

THE PILOT

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ROAD AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The legislature is much dis-
turbed over the propositions, the
one to put the administration of
road affairs in the hands of the
state rather than to permit the
counties to handle local roads,
the other to give the state wider
jurisdiction over the schools
instead of allowing the counties
the management and the re-
sponsibility of paying the bills.
Both sides of the question are
debatable, but wholly on the
ground of whether we want to
go farther into state socialism
or stay within individual rule.
Perhaps state management may
be more efficient. Whether more
economical is always an open
question. State management of
the farm would probably be more
efficient than private manage-
ment seems to indicate in many
cases. But private management
seems to be more satisfactory to
the owner. State management
buries individual initiative and
self-dependence which must be
the salvation of any popular
government. State management
heads directly to a dictatorship
whether we realize that fact or
not. Russia is an example, Italy
another. Possibly they may be
heading toward more efficient
government than an empire or
kingdom or republic, but they
have yet to prove the case.

In the county road case the
one question that stands most
decisively in the front in
Moore county at the present is
the status of the county pris-
oners. Now they are work-
ed on the roads by county
management. They do the bulk
of the work. Naturally the tax-
payer asks if we are to keep the
prisoners in jail and instead pay
two cents a gallon on gasoline to
provide money to care for our
county roads. If that be the sta-
tus the question of feeding the
prisoners in idleness will follow
in addition to the extra gasoline
tax. Maybe the state can give
us a more efficient county road
system, but our road expenses
at the present are largely our
road bond interest and our road
bond sinking fund. We have that
to pay whether the state oper-
ates the county roads or not. If
the prisoners can do much of
the work of the road work without
further gasoline tax that leaves
the question open for discussion.
We may not as a county operate
as efficiently but we probably
operate more within our own re-
sources than if we surrendered
our county roads to the state.
The state might work the con-
victs, but at the present it looks
as if the state is to have a fight
in the matter of working state
convicts on state roads. As a rule
we talk too much and think too
little. Here is a point where it is
well to think more and cut out
a lot of the vammmer. Do we want
state control of our county roads
and schools? Can we trust the
whole state to have a hand in
our local affairs? Is it possible
a community can not take care
of its individual problems? Is a
popular governor a failure? Must
we centralize our authority, or
are we capable of operating as
individual communities?

A CLIMAX OF FOOLISHNESS

Men have gone crazy over
prices. We have let go the sub-
stance in the wild desire to
grasp the shadow, and this na-
tion has arrived at the period
where it might well set up a
Jackasses fair. Out in Califor-
nia the price of eggs went down,
and to make the price go higher
an egg war was staged. Men in
crowds threw eggs at each other
until their adoration of idiocy
was satisfied. It is funny that
while thousands of folks would
be glad to eat the eggs and thus
reduce the number they are not

given the eggs, which would
have the same effect, but the
eggs are destroyed. Elevators
are overloaded with wheat, and
folks in the cities are hungry
through lack of the wheat that
is stored. But the owners refuse
to sell because the price is not
satisfactory. We are overloaded
with a great plenty of every-
thing but everywhere that
plenty is hoarded rather than
permit folks who would use it to
have it.

California breaks eggs to re-
duce the number—never con-
sidering that eggs eaten by hun-
gry folks would afford the same
reduction.

But that is not the point. Cali-
fornia wants to keep up prices,
not supply eggs.

In our state we have a prison
problem. More prisoners arrive
at the penitentiary now in a
month than twenty years ago
came in a year. We are paying
enormous sums of money to feed
and care for these prisoners and
will not allow them to work be-
cause a clamor goes up to prevent
them earning money which the
workers say must be paid to
free men outside the prison. So
we all work to earn money to
keep the prisoners idle rather
than let them work to feed
themselves. The penitentiary
threatens to be a tremendous
burden to the taxpayers, but we
insist that they may not work.
Funny, but if they come out of
prison and are free again they
will be allowed to work. But
while in prison they must be
idle.

As a world we are making so
much of everything that we are
in the throes of one of the big-
gest panics we ever knew. We
are so tremendously rich that we
cannot find a way to get rid of
our great surpluses so we are
finding folks practically starv-
ing because of this inordinate
abundance. It does not seem to
occur to us to arrange a way for
better distribution. Instead we
put barriers in the way. We put
tariffs and anti-trust laws and
laws concerning competition and
laws aimed to hinder everything
in every way across the roads of
distribution and then wonder
that we are not all living on Easy
street.

