

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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IMPRACTICAL SENATORIAL DISTRICTS

As this is written five different projects have been presented to the legislature for new senatorial districts. It is unfortunate that the districts are created for the reasons that usually determine them, our own district being an example. We have had four counties in the district, which is open to no objection as long as the population is fair as regards the other districts of the state. The misfortune is that in the four counties we have been allotted two senators, and through some curious notion those senators are alternated, two given one pair of counties one session, and two to the other pair of counties at the next session. Of course if the purpose of a senatorial district is to permit as many men as possible to occupy the senatorial seat the scheme is effective. But if it is at all for the purpose of useful and efficient legislation it is an absolute failure. This district is represented now by two men, one being Murdoch Johnson, who, thanks to a previous opportunity to know something of legislation through a membership in South Carolina before coming here, is much better equipped than a new man for the work of the place. But no sooner does the average senator in a district like this acquire a knowledge of the fundamental practices of legislation than he is set aside by our peculiar custom to permit a newcomer to take up the work at the next session.

There is one of the great difficulties North Carolina encounters, and that all the states continually face, and that makes our federal Congress much less efficient than it ought to be. When a good man gets into legislative work he should be content there. Not that it is a desirable job, for it is not. But as long as a good man will stay in legislature or Congress the people are the better served for having him there. Johnson and Spence, by reason of their experience in previous sessions, have been of far greater use to the state this winter at Raleigh than is often possible for a new man. The experience they have gained this winter should be available for the county and state welfare at the coming two years from now. Rotation in office is a delusion. If a man is not fit to be trained for service longer than sixty days he is not fit to have the job at all. If he is worth training it is an economic waste to train him even sixty days and then let him get away. If our state was a business organization Johnson and Spence would be in the next legislature if they could be drafted there. Two years from now we will need intelligent and trained men in Raleigh as much as we need them now. Firing the experienced hand is baby play.

THE TROUBLE WITH TAXATION

According to figures from the recent issue of the New York World Almanac. North Carolina has a bonded debt of \$165,000,000. This does not include county and municipal debt, which piles up enormously besides. Two other states, Illinois with \$201,000,000, and New York with \$250,000,000, have a bigger bonded debt than North Carolina. New York is four times as populous as North Carolina, Illinois two and a half times as large as this state. Pennsylvania, the second state in the union, has a debt of \$91,000,000, Ohio \$8,750,000, and our neighbor, Virginia has a debt of \$25,000,000, or little more than a seventh of ours. Illinois is the only state that has so big a road

debt as ours, no state has so large a debt for education, and no state so large as ours for welfare institutions. Yet there are eleven other states more populous than North Carolina. As a debt creator we rank among the first three.

The only way debts are paid is by taxation. We have borrowed and spent money that has to be paid. In addition we are levying taxes for more money to be spent to keep up our program of great expenditure.

Now, beyond a doubt, it is wise to spend money to get the things we should have, always provided we can provide the money and that it is to be spent judiciously. It is wise to spend money if we can afford it. The answer to whether we can afford it may be found in the protest against taxes. It may be found there, or it may be an undue alarm. That is for the people to determine. We are spending a tremendous lot of money. We owe a tremendous lot. In addition to state debt and state taxation we owe a great amount in county and town, and we spend a great total in those departments as well as through state disbursements.

The trouble with taxation is that as a state, as a county, as a community, all of North Carolina is clamoring for money from the public fund for this and that and innumerable things. If we are to have what we demand we have also to see the tax collector. If we are to reduce we must quit holding out our hands for everything under the sun, and quit insisting that we must have everything that is held before our eyes.

There is the whole story. We have to pay for what we have bought with the money borrowed. We will have to pay for all the other things we buy. We will have to pay with taxes. We may lessen taxes a little by stopping some of our expenses, but not many people are calling for reduction of anything. We can't lessen the taxes where debts are owned, for bonds have a way of demanding money or repudiation. Before we can settle the tax situation we have to settle whether we are to spend less money. If we are not the tax burden is perpetual, and we, the whole people, have it to carry. Some hopeful philosophers think it can be shifted, but it can't. That has been tried for ages by all people, but never with success. We can't dodge the tax collector, no matter what scheme you think you have found.

EDUCATION AND HOME LIFE

Last Sunday was not a very good day for folks to get out on religious missions, which resulted in a small number attending the Bible Forum in Southern Pines. T. C. Waldie had been scheduled to talk to the Forum on some educational influences of ancient Jewish life, but before he got underway the meeting seemed to develop a sort of question and answer session, and there it stayed until adjournment time. But not until Mr. Waldie was dated for next Sunday for the same subject, which appeared to be of more than ordinary interest to those who were present.

