

THE PILOT

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SANDHILL CITIZEN HAS NEW OWNERS

The Sandhill Citizen at Southern Pines has passed from the ownership of Foss & Morris into the hands of a corporation in which John Beasley of Carthage and R. E. Denny of Pinehurst are the chief factors. The paper is to remain under the management of Hiram Westbrook, which is a wise course, as Mr. Westbrook has for many years been the active force in the concern and has a sound working knowledge of the community and the relation of the paper to its territory. The Citizen has been an aggressive agent in furthering the fortunes of the Sandhills in the period of its existence. The Pilot has always regarded the Citizen as about the cleanest and most commendable country paper in North Carolina, with possibly one exception that modestly forbids mentioning just now, and with the assurance that the same policies will be carried out in the future that have been dominant in the past the people of the Sandhills can be well pleased with the outcome.

Mr. Beasley needs no introduction to the people of this end of the county as he is already in the newspaper game at Carthage, and he comes from a newspaper stock that has long been prominent in the state. Mr. Denny is an attorney who has made a place for himself in Pinehurst since he established there. The Citizen announces that its old force will be continued on the job, which is also a bit of satisfying intelligence as they are a bunch of good neighbors.

THE NEW ROAD MANAGEMENT

Some complaints have been made about the roads since the new management took them over, but the complaints are premature. In the last few weeks unusually heavy rains have been washing the roads all over the county, a condition that would have happened under the old management as well as under the new. Therefore nothing that has arisen yet is sufficient to either invite favorable or unfavorable comment. The rainfall in the last three weeks has been the greatest in the same length of time for several years, and it could not be otherwise than that the roads would suffer, no matter who is in authority. The work on the state roads in the Cameron and Hemp sections has also had an effect in compelling the use of detours. But the paving jobs are winding up, and that will give some relief. The new management is also facing a financial situation that is not yet fully ironed out, and must be given every encouragement while it is getting in working shape under the new laws and difficulties.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

On the evening of August 8 S. Clay Williams, president of the Reynolds Tobacco Company, delivered an address to the radio audiences of North Carolina, having for the theme the tobacco situation in the state. He said many things that should be much more widely known than they are. But among the others a reference to taxation stood out with great plainness. Mr. Williams said that it is not generally known that of the 12 1-2c at which a package of cigarettes leaves the hand of the manufacturers six cents goes to the government as tax, which means that for every pound of tobacco factory puts into cigarettes

it pays the government one dollar. For every pound of the farmer's tobacco that he sells to the factory for cigarettes, and for which he gets, say, an average of fifteen cents, the government charges a dollar tax.

There is an item that has to do with the price of leaf. The farmer may think what would happen if every pound of grain sold, or every pound of pork or every pound of cotton or any other thing that comes from the farm, had to meet a tax of several times its value before it could pass into the hands of the consumer, or what would occur if every pound of cotton cloth had to pay a tax several times the cost of the cotton entering it, or if every board from the saw mill had to pay several times as much in taxes as the cost of the lumber! Before the factory can sell the farmer's tobacco it has to pay a tax about seven times the amount of the price paid for the tobacco.

Well, that's that. The government must have the money. Also the State must have money, so it also taxes the tobacco some more. It taxes the factory, and the dealer, and anybody who touches the stuff in a commercial way. Every week the tobacco factories of North Carolina pay the Federal government alone about five million dollars in taxes, money that is taken from the crop between the time it leaves the farmer and reaches the buyer in shape to use. The Pilot does not know how to increase the price of tobacco unless we can decrease the tremendous tax laid against it, and the only way to reduce the demands of the government for money is to stop going to the Federal treasury for everything that is wanted. We have come to think in this country that the public treasury is a well into which we can dip for everything. The next Congress will be met by hands from all quarters asking gifts and reliefs and donations for all imaginable schemes. The last Congress created a deficit that calls for bonds to be issued against the future, and heaven only knows what the next Congress will do with the quarter of a billion dollars North Carolina tobacco manufacturers will pay, and many other quarter billions dollars taken here and there from industry that has to dig in like thunder to produce the money.

If the North Carolina farmer will study this lesson he will see that the \$256,000,000 taken by the government from the North Carolina tobacco manufacturers is one of the many burdens on the shoulders of the tobacco grower. No product can be lavish with its money in payment for raw material that is bled to the bone in this manner. It is not the tobacco company that is paying the bill. It is the farmer, and the only way to head off this gigantic load is to stop it at the outlet. The most important task in front of the North Carolina farmer if he wants better prices for anything is to notify Congress and the legislature that profligate spending of public money must be stopped, and that no man who comes to the public crib to ask for contributions shall be given anything unless he needs it as much as the farmer who pays it needs the money, or unless it is for genuine government uses and not for gifts and doles and other uses, the recipient of which is equally as able to take care of himself as the farmer who unwillingly is held with his nose to the grindstone and made to produce from his meager income.

