

THE PILOT

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A DATE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday, July 1, is a day in North Carolina from which to make comparisons in government administration and political policy. On that day the State passed from the old Jeffersonian theories of individualism to the growing popularity of State administration or socialism in its modern manifestations. On that date the State took up the complete administration of the former community functions of road administration, and the State supplanted the smaller community and dismissed the individual as a factor in government. Incidentally the State also reached over to the control and responsibility of the school system although to hardly so complete a control. But once on the road it is not hard to turn everything in the same direction.

It is an old doctrine, that of mass operation. Possibly it is the most logical. In all directions state socialism is making headway. Russia, with its Soviet five-year plan, Italy with its Fascism, the United States with its dependence on state and federal treasury for everything, in Britain with its dole, everywhere with that same leaning on government responsibility, points to the same thing. It is an interesting adventure into an unknown sea, but The Pilot believes it is a wise one. No government on earth today gives much evidence of ability, efficiency or positive permanences. Our republic seems to be the most satisfactory type, but the fact is that we have too many opinions and too little real interest in government efficiency and fairness, and unless we can get better results from more centralization than we have been able to realize through the local units of government on a local basis, we have reached a point where we have outgrown our machinery and equipment.

It is not hard to believe that centralization is necessary for our further success. But one thing must be forthcoming. Greater intelligence and efficiency must be developed in many of the functions of government. Governor Gardner today becomes responsible for much more than he carried on his shoulders last week. The new system will require a far more business-like administration than the old one demanded. We are trying to enter on a basis of real business instead of political bluff. We must put at the head of affairs men who are business men and who realize the exactions the new job holds out for them. Probably a new day has come in North Carolina politics, and one that will be wholesome, but it lies with the people to say so. If we stand by the State government with its new burdens, back it to the highest with our encouragement and honest help, stop sticking our hands in its pockets at every turn for an appropriation of a political job, it will succeed. But the State has started out this week to be a business machine instead of a political graft. Great good can come from this movement if we all stand by, and The Pilot is confident Moore county is going to do its darndest to be a help, rather than an obstruction.

THE BEGINNING OF ECONOMY

The budget memorandum from the governor asking a reduction in State expenditures indicates the beginning of government economy in North Carolina and probably marks the return of the doctrine of living within a reasonable State income. This is the point which many observing men have been expecting the State to reach, and had this doctrine been forcefully enough

considered by the legislature and vigorously enough demanded by the people while the legislature was in session it is probable that less difficulty would have been experienced in framing a tax measure. But now that the situation has been recognized the State will go forward on the basis that if you can't make your income cover your expenses it is wise to undertake to keep your expenses within your income. Both methods attain the same results.

It is not going to be an easy matter to adjust expenses to income, for we have been feeding ourselves up on the doctrine that "Little Johnnie Gilligan He's as good as any man," which is merely another way of saying that we have as much right as anybody to scatter our money everywhere and to buy everything that anybody else buys. That of course is correct if we have the money, but when the funds have to be raked out from every pocket, some of them with nothing to rake from, economy in course of time becomes a necessity because no more can be raked up.

The whole test in individual budget as well as in state, county and nation is how to pay for all the things we think we have a right to procure. When we find that the pocket is too empty to pay we gradually realize that we must limit the buying, and what is of far more consequence we discover that we can get along on much less than in our hilarity we thought was essential. The State has now confessed that the way to lessen taxes is not to shift taxation to some other imagined source of revenue, but to stop a lot of the needless expenditure until we have the money to pay. This thing of going after the money where it is sounds good, but it seems that it isn't where it was supposed to be. It isn't any place in quantity to pay the expenses we have been entailing. And the end of the spending era has come.

Corn bread, bacon and greens will come into fashion again in public affairs and caviar and goose livers and cocktails will have a rest. We have a lot of state, county and national debt to pay off, but we are going to cut down on a lot of the fanciful things that we had grown to believe were necessities. Debt and interest will keep sufficient load on our necks for the next few years. Economy in other lines will be necessary to enable the payment of those fixed burdens. Governor Gardner will find a backing of the people in his attempt to change our financial practices, for necessity is helping to carry out his proposition. "Ten acres and a mule, the old flag and an appropriation," will once again lose its virulence as a battle cry.

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY

On July 1 a new law took effect which makes drivers of automobiles for hire responsible for damage to person or property. To give that responsibility standing of substantial character the driver of a vehicle for hire must carry insurance or post a bond that will cover personal damage to the extent of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and property damage to \$1,000. Drivers of private cars will be denied license if they inflict damage and do not make settlement.

