

THE PILOT

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NELSON C. HYDE, Managing Editor
BION H. BUTLER, Editor
JAMES BOYD STEUTHERS BURT
Contributing Editors
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GEORGE ROSS A GOOD SELECTION

On the presumption that the North Carolina Emergency Relief Association is to be what its name implies it is safe to say that the selection of George Ross to head the operation of the project is a good job. George Ross has been the successful head of some of the biggest farm affairs of the state, and wherever he has put his hand he has secured results of a character far above the ordinary. He has not only carried on the things he has been associated with, but he has put them on a basis where they can move forward on a much broader basis than ever, and where they set an example for other establishments to find profit in imitating.

Mr. Ross is a practical engineer and manager of rural projects, who now before the whistle blows where he is going to land. His schemes are thought out before they are applied and from a logical basis with the formula calculated and the reason plain for every step. He has shown his ability to handle big things and little ones, to plan for his men as well as his specifications, and he keeps before his eye all the time the purpose of his operation, which is to accomplish results.

While he is setting out on a new sea, this one of creating an emergency relief for the plight the rural region has slumped into, it is not so new as it is unsuspected. Nothing is new when it comes to primary facts, and George Ross will go at his new job with an application of the ordinary principles that govern any thing, which is to hunt the trouble quickly and then apply some remedies. And all the remedies for what we call hard times and depression are the same, productive occupation, that the hungry man may with the productive power of his hands find something to put in his mouth. Ross is a short-cut worker, and a fair appraiser of economic conditions. Hence it is to be supposed that he will find some place to put his men and then find the men to put in the places he finds for them. George is something of a politician on the side, but he is the kind of politician that succeeds in politics because he does something that appeals to the people and thereby gains a backing that encourages him to do what is needed. His appointment at this time is a wise act.

THE QUESTION OF TAXATION

To some extent, perhaps greater, perhaps less, the sales tax will enter the campaign this summer, just as general taxation is engrossing the attention of Congress, and just as taxation on a broad principle is pressing this whole country in every corner for a solution, and with no solution in sight. To begin with we all have a dream that we can shift taxation to other shoulders than our own, and possibly men always will entertain that delusion. That being the case all manner of schemes will always arise to bring about that shifting, and always it will fail because taxes can come from only one source and that is where the money is. The sales tax has already been firmly fastened on the state and nation and largely because other sources of taxation have been to some extent exhausted. Recourse was had to the gasoline sales tax in this state because

we have been falling down in collections of the land tax, and as no remedy for that falling down seems to be in sight we will very likely continue the sales tax on anything that sells for money, for money is what tax laws are after. Necessity pays no attention to theory or logic. The tax man reaches out where he sees real money and taxes his proportion and necessity determines the proportion.

In the long run, if we are clear of perception, we will realize that it is of little consequence where we reach for the taxes if we get them. That is the test of the successful system, because that is the purpose of taxes, and any system that does not produce is bound to be discontinued. Sales taxes produce the money. That settles that. And it might as well, for as money is the purpose of taxation anything that does not get the money is a failure. Therefore we will no doubt continue the sales tax along with any others that will bring the coin, for no pretty theory that does not bring money will long exist.

But this is to remember. We have the taxes to pay, and it is of little consequence which pocket they come out of. Some hopeful people think they can unload their share of the tax burden onto the shoulders of some one else, but if a successful method of doing that is ever discovered this whole world will turn to that method in one gigantic mass, and the rest of our lives will be devoted to putting our taxes on the other fellow. But unfortunately he is an unloader just like the rest of us, and while we are unloading on him he will be unloading on us. Therefore it is folly to think we are going to unload on anybody.

No successful and workable scheme to dodge the tax man has ever yet been devised and probably never will.

And no successful scheme has ever been hatched up to put the taxes on the other fellow.

You can box these two propositions all around the compass circle and see if you can find a flaw in them.

