

THE PILOT

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AN EXPERIMENT IN POLITICS

The announcement that U. L. Spence will be a candidate for the State Senate is more or less of a surprise, probably to him as well as to nearly everybody else, for until the last two or three weeks, while his name had been mentioned as possibly a candidate for legislature or for judge, it was not suggested for the Senate. But this movement is a surprise, commencing when a reader of The Pilot suggested that the people propose some good men for the county ticket. Spence was among those mentioned as proper timber for the legislature. Other names were proposed, but those offered so far have not looked with favor on the proposition, as most men are busy with their own affairs. Mr. Spence hesitated until pressure became more frequent, and then he intimated that he was not inclined toward the lower house again, and that he probably would not enter the race for the bench. To a friend he said recently if he should respond to the call at all it would be for the Senate, and this week he accepts the call of a number of the people and allows his name to be presented.

The man who started this movement has done a good job, for Spence is probably the most capable man in the county available for this important job. He is a lawyer of forty years experience, which means he is familiar with business practices and with county and district affairs. His success as an attorney is an indication of his practical character. His standing at the bar, where he is in the employ of discriminating people, is a testimonial as to his integrity and reliability. His acquaintance is statewide.

While The Pilot has watched this movement with much interest as a political experiment, based on the effort to pick a man because of his qualifications instead of accepting a candidate who offers himself because he desires to enter public life, it is to be said that this candidate who accepts the invitation to run is one who is wholly acceptable to this paper. This idea is also wholly acceptable, and the experiment of the people choosing a candidate is also one that appeals. It seems to be a step on the part of a number of people to lift the political machine to a higher level of usefulness for the whole community, for Mr. Spence, if chosen, which appears likely, will be unhampered, unbiased, and responsible to the people alone. His campaign will not be a forced battle, with all the undesirable features of a political struggle. It will be remarkable in many ways as an experiment in politics, with all the signs pointing to a somewhat Utopian procedure with much to recommend it.

As Moore county is conceded the Democratic candidate in the district this year a nomination is equivalent to election, for nobody doubts the success of the Democratic ticket. In fact it is possible that the Republicans of the county might forget party alignment on such an occasion and come to the backing of a candidate from the people and make the result a foregone fact from the start. That would be a wise step, for it would give the candidate a freedom of action that could be only wholesome for the county and the district and the state. If this experiment shall work it may have

more of an influence in political campaigns than is at first thought suspected, for the nastiness and the antagonism of political battles introduces in every campaign a lot of stuff that we would all be better without, for no good is derived from the airing of dirty linen and the animosities of political catfighting that each recurring election brings up.

This will be an opportunity for those voters who stand back from the muddy political pool and take no part because they do not like the methods that prevail too often. As little objection can be urged against Mr. Spence anybody can take part in this campaign with the assurance of a clean procedure, actuated by a public welfare than can not be opposed on any personal and political grounds, which would suggest that many who do not usually stage an active hand politically may now be active warriors to back a good movement. The man who proposed this selection of candidates by suggestion of the people is a modest fellow who does not want his name known, but it is permissible to say of him that he has probably done a good job. It is in order to hear some suggestions for other county offices.

TEACHING THE CHILDREN THRIFT

The North Carolina Thrift Society is a new organization created under the last legislature, and having for its aim to teach thrift among the school children. It is said that one purpose is to encourage your folks to build on a project to help themselves to provide a fund for college expenses after the high school is completed. This however does not prevent many other valuable applications of the idea of thrift and saving. In older days nearly every child had a small savings bank in which was encouraged the deposit of nickles and dimes now and then, the purpose being largely to teach the child the saving habit as well as to give a little money at some time when it might be of more use than the immediate expenditure.