THE TEST OF THE PUDDING

Tobacco farmers are now curing their leaf and preparing for the opening of the markets. Tidings from the border markets seem rather favorable as this is written. But regardless of the anticipated conditions the farmer has much in his own hands regarding the price he will get for his prospect. One thing that hurts the tobacco market is the indifferent manner in which much of the crop comes to market. Some producers have the knowledge and the knack of grading their leaf so a pile of normally good leaf does not kill itself by the presence of inferior stuff. Poor tobacco is a problem that cannot at this time of the

year be improved, but the general assemblage of leaf on the floor can be benefitted by throwing out from a good pile any of the low grade stuff, which if it is to be offered at all, should be separated into piles where it will not spoil anything else.

It is doubtful if tobacco prices will ever again in many years reach the high figure of a few years ago. High prices have stimulated the whole world to make tobacco, and North Carolina bright leaf growers are in the keenest competition with European and Oriental growers, for a large proportion of North Carolina tobacco goes abroad. Therefore it is necessary that the leaf be put in the best possible shape to meet that competition, but also that prices not too high may be accepted. Curing and sorting are the two things open to the farmer yet before his crop is put on the warehouse floors, and it will pay him to exert every effort to improve it at those two points. The farmer not well versed in these features would gain by having advice and help in securing the

best results in this direction.

Bringing his tobacco to the warehouse in the best possible shape to meet the approval of the buyers is the chief hope of the farmer for getting the price he seeks. The buyer has his limitations. He is instructed to keep within a certain range of prices because his company must meet the prices of tobacco from all over the world, and if he pays too much for what he buys his company will have difficulty in meeting competition in its sales. This the farmer might as well recognize. Buyers will pay all they can for good leaf. They will pay no more than is absolutely safe to pay for the inferior stuff, and under present world conditions that will not be much. The main point is to see that the leaf already made shall be brought to the warehouse in condition to appeal to the buyer so that he may be justified in going as high in his bid as he would like to, for it must be remembered that if he buys too much at a price that his company cannot get out of it he will be relieved of his job just like any other man.

GRAINS OF SAND

At last Capital and Labor have a complaint in common. Neither of them is profitably employed.

The last we heard of the newsboys' band which entertained us in Southern Pines recently, it was in Jamestown, New York. The boys still have a month to go before their return to Orlando, Florida.

We are in receipt of a postal card of a handsome church in Freiburg, Germany, sent us by Dr. I. M. Medlin of Aberdeen, but Dr. Medlin fails to state whether he was inside the church or just bought the picture of it. "We are now in Germany going through battlefields. Back to Paris Friday, then to Brussels, Amsterdam, four days in London and back to New York and Aberdeen. Feeling fine and having a wonderful trip," he writes.

We are glad Dr. Medlin is happy. The last time we saw him he was feeling down in the mouth. And it was our mouth.

We don't know how he did it, but we've gotta hand it to Brother Park of the Raleigh Times for the picture on his front page the other night. It was a group taken at the Dare county celebration, and how he ever got this gang on the same film we don't know but there they were right on the front page and reading from left to right as always:

Josephus Daniels, A. J. Maxwell, Senator Bailey, Senator Morrison, Congressman Lindsey Warren and J. C. B. Ehringhaus.

It seems to be the privilege of tourists to try to shock small towns a little. But the pretty girl who got off a large foreign car parked in front of the drug store the other day, entered the store clad in pajamas, and bought a package of cigarettes, succeeded in giving the old town a thrill.

—Sanford Herald.

