

# THE PILOT

Published every Friday by  
**THE PILOT, Incorporated.**  
 Aberdeen, North Carolina  
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**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 Aberdeen, N. C., as second-class mail matter.

## THE COUNTY'S NEW GOVERNMENT

On Monday at Carthage the five men who compose the new County Board of Commissioners met together for the first time. The elected members had been in session previously, but the new members, Cameron and Seymour, were both on hand Monday, which was the first session of the full new board. A critical analysis of the new government is altogether in its favor. Matheson and Shaw are members of previous boards. Currie, the new chairman, comes to his task with an alacrity that is decidedly promising. G. C. Seymour and Frank Cameron are men of that type of intelligence that gain the approval of the people. Taking it all around the five men are regarded by the county generally as an excellent board.

Accepting them as such the next thing is to recognize the big job which they have undertaken to carry out. The drift of the county to a more logical business base, which has come about during the rule of preceding boards, gives the new commissioners a clearer field of operation, at the same time placing on them more complex responsibilities. The growth of the county and the increase of county business adds to the burden. The financial condition of the country brings a serious complication, while the change in tax methods in state and county adds to all the troubles the perplexing job of reorganizing the county administration, a thing in itself sufficient without anything else to give the members a run for their money.

Therefore the people of the county have something to think about. The Board of Commissioners can not work miracles. They will be beset every meeting day by numbers who come to urge various measures, some of them wise, some of them so unwise as to be impossible; to demand governmental schemes that have nothing to recommend them except the local or personal desire for favors; to criticize, to condemn, to approve, and for many purposes that actuate the bulk of people. If we can get it in our heads at the start that this board, until the county is organized under the new laws on a smoothly working basis, will have its hands full, and let the commissioners alone as much as possible, and determine to help them rather than to ride them to distraction, we will be better served and the county will be much better off. These men are giving a close and serious study to county problems. They are more familiar with affairs than the most of us; they are just as honest, just as capable, and just as anxious as any of us. But they know two things. The things asked for must be paid for. They can not call for too much money in taxes without imposing a burden on the county too heavy to bear. To the extent that appropriations are asked for we must be willing to pay the taxes to provide the money. To the extent that we are not willing to pay the taxes we must not ask for the expenditure of money. There is one thing we must always be willing to balance, the income and the outgo. Two ways permit the lessening of taxes, the lessening of expenses to call for more money, and the definite refusal to collect the money that might be asked for. If we lessen taxes by collecting less money we are forced to spend less. If we spend less we are able to get along by collecting less. Same thing in the long run, and that is the chief job that confronts the commissioners.

These men want to serve the county wisely. They are like the

most of us in not being as wise as serpents all the time, and they will not always be able to do what everybody wants them to. No use to get after them with stones and dead cats and revilement. They can be reached by a little reasonable argument any time, and will probably be glad to discuss public measures with the people any time when they have sufficient leisure. But their job is not to defend their policies but to carry on the government. Having placed them in office they are entitled to our enthusiastic backing. In that way they will be encouraged to do their most vigorous best, for any man likes to accomplish a good job. Moore county was never in better shape under its new laws to have a good county administration, and if such is not the case the people will be largely responsible. A lot of hard work is ahead, and as the job is chiefly a thank-you affair, a bit of encouragement once in a while will get a lot of good results. The man who does not stand by the administration drives nails in his own coffin, for no employe will work like thunder, furnish all the enthusiasm, and all the smiles for nothing, and let everybody else kick all the time.

## A CONSUMER'S MARKET

One of the redeeming features about a financial depression such as we have at the present time is the multiplicity of theories regarding it, and the many remedies that are offered, and the bulk of recommendation as to what may not be done as well as what may be. Washington is now said to be admonishing employers not to cut wages, which is an admirable attitude if it can be made to work. Unfortunately, while nobody wants to cut wages it is not a question of desire that brings wage cuts, but of the readiness of the buyer of commodities to pay a sufficient price for his purchases to enable the producer to pay high wages. This is best seen on the farms, for farms constitute a large number of employers, and the farm has cut wages widely over the country because the price for farm stuff will not permit paying high wages. The farm has been the goat in the matter of wages much of the time, farm stuff bringing a price smaller proportionately than most manufactured stuff, which in turn started many hands from farm to factory, and that in turn tended to affect wages in the factory. It was the abundance of farm labor in the South that drew New England's cotton industry to this and adjoining states, leaving New England mills marooned on the shallow waters of decreased sales through southern competition.

