

THE PILOT

Published every Friday by
THE PILOT, Incorporated.
Aberdeen and Southern Pines, N. C.

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Subscription Rates:
One Year\$2.00
Six Months\$1.00
Three Months50

Address all communications to The
Pilot, Inc., Aberdeen, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at Aber-
deen, N. C., as second-class mail mat-
ter.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GIBBON

The Pilot this week presents the announcement of Nicholas L. Gibbon as a candidate for the legislature. While this has been anticipated it adds to the complication of the situation. Mr. Gibbon is on a cruise through Europe and Asia, one object being to study the conditions of the people in those countries that are competitive producers as related to the producers of the United States. Whether he may be elected to the legislature or not he will bring back to America with him a fund of information that will be valuable to him, and also to the people who may gather it from him, for the competition of the foreign world with this country, especially the farm peculiarities abroad and their distressing influence on American farm export trade, is a startling threat that our folks do not understand.

A short time ago he was in India, the most populous and poverty-stricken section of the globe, where religious prejudices, the narrowness of hereditary government, the lack of widely distributed resources and the accumulating poverty of ages, unite to make the condition of the people appalling. There is made the Indian cotton, and there are the Indian cotton mills, and there are the wages that are measured in cents instead of in dollars, and there is the competitive struggle that half a billion people are making in agriculture and the industries in which our people here at home are engaged.

Mr. Gibbon may not be home in time to wage a very lengthy and vigorous campaign for the legislature, but if some of our farm organizations, and other groups of people would prevail on him when he comes back to deliver a series of informing talks over the county he would be worth as much to the Sandhills as in anything he could engage. He will come home with a direct knowledge of what American agriculture and industry are facing on a gigantic scale in the old world, and will be able to put his finger on the sorest spot in human life, the misfit administration of human affairs in India and China, and to a lesser extent in Japan and most of Southern Europe, and in Egypt and other far eastern regions. World relations are a great problem for this country, and one that cannot be disposed of by a wave of the hand, by a tariff, by a policy of holding aloof, or by much of anything else that has so far been offered. Nick Gibbon on his return will be the best informed man in this country on some of the most vital things that concern mankind, and he should be asked to talk to gatherings of the people all over the county on these serious subjects and urged until he complies.

EYE-SORES AND FIRE HAZARDS

Jerry Healy sends The Pilot a copy of "The Industrial News Review," marking an article which calls attention to the danger that is threatened by old buildings in the villages by reason of the likelihood of fire in them with the attendant risk of extension to others in case the old structure is set. The article also discusses the objection to abandoned buildings which have no likely purpose except to be someday torn down if they escape burning, classing the kind as threatening to the safety of the community in which they are found, and a nuisance among people who like to have their neighborhoods attractive and stimulating.

Jerry cited some examples within less than a thousand miles of the Sandhills, but it is

hardly giving the average man a chance to say where they are, for most folks like a little sport in guessing out some of these hidden things. So that is passed up with the suggestion that after some of the danger factors are located some pressure be brought against them in the hope of greater peace of mind on the part of the community and greater pride in community appearance.

Nearly every spot occupied by an old building that has run its course would be profitable if concerted into the site of some attractive and useful structure, and with a profit to the owner would come a community profit in the mutual and common good to the whole neighborhood. No better example of the soundness of this statement needs to be offered than the region in Southern Pines between Broad and Bennett streets on Pennsylvania avenue. The old buildings on the north side of the avenue were pulled down. Modest efforts at parking the vacant area followed, and one of these days the neighborhood has been so much improved that somebody will take the land at a price worth while and put up there some buildings of decided benefit not only to Southern Pines but the whole Sandhill neighborhood. Dilapidated old buildings are dangerous, unprofitable, unsightly, and they stand in the way of better things. Jerry's suggestion is referred to the commissioners or chamber of commerce or whoever is in the seats of the mighty, in every village and rural neighborhood in the Sandhills with the recommendation that action be taken promptly.

