

THE PILOT

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AN INCREASE OF FIFTY PERCENT

A cent is a small sum of money, but when on every letter you write now you pay one cent more in postage than you paid last week you pay an increase of fifty per cent. The aim is to provide more money to the postoffice department so that it may pay its way instead of calling on the general treasury to meet a deficit in postal operations. It is hard to imagine why the postoffice should be fifty per cent more expensive now than it has been, just as it is hard to understand why the postoffice should not be put on a really business basis and made to pay its own way either by legitimate income or by cutting out the expenses that legitimate operation will not pay for.

Nobody believes the postoffice is efficiently managed. Mighty few things operated by the government are or will be. But the postoffice carries a lot of useless dead weight that in any private business would be certain failure. It is not failure in the case of the government, for draft on the people to pay shortages is the recourse in government operation. Of course this is an old theme, and the people have heard it thrashed over until it is no longer of interest. But if we don't want to pay taxes something has to be done to lower the cost of every factor of government, and the postoffice with its fifty per cent increase in postage is about as good as any place to start.

THE SALARIES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

At the meeting of the tax association at Bensalem on Saturday afternoon it is likely that the salaries of county officers will be given critical discussion. Now it is not to be imagined that the affair will be one-sided exclusively, unless those who favor such officers as the home demonstration agent, the farm officers and such others fail to be there to take part in the debate. While some folks are definitely wedded to dismissing some of these officers it is not because they are not valuable, but because of the difficulty of providing the salaries. The main purpose is to reduce taxes, which leads to an effort to cut off from every quarter. One way to save the farm demonstrator and the home demonstrator and the health officers is to be at Bensalem and help to find some other ways whereby county expenses may be lowered, for this effort to reduce government expenses is a determined one, and the signs are that the demand will not be satisfied until reductions are made in some manner.

The usefulness of all the officers is rather generally conceded. One group of ardent reducers is on record as saying that they do not want to dismiss any of the county employes, but do want to reduce salaries. This group will be favorable to the continuation of the officers in question if somebody will point out a way to provide the money to pay such employes, but at the same time permit of reductions in taxes in any acceptable manner.

Bensalem is a pleasant bit of the county to visit. The occasion makes it worth while for a large number of people to turn out and watch the development of affairs at the meeting. All are welcome, no matter where from, and the subject under consideration is one all are interested in, especially those who appreciate the auxiliary officers of the county, for their services need to be explained to those who are in favor of dismissing those helpful workers.

ANOTHER WEYMOUTH MANSION

One of the most cheering announcements this week is that A. B. Yeomans is about to start work on the new house that George J. Jenks has arranged to build on the excellent location recently purchased through Eugene Stevens near the latter's home on Weymouth ridge in Southern Pines. Highland road is the summit of the ridge, and the Jenks location is about the high spot of the summit. The property runs back over the hill to the telephone line which is the boundary line of Southern Pines. It has an east and west dimension of over 400 feet, with a sweep of frontage in the east to give an outlook over wide range into the extended landscape. This will be another of the striking architectural features of the Sandhills.

The new house at this particular time is something else. It indicates that the world has not gone to the Devil. It is evidence that men are still considering home making and Moore county sandy ridges a proper place for permanent homes of character. It will serve to encourage the realization that work is to go on and that development is to continue and that men are as much interested in the advancement of the things that are worth while as they are in bemoaning their luck and in losing interest and putting on sackcloth and shedding tears.

This new house almost completes the occupation of Weymouth summit from the Travis and French homes in the Country club region to the Burt establishment on the north end of the ridge. Only a few vacant spots are left on the main roads through that entire range. That they will be taken with fair rapidity is a foregone conclusion. The dreams of what Highland road is to become are whatever we may care to make them, but no doubt can be entertained as to the ultimate delightfulness of that ridge and its immediate neighborhood.

FIVE OF THEM WISE AND FIVE FOOLISH

You have probably read the story. The wise virgins had oil for their lamps when it was time to light up. The other five had failed to provide for the occasion. It is the story of human experience. The brief story of the ten virgins fails to tell how the forgetting ones overcame the difficulty, and that is the situation we are in now. The philosophers are trying to cipher out the way to make the neglects of yesterday balance out with the needs of today, but the answer is what it was two thousands years ago, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

When war swept over Europe an intense demands for cotton to make munitions for the guns sprang up, and America fattened on the great wealth that came from supplying the demand. Along before the war the price of cotton ranged around ten to twelve cents, and North Carolina was growing rapidly in wealth from its production. Seven or eight hundred thousand bales would bring around sixty million dollars and everybody thought that was a good business. Then when war began to call for cotton the crop increased, the price went up and toward the end of the war the return to North Carolina was double what it had been for its cotton just before the war. The world was combed for cotton, and even when the war closed the supply was so short that the industrial demand was clamoring for a bigger yield to fill the gaps in the mills and factories.