The buyer of goods turns to southern products and the New England mill cannot pay old time New England wages and sell the output. Low farm wages had to do with lower cotton mill wages in the South, which in turn has taken the trade from New England, and it is hard to see how the New England mill can pay higher wages and run. The buyer of goods will not buy the higher priced New England goods. It is a buyer's market, and the New England mill must produce at a cost as low as the South does or not produce at all. And it looks as if wages in the South, on the farm and elsewhere must be put up before wages in other sections can be held at a higher level, no matter what Washington or any other influence may attempt to secure. The day the farm wage fell below a reasonable equilibrium wages every place invited this disaster. It may not be pleasant, but it is hard to see how to alter it.

## UP THE DEEP RIVER WAY

Farming in the upper end of the county is making excellent progress. Wheat especially is coming forward in vigorous manner, the fields showing a good stand, with well filled heads. Plowing has made good headway. Peach orchards indicate a big yield now that the danger of frost has passed. The interest shown in the Deep River valley by northern folks points to a development of much promise that way. The Wilcox farm will apparently stimulate further interest in the multiplication of wild life, to be followed by additional purchases of woodland by men of means who want

to create winter homes and hunting estates in North Carolina.

Around Hemp the enlargement of the silk mills is having its influences. New building at the mill is under way, and many new houses. All this encourages activity of a substantial kind. At Glendon the saw mills are singing their tune of production. Here and there along the good roads the farms indicate a tendency to home improvement as well as the production of crops. An occasional new farm house, the repair of the old one, planting things to give an air of thrift around the place, and down toward Eagle Springs the big farms and orchards are taking on a more hopeful air.

The Carolina Power company at the transformer station near West End has caught the infection of planting, and so unemotional an institution as a transformer plant has been made one of the show places of the county. A drive up that way pays for itself if nothing else is gained but a glimpse of the planting and shrubbery work about the station.

The north side of the county has a fine system of good roads now, some of the hills and valleys as picturesque as can be desired for an outing ride. These spring days with the dogwood and the Judas trees and the woodland blossoms covering the ground it is a delight to go out by the Horseshoe, Glendon, McConnell, Hemp and work around to the Eagle Springs road by Big Oak, Bensalem or Mt. Carmel, or in fact any way to get back to the lower section. Give Lizzie a tank of gas and turn her head toward the clay hills, and she will come home grateful for the outing, and so will you.

## THE QUESTION OF ASSESSMENTS

One of the most important matters that is to come before the county commissioners at their meeting next Monday is that of assessments of property in the county. At the meeting last Monday Mr. Cameron, who is at the head of the county organization for assessments discussed with the county commissioners the wisdom of having men in the field to make a personal inquiry into the value of all real estate, and that feature will be up again next week. In Sandhills township this method of assessment has been given much consideration, and Mr. McKeithen, who has wide acquaintance with the township and long years of experience in fixing property values, says the township board in a brief journey over their territory has discovered enough unlisted property in revenue enough to make it highly profitable for the few hours time spent in looking around this way personally by the township board.

The local assessors are among the most important members of county government. It is imperative that they shall be men of judgment, and have a knowledge of their townships. It is believed that a good selection of assessors has been made throughout the county. But it is argued, and will be again next Monday, that these men in every township should be instructed to give themselves personal familiarity with the property on which they are to fix values. Undoubtedly Mr. McKeithen is correct when he says that the time spent in household visits by the assessors will more than pay its cost in bringing to notice enough untaxed property to more than pay the small outlay. And what is of equal importance a personal comparison of properties will permit many equalizations of values that will be followed by more fairness in the taxes called for. Such visits allow inquiry on the ground, and discussion with owners. They give direct information that enables comparisons of neighborhood values with each other. The present system of all of Jewry going up to Jerusalem to be taxed is archaic and too far out of date. No man knows what his property is worth until it has been compared with a wide range of other properties, and he can not tell the assessor anything about it in any other way than by comparisons and personal observation by the assessors. The attitude of the county commissioners at the last meeting was one of interest in this particular proposition, and it will be discussed at the next

# GRAINS OF SAND

Carthage delenda est,  
 No, no!  
 Samarcanid ignito jail  
 But she no go.

Those girls at Carthage seem to have a burning passion to get out of jail.

Senators Johnson of Moore and Johnson of Duplin have introduced a bill in the Assembly authorizing the removal of belligerent girls at Samarcanid to the State Prison at Raleigh when the occasion demands. Don't these legislators know that the State Prison is not fireproof?

Hard times do not seem to affect the Aberdeen Sand Company. It shipped 125 cars in one week. Mayhap what the rest of us lack in our fight against Old Man Poverty is sand.

You have to go to the Seaboard station in Southern Pines for all tickets. Even the town's political ticket is made up there.

Southern Pines has a good city administration, and shows its appreciation and judgment by re-electing it.

Said the Charlotte Observer, editorially, in a recent issue:

"Southern Pines is perhaps the best example of the modern town, a fact appreciated by travelers over State Highway No. 50. Southern Pines is an excellent example of what it is possible to accomplish through civic pride."