THE ODD CONDITION OF TOBACCO

If the tobacco planters will play the game according to the way the cards seem to be running this ought to be one of a series of years that may lead back toward prosperity. From all the information that is to be had at the present time the acreage is destined to be materially limited, and the plants in the beds seem to be so widely affected by diseases that it is now estimated that the harvest next fall will not exceed 50 per cent of last year's production. It is said the season has so far advanced that it is impossible to make new plantings and thus increase the available plants for setting, hence the compulsory reduction of acreage. This should indicate a decided reduction in the crop yield next fall, which will automatically have something to do with the price of leaf. But if every farmer will do his best to make a type of tobacco that will bring a better price through its better quality this will add materially to the reward that looks now to be within the farmer's reach.

Far too much inferior tobacco comes to the warehouse floors in the day of marketing, and that inferior leaf kills the better quality, for with so much that is of little account buyers supplement the better type with too much of the undesirable, which serves certain purposes and avoids the necessity of buying the better leaf for that use. Some markets are governed materially by a low price rather than by a quality of wares, and while a better leaf would find a market if none of the poorer quality offered instead, it is usually the case that if no low grade leaf is on the market the better stuff will sell more readily, and so on to the top of the list.

The situation is more in the hands of the grower now than it has been for several years. If the farmer will be particular about his crop, even though he cannot be all powerful in controlling weather, and the various influences that affect the making of the crop, he will get more money for his summer's work than if he allows indifference to put his crop in the lower range of quality. This is a time when extra effort is to be attempted, for a possible smaller crop means a better outlook on the market, and to get the best of that market requires the best of leaf. The job is not as easy as it might be thought, but it is worth trying to get the best out of it.

TWO CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER

The Pilot this week announces the names of two good men for county commissioner, Gordon Cameron, who would represent

the Mineral Springs-Sandhills district and O. Tracy Parks, who hails from the Deep River section around Hallison. These men are well known in their communities and to their credit. Mr. Parks is from the part of the county at present represented by Mr. Shaw, whose health has been so seriously affected that he doubts whether he can serve on the board again. In that event who best know Mr. Park say he is a man qualified for the work that is ahead of the commissioners.

Gordon Cameron is another man whose record and acquaintance is decided in his favor. He has learned the working of

county affairs in his capacity as a member of the Highway commission. His familiarity with the county is an asset, and his experience in business operations in the county add to his availability.

It is pretty well understood that both these men have come into the field through the solicitation of their neighbors who are anxious to secure a good county ticket, which is rather a favorable sign as to their selection, for the man who is brought into the campaign because he is believed to be suitable for the work to be done has much to recommend him.

GRAINS OF SAND

A pleasing sight on the road between Southern Pines and Carthage is the alfalfa field on the old McLean farm, now a part of the big stock farm Leonard Tufts has been creating out there on the river. As the road comes into the old Pinehurst-Eureka road the field is at the right, and on top of the hill. The crop is a solid mass on the ground, looking like a foot high or more, and a deep green indicating a healthy plant.

Mr. Tufts says alfalfa is a pasture crop that will make money for any good farmer who will plant it right and care for it. When once a stand is secured two or three hay crops can be put in a season, followed by pasturing and further hay crops in the following spring. At Pinehurst the alfalfa fields have been a big factor in maintaining the dairy herd and in increasing the nitrogenous fertility of the ground. It is worth while for every farmer in the county to visit the Pinehurst alfalfa farms to see what this crop can do for livestock farming.

A number of cases of whooping cough, measles and similar ailments of childhood in the schools of Southern Pines leads a man of considerable interest in the schools to suggest that it would not be a bad idea to cut out some of the crowding in the busses that bring children to school, and for that; and other reasons to have more of them walk than is the custom now. He argues that stress is laid on athletic exercises as a part of school training, but that no exercise is more wholesome than walking, and that the contact with things along the road is an education factor that is too slightly value these days. He also proposes that the school house at Manly could be used to good advantage by carrying on school there for a number of the smaller children who could be cared for there as well as to bring them to Southern Pines, helping in that way to lessen the number of children crowded into the busses and also limiting the number who are in danger of accidents in the vehicles, a matter that is worthy of consideration.

Complaints continue to come in from the farmers concerning the mold of the plants in the beds. It is now evident that the result will be decided lessening of the acreage set, for it is too late to make any more plants and the number available, as far as information from the country comes in, is not large enough to set the acreage that had been contemplated, even though the acreage has been planned on a lowered scale. Reports are heard of farmers cancelling fertilizer orders because their plants are so reduced that it will be impossible to supply the acreage for which the fertilizer was engaged. It will be several days yet before much planting will be done, and if the situation does not improve in that time much damage will follow.

