

THE PILOT

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ROOM FOR MORE GRASS SEED

An Aberdeen man suggested recently that as other towns in the neighborhood are putting a lot of grass seed in the ground Aberdeen should not be behind in that respect. He says that a stranger coming down the highways from Pinehurst or Southern Pines with their elaborate scheme of planting and road adornment is not greatly impressed with the lack of it as he comes to Aberdeen. The big improvement that has followed the planting not long ago of the bit of ground in the railroad Y below the station shows what can be done by a little effort. That plot has come along in fine shape, and the work on it last week is evidence that the interest in the improvement is not lost. In other sections of the town much has been done to put a better foot forward, but the suggestion of the man who wants more grass seed planted is also timely. Aberdeen is unfortunate in having laid out its streets before the day of the automobile, which means many of them are too narrow. That is hard to change now, but they can be made to look more attractive in their narrowness if they are planted with grassy lawns and pleasing shrubbery plants.

The same man also commented on the sidewalks along Route 50 through the village. Foot traffic is thrown too largely on the highway from the top of the hill clear through the town to the creek where the Pinehurst road joins. Provision for foot travelers and especially for children going to and from school is needed. Route 50 is so generally given up to vehicle traffic that those on foot are almost overlooked. Probably it is a job somewhat in the future but Aberdeen and Southern Pines some of these days will need a continuous sidewalk the entire distance between the two towns. Possibly the entire main highway system of the state will ultimately have to come to a movement of that sort to lessen the loss of life that results from foot travel on the highways. Meanwhile a sidewalk along Route 50 all the way through Aberdeen is a thing to be thinking about.

THE EQUINOX AND ITS STORM

Last week, to be precise, Wednesday, September 23 at 7:24 p. m., occurred the astronomical event the almanac sets down as the autumn equinox. The equinox is a simple thing, but hinged about by many mysteries and fears and superstitions. Its duration is the fragment of a second, and then it is over, for the whole process is the passage by the sun of an imaginary point in the heaven, and the time is slightly different each succeeding year, and it is about as exciting as the passage of an automobile at a point on the country road, and about as long in its duration.

As an astronomical event it is the beginning of the year, for as the sun enters the group of stars known as the Fishes, spring begins. The sun at that minute is on a point in the heavens immediately vertical above an imaginary line passing around the earth midway from the north and south poles, and called the equator. On March 23 comes the spring equinox, and the sun seems to rise higher in the sky until June 22 when it turns southward and on September 23 crosses the equator on its southward journey at the autumn equinox. The astronomer talking about the position of the sun at the September equinox locates it in the "sign" Libra,

the balances, which was the correct position among the stars two thousand years ago or more, when the equinox was used more in computing positions of the stars than now. But as the equinox moves slowly backward among the constellations the sun on the evening of September 23 actually entered the constellation of the Virgin and will not be in Libra until late in October. So the folks who go by the almanac "signs" either deliberately use the names knowing of the change, and that the equinox is a month late, or they are a month off in their calculations.

The equinox comes September 23, but the star constellation that once was supposed to influence the weather at the equinoctial period has gone past by 30 days when the equinoctial date arrives now, so the equinoctial storm has its ears tied in hard knots, and astronomical observers say September 23 is no more storm period than any other date of that month or any other month. The unusual serenity of the weather last Wednesday left the storm prophets out on the dry land, and with nothing to tie to.

Scientific men have not yet found out what makes the recurrence of storms at their indefinite periods, although they know that change in temperature is the immediate cause. But they do not know yet, definitely, why the temperature changes as irregularly as it does. Certainly it does not follow dates of the week or month or year. Cold currents of air, generated by heat warming up the air and the surface of the seas and the lands, especially icy sections, change the temperature of moisture in the air, and start storms. But when or why men are still at a loss to say in advance. The equinoctial storm is about as valuable as a 1st yer's rcing ticket.

TOBACCO PRICES AND OTHERS

J. S. Dunn, of the Ellerbe neighborhood, tobacco planter who was on the warehouse floor last week, said he thought the main difficulty with the farmer is not wholly the low price of tobacco, but the high price of stuff the farmer has to buy. Farm prices have come down in accordance with the general deflation now going on, but many things the farmer buys have not yet followed. An example was cited in some of the package goods in the stores. A complaint was made that while wheat and corn are selling for less than half a dollar a bushel some of the cereal package goods are selling for fifty cents a pound, or more than the price of a bushel of the grain from the things made.