When Vice President Curtis comes to the Sandhills to visit his son-in-law he will have an attractive home to stop in. E. Webster Knight has transformed the old Walter Maples place on Bethesda Road into a picturesque winter residence of charm and comfort. He has shown what can be done on two acres of sand.

Murdoch M. Johnson is back in Aberdeen renewing acquaintances after an extended visit to Raleigh. The oldest living legislator never spent more time during one session of the legislature than has Murloch in his one term at Raleigh.

And now come the days when more North Carolina automobile license plates are in evidence in the Sandhills than those of other states.

# Correspondence

## TAXES

Editor, The Pilot:

One of the county papers last week carried a headline entitled: "Huge Property Tax Reduction Now in Sight." As Mutt would say to Jeff: "Interesting is true." The only truth in it is that we still owe the money, or it's going to take so much money to carry us across and where can we get it? Taking the burden off the right shoulder and placing it on the left may be restful but the burden continues to bear down. It is impossible to fool all the people all the time.

The great trick of the Legislature is to get a man to pay his tax in a method which will be painless if possible. The luxury or nuisance tax is a sort of anesthetic to lull one into believing he isn't paying anything much. If the average man realized that about thirty percent of what he pays for gasoline is tax and this thirty percent was presented to him at the end of every year in the form of a billed notice for taxes due, the moaning and groaning would jar the foundations of our so-called Bulwark of Liberty and Freedom. This anesthetic method, however, is very good and what a man doesn't feel generally doesn't hurt him. The truth about it is, taxes will be higher next year than they ever have been. The Legislature doesn't create a lot of commissions and vote a lot of building programs for nothing. We're going to pay more taxes next year than we paid this year but we're going to be doped up to where we won't feel it so much.

The thing that has pestered this last Legislature is that they're about to run out of dope. If the old hypodermic method fails, the Fall of Rome won't be a circumstance to some things and wrath will surely take the camp. The only sure method of reducing taxes is to reduce expenditures. It sounds easy but it's hard. The bird with the broken pinion never flies as high again and the pinions in North Carolina are truly in a strain. Fooling the people won't work all the time, no matter what the headlines may read; and it's about time to apply the asbestos on this joy ride. When the old dope gives out, Oh grave where is thy victory, oh death where is thy sting! It has been said that another difference between death and taxes is the death doesn't get worse every time the Legislature meets.

You can draw your own conclusions, but eventually you will arrive at this answer: Taxes next year will be a little higher. This thing called ignorance is a simple thing but it's darn dangerous. The great problem confronting our politicians today is administering the anesthetic.

—H. F. SEAWELL, JR.

Carthage, N. C.,  
 May 4, 1931.

## THE MOCKING BIRD

If the mocking bird had nothing but his plumage to recommend him, he would scarcely be entitled to notice.

Monday meeting and threshed out. The Pilot's opinion is that it is worth the small cost it entails to have the assessors look over their territory personally. A greater revenue will result, and probably a much greater satisfaction of the people and a greater fairness in comparative values of all property.

There is nothing gaudy or brilliant in it, but his figure is well proportioned and I've been so close as to notice the animation in his eyes and he is really a handsome bird. The ease, elegance and rapidity of his movements and the intelligence he displays is really surprising.

An old colored auntie used to stay with me—her name was Kate Bingham (all who have lived in Aberdeen as long as I have remember "Aunt Kate.") She died about three years ago, and she had a mocking bird in a cage, which she carried with her, bringing him with her in the morning and carrying him home at night. I observed by watching this bird that he lost little of the power of his song by confinement. When he would commence his career of song it would be impossible for me to stand by uninterested. He would run over the quiverings of my dear little canary, and with such superior execution and effect that the mortified little canary would feel his own inferiority and become entirely silent. During the exhibition of his powers, he would spread his wings, expand his tail, and throw himself around the cage in ecstasy and enthusiasm, and not only would he sing but dance to his own music.

A sportsman once told me that he had been deceived many times by the mocking bird, that the mocking bird had sent him in search of birds that perhaps were not in miles of him, but whose notes he exactly imitates. Last spring and summer mounted on the top of my neighbor's (Mrs. Blue) chimney a mocking bird in the dawn of dewy morning would sing until his admirable song would rise pre-eminently over every other bird. This same bird on the same chimney during the solemn stillness of night, as soon as the moon would rise, would begin his delightful solo, and he would serenade us all night long. I would wake in the night and he would still be displaying his vocal powers.

Some people's opinion is that this excessive fondness for variety injures his song, but I don't think so.

—MRS. A. A. MCKEITHEN.