The only relief for taxation is to cut down the expenditure of the money that taxes are collected for, and that is just as much of a task as any other that is involved in the whole taxing scheme, for everybody is clamoring for tax money to spend. As long as we insist on prodigal waste of public money we will have to toe the mark when the tax man comes along until the time comes, perhaps, and it may not be far away, when tax collections will be narrowed down because there will be no further sources from which to draw the veritable deluge of money that is now swept into the public coffers. The only way to lessen taxes is to lessen spending or to exhaust the ability of the people to pay. The situation is becoming extremely serious, and unless we take a tack in our policies we are going to meet some conditions that will not be pleasant. No relief appears in sight yet, for our whole policy of government at the present time seems to be to pour out continued floods of money, and that simply means to pull in great floods of money, for it can not be paid out until it comes in. We can continue piling up debt, but that only means the greater the deluge when it comes and unhappily the spending orgy shows no sign of decreasing or of even holding down to its present prodigality. These are some of the things for the voter to think about, and they are not comforting for we are not getting value for our money, and what is worst of all, few people seem to care.

So a beginning is made on the spring festival of next year and it is open for all hands to join in

STARTING ON THE NEXT FESTIVAL

The Chamber of Commerce of Southern Pines left no grass to grow under its feet in the matter of the spring festival for next season. By practically unanimous movement the scheme for next year was launched and not only launched but given a blessing that will be one of the most infestious things this part of the state has ever known. The chamber noted that the first effort was so emphatically a success that to fail to utilize the momentum of the start would be criminal.

So a beginning is made on the spring festival of next year and it is open for all hands to join in

making the things a banksweeper that will fill the river with enthusiasm. The festival this year was an experiment and based on suggestions of volunteers who came forward with ideas to make the thing interesting. The same scheme of asking for suggestions is to be followed, and the burden of at least a part of the job is to be laid on the shoulders of everybody of the whole community. It costs nothing to speak your views on any new thing that comes in your head, and the Chamber of Commerce, or Frank Buchan or Shields Cameron or Sam Richardson, or The Pilot or any other good citizen will be glad to help get the proposition before the proper folks who will take it for what it may be worth.

There is no limit to the things of interest that may be conjured up in this section for the pleasure of the residents who stay here all the time, for the visitors, for the folks of the county, of the state or any other place who may be disposed to come this way when the events take place. The main thing now is to pump enthusiasm into the project and make a live issue from this plate until the end of the carnival that is to be scheduled.

LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY.

Curious this business of labor-saving machinery and the way some folks think they look at it. We have been told that the use of so much of this type of machinery has thrown men out of employment. Now the truth is that it has increased employment enormously, which is another story.

But it is not the bloated corporations and employers that are responsible for the use of machinery, but the worker himself. Years ago if we traveled we went down the road afoot and happy. Today the individual can't go from the postoffice to the drug store, without looking around for his car. The garden rake has given place long ago to the mule and a lot of folks think that to follow a mule and a plow is impossible and a tractor to ride is the ambition. Employes in everything insist on labor saving devices that can be operated by pushing a button.

Put two men on a wood pile with a crosscut saw and they ask why you don't send for the man with the wood-sawing machine. In all trades the worker wants labor-saving machinery. How many men could you find who would carry a hod up a ladder these days? They want the stuff to come up on the elevator. To make a crop of wheat is hardly a farm job at all any more. The field is plowed with a tractor, which employs men at the tractor shop. It is sowed with a seeder which employs men at the implement factory. It is harvested with a piece of machinery that goes into the field and reaps the grain, threshes and sacks it. It is hauled to the elevator in trucks, and from there to the railroad, to the mill, to the port of shipment and through the mill it is hardly touched by human hands. The machine shop does the farm work and all other work, and the worker insists that he must have shop machinery to do the work. The machine shop is operated in the same way. The machines do the work and the machinist looks on and turns a lever. He does not want to be bothered with any of the tasks. Men don't want to be anything but machine tenders so they insist on machines. That is what makes this a machine age. The workers demand the machines that save the work of the hands and the backbone.

making the things a banksweeper that will fill the river with enthusiasm. The festival this year was an experiment and based on suggestions of volunteers who came forward with ideas to make the thing interesting. The same scheme of asking for suggestions is to be followed, and the burden of at least a part of the job is to be laid on the shoulders of everybody of the whole community. It costs nothing to speak your views on any new thing that comes in your head, and the Chamber of Commerce, or Frank Buchan or Shields Cameron or Sam Richardson, or The Pilot or any other good citizen will be glad to help get the proposition before the proper folks who will take it for what it may be worth.