This is only a beginning of what is certain to follow, for with the murderous policy of the automobile and the vast damage steadily piled up it is becoming tiresome to the people, and the sentiment is growing that the driver who is guilty of damage must be made to assume the responsibility and the cost that follows. An automobile is a heavy, swift and dangerous projectile, rivaling the big guns of the armies, but unlike them, carrying on in times of peace and under the guise of the banner of inoffensiveness. There is no more sense in permitting swift-running cars to race up and down the roads and absolve the drivers from responsibility for the damages they are duly inflicting than to call off the penalties laid on the railroad when a railroad car is guilty of a similar offense like those that are making the automobile the gravest danger of the modern day.

It is wholly needless to drive as indifferently and hoggishly as many of the drivers seem to think is their right and their requirement. The thousands of

people killed by automobiles and the millions that are injured serve no purpose in their mishaps. The car that does the damage should be held responsible. If bonds will not provide the remedy, or insurance, then surely the car that is guilty of aggression should be barred from the roads. No man has a right to be a public menace, for it is entirely unnecessary. And that being the case every driver on the road should be required to establish such financial responsibility by bond, insurance, or the satisfaction of the State license department that he can pay damages in case of accident or he should not be given a license for his car. Private rights to kill are not greater than public rights of safety.

THE SOUTHERN PINES CURB MARKET

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Southern Pines farm curb market is making progress. That it brings to the farm wives an addition to their cash income is one good feature. That it affords the village a certain supply of country stuff is another. But beyond that is a still more important one; it brings into the town on Saturday morning a bunch of intelligent women from the country and affords a social contact that is of the greatest value. Country women lead a life of some isolation, but when they get to town where a continually changing crowd surrounds them they have an outlet for their social inclinations that is good for them, and mighty wholesome for the folks in town. After all is said about the progress of town life the fact is that the human race lives with its feet on the ground. From the country touch with Nature comes the stimulus that carries the race through, and on the soil is the anchor that holds human kind to its course. The curb market is a sort of mental clearing house for town and country women alike. The two mingle there and discuss affairs from their separate viewpoints, which provide the true perspective of life, for the more we all see through the eyes of a neighbor the more we reach the average of accuracy of vision which must be the guiding rule of action.

Town life is the illustration of mass action. Country life is individualism. Mass action is the principle of socialism and communism. Farm life is the principle of every fellow for himself. There on a miniature scale is the whole story of the division of social lineup. The curb market weaves these lines together, and mixes the two influences. It tends as far as it reaches to make the two types of social habit more of a unit in its efforts and achievements, benefitting each by the touch of the other, and it is possible that the effect of the contacts on Saturday morning is more wholesome for all concerned than the financial returns. Town and country have a chance to make of the Saturday meeting a big social event, one in which all can profit, for a closer acquaintance between the town and country women will give to each a line of friendships that is decidedly worth cultivating, and which if established will be a possession of lifelong duration and of the greatest possible satisfaction. That group of intelligent, clean-faced, clearheaded country women at the curb market Saturday morning is worth knowing well and cordially.

REFERRED TO ANDREW CREAMER

That hopeful brother, Andy Creamer, who insists that the Sandhills should become a summer resort as well as a haven in the winter, will find much comfort in the fact that here in Moore county we are able to enjoy comparatively cool weather when we are reading the reports from the North telling of extreme heat, especially last Saturday when nearly 50 dead was the toll. South Dakota, far toward the extreme north of the United States, tells of a high temperature of 108, Iowa and Minnesota, hung up a record of 106, the farmers in Iowa abandoning work in the fields during the day, and preferring to work at night. Wisconsin reported eight dead from the heat; Minnesota, like Wisconsin, farthest north states fronting on the Canadian line, had five dead. Ten deaths occurred in the one city of Chicago, there on the

lake shore, and similar accounts come from various sections. Yuma, Arizona, is the only place in the South that is in the heat class with the extreme North, and Yuma is the neighborhood that has the distinction of rivaling itself. Mark Twain told a story about a soldier who died and went to the future retreat where the fires are not quenched, and the first thing he did after getting there was to ask the officials in charge to send back to Yuma for his blankets. He missed the hot weather he had left.

It is curious how the North deludes itself into the notion that the South is hot in summer time. But here are some official records of heat in states of the tier that front on Canada: Walla-

Walla, Washington, 113; Boise, Idaho, 111; Miles City, Montana, 111; Williston, North Dakota, 107; St. Paul, Minnesota, 104, and the dispatches say last week at Red Wing, Minnesota, the figure was 106; LaCrosse, Wisconsin, 104; Marquette, Michigan, 108; Portland, Maine, 103; Concord, New Hampshire, 102; Columbus, Ohio, 104, while North Carolina has to strain to get up to the lowest figure shown by any of these states mentioned in the northern frontier of the nation. And while fifty persons died from the heat last week in one day a single death from heat is rarely, if ever, heard of in North Carolina. North Carolina will ultimately be a summer resort of great prominence.

for the true and exact facts to be stated in matters of public interest.
 —N. J. MUSE.
 Carthage, N. C.,
 July 1, 1931.