These things work out themselves, and the buyer has it in his hands to balance the value of what he sells with what he buys, and that is what will be in the course of time happen. When buyers begin to curtail buying, prices go down always. That is the trouble now with tobacco. Buyers pass the piles on the floor if the prices they offer are not satisfactory. When the farmer passes the thing offered to him at a price that does not suit him, as he is doing frequently, that price will go down. The trouble today in Great Britain is largely the result of the determination of the coal miners to refuse to dig coal at a price that British coal could be sold over the world, as it has been for generations in the history of British industry. Customers refused to buy British coal at the high prices, British mines shut down, British industry sickened, British exchange flunked, and New York has this week practically become the financial capital of the world because the American dollar has maintained its par value in gold.

Farm products are not likely to go very high right away as compared with recent years, but the American buyer is quite certain to bring other things to the farm basis of selling. It will not be done by legislation, or by cooperation or by anything else than the operation of economic laws. That may be slow or it may be rapid, but we may as well look in that direction. The farmer is at the gate today, but he is looking toward a better relation toward the things he buys. He cannot pay the high prices he has been paying, and that is all there is to it. Prices

are going to come to him. Farm relief, borrowing money, all the sophisms that have been recommended, are powerless, but the one of making prices to get the trade is working. United States Steel and other big corporations are going after business with lower prices, and the lead will be followed by the rest of them. The day of inflation is past.

THE HIGHWAY MURDER PROBLEM

In both Southern Pines and Aberdeen the problem of death and injury on the highways has been getting attention in the last two or three weeks. On the hill at Aberdeen large signs have been painted on the surface of Route 50, and in Southern Pines signs have been posted notifying drivers that on the main highways the speed limit of 18 miles an hour will be enforced. Mayor Stutts says the situation in his town has become so critical that some method of checking fast driving has to be attempted, and the town commissioners are trying to find out what will be effective.

Steadily North Carolina, along with all the other states, is increasing its list of dead and injured on the highways, and equally as steadily the contempt for road laws appears to be growing. A large proportion of the people who drive the roads are prudent, drive within reasonable speed, show regard for pedestrians and for other driv-

ers, but a limited number are indifferent maniacs, who have no consideration for anything. The strip of road reaching from Manly to below the creek at Aberdeen on Route 50 is a sort of sluice through which converging traffic uses the one road. That bit of highway runs through the heart of the two villages, it is crossed by streets and other roads on much of its extent, some of its turns are short and some of the route is hilly. But all of that signifies nothing to a certain type of drivers, who whip around corners, down the hills, past the road crossings, and cut in ahead of other drivers at any critical point. Probably the safety of travelers on Route 50 is the gravest problem that confronts the people of Southern Pines and Aberdeen, and it is a problem that the people of the two towns have to solve, for the mayors and the commissioners, no matter how hard they try, cannot settle it themselves. They must have the positive and energetic backing of the whole people, and even then the task is one of the most difficult that faces this community. Chambers of Commerce, individuals, civic clubs, citizens and all are concerned, and it will take the united work of everybody to get results, a thing Mr. Stutts says he is undertaking to secure. He certainly deserves all the help possible. Funerals cost too much to be the plaything of the reckless fiends who cause them.

GRAINS OF SAND

Next week is Fire Prevention Week. Carelessness causes a lot of fires in this section, and fall is the most dangerous time of year. Be careful where you throw your cigarette stubs and your matches.

Hemp is one of Moore county's most thriving towns. Its smokestacks are smoking, its men are employed, it's licking Old Man Depression. If you don't know Hemp, next week is a good time to get acquainted. The citizens are putting on a country fair. Run up to the upper end of the county and look them over. Know your county.

There is quite a bit of talk about a consolidated high school, in some centrally located site convenient to Aberdeen, Pinehurst and Southern Pines. Purposes: To serve the three towns, provide additional room for grammar school students in present buildings, cut down overhead.

There is said to be some congestion in present schools, too much supervisory expense. Transportation would seem to be the chief objectionable feature to the scheme. But any proposition which may mean a saving in taxes is worthy of serious consideration at this time.

"The motion picture industry in all its branches is organizing and mobilizing on a nation-wide scale for cooperation with the proper authorized local relief agencies in the matter of unemployment relief," Will H. Hays, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America and former U. S. Postmaster General writes Charlie Piquet, and goes on to name the Sandhills movie mogul a member of the National Committee, the members of which will be used for consultation, advice and individual cooperation in connection with the general effort both nationally and locally.

R. F. Potts, publisher of Baseball Magazine, is just back from the north after a busy summer. He tells The Pilot he thinks the worst of the depression is over, that things look better. Sales of his own magazine

have jumped during the past month, and he looks for a good winter for newspapers and magazines. We hope he is right.

Sweet Music it will be, by Heck, to read your words, "Enclosed find check."