It is said of Mr. Waldie that he is an educator of experience in specialized fields and that he is a thinker and student who has something to say to others who think about current problems. However he may tackle the program next Sunday is of little consequence, for his last Sunday handling of his theme shows that he has it like the mariner has his compass, so that he can box it coming or going. An especial point that should be of interest at this period of restless life is Mr. Waldie's emphasis on the importance of home life that the Jews of Biblical days encouraged and which, among the Jews, holds good to this day.

The Bible Forum is a proper place for Mr. Waldie's talk, for it permits discussion of the subject at any point by anyone who feels disposed, and when a man like Mr. Waldie presents a new idea he is usually called on to elaborate on any phase of it that excites question or comment. The Forum is held in the basement of the Southern Pines Baptist Church at 10 o'clock Sunday morning. It is a sort of go-as-you-please affair without much rule or regulation, depending on the judgment of those who constitute the assemblage

at the time as to its manner of conduct. Its purpose is a study of the Bible which is plenty broad enough to occupy an hour or so of a Sunday morning, and with a man like Mr. Waldie to lead the study many of the topics that are presented send the attendants home with something to think about any time they want to think. Topic and talker next Sunday are worth coming out to hear. Open to all men who are interested.

FEELING THEIR GROWING PAINS

Much to the surprise of everybody when the census man counted the folks in Southern Pines he found some three thousand and souls. With the annexation of the colored settlement the number rises close toward four thousand, and in the winter season the population climbs up toward five or six thousand, and becomes a definite and progressive member of the group of smaller cities of North Carolina.

One of the problems of life is for mother to keep little Willie in proper clothes, not because he wears them out so fast, but rather because he does not wear them out fast enough. Before he has thoroughly gone though the knees and the sit-down area of his trousers they will not reach from east to west or from north to south on his anatomy, and must be discarded for a larger equipment, to the dismay of the family exchequer. Towns are like boys. They outgrow their facilities.

Mr. Allen's school population at present time in Southern Pines is much bigger than the entire population, adults, babies, school children and every thing else when Allen was first given charge of the schools of the aspiring village. When he came to the community not a school house in the county could compare with the colored school in Southern Pines at present. Steadily the school population is encroaching on the room, and teaching force, and financial provision to carry on. It costs more money to build the sidewalks of Southern Pines now than it did to build and maintain the streets a few years ago. The water question, the sewers, the police, the various things in a growing town, call for money. And of equal importance they call for capable supervision. They call for policing, and for court administration, and for a thousand things that few people know of.

You can't grow and have the same trousers serve you. Southern Pines grows at more than ordinary gait, hence its growing pains are more severe. Some of the folks make the mistake of thinking that a few individuals are responsible for these growing pains, for the cost of the new clothes, for the policies that are pursued, for all the unexpected problems that follow. That is a misfortune. The man who lends a hand in the administration of affairs in a growing town needs to be as wise as the serpents of Biblical day, as tactical as a commanding general, as untiring as a waterfall, and as diplomatic as a prime minister. For there is only one thing he can do, and that is to buy Willie a new pair of pants when his feet stick down too far through the old ones. Southern Pines is like Mr. Reilly, who kept the hotel. He kept it darn well. But the town has its growing pains and they cannot be stopped. No matter who rules Willie must have his pants according to his growth.

TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE BROTH

Much of the excitement of the people over the tax measure before the legislature is needless. It is not very material which of the many bills proposed becomes the tax law, for neither of them is sufficiently near perfection to be permanent. We are in the midst of a gigantic experiment, which will be nothing more positive than an experiment when it is put in practice, for it is a makeshift at the best, and a compromise, which is the name for a thing that never yet worked.

Only a few people have given to taxation enough thought to have a clear understanding of its principles. Yet they should be simple enough. They are grounded on the need of money to carry on the public affairs. First of all considered should be the limit of public demand. Some

things are included in the state and county and town budgets that have no business there, and many are included in the national budget. But unhappily nearly all of us are eager to have more things put there, overlooking the fact that taxation must pay all the expenses and outlays. The first needful thing to do with tax schemes is to look over the budget and get rid of useless expenses. Then we arrive at the point of providing for the things really justified.