The return for the crop along about 192 was three times as much money to North Carolina as before the war. Then it was found the supply was catching up. But the acreage in cotton continued to increase. The inevitable followed. With the demand for guncotton stopped the demand for other cotton could not take care of the supply. But the farmer continued to make more.

Then came the deluge. Today the world is drowned in cotton for which it can not find a use, and the farmer is at his wit's end to know how to live.

When he had the returns from a big crop at more than double the ordinary price of before the war he forgot all about the wedding to which he had been bidden, and now he finds that he has no oil in the vessels of his lamps. He has not held on to the money he received from his big crop at a big figure. Prices have

gone down cellar. The world is still drowned in surplus cotton, and the end is not yet in sight and will not be until the surplus is reduced. Making more cotton than is needed and trying to keep up the price is not helping and will not. Presently when the amount of cotton produced corresponds with the amount demanded things will change. But all the visionary propositions that are offered to raise prices while too much cotton is on hand will meet with but one response from actual facts, "I know you not." It is impossible to buck the general principles of economic law, and no matter what we may say and do in any other way the only hope lies in a crop that will fit the price. Otherwise the virgins who have not provided oil for their lamps from the plenty of the day of abundance will sit in the ashes of hunger.

THE CLOSE OF HOSTILITIES

With Saturday's primary and the wind-up of the Chicago convention a semblance of peace once more falls over the country and the community. It is true we had not much notion of what the fight was all about, and now that it is quieted down a little some of the animosity may be forgotten, for but few people imagine any great tribulation is to come out of the election or defeat of any particular set of candidates for public office. Government is a big machine that cannot be affected much, because it is a routine affair and our method of politics is such that the most of our accomplishment is mixed with bungle all the way along the line. The patriot makes a lot of noise and pushes on the lines, while the crowds outside the breastworks make a lot of noise and shoo the wagon off to one side if they can. We will be told of the incompetence of the ins by the outs, and of the outs by the ins, and Congress will struggle over appropriations and various matters as it always does, and accomplish about the same results.

In the county the Democratic ticket, which will most likely be elected, is a right acceptable group of men. Modern methods of handling county government will probably give us a good administration. The incident of the Bensalem tax demands will have an influence, and the attitude of the commissioners on the Bensalem proposition will be helpful. Instead of being a political war that matter has resolved itself into an inquiry, and the commissioners, the Kiwanis club and the people are all undertaking to work in harmony for the purpose of getting taxes down to the lowest possible basis that will serve the needs of the county.

In State affairs the situation may encounter a little slumbering of the embers for a time, but the probability is that the ticket as named will be favorably received in November, although some shifting of affiliation is possible. The prohibition situation introduces some new alignments, but nobody can, so far ahead, tell what. In the presidential battle a sentiment seems to prevail that the Democratic platform is in many ways commendable, and as a fact a stronger element than the nominee. The passing of the two national conventions will most likely give the country more confidence in the days that are ahead, for both parties took conservative and logical grounds on the chief matters before the voters and business this fall. From either platform, if carried out, beneficial results should follow. When Congress convenes again the new government will have been elected, and the windy gusts of mouth work will be quieted down. Then something will be done for the good of the country rather than for the election of the candidates, and the set-up seems favorable. But the next legislature and the next Congress will be active.

INDIVIDUALISM AND PATERNALISM

The ancient war between individual rule and paternal government in which the individual is submerged by the central authority is illustrated in the vandalism shown in the cutting of trees along some of the rural roads of this section. With our road system a centralized affair, with Raleigh in absolute control of every item from the sea to the mountains, we are the subjects of a standardized policy.

Here in this section we undertake to beautify our secondary roads and encourage trees and shrubbery. But the order has gone forth from Raleigh that roads must be cut out to certain widths, and the road crews have no authority except to cut.

The Bethesda road, the extension of the Connecticut avenue road out toward Fort Bragg from Southern Pines, and the other rural roads in the Bethesda and Southern Pines territory have been trimmed up by the

GRAINS OF SAND

Someone put a five dollar bill in the collection at the ball game at Southern Pines Monday afternoon. But don't get excited. The depression is not over. It was a Confederate bill.

