

THE PILOT

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THE EFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS

Tuesday was a nasty day for a fire, and the fire was a difficult one to contest. The volunteer firemen came out as they usually do, a few seconds after the alarm sounded, and they stayed until it was safe to leave a long and at times a dangerous task. Folks don't realize what the volunteer firemen do for a town like this. The day was windy, and cold. The building was one of a block, with not only the burden of putting out the fire to consider, but the further task of preventing the extension of the fire by actual contact or by blowing flame or spark to something else close by. The struggle was uncomfortable, tedious and hard, but the fire never made headway after the engines arrived.

It is not hard to imagine the possibility that in that wind the whole town might have been swept from end to end, but the volunteers saw that no extended damage followed. They were ready when the call sounded, and their machinery was ready. The water and the other facilities were ready, for back of the fire company is the town organization, and fortunately the town government has been progressive enough to maintain a fire fighting unit that is equal to the occasion. But even at that the equipment would be of much less value were it not that the members of the fire companies are up to the requirements and willing to respond to the summons. They were on hand. They subdued the fire. They saved the town from an extension of the scourge, and they are entitled to a decided recognition of their work.

Along with the local organization was the help given by the visiting companies from Aberdeen and Pinehurst, two other community saviors who show up just as regular as the fire whistle blows. And there is one of the great assets of the Sandhills. The harmony between these three communities is such in emergency that the fire organization is practically a three company affair, all working in harmony, and so far they have not failed to register in any job to which they have been summoned.

If anybody in this belt of woods deserves to have a hat off when you meet them take off your head cover to the firemen, and soak it into your head that they are one of the most important factors in making this section a safe and satisfying place to live.

PUTTING PEOPLE ON FARMS

In a recent issue of the Charlotte Observer Julian Miller discusses the suggestion of relieving the depression by bringing people back from the mills to put them on farms, and while he does not go very far into the proposition he does go far enough to ask why and how. It is true that many people left the farm to go to the factory, but it is equally true that the back track has nothing at the end that makes the reverse move easy. When the move was from farm to factory the factory held an open door into which the migrant might enter and find employment ready for him and a place to live, with the problem of production simplified to so many hours of work daily. But if the factory hand goes back toward the farm it is to find the

farm occupied with its own problems which are the problems of the operators.

To go to a farm and meet with any success means to find a farm that is willing to make a place for the man who would go there. That is about as difficult as to find a place with a factory—the place the proposed farmer is supposed to leave on starting back to the farm. Depression has hit the farm as it has hit the factory, and farms have little more to offer than the mills have. The man who would return to the farm must first find the farm. Then he must find stock to work with, supplies to carry on until crops are made, and he must make his crops in the face of the same depression that affects the factories. It is true that the man on the farm can raise his own food supply, but so can the man in the mill town, for most mills will provide garden facilities if the mill hand is willing to work and produce from his garden the things that will maintain his family.

The whole thing is a question of work, but in going back to the farm unless the man going back has some capital to establish him, he has a small prospect of success. To go as a tenant is not much more promising, for family life at the mill village disturbs those habits of farm life and work that are essential on the farm. If a family can find on a farm a suitable opportunity to make a new start it may be wise in some cases to go back to the farm, but for those familiar with town habits and without means to start the new life it is likely to be very discouraging and disappointing.

THE BENEFIT OF SUNLIGHT

Genesis says He made the greater light to rule by day and the lesser light to rule by night. And God saw that it was good.

We have taken the sun and moon as a matter of habit, but that profound research physician Dr. Fenton Turk, who frequently came to the Sandhills, said he came here because the sunshine was one of the greatest assets he knew of in all the resources of health stimulation. Life is a chemical process. The sun is the origin of a chemical actinic influence that is a basic element of all existence. It is illustrated in the potato sprout in the cellar away from the sunlight. That sprout grows and is white. But access to the sun permits it to take on a green color, and that change to green is the reaction that indicates the development of the chlorophylls that build the plant and its products, and on which all animal and plant life depend.

Dr. Turk likes the Sandhills because the open atmosphere permits more sunshine from one year's end to another than in any other place he could find that possesses the other advantages the Sandhills country offers. Probably, taking his conclusions, the amount of clarified sunshine that envelops this region as a daily average is positively our greatest asset. Down in a coal mine is an ideal place as far as temperature is concerned, but life can not grow and thrive there. Sunshine, chemically, is the source of life and the sustenance of it. We have a little cold snap at times, but usually the sunshine is above the average, winter or summer here as compared with other places, and the open air allows its free passage. Nothing makes up for a lack of sunshine, and nothing is more friendly and genial and wholesome. This is the sunshine land, and whether we appreciate it or not the day the Creator made the sun he probably did one of His best jobs. And a proper share of it was done for the Sandhills, for which as the Prayer book says, the Lord make us truly thankful.