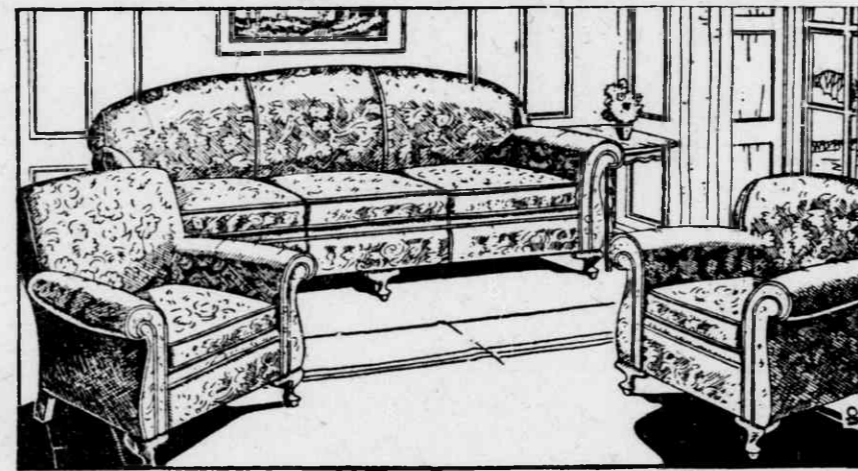
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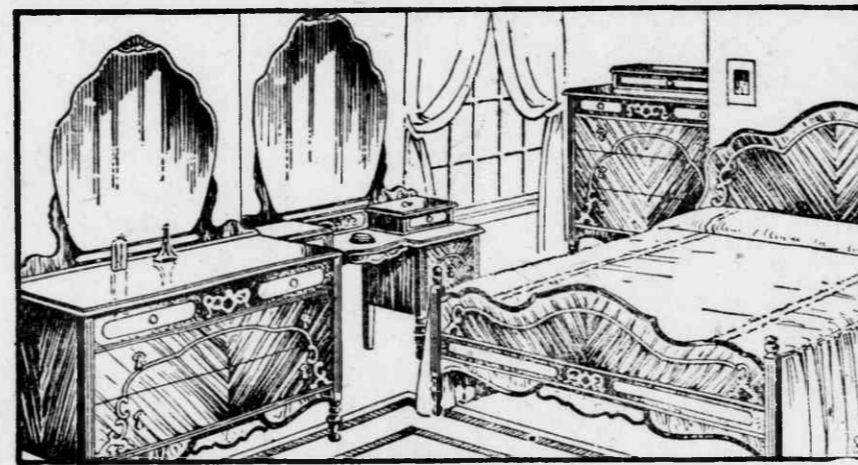
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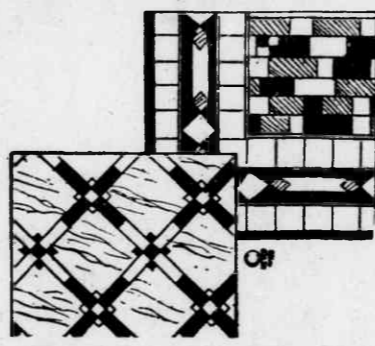
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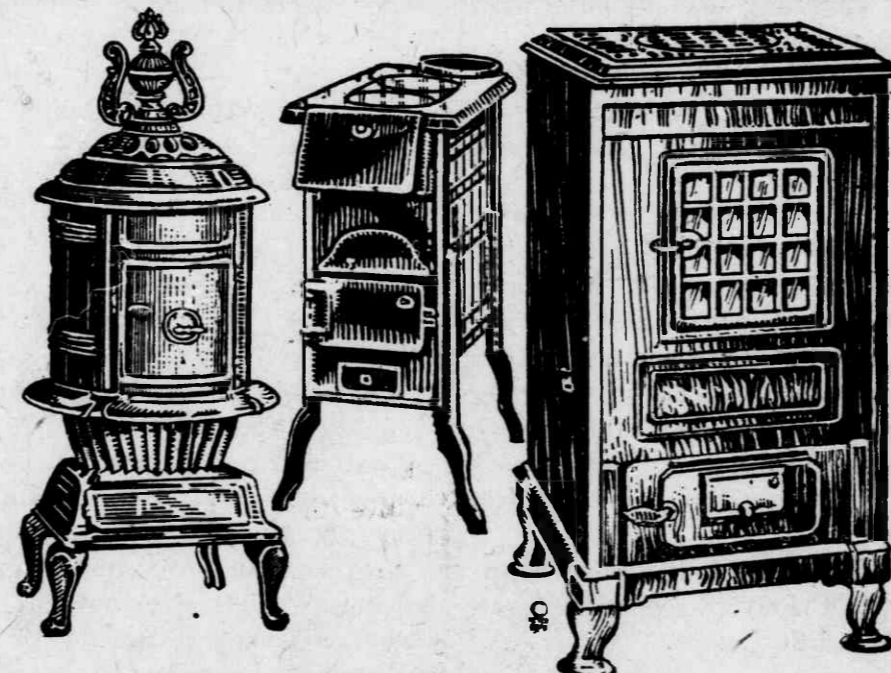
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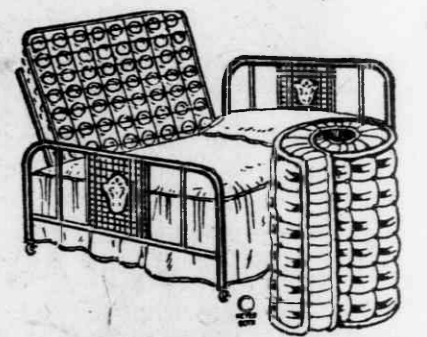
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