## COMMENCEMENT AT FLORA MACDONALD NEXT WEEK

Plans are going forward at Flora MacDonald College at Red Springs for an unusually interesting Commencement season from May 16th to 20th. The Senior Class Day exercises will be on Saturday afternoon at 6:45 on the campus. On Sunday morning the Baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Dr. H. Tucker Graham of Florence, S. C., who will also speak again that night at the Presbyterian Church. The Vesper Service, so dear to the hearts of returning alumnae, will be conducted as usual by Dr. Vardell. The annual concert, which promises to be of an especially high order, will be given on Monday night. The alumnae luncheon at 1 o'clock will be followed by the business meeting. At 4 o'clock the reception and exhibits of the Department of Home Economics will take place and that night the Senior play, Sheridan's "A School for Scandal" will be given.

Dr. Henry Louis Smith, President Emeritus of Washington-Lee College will deliver the address to the graduating class on Wednesday morning, exercises beginning at 10 o'clock. Diplomas will be presented to 51 seniors, the largest graduating class in the history of the college. An interesting feature of the morning's program will be the installation of President H. G. Bedinger.

# Splendid Work Done In Cameron School

## Interesting Figures for Season Just Ended Are Revealed by Principal Temple

Interesting facts regarding the Cameron school were divulged this week by Principal E. S. Temple. They give some idea of the magnitude of the work done the past year and will acquaint the patrons of the school with its work.

During the school year which came to a close April 24, 432 children were enrolled. Of these 345 were enrolled in the elementary school and 87 in the high school. Nine elementary and three high school teachers were employed. The average daily attendance in the elementary school was 264.2 and in high school 74.8, a total for the school of 338.9. Out of the enrollment of 432 for the school, 253 were in the compulsory attendance age, 7-13 inclusive. The average daily attendance of this group was 223.7, a per cent in attendance of 91.3. The per cent in attendance for the whole school was 91.

The membership of the school at the end of the year was 364. Of this number 288 were in the elementary school and 76 in high school. 199 of the 288 in the elementary school were promoted, a percentage of 72.6. Of the membership of 76 at the end of the year in the high school, 62 were promoted, a percentage of 81.6. A total of 261 were promoted, a percentage for the school of 71.7. According to the October, 1930 issue of State School Facts, published by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the per cent promoted in 1928-29 in the rural schools of the state was 65, and in Moore county 65.6. Cameron's per cent of promotion is a little higher than for the state.

The chief cause of non-promotion is poor attendance. Of the 199 promoted this year in the Cameron elementary school, 149 attended 140-169 days and 30 attended 120-139 days. Of the 62 promoted in high school, 54 attended 140-160 days and 6 attended 120-139 days. In other words 203 of the 261 promoted in the school attended 140-160 days, and 36 attended 120-139 days. It is very apparent, therefore, that a very large per cent of those who attend regularly are promoted and that those who do not attend regularly are those who fail or are not promoted.

Among other causes of non-promotion might be mentioned mental and physical defects, poor preparation for the grade, over-loaded teachers and lack of diligence in study by the pupils.

The average number of pupils transported daily to and from school was 260. The average number of miles traveled daily by the busses was approximately 110 miles. The average cost of transportation per pupil per month was about 85c, or about \$6.80 for the year. This low cost was made possible by county-owned and operated school busses. Approximately enough was saved this year, according to prices previously paid to contractors, to pay for the school busses, and much better means of transportation were provided. This saving is largely due to the efficient county superintendent, H. Lee Thomas. For the efficient and successful operation of the school busses, much credit should be given to the capable drivers, who were school boys. No complaints whatever were received in regard to the busses and no child was injured. This is an excellent record.

## JEFFRESS HEADS STATE'S NEW HIGHWAY BOARD

E. B. Jeffress, Greensboro, publisher of two daily newspapers, former mayor and present legislator, has been named by Governor Gardner as chairman of the new State Highway Commission, for a four-year term. Governor Gardner has named the other commission members as follows: James H. Clark, Clarkton, Bladen county; T. L. Bland, Raleigh, and C. A. Cannon, Concord for terms of two years, and N. L. Stedman, Halifax; James L. McNair, present member, Laurinburg and Will W. Neal, Marion, for terms of four years.

The new commission held its first meeting this week to take over the State highway activities, including 40,000 miles of county roads to maintain.

Governor Gardner has re-appointed present members of the State Prison Board and sent the names to the Senate for confirmation Monday night. The members are J. Wilbur Bunn, Raleigh; J. R. Smith, Mount Airy, and A. S. Copeland, Kinston, for four years; L. F. Abernathy, Hickory, and E. B. Bridges, Charlotte, for three years, and D. C. Barnes, Murfreesboro, and B. B. Everett, Palmyra, for two years.