A funny world. We have pro-
duced so much of everything
that we are in the depths of pov-
erty and lacking in room to store
the surplus. What an aggrega-
tion of sublimated fools mankind
is.

SPRING AND THE TOBACCO CROP

Beyond peradventure the far-
mer stands before a problem
that he does not know exactly
how to solve. But he must make
a try at it, and the only thing
to do is to proceed in the direc-
tion that he knows he must
travel. He can from his land
grow a livelihood, even though it
may be as elaborate as the last
ten or fifteen years produced in
some seasons. But he can't turn
his back on his farm and his es-
tablishment, for few other
things offer any more promis-
ing outlet or any greater certain-
ty of reward.

The first thing is to resolute-
ly, and in the most economical
manner possible arrange for
crops that will feed the family
and the farm stock. Then with
equal resolution it is wise to
proceed to make his cash crops,
cotton, tobacco or whatever it
may be. Tobacco has not sold as
high this year as some years,
but nothing is selling as high,
and it looks now as if nothing is
going to high prices right away
again, if ever in the life of the
present generation. The outlook
is that everything is to be pro-
duced at lower costs, which
means that the things the far-
mer will have to buy will be ob-
tainable at lower figures. That
will be a decided relief, for the
farmer's troubles among other
things, have included an abnor-
mally high cost of the things he
has to buy.

The price of most things he
buys now are down, not yet pro-
portionately to the prices of the
things he sells, but the balance
is more pleasing than if farm
prices alone were in the slough
of despondency. Tobacco and
cotton will bring a price, and if
the crops are made at cost that
do not involve too much outlay
they should bring the farmer
what he needs in the way of
cash to buy the things he can-
not make at home. He should
buy mighty little of anything
else. The prospect may not look
encouraging, but it is as well to
face the music. We can't always

have things looking as well as
we like, and the way to get them
that way is to with determined
intent take up the job of com-
pelling the best possible success
and working like thunder to
achieve the purpose.

Things are nothing like as bad
as they might be, and they are
not in such fix that we can't
make them better if we try with
sufficient vigor and determina-
tion. Crying about the situation
does not help it. Planting good
seed, caring for it intelligently
and making the best possible
crops will settle the trouble, and
nothing else will.

A FAMILIAR FACE GONE

The death of Miss Jackman, at
Southern Pines, removes one of
the most familiar faces in the
Sandhills. For a number of
years she has lived in the com-
munity, much of the time asso-
ciated with the restaurant
which her brother carried on in
a manner that gave it a name
for not only a place at which to
eat, but likewise where cordial-
ity and friendliness prevailed.
The pair of them, Miss Jackman
and her brother, made friends.
Everybody felt free to drop in at
Jack's whether he wanted to eat
or to ask the weather, or to see

what time it might be, or just
like you do any place where the
air is genial and the surround-
ings pleasant.

Miss Jackman was found much
of the time at the cashier's desk,
where everybody greeted her,
and where she had a greeting for
those who came and went. She
gave the place that home air
that rests about a good Ameri-
can woman of whom has seen a
fair proportion of the population
grow up about her from the
primer grade to a hand in busi-
ness affairs and in the house,
and who has sustained relations
with them that give her a sort
of adopted relationship. Never
obtrusive, nor effusive, just a
word or two in cordial fashion,
the suggestion of a mother about
the place at meal time, some-
body to give that brief welcome
in a genial way that impresses
its humanity.

If we could know before hand
it would seem kind of nice to so
live that when we go folks would
call to mind that the world had
been something of a pleasanter
place for the influence we have
exerted. Perhaps Miss Jackman
never suspected that she made
the place much more than a busi-
ness venture. In her cordiality
it was the meeting place of
friends, and she was one of
them.

GRAINS OF SAND

We often wonder how much the
public knows of the ramifications of
the work of the local Kiwanis Club.
We were deeply impressed at a meet-
ing we attended a week ago. It was
the first meeting of the month, when
the club transacts its business. At its
other weekly meetings it enjoys a
program, either listening to a speak-
er or musical numbers or some pre-
arranged stunt.