They've started packing and shipping peaches in earnest now, and that means ready cash in the Sandhills. Business with the merchants ought to begin to pick up.

Too many lawyers in politics is a cry one hears every time an election year draws nigh. Yet the North Carolina electorate has just chosen two for the highest offices in its power to confer, Blucher Ehringhaus, an Elizabeth City attorney, and Bob Reynolds, fiery legal light of Asheville, for governor and U. S. Senator.

And the Republicans nominated law-

yers for the same high places. Jake Newell, Senatorial candidate, is a Charlotte attorney; Clifford Frazier, G. O. P. choice for governor, a lawyer in Greensboro.

Josephus Daniels ought to be sitting pretty. Franklin Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy when the Raleigh publisher was secretary; they are great friends, and Daniels has supported Frank through thick and thin. A Roosevelt victory may send Josephus back to Washington next year.

Another Wilson cabinet officer ought to about have his choice of jobs. William Gibbs McAdoo's gift of the California and Texas delegates to Roosevelt puts him in a whip-hand position.

rented the Backus cottage on Philadelphia avenue for the summer.

The date of the play given by the Epworth League has been changed from Friday to Saturday night, July 9th, at Firemans Hall.

J. W. Pickler and sons, Erhman, Reece and Craig, who are working in Wilmington were home over Sunday and Monday.

Mrs. Albert Austin of Gastonia was a caller in town Sunday.

On old custom was revived at Silver Springs on the 4th in the cooking and serving of a barbecue dinner. J. V. Adams of Pinebluff, who is skilled in the art of barbecuing, cooked the barbecue which was served to over fifty residents of Silver Springs, Addor and Pinebluff.

Last Saturday evening David Park was host to 16 of his friends at his home, it being the occasion of his birthday. A delicious chicken stew dinner was served on the lawn after which the evening was spent out of doors playing games and stunts.

Lieut. R. H. Beck of Marion was a caller at H. L. Howie's Sunday.

Miss Mac Jacobs of Greensboro is a visitor at the home of Mrs. Meinhardt.

The Home Demonstration meeting conducted by Mrs. Ryals will be held at the Hall Thursday, July 14 at 2:30 p. m.

Mrs. Anna McGlachlin was gracious hostess to two tables of bridge last Wednesday evening. Those enjoying the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Farrel, Mr. and Mrs. I. G. Wiley, Mrs. Harold Paget, Miss Ella Backus, Miss Gertrude Little and Mrs. Hazel Allison.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Paget spent Wednesday in Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach.

Mrs. Cecil Farrel, Mrs. H. Paget and Miss Gertrude Little were in Raleigh one day last week.

NIAGARA

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Adams and son Jack, returning from Georgia and Alabama, called on Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Frank en route to their home in Huntington, West Virginia.

John Blue and family of High Point visited at the home of W. K. McDonald over the week-end.

Mrs. Register and small daughter of Four Oaks are visiting Mrs. Register's daughter, Mrs. Monroe.

Mrs. D. S. Ray, Sr., and daughter have moved into Miss Warren's house on Virginia avenue.

Jesse Smith is spending the week with his family.

Bargain Fares

August 6th

ABERDEEN TO

No. Days

Tickets

Limited

Atlanta	5	\$ 8.25
Chattanooga	6	10.25
Birmingham	6	10.25
New Orleans	10	23.25
Savannah	10	8.50
Jacksonville	10	12.50
Tampa	10	20.00
Miami	10	22.50
Havana	19	47.25

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AIR LINE RAILWAY

Bargain Coach Fares

ABERDEEN TO PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK AND RETURN—\$2.50

Dates of Sale	June	July	August	Sept.
For all Trns.	3 10 17 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 23
Morn. Trns	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 24
	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 25

RICHMOND AND RETURN

Dates of Sale	June	July	August	Sept.
For All Trains	10 24	1 22	12 26	2 23
Morning Trains	11 25	2 23	13 27	3 24
	12 26	3 24	14 28	4 25

ALL TICKETS LIMITED RETURNING PRIOR TO MIDNIGHT FOLLOWING TUESDAY

CHILDREN FIVE AND UNDER TWELVE—HALF FARE
 VISIT VIRGINIA BEACH AND OCEAN VIEW
 HISTORIC AND ROMANTIC HAMPTON ROADS

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