In spite of all of our clamor to spend more money, the one thing this country needs to teach more than any other financial principle is the value of thrift and saving, for not only is our entire capital accumulation a necessary outcome of saving, but a time comes to all of us, and sometimes frequently, when saved up money would provide immeasurable comfort and happiness. A dollar is no more or less than a dollar and it will buy only one dollar's worth of something. If the dollar is allowed to roll away to bring back some frivolous thing simply because the dollar happens to be available it will not be on hand to buy something much more essential when something essential is needed. One of our great troubles now is the great lot of stuff we have all brought for no purpose, to say nothing of the great lot we have bought which is yet unpaid for and which is watching the dollars we are yet to get that they may pay for flippant things we did not care for when we bought them on credit.

It we had all been taught thrift and saving in our school experiences it is beyond a doubt that we would be a much happier and more prosperous nation today, and if the schools can impress thrift and saving on the minds of the children today they will be adding a branch of study that will be infinitely greater value than some of the new things that have been made a part of the school course of the modern day. Thrift will go farther to keep people from the bread line than all the emergency measures men can devise, but an emptied pocketbook is a source of sorrow.

THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT

Last week N. L. Gibbon announced that he would be a candidate for the legislature and in his statement he mentioned some things that he thinks should have legislative attention. This opens the whole subject of government for discussion and for that matter the prime question of what government is for. The constitution of the United States says its pur-

pose is justice, domestic tranquility, the common defense, general welfare and general liberty. That allows a broad interpretation, which has been the case, and today the citizen may wonder what all it includes.

It seems now that this nation is some hundred and fifty years old, that we have overlooked several things necessary to carry out the simple scheme of the founders who enumerated the requirements above. So in that century and a half we have been making some new laws. At the present time over 500 men are in Washington making new laws, and most of their time is now occupied in that work. Along with them the forty-eight states every year or two hold meetings of several thousand legislators who make some more new laws, so that in the course of time we should hope to gain that tranquility, general welfare, justice, liberty and safety that the nation was created to provide. It has taken a long time to reach the point where we are, and a veritable mountain of laws, with an apparent need of a great many more, for we are now making laws on a scale that has never at any other time in the century and a half of effort been reached.

Probably all the other nations of the world, including those that are as old as Rome and Greece and Egypt and Arabia, do not have a fraction of as many laws as we do, and may be that is why they do not have some of the other attainments that we have, yet they go on pretty much as we do. But we are to elect a new legislature, also another Congress, and the other states will choose new legislatures, and the whole thing will go ahead on some more new laws. And nobody ever smiles at this curious struggle to provide tranquility and the common defense and the general welfare and liberty and so on. In some things men would have become impatient after a century and a half of effort on the part of thousands of men who find that the job is still as hefty as ever and requires still a bigger number to carry it forward. But we go ahead cheerfully and with many new propositions to gain the things we hope for, although just what it is we want seems to be rather obscure in its detail, and much debated as to its effect and its method of attainment.

So the citizen asks Mr. Gibbon what he has in mind if he gets to Raleigh. He outlines some things that look good to him. But the trouble is that a hundred other men there will have something else to offer, and new laws will be offered in sheaves and torn to tatters and argued and opposed and compromised all through the session. Mr. Gibbon says the big thing is economic government. He realizes that the people are protesting against taxes, but everybody realizes equally as well that the big effort in this state and nation is to secure public appropriations for all manner of things, which takes tax money to a degree never before dreamed of.

It looks as if government is the collection of taxes and the uncontrolled spending of money. It is hard to see where it can be modified in any way unless the people are willing to stop the demands on the public treasuries, and how to stop the demands is a problem. Then the question arises as to how far that business of taxing and spending can go until taxation fails, as the long list of tax sales in the county indicates year by year, and when taxation has arrived at an impossible climax what becomes of the whole government structure?

How far will the people go with Mr. Gibbon in economical government? How far will they go in paying taxes? How much of this business is really government? Have we forgotten the purpose of government, or is government failing us? What are our forty-eight state legislatures and our more than five hundred men in Congress going to do in the real business of government? Tranquility? We beat the world for crime, for automobile slaughter, for indifference to law, for various things that indicate lack of defense of the people, and general welfare is getting some jolts now in spite of our vast law making machinery.