Reports of committees were in or-
der at this business meeting. We anti-
cipated the usual dry reports of list-
less committees which in so many or-
ganizations function in a half-hearted
way. Not so here. Richard Tufts, the
club's new president, has inculcated a
spirit of community usefulness into
his committees. He called for the re-
port of the School Attendance com-
mittee.

That committee, it seems, has for
its job the improvement of the at-
tendance in the schools of the county.
The Pilot ran a story recently, by
Superintendent of Schools H. Lee
Thomas, on the tremendous waste of
public funds through the "repeaters"
in the schools each year. So many
children do not pass their grades,
and one of the chief reasons is their
non-regularity of attendance. The Ki-
wanis Club some time ago offered a
cup to the school maintaining the best
average attendance in the county
during the year. The committee looks
after the contest.

But this particular committee does
more, judging from the report. It
hadn't just written to the teachers
asking for their reports. It had per-
sonally visited practically every
school in the county. Its chairman,
Frank Taylor, had personally address-
ed the children in each of these
schools. It had procured from each
school a list of children delinquent in
attendance, and it purposes to inves-
tigate these cases. Where home con-
ditions are the cause, and these con-
ditions are due to unemployment or ill-
ness, the School Attendance Com-
mittee will pass the word along to the
Committee on Underprivileged Child-
ren and Relief, and this committee
will start to function just as effici-
ently as the other.

Then came a report from the Agri-

cultural Committee. This committee
has for some time been promoting a
Master Farmer contest annually in
the county. Records of the farmers
entering the contest are kept, and at
the end of the year prizes in the sub-
stantial form of gold are awarded the
winners. This year, the committee re-
ported, it proposed to change the
scheme a little, to follow along the
line of Governor Gardner's Live-at-
Home program. It is going to stimu-
late the home garden, endeavor to en-
list all the farmers of the county in
raising their own table foods. Letters
are to go forward to these farmers,
with offers of aid in the form of rec-
ommendations for the growing of all
manner of garden truck. Gordan
Cameron is chairman of this commit-
tee—a hard worker—and he has as
a valuable aid the County Farm
Agent, E. H. Garrison, a member of
the club. Moore county will be living-
at-home and self-sustaining if this
committee's plans do not miscarry.

We cannot begin to enumerate the
activities, all for the betterment of
the community, the Kiwanis Club
sponsors and, what is more, carries
through. It fathered the Moore
County Educational Foundation,
through which worthy young high
school graduates of the county, finan-
cially unable to continue their educa-
tion beyond the public schools, are
enabled to go off to college through
loans payable when they have begun
to cash in on their education. Some
fifteen Moore county youths are now
pursuing higher education through the
efforts of this Kiwanis enterprise.
Meanwhile the club is endeavoring to
raise additional funds that more young
men and women may be launched on
similar careers next fall.

With Kiwanis helping the youth, the
farmer, the underprivileged, the poor
and needy; promoting the beautifica-
tion of the Sandhills through its
planting committees, watching need-
ful legislation as affecting this sec-
tion through its legislative commit-
tees, and serving as a community
chamber commerce to see that the
Sandhills grows systematically and
integrally instead of helter skelter,—
with Kiwanis keeping its weather eye
on all these and more, we should
worry.

Correspondence

WANTS HIGHWAY MARKED

Editor of The Pilot,
Aberdeen, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I notice in your account of fire last
week you located it on the "Bethesda
Road."

Now as the State has built this road
had been laid off and finished by the
State of N. C., to be named in honor
of her very distinguished son, who
served his country and the world as
our ambassador to England during the
war.

I regard him as a martyr to his
cause as was also his chief, President
Wilson himself. Both were slain by
anxiety and overwork in their loved
country's cause.

Now is the State has built this road
leading to his tomb to be called by his
name why cannot our citizens mark it
so that all passing by may see it and
so foster their own State pride and

patriotism? Truly "A Prophet is not
without honor, save in his own coun-
try and among his own kin."

Let's have an arch over the entrance
to this road with the name in gold,
"Walter Hines Page Road."

Respectfully,

MRS. J. H. WITHERS,
Box 66, Aberdeen, N. C.
February 9, 1931.

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF SANDHILL POST FRIDAY

There will be an executive meeting
of the Sandhills Post, American Leg-
ion, Friday, February 13, at the
Pinehurst Country Club at 12:15
o'clock sharp. It is very important
that all officers and committeemen
and women be present as we have
some very important business.

—T. L. BLACK, Commander.

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