LAKEVIEW

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas L. Gibbon left Wednesday by motor for Biddeford Pool, Maine, where they will spend the months of July and August.

Miss Johnnie Cameron and Leonard Gill of Rockingham were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Smith. Other visitors at the Smith home included Mr. and Mrs. Earle Kelly and children of Laurel Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Day of Southern Pines.

Mrs. Robert T. Woodruff was the luncheon guest of Mrs. Charles B. Hudson at her country place near Pinehurst Tuesday.

Clyde Cross returned Monday to his home in Charlotte after visiting Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Gibbon for three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McNeill and Mrs. John McQueen spent Friday in Raleigh.

Miss Helene Dougherty of Sanford is the house guest of Miss Rebecca Bacon for two weeks.

Wilson Caddell has returned to his home in Carthage after visiting his sister, Mrs. Arthur Causey.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cameron announce the birth of a daughter at their home near Lakeview, Wednesday June 24th.

John A. Gunter, T. K. Gunter and Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Ballard attended a reunion of the Gunter family at Lemon Springs Sunday.

Jesse Gardner spent the week-end at Dunn, with his sister, Mrs. R. P. Andrews.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sharpe of Greensboro were in Lakeview for the day Sunday. Returning with them for a week's visit were Misses Edna Earl Richardson and Lorraine Blue.

W. E. Miller and daughter, Miss Mary Miller of Rock Hill, South Carolina have returned to their home after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Worth Miller.

Palmer Causey was a business visitor in Rockingham Tuesday.

Miss Johnnie Eastwood and Cliff Johnson of Southern Pines spent Monday in Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Poole and Barbara Poole of Carthage were guests of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Gibbon Sunday.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dan S. Ray were Mr. and Mrs. Ervin L. Ray of Asheboro, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Taylor and young son, Ray, of Winston-Salem, Mrs. D. S. Ray and Miss Elizabeth Ray of Cameron and H. P. Bilyeu of Greensboro. H. P. Jr., who has spent some time in Lakeview returned to Greensboro with his father.

Dunc McCrimmon spent Sunday with friends in Fayetteville.

Bob Andrews of Charlotte is the guest of George Graves, Jr., for two weeks.

Camping parties in Lakeview this week include girls from Raleigh, chaperoned by Mrs. Roberts; Albenmarle girls with Mrs. Marr in charge; Mrs. Mary Barrett Williamson of Carthage is here with a large party, and Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Womble are chaperoning the girls of the Jonesboro Methodist Sunday School.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Gardner over the week-end included Joe Gardner of Angier, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gardner of Patrick, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. Knox Carroll and children of Cheraw, S. C., Mrs. D. A. Gardner and children of Orangeburg, S. C., who have been here for a week, left on Monday for Norfolk, Va., where they will visit Mr. Gardner's people.

Mrs. R. T. Woodruff was hostess to the members of the Lakeview Contract Club last Friday at her home by the lake. Mrs. W. L. Dunlop of Pinehurst and Mrs. Charles T. Grier of Carthage were special guests on this delightful occasion.

The Birthday Pageant of the Women's Auxiliary was given by the Girls' Circle of the local organization Sunday evening in the Lakeview Church under the able direction of Mrs. D. S. Ballard. The presentation was very good and our young girls are to be congratulated on the splendid work and co-operation shown in the annual observance of this Missionary Pageant. An offering was taken at the close of the service.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

J. Talbot Johnson to Pinehurst Realty Co.: property in McNeill township.

J. H. Williamson to Martha Ann Williamson: property in Sheffield township.

E. R. Brown and wife, Ida M. Brown, to J. H. Williamson: property in Sheffield township.

GRAINS OF SAND

A lot of degrees were passed out by the colleges and universities during June. The highest degree, however, was attained by the thermometer.

We've always considered the Family Laundry up-to-date, but they're getting ahead of us now. We received their September calendar in yesterday's mail.

Mebbe it's the heat.

Secretary Herbert Vail of the Kiwanis Club has issued a club directory showing the names, residences and occupations of the members. Pinehurst has the most members of the local organization, 24; Southern Pines is next with 18, Aberdeen has 11, Carthage seven and West End one, a total membership of 61.

As the membership is limited in classification of vocations, there are some odd classifications noted in Herbie's list. Frinstance, the Rev. E. L.