IMPROVEMENT OUTLOOK CERTAIN

There is very little doubt that business is improving generally over the country, and with favorable signs ahead. Whether conditions are to follow as have been outlined by the N. R. A. and kindred projects may be debatable, for it is believed in some quarters that modifications of the plans based on the emergency schemes will be an early step. Some of the hopes entertained from some of the methods tried have not brought

the hoped for ends, as many people anticipated, and we may expect other changes in plans. But in a general way the recovery of business is apparent, and the prospects are decidedly encouraging.

We still face some radical conditions that will not be waved away with a motion of the hand or by decree of the head of a temporary relief commission, for this affair is deeper seated than a verbal order and involves more than simply the influences of a fiat proposition. It embraces the whole people and it must move the whole mass of the people in the effort for recovery before the recovery is actual and extended.

We have to get rid of some of the empty dreams we have been dreaming, and to put our feet on solid bottom again before we get out of the bog. We are going to discover that getting rich is not the salvation of mankind, and that work does not hurt any one, and that our wants are not necessarily to be measured by what some envious neighbor may have. We will get down and dig and hustle and save before we are out of the woods, and we will forget that idea that borrowing more money will make us all prosperous, or that the world owes us a living, or that we can have anything more than we as a people create for ourselves. We have to learn that the farm and the cotton mill and the wood lot are more productive of subsistence than the federal treasury, and that what we buy with taxes is the most expensive thing we procure. We are going to learn these things by rigid experience, and in learning them the air will be let out of some of the bubbles we are trying to float. But things are shaping because it is impossible to keep 125,000,000 people with their heads in the mud. It is not to congress that we can turn in our emergency with the hope of relief, but to that stringent old almoner, Necessity, who compels all the prosperity that men attain. Root, hog, or die, is the fundamental law of life, and that is what will bring us out of the land of Egypt and out of the homes of bondage. It sounds flattering to say that we must have a wage of \$1.10 an hour, which is nice if we can get it, but far more people have lived on ten cents an hour than on a dollar ten, and in doing it have done more for themselves and for the world collectively than the others have.

We are coming out of the depression, but we have many things yet to learn and to adopt. We are going to adopt some radical plans, and not all of them are N. R. A. or otherwise alphabetical. Some are not yet definitely scheduled, and some are scheduling themselves.

CARELESSNESS
WITH FIRE

At this season the cold incites people to crowd the fire apparatus about the houses, and too much carelessness is shown frequently in firing, both in the character of the fuel used and in the quantity. Not so much kerosene oil and gasoline are used to kindle fires as in some places, for we have a quick actor in the native fat pine which is used for kindling and for touching up the fires already burning. But fat pine is almost as dangerous as kerosene oil if it is used indiscriminately. The active factor about the pine wood is the turpentine it contains, which is as inflammable as oil, and being quickly converted into inflammable gas by the touch of a match any additional fuel of pine wood added to a fire acts like gasoline or oil thrown on the blaze.

Pine wood is a fine kindling if used in moderation, and if added to the fire in a proper way while other fuel is made the base of the heating supply. But the house that is heated with an excessive amount of fat pine wood should be sure its furnaces and stoves and grates are absolutely safe, that its pipes and chimneys are as safe, and that it is not piling up soot in chimneys to burn out some day and fire the building.

Chimneys should be kept clean where any pine wood is used. Contacts between chimneys and wooden walls should be scrutinized that danger is eliminated. It is wise to have the chimneys cleaned from time to time, and on wet days it is a good plan to have the soot burned out by a

Grains of Sand

"Why did you hit him with a brick?" asked the judge.

"Well, Judge, hit was thisaway. He says to me in the book store is a book about me and I went with him to see. He points to a book in the window that has on the back of it Book of Reptiles, and he says aint that about me, and I seen a brick on the edge of the walk, and I throwed it at him, and he didn't dodge it."

The automobile man who drove up Broad street past Hart's drug store Tuesday morning and blowed for the fire engines to get out of his way so he might go on up street to the station was indignant when the engine refused to give him the right of way, but they held to their place.

Dunc McNoot says after seeing this much of February he is glad it is the shortest month of the year.

careful and capable person.

But all the time vigilance is the price of safety, and even after the cold snap has gone by it will be wise to keep an eye on the condition of the heating equipment, for as in anything else, an ounce of safety is worth a pound of cure. This also applies when in the spring grass and trash and leaves are to be burned, a job that will soon be on hand. Fire is a thing to watch all the time for it has no conscience and knows nothing of friendliness.

MAKING AN ASPARAGUS BED

The Seaboard railroad agricultural department, which is trying to stimulate farm and garden work in its territory sends in a circular announcing that the Coker farms at Hartsville, S. C., are offering asparagus crowns for ten dollars a thousand. Asparagus is a valuable garden product and should be more widely planted than it is, by some farmers for commercial uses, but by more farmers and gardens for home use. Anybody interested can write to the Coker farms for information.