Pharmacist Bryan has this couplet pasted on his cash register. Pardon us if we suggest a second verse something like this:

"Twill put us in a merry mood
Provided that the check is good.

Moore county had 144 service stations and automobile accessory dealers paying license taxes to do business during the last tax year, ended May 31, of the 12,269 in the state, all paying taxes of \$178,896.50 for the privilege of operating, records in the office of Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell show. The motor vehicle business paid in license taxes a total of \$267,703.50, in addition to the big gasoline tax.

Guilford led in filling stations with 566, Mecklenburg had 451, Forsyth 411, Wake 372, Buncombe 294 Graham had 15, Clay 20, Tyrnell 24 and Dare 25.

All the professional people paid license taxes of \$129,255, doctors taking the lead with 1,980, followed closely by lawyers with 1,943. The 19,011 bottled drink places and 1,322 soda fountains paid the state \$121,917.75. The 221,280 tobacco dealers and jobbers paid \$156,889, and the automobile and truck for hire folks paid \$156,856.11. Total license tax collections for the year were \$1,701,320.78, with \$3,236.79 in penalties for bad checks.

Attorney General Brummitt spoke to the Kiwanians Wednesday. If all gubernatorial and senatorial candidates address the Kiwanians between now and next election, their weekly programs will be well filled.

When the heat wave did bust, it busted higher 'n a kite. A feller hardly knows these mornings whether to put on white ducks or red flannels.

Got your coal supply in yet?

BOOK REVIEW

BROTHERS IN THE WEST
By Robert Reynolds
Harper & Brothers.
New York. 1931. \$2.50

In a superbly imaginative novel Robert Reynolds has built a theme utterly American in conception and realization, yet universal in implication. Imaginative though it is in the best sense, it is yet a realistic legend that tells of the wandering of two powerful pioneer brothers, Charles and David, whose strength drawn from the earth is increased many fold by their complete love for one another. This fraternal bond is tried and even strengthened by their enduring love for Karin, whom they both kidnap with Lochinvarian gusto. She belongs to David. The three were

wanderers throughout the west, in constant search for the spot where the mystical brothers were born; "They would know it at once by the wonderful peace they would feel." Whether snowbound in a hut of rushes or sleeping by a mountain stream, the perfection of their companionship made them always at home.

Like one powerful magnet these brothers gradually and naturally drew to themselves stray individuals who had lost their bearings, either physical or spiritual. In the elementary frontier life nostalgic strays clung to the strength and universal "at-homeness" of Charles and David: the puny Frenchman from whom they stole Karin, a Mexican senorita who glued herself to Charles, Donald

whom they saved from a horrible madness, these and many others. Thus when finally Karin's overpowering desire for a "home of my own where I can gather the days of my love together" was granted, it was a veritable cavalcade which set forth across the Texas plains to the high lands of the brothers' chosen dwelling place. Here for a time they led the busy fecund life of the frontier, they tamed the wilderness, begot many children and created a home. But with the death of Karin the brothers inevitably set forth once more, bearing her body with them. Her last words had been "I am going . . . to wait for you . . . at that place . . . where you were born . . ." From the great mesa which the two old men reached at the end of their life, we look back to the opening scene when:

"They beheld each other with anxious eyes, two men, two brothers, strong and alone in the wilderness, with bare heads and bare bodies, facing this thrush of death.

Far off the great mesa, now a deep dark purple, hung beyond the horizon, sharp and grand in the upward glow of the vanished sun. It seemed indeed a rude mountain beyond the last curve of earth, where as on a throne sat death, aloof, serene, and potent, waiting for the brothers."

The author who undertakes such

a theme treads dangerous ground for the real grandeur of the two brothers, symbolic of the potential strength and reckless Utopia-driven dreams of man, might, by a tinge of cant, lose the conviction of sincerity which dominates this book. Yet never for a moment do the brothers fail to be individuals of absorbing interest, and the details of their life as they "moved thru wild countries with wandering folk—followed the stars of chance" seem a remembered racial experience. They, indeed, gradually emerge in these clear pages as the prototype of humanitarian pioneers. But it is through the realistic details of their daily lives, and their vivid human relationship to one another and to their people that the spiritual values of this remarkable book emerge. It is strangely enough an added strength in this book that the time and place of the story is only generally indicated. The author gives us as much, and no more than we need to know.

Once again the Harper prize has gone to a novel which is of genuine importance in contemporary literature. All hail to Robert Reynolds and may his genuinely native voice be heard often. It seems to this reviewer to be memorable.

—ANN HYDE ALLEN.