And the cause is the public

Correspondence

MR. DENNY WITHDRAWS

Editor, The Pilot:

Yesterday afternoon Mr. U. L. Spence did me the honor of advising that he had decided to offer as a candidate for the State Senate.

In my opinion the Legislature which is to meet in January, 1935 will have more than the usual need for the best thinking the various counties and senatorial districts can supply, and now that Mr. U. L. Spence, with his long Legislative experience, fine mind and unimpeachable character is willing to serve our district in the Senate I am taking this opportunity of withdrawing my own candidacy for the Senate, and ask that my friends will give to Mr. Spence's candidacy serious thought and if they find it agreeable to their opinion of the best interest of the county and district, cast their vote for him in the Democratic Primary to be held early in June.

In withdrawing my name as a candidate for the State Senate I want to express an appreciation for those citizens who have indicated their desire that I represent them in the next Legislature and to assure them and all other citizens of the district that I feel that I am serving them best by assisting as far as I possibly can in obtaining the services of the Honorable Union L. Spence of Carthage as our representative in the State Senate of 1935.

—R. E. DENNY.

Pinehurst, March 13, 1934.

attitude toward these things. Mr. Gibbon has a job ahead of him.

THE OLD SLAVE GATHERING

It is to be hoped that the gathering of old slaves in Southern Pines will be a representative turn out and that many people will seriously study the significance of such a meeting, for slavery, as indicated by these old folks, was one of the great incidents of the building of this nation. The war that was the climax of the curious experiment, is over, and the two antagonists who met on the contested fields have become friends and a new understanding has taken place, so that old subjects can be discussed now with the fuller knowledge on the part of all concerned.

The recently published book, "Old Bethesda," contains a chapter on "Canaan" which might be read with profit just now, which, while it may meet the approval of few or many, brings out some points that have not been as pointedly considered as in the book. Slavery is discussed from the day the New England colonies set the example, and it is indicated that perhaps the colored man is better off today because of the actual wrongs inflicted on his ancestors than his kinsmen are who were destined to the wilds of Africa and barbarism at the present time because their ancestry did not have the luck to be stolen and sent to America.

The old slave is soon to be an extinct factor in our national development. Today the picturesque phase of the whole subject is all that is left of it. Race relation is adjusted in a manner that has permitted both races to make the most remarkable advances ever possible under the sun, and the social contacts are so arranged that friction is as slight between different groups of people any where in the world. And with it all a strong and abiding friendship has been established between the blacks and the whites that can be imagined a thing that will ever be broken. Slavery was a great tragedy, but it was also a great romance and one that is worth rereading in this gathering that is staged for the near future. It is doubtful if any thing of its kind can ever again be attempted. It is to be hoped it may be a memorable event, for it already is an affair that almost was, rather than is.

DROP 43 FROM CWA ROLLS IN COUNTY THIS WEEK

Forty-three men will be dropped from the CWA payroll in Moore county this week, bringing the number down to 263.

KIWANIANS BOWL

Members of the Kiwanis Club enjoyed a bowling tournament at the Pinehurst Casino following their weekly meeting on Wednesday.

GRAINS OF SAND

The latest entrant for "Old Slave Day" is Chole Jones, in the days of long ago the property of Catherine Cameron of Lillington but for the past 35 years in the employ of C. T. Patch, and despite her 80-odd years still going strong. Aunty Chole was old enough as a girl to get a vivid impression of the war time days that still remains fresh in her memory. Temple Bailey, the author, spending the winter of 1907-8 in Southern Pines, was much interested in Chole who appears as a character in one of Miss Bailey's early books.

Here's the way South Carolinians feel about their "cawn likker" in the words of Neill 'Donnell Bultman of Columbia in a recent magazine:

"Somewhere back you cast what we South Carolinians took to be a very brief, but very insulting, sub, aspersion on our honor. You presumed to speak facetiously of our actions in rejecting legal liquor.