Barber is listed as Boy Scout, Attorney Bob Denny of Pinehurst as writer, and Assemblyman U. L. Spence as High Sheriff.

Midnight musings—

It doesn't take but one fly to seem like a million when you're half awake and trying to sleep. It just shows how much trouble for the rest of us the least of us can make. If you can make a little noise and move around quickly, you'll find the going easy, for most of us are either half awake and trying to sleep or half asleep and trying to wake.

There's a large population of those who need to be swatted and those too lazy to swat. With out present acquaintance, if we were a fly we could live a long life. There wouldn't be many we'd have to avoid.

The stores will be closed Monday. Buy more food on Saturday.

Correspondence

PRaises McLEAN

Editor, The Pilot—

I have noted with much interest the article by Mr. Bion Butler in which he endorses heartily our present Tax Collector, Mr. J. D. McLean.

As a property holder in Moore County I want to add my endorsement of Mr. McLean. It would be a very unwise move on the part of the County to dismiss a man who has been so efficient in the handling of our tax collections.

County politics too often results in men of insufficient calibre being in the responsible positions and the County is to be congratulated in having a man as Mr. McLean in office.

I am willing to wager that if a change is made in this office now with conditions as they are the County will lose a lot more than the saving in salary it might effect through offering the job to another less efficient person.

I have great respect for the County Commissioners and believe they will continue in office the man who has given his wholehearted effort to the collection of our taxes at a very low cost and in a most capable manner.

CHARLES P. MASON.

Greenwich, Conn.,
 June 27, 1931.

LAND APPRAISAL

Editor, The Pilot:

Please allow us space in your valuable paper to say we have thoroughly cruised the real estate of Sandhill township, tried our best to find and list every piece of it at comparative prices. Our able aim has been "Equalization," not a re-valuation. Doubtless we have made errors, and shall take pleasure in trying to correct them where found, but should any find their land values raised, it should console them to know that they have been paying less than the other fellow. Or if values are lowered it is because they have had highest values. We have done our best. We have not known anyone only as a good citizen. We have kept faith, remembering our oaths to our County and one another.

This is our only apology. We revived property not on books solely for the help to all.

A. A. McKEITHEN,
 J. W. PICKLER,
 J. B. O'QUINN,
 Appraisers.

THANKS THE PRESS

Editor, The Pilot:

On the eve of the State's taking over the full responsibility for the maintenance and construction of county roads, I should like for the citizens of every section of the state to be advised about the change and to gain some adequate knowledge of the new set-up.

I myself believe that the new road law marks the embarkation upon another state policy that will maintain North Carolina's established position as "the good roads state" in the eyes of the nation. I also believe that our own citizens will soon come to appreciate at its full worth both the improvements that we shall be able to make in the maintenance of local roads and the substantial decrease that we shall effectuate in our property tax burden.

May I express my whole-hearted appreciation of the able assistance that the daily and weekly newspapers in North Carolina rendered the administration in the effort to work out this major program. No other body of our citizenship anywhere contributed more to inform the public of the issues in this question and of the desirability of fixing responsibility for the maintenance of all roads in one organization so as to be able to apply the most efficient and economical administration possible in the maintenance of all roads, state and county.

With genuine appreciation and with highest regards, I am

—O. MAX GARDNER,
 Governor.

Raleigh, N. C.,
 June 26, 1931.

TAX COLLECTION COSTS

Editor, The Pilot—

In your last issue of The Pilot it seems that you are far from the facts in regard to the actual cost of Tax collection in Moore County. Now I am sure that The Pilot does not wish to be misleading and so I am sending you the facts as they appear in the Moore County Audit for June 30th, 1930. If you will look on page 28 of this audit, you will find the following itemized statements of the costs of collecting the 1929 taxes:

Clerical assistance, \$94.75; Tax Collector's Salary, \$3,000.00. Office Supplies, \$18.94; Stationery and Printing, \$67.92; Postage, \$731.93; Advertising, \$363.20; Bond for Tax Collector, \$660.00; Total, \$4,936.74. Total taxes collected in 1929, see page 23, \$386,925.22.

The above statement will apply to all the years since the tax collector was put on the job. The expenses attached to the office might vary more or less but the salary has remained the same, \$3,000.00 per year, or \$250.00 per month for twelve months. If the receipting of the tax collector is part of the duty of the collector, this is an additional expense. The tax receipts are made out for every item of tax on the tax books by the County Auditor and paid for by the County and turned over to the tax collector who only has to sign his name when receipted. Now, I hope that no one will think for one moment that I am prejudiced against our tax collector. He has made good. But I do like