Any logical and fair system of taxation would consider an equal responsibility of every citizen in bearing the burden of government. Here is encountered the most formidable obstacle. Nearly everybody wants the tax loads laid on shoulders other than his. Until we frame a tax measure that honestly calls on all of us for a fair proportion of the expenses of government we are building a tax law that can not survive. It is fair to all that the man of limited means pay his great proportion. It is not

only fair, but no other scheme can ever work out. If the small man dodges he is caught in some of the ramifications of taxation, and usually he is caught for more than his fair share. That the rich pay the taxes is one of the most positive delusions. Rich and poor alike get their money from others. And it is the others who provide the money to pay the taxes and everything else. We may think we can dodge taxes, but if we do not pay one way we pay another, and in paying through the nose we pay in the most expensive way.

So we will never have a satisfactory or a fair tax system until we make a schedule that will tax every citizen in accord with his ability to pay, his ability resting on his earnings, in no matter what form. No matter what the bill accepted by this legislature the next one will have a tax job on hand. Too many conflicting opinions are calling for different things in the mixture.

of blame as well as opportunity. We are all in it.

"Are we getting anywhere? I think so."

New York as a whole is pretty gloomy. It was, therefore, something of a silver lining to the cloud to hear the head of one of the world's largest corporations sound a note of confidence in the future. Frederick W. Ecker, president of the largest financial institution in the world, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, also voiced optimism in a talk before company agents while we were north. "We are six months ahead of where we think we are," he said, "just as we were six months worse off than we thought we were when this wave of depression hit."

Among North Carolinians we saw at the Associated Press meeting were John Park of the Raleigh Times, Joseph Daniels, Jr., of the Raleigh News and Observer, and Talbot Patrick of the Goldsboro News-Argus.

The weather in New York was fine, the girls as pretty as ever, the taxicabs run faster than ever, and all in all it's a pretty good place to come back from.

—N. C. H.

GRAINS OF SAND

New York is about the same.

the metropolis. Ernest would quickly acquire a stiff neck.

Of course they'll never get it finished, and we don't see how they'll ever solve the traffic problem or how they keep their health with all the carbon monoxide they breathe from the exhausts of motor vehicles, but that's their look-out. We only run up about twice a year and can stand it for a few days.

That new Empire State Building, tallest in the world, is worth a trip to see. Al Smith is president of the company that built it on the site of the famous old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, and it looks as if it would hold all the people who voted for Al a couple of years ago. We want Ernest Woodward of Southern Pines to run up and look at it, and we want to be there when he does. Ernest told us a while back that the last time he was in New York the dome of the New York World building topped all metropolitan structures. The World building today is hardly distinguishable among its neighbor skyscrapers. It isn't nearly as tall as buildings in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. There are probably 1,000 taller buildings in

We went up to attend the annual meeting of the Associated Press. Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, was the principal speaker at the luncheon. He seemed optimistic of the country's ability to recover from the present economic depression if we will all keep our heads, resort to no sensationalism, avoid hysteria.

"I believe in the common sense and ability of the American people," and I have, therefore, no fears of the present or the future. The immediate present, statisticians of the telephone company tell me, shows signs of improvement. How fast that improvement will be, measured in weeks or months, I don't know. But in the telephone company we have every confidence in the future—not only confidence, but the keenest interest in the possibilities ahead of us.

"Whose depression is this," he asked. "If, as has been said, a fundamental cause of it is greed, who are they that did not add their part to the picture? This is a democracy

From the State Press

LINGERING IN THE SANDHILLS

What has been known as "the Winter season" in the resort towns of the Sandhills has been gradually lengthened in recent years so that it now extends well into the Summer. The "peak" or "height" has been extended a few weeks longer with each recurring season and the hotels that were usually closed at this time of the year are yet humming with activity, with the golf links, polo grounds, race tracks, archery grounds and all out of doors looking like circus day. More than that, the number of homes built by Winter tourists, but converted into all-the-year-around residences, has been multiplied to material increase of the permanent population. This is particularly true of Southern Pines, which has been built up largely by homeowners attracted by the advantages offered in climate and civic beauty, for the original population made it a

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Midland Farms Home Sites

It is plain as the nose on your face that all the work of planning for new home sites in the Midland area is not to stop at the engineering stage.

Folks who come to the Sandhills for a winter residence or for more temporary stay will be interested in the advancement that each new step suggests.

Ten years ago the Midland section was almost an undiscovered country. Ten years from now can be estimated by the ten years that have gone.

Midland Farm home sites will be in the heart of all of it in the next few years.

Now is a good time to secure a location.

MIDLAND FARMS, Inc.
 Pinehurst, N. C.

or accredited Real Estate agents in Pinehurst or Southern Pines.