A little story of tax confiscation drifts in along with other stuff that comes to The Pilot. Back before the war a man bought a tract of land for which he paid a thousand dollars. It had some timber, which in time he cut. It afforded him a little employment, and that was probably about the extent of the profit in it. Year by year he paid taxes on the place, which was about the limit of the financial transaction concerning it.

Then war came and taxes began to climb up. Roads, schools, and all the things that called for money called harder and harder. The valuation of the place was jacked up year by year, the tax rate increased in burdensome fashion. The man died, having paid in taxes nearly five times the original purchase price of the place, and the heirs are still paying taxes. Or they have been trying to pay. But at a recent tax sale the place was bid off by the county on failure of the owners to pay. The tax has grown to such a figure that the present owners could not pay, and the accrued purchase price with the taxes that have been paid for years goes into the discard. "Nothing in the way of returns

Correspondence

A COUNTY HOME AGENT

Editor, The Pilot:

We Americans have been taught to believe that "the people shall govern." In this form of government they give the people the right to vote in order that they may have a voice in the government. A few years ago the women were given the right to vote and so are a part of "the people." It is hard for some of our women to feel it is a duty to take part in public affairs but it has been much harder for some of our men to feel that women are in their rightful place when they express an opinion on public affairs.

The Moore county women have felt this keenly when they mention county home demonstration work to some people. Last year there was a great cry for a welfare worker for Moore county to set aside the home agent to give her salary to the welfare worker. No doubt we seriously need a welfare worker and I sincerely wish we could afford one but how could we at the price of giving up our home demonstration agent? The home agent's work is to help people to help themselves. I know a number of families who were saved the humiliation of asking county help last year because of the garden and canning help given them by our home agent, and no doubt our farm agent could show an equal number or more for his work is of longer standing. If any resident of Moore county has not gotten help from these two workers it is because they have not asked it.

I want especially to mention the home demonstration work because it seems to me it is not so well understood as the farm agent's work. About this time of year when the county budget is being made out is when burdened taxpayers go to our commissioners and ask that all possible cuts for tax calls be made.

Let us count the cost before we ask that our home agent be left out of our budget. Everytime the work has been set aside the progressive women of the county have gotten together and had it put on again. I feel they won't ever give it up and the breaking into the work only hinders the progress and makes the work cost more.

How many taxpayers have taken

the trouble to learn just what the home agent costs? I have been told by those who ought to know that the average taxpayer's share of this salary is less than the cost of one stick of chewing gum out of a five cent package. Am I right? And is it Mr. Average Man who would set aside the demonstration work?

We have a modest home agent who wants only the work put before the people. She prefers to be always in the background but she reserves personal mention, therefore must bear with some public statements. It is only fair to Mrs. Ryals, our present home agent and to the public that the public know she has furnished all her working equipment whereas other county agents call on the county for it. She has saved the Moore county rural women more money in making over hats and in making hats than she has cost the county. The amount she has saved in helping make over clothing can not be valued in cents and dollars.

The curb market alone has brought over three thousand dollars into the Moore county farm homes. It seems to me that we need this kind of work as never before.

I have heard that some of our Moore county people think we should have a Moore county woman as our home agent; yet we know of no Moore county woman asking for the place.

I hope our county commissioners will act on the judgment of well informed voters when they come to the budget for a county home demonstration agent!

—A WOMAN.

MEN OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAVE MEETING

The men of the Presbyterian church held their regular monthly meeting last Friday night, April 23rd in the parlors of the Aberdeen Presbyterian Church.

An enjoyable supper was served by the Woman's Auxiliary at 7:30 at which 21 men were present. This was followed by an inspirational meeting under the direction of John D. McLeod. The Rev. Murdoch McLeod of Pinehurst made a splendid talk on the subject of "The Church's Work In Our State Institutions." These church meetings are proving very interesting.

Final Tax Notice

The Attorney General of North Carolina having ruled that the Town Commissioners do not have the authority to postpone the Sale for Taxes, this is to notify taxpayers that all delinquent property will be advertised during May for Sale.

Pay Your Taxes by May First and Avoid Further Penalties

ALL STREET ASSESSMENTS and INTEREST
MUST BE SETTLED TO DATE.

William Maurer,
Town Clerk

K. G. Deaton,
Collector.