalence of any contagious or infectious disease, and that the influenza death rate will be lower than for many years past.

Cyrus Butler, who was home from Kingsport, Tennessee, during the holidays, brings with him a yarn. A neighbor over there went to the house of a friend and was met at the

door by a little girl. "Where is your daddy?" he asked. "I think he's gone to hell," the child answered. The startled neighbor asked why such a remarkable opinion. "Well," said the child, "that's where mamma told him to go when he went out this morning."

The North Carolina Ice Cream Manufacturers hold their annual convention at Pinehurst next week and little Sadie rises to ask if they are coming here because we have so many cones.

It is good news that the Kiwanis Club of Aberdeen plans to make permanent its committee for relief of the poor and needy in the county. As a county-wide organization of leading citizens, there is no better instrumentality for the investigation and dissemination of relief measures. Congratulations to Frank Buchan for a sound foundation, to the incoming Kiwanis president, Richard Tufts, for sponsoring a move to make improved living conditions among the poor of the county one of the club's chief policies for 1931.

The Pinehurst Outlook begins this week publication of the personal recollections of Bion H. Butler, editor of The Pilot, starting from his arrival in the Sandhills some third of a century ago. Mr. Butler has been so close to the upbuilding of this section that his story is the story of the Sandhills, and written in his inimitable friendly style should be a valuable and interesting contribution to local history.

More than 22,000 square miles were topographically surveyed the last fiscal year by the geological survey.

## GAMMACK & CO.

Members

New York Stock Exchange  
Pittsburgh Stock Exchange

Main Office  
39 Broadway, New York City

SOUTHERN PINES—NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Telephones: Southern Pines 6751—Pinehurst 3821

## THE PAGE TRUST COMPANY, ABERDEEN, N. C.

The Page Trust Company enters the New Year with a highly gratified record made during the year just departed. Established now as one of the prominent banking institutions of the state, with a broadening history that is one of the striking features of financial progress in the recent past the Page Trust Company not only wishes every body a Happy New Year, but confidentially feels that it is in position to help in making that New Year more prosperous in all its field.

## THE PAGE TRUST COMPANY, ABERDEEN, N. C.

## The Time to Buy a Weymouth Heights Location at Southern Pines

The minute the financial sky clears folks will be buying more home sites in the Sandhills, and the minute the movement attains any magnitude prices will advance through the competition of buyers for selected places.

Land values halt some times during a panic, but they always shoot up after the panic. This is the time to buy, and because Weymouth Heights will always be the desirable place it is this is the time to buy a Weymouth home site.

## S. B. RICHARDSON

Real Estate

PATCH BUILDING

Southern Pines. :-: North Carolina

## ALL WINTER COATS Reduced

ON SALE THURSDAY, FRIDAY  
AND SATURDAY

Just a few coats left and they must be sold very quickly and to do so we have marked them cheap.

SEE WINDOW DISPLAY

## WILLIAMS-BELK CO.

In the New Store  
(Wilkins-Ricks Stand

Sanford, N. C.