Possibly some may take up the matter, and possibly many will continue to be indifferent. Asparagus, like other garden products, takes work if the best results are to be had, and our training these days seems to be in the direction where work has not made a serious lodgment. But if we could fall in with the Coker idea and plant many more things in the garden, not so much to get rich from the planting, but to make a home table supply of the good things that the soil will afford to the man who will intelligently tend his ground, we might find a lot of comfort and profit from the work.

Much of the South has leaned too heavily on cotton and tobacco and not enough on the widely diversified garden. Possibly the mule has had something to do with the slack care given the garden, for mule of the garden is a hand job instead of a mule job, and we do not like to change habits and give attention to detail where a mule will walk down the furrow and do everything except swear. Gardens are exacting. They demand care and work. But they pay more for the work that is done with them even if they sell no truck, for they fill the buying inferior stuff at the grocery and giving up the money in table and the stomach and save the household. A Chinaman or a Hollander will make more money on a town lot than lots of farmers will make on two acres with a mule, but the Chick will use a hand hoe and lots of enthusiasm instead of a mule and mule mental limitations. Probably Hugh McRae's Holland farmers make more profit with a hand hoe than lots of folks make with tractors, considering acreage, delays, repairs and supplies. We need more asparagus, more garden, more intense cultivation, more footwork and more hand work, and they will bring more happiness and profit.

CARD OF APPRECIATION

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for the aid and kindness shown us during the recent loss of our home by fire. Please accept our sincere thanks and lasting gratitude. MR and Mrs. B. C. MORGAN, Niagara, N. C.

Correspondence

FOREST PROTECTION

Editor, The Pilot:

We have been very fortunate in being able to get one of the C. C. Camps located in Moore county and being granted the privilege of directing their work. This is entirely due to our members taking such a wholehearted interest in the work our Moore County Forest Protective Association has been attempting to do in the way of fire prevention in the last few years.

As you no doubt know, there are a great many counties making every effort to obtain C. C. C. workers but the counties which had similar organizations, and whose citizens had shown interest in the cooperation in forest preservation, got first choice. This is very gratifying and I think that we should make every effort to see that the work being done will be of permanent benefit. We have planned the work so as to create permanent lines to protect principal towns and the lands surrounding them.

The men at present are running a line between Southern Pines and Pinehurst following the telephone line. This will split the land up between the double road and the old Southern Pines-Pinehurst sand clay road. At the same time, they are cutting a line between Southern Pines and Fort Bragg, which will cut off the tremendous fire hazard which the Fort Bragg reservation presents to our County. We have made a great study of the proper location of these lines and we would like very much to go over them with anybody who has any suggestion, as it is very important to get them properly located.

Of course, our association has the regular expense this year of fire prevention work, the maintenance of lookouts and the upkeep of our truck and equipment.

Everyone is being called upon to help various projects at this time. However, we hope local landowners will realize the importance of this work and will see fit to become a member of our association. The regular charges are 2c an acre or a minimum of \$5.00 per year.

The Federal, State and County gov-

ernments are so anxious to encourage our work that each year they match the monies we receive, and in this way make available quite a large sum for prevention work. It is important, if possible, that we get everyone to become interested in the work. H. J. Menzel, Village Court Building, Pinehurst, is treasurer of the association.

—L. L. BIDDLE, II, President, Pinehurst, Feb. 20.

NOT BIDDING FOR JOB

Editor, The Pilot:

My suggestions about the County line were so written up in last week's Pilot that it appears I was bidding for the job. Such is not at all the case.

Such a boundary, properly run, would, as was pointed out in The Pilot, be of great value to engineers and surveyors, besides providing a fixed and permanent location of the County line.

These data, supplied free by the U. S. Government, are not valued by the average citizen or engineer as highly as they deserve. Even the State Highway Commission failed to make use of them.

I am confident that to ignore this valuable source of information would be a serious mistake in work of this nature, altho I appreciate the difficulty of looking at the matter other than from an engineering standpoint.

While I would be glad to do what I can to help the commissioners as the engineer who runs the line, I am most decidedly not looking for the job.

—R. E. WICKER.

Pinehurst, N. C.,

February 20, 1934.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL

First Sunday in the Month

Church School, 9:30 a. m.; Holy Communion and Sermon, 11:00 a. m.

Other Sundays—Holy Communion, 8:00 a. m.; Church School, 9:00 a. m.; Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 a. m.

Saints' Days—Holy Communion, 10:00 a. m.

During Lent—Wednesdays—Evening Prayer, 4:45 p. m.

Fridays—The Litany, 4:45 p. m.

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