At the CAPITAL

By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

North Carolina sprang into national prominence the past week as the result of Governor Gardner's Live-at-Home program through a national survey conducted by the Associated Press to show how the states of the nation are preparing for what is expected to be one of the hardest winters within the memory of man.

The third paragraph of the story, written in New York, is devoted to the North Carolina program and Governor Gardner, the only Governor mentioned, is given credit for the movement which resulted in an increase from 1,250,000 to 4,600,000 containers this year filled with fruits and vegetables by the rural club women in the state, in addition to canning done by city and town women. Also, Governor Gardner pointed out, North Carolina farmers raised \$16,500,000 more in food and feed crops last year than in 1929, and the U. S. government estimates \$25,000,000 more in such crops this year than in 1929.

"This \$25,000,000 which would otherwise have gone for food and feed will now stay in North Carolina, at a time when it would be hard to get, with cotton selling for six cents and tobacco low," Governor Gardner said. He also spoke of the increased acreage planted in cane and the large supply of molasses that will result. As bad as the depression has been, Governor Gardner has said, it has been the greatest possible ally to his live at home program.

"As bad as conditions are in North Carolina, we will be better able to stand this winter than any other state in the union," Governor Gardner said. "I have been having a survey made in every section of the state to get all possible information relative to unemployment and am preparing to make all forces and the conscience of the state prepare for feeding the hungry this winter," said Governor Gardner.

Although criticised for saying a year ago that the state is facing the most critical period since the Civil War, his critics are now beginning to agree with him. Also, all agree that his live-at-home program, launched with a dinner at the Executive Mansion, with the newspaper folks as guests, will in reality be the salvation of the state.

Calls for mass meetings of growers in more than 100 communities to adopt resolutions petitioning Governor Gardner to call a special session of the General Assembly to take action on cotton acreage reduction, and also on tobacco, were issued by N. G. Bartlette, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Gardner's home county of Cleveland, largest cotton growing county in the state, refused a resolution calling for a special session and instead adopted one against the session as "expensive and useless." Three persons are reported to have attended the meetings at Laurinburg, Scotland county, and at Windsor, Bertie county. Dunn, with 200 or 300 farmers present, approved the session but differed on the plan. At Smithfield, U. Benton Blalock, president of the American Cotton Cooperative Association, expressed personal preference of the Texas plan. Resolutions for the session were adopted at St.

Pauls, Maxton, Enfield, Mt. Olive, Tarboro, Greenville and Smithfield. Meetings failed to materialize at Goldsboro and Henderson.

Secretary Bartlett has announced that he had reports that 50 meetings were held, out of 145 called, and that all but one, in Cleveland county, resolutions calling for a special session were adopted, most of these favoring apparently the Texas plan of reduction. Attendance figures were not given.

The collapse of the South Carolina legislative effort, following that of Louisiana, seeking a complete cotton growing holiday, probably had its effect on the North Carolina movement. Growers are thinking more of Governor Gardner's earlier suggestion of national action which might have resulted in a uniform plan in this country, with the treaty power of the U. S. government back of it to come to terms with other cotton-growing countries. If the South gives up its monopolistic cotton growing even for a year, it would be notice to the foreign countries, growing it at a much lower cost, to increase production, thus robbing this country of its leadership in a commodity of which it manufactures less than half of its crop, the other going to world markets.

North Carolina members of the American Legion and citizens generally are making extensive plans to do honor to Henry L. Stevens, Jr., of Warsaw, who was last week elected national commander of that organization of more than a million former World War soldiers. The young Warsaw lawyer, 35 years old, has brought to the state a great honor, one which it appeared at two different conventions would be brought by General Albert L. Cox, of Raleigh.

Raleigh is planning a great State-wide celebration on the return of Commander Stevens, probably some time this week, at which Governor Gardner will speak. Charlotte is also planning a big honor gathering. Winston-Salem and Greensboro have indicated they will also do honor to the new commander.

The commandship is a full-time post, carrying a salary of \$10,000 a year, with \$15,000 allowance for expenses. Commander Stevens will live in Indianapolis, Ind., and will be on the go much of the time, visiting the departments of the 48 states. With the return of Democrats to power in the nation next year, Commander Stevens would be in line for important national political honor.

Dr. James M. Parrott, State health officer, is calling upon the people of the state to plant liberally such vegetables as turnips, rape, mustard, kale, onions and other cold-resisting plants at this time, in order that the citizens may fortify themselves against such diseases as pellagra, rickets and other diseases more easily contracted when body resistance is lowered. Dr. Parrott urges preparation for more fresh meat and more chickens, eggs and butter, saying "there is nothing better for health, except possible proper ventilation, than green vegetables, fruits, fresh meat and milk."