"In these parts and hereabouts is made that priceless gift of Divine Providence to the throat of a true gentleman—South Carolina cawn likker, in abundance unbounded and of

such delightful potency that one snort poured today through the lips of Bacchus himself would cause that gentleman to fling back his shroud and come forth with a hey nonny nonny, a-steppin' high, wide and handsome. And before we shall permit the sacred confines of our borders to become polluted with ordinary legal likker, we shall again secede. There is less likelihood of such a desecration than there is of this fair state voting the Republican ticket, and that, sub, would be an ignominy of which, no matter to what levels of decadence we sink, we shall ever be incapable!"

A heavily-brocaded silk dress worn by Mrs. Eunice Kelly at the ball given in the Governor's Palace to President George Washington during his visit to New Bern in 1791, and also a tiny ante-bellum doll, have been deposited with the North Carolina Historical Commission for exhibition in the Hall of History by Miss Bettie Dunn Windley of New Bern. The dress is trimmed in hand-embroidered batiste and is in an excellent state of preservation.

The Week in Aberdeen

Cyrus Holleman of Cary spent the past week-end in town visiting his sister, Mrs. A. F. Yates.

Mrs. K. G. Deaton and children spent last Sunday at Timberland with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cameron.

Mrs. Robert N. Page, Sr., has returned from Washington, D. C., where she spent some time visiting her son, Thad S. Page.

Jesse Carter, a student at the Presbyterian Junior College at Maxton, spent last Sunday visiting his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Avery were members of a fishing party at Henry A. Page, Jr.'s house boat near Jacksonville last week.

T. S. Melvin spent last Wednesday in Mount Olive on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan I. McKeithen and children of Columbia, S. C., spent last Sunday in town. Mr. McKeithen and children, accompanied by his mother, Mrs. A. A. McKeithen returned to Columbia, while Mrs. McKeithen stayed over for a week, during which time she expects to undergo a tonsil operation at Moore County Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Wimberly spent last Thursday in Raleigh attending Dr. George Truett's evangelistic services.

Miss Pearle McMillan is convalescing from a recent tonsil operation which she underwent last week in Fayetteville.

H. A. Gunter spent a few days last week in Atlanta, Ga., visiting his brother.

Mrs. Eugene Maynard spent the past week-end at Durham.

Miss Annie Belle Thompson of Camden, S. C., spent the past week-end here visiting relatives.

The Glee Club of the Presbyterian Junior College at Maxton, composed of about 30 members, attend-

ed the services at the Presbyterian Church last Sunday morning, and greatly helped with their music.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Campbell announce the arrival of a son, Henry Jacob on last Saturday, March 10th.

Card Party

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Taylor entertained their Bridge Club last Friday evening at their home with three tables of cards. High score prize was won by Miss Edna Maurer.

Mrs. G. B. Peterson entertained the Night Club at her home on last Thursday evening. The St. Patrick's Day motif was carried out effectively in her decorations and favors. Mrs. H. Edge won high score club prize, and Miss Christine Allred guest prize, while Mrs. Alton McLean won prize in the contest. The special guests were Mrs. Mac Wallace, Mrs. Jack Smith, Mrs. George Martin, Mrs. Dan Allred, Mrs. Eugene Maynard and Misses Christine Allred, Edna Maurer and Janette Leach.

Book Club

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club was entertained last week at the home of Mrs. Harry Pethick in Southern Pines, with the assistance of her mother, Mrs. George Abraham.

Instead of the regular program hour Mrs. Pethick gave a most interesting talk on her Chinese curios and linens, exhibiting them as she talked.

Covered Dish Luncheon

The members of the Presbyterian Auxiliary enjoyed a delightful Covered Dish Luncheon in the parlors of the Presbyterian church on Tuesday afternoon, after which all reports for the past church year were heard and new Circle chairmen and officers elected and the Circles formed for the coming year.

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