Correspondence

FESTIVAL

Dear Editor:
Just read your issue of April 20th in which you outline ideas past and future in the matter of "Festival!" Congratulations! It went over in a fine way for the first time. I know of no community in America that so well lends itself to that sort of thing.
Cordially yours,
—J. MACK WILLIAMS.
Chapel Hill, N. C.

STATE SCHOOLS

Editor, The Pilot:
In this state we should be very

proud of our State University. It is an outstanding institution of learning and is recognized as such by educators from all over the United States; but we should be far from proud of our schools that prepare the embryo collegiate from the primary grade up.

At the University I am told that the first year has to be devoted largely to teaching the student his ABC's because of the poor preparation. Now that is too bad, but it isn't so serious because the alumnus has been properly trained before graduation; but the boy who doesn't go to college is badly handicapped.

The equipment necessary for a proper education, up to high school is simple and inexpensive. Consisting of four walls, a roof and a stove; but the teaching force is quite another question and should be of the best.

Those who should know tell me that the work being done by our public schools, especially in the lower grades, has not improved in the past ten years. In fact the impression I get is that it is getting worse.

I don't know what is the matter with it, but have heard too many children per teacher spoken of most often. Others say poor supervision, short school term, etc. Most (not all) seem to think the teachers are on the whole well trained and of a high grade of intelligence and ability.

If we are to spend money for educational purposes shouldn't we spend it on the education of the children instead of using our tax money to pay interest on bonds for fine school buildings? Personally I prefer practically developed men and women to bricks and mortar, and I believe that they are many times more permanent.

—LEONARD TUFTS.

THANKS DUE COMMITTEES FOR FESTIVAL SUCCESS

(Continued from page 1)

French, Herbert Cameron, John Thomas, N. C. Hyde, A. C. Alexander, W. O. Moss, J. C. Barron, Mrs. Carl Thompson, Truman Fowler, T. N. Barnsdall, H. F. Burns, J. Fred Stimson.

Finance—P. F. Buchan, H. F. Burns.

Dramatics and Music—F. Stanley Smith, A. E. Yeomans, C. W. Picquet, Mrs. Edgar Chapman, Dr. E. L. Prizer.

Sightseeing—G. W. Case, H. A. Lewis.

New England Day—H. J. Betterley, general chairman; Maine—Mrs. Carlton Wicker, chairman; Frank Richardson, Jeff Hall, New Hampshire—Mrs. D. H. Turner, chairman; H. A. Jackman, P. J. Waterman, Max Grey, H. A. Lewis, H. H. Beckwith, John Fitzgerald, Vermont—Mrs. R. F. Potts, chairman; H. J. Betterley, B. J. Simonds, Mrs. H. A. Gould, Massachusetts—George C. Moore, chairman; Garland Pierce, Albert Vittum, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sanborn, Connecticut—George W. Case, chairman; Mrs. G. W. Case, Dr. G. G. Herr, C. P. Everest, E. C. Loomis, Rhode Island—Miss Ruby Taft, chairman; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Morell, Pennsylvania—J. H. Schwartz, Mrs. Mary Jordan, Mrs. Frederick Way, West Virginia—Frank Goodwill, chairman; Mrs. W. S. Bushby, Delaware—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Skinner, New York—J. B. Gifford, chairman; F. W. Van Camp, N. C. Hyde, Mrs. Carl Thompson, Miss Catherine Pierson.

Festival Chorus—Chas. W. Picquet.

Legion Committees

Sandhill Post 134

Program—J. F. Sinclair, chairman; Paul Dana, R. E. Denny, H. Lee Thomas, L. L. Wooley, J. Fred Stimson, A. L. Burney.

Reception Entertainment—R. E. Denny, chairman; John Hemmer, C. J. McDonald, Max Backer, Struthers Burt, L. V. O'Callaghan, C. F. Brasington, John F. Taylor.

Dance—R. L. Hart, chairman; J. V. Healy, H. McC. Blue, A. C. Alexander, Omer Williams, F. W. Dwight, Dr. C. R. Monroe.

Parade—H. J. Betterley, chairman; Frank Shamburger, Alex Fields, C. P. Everest, C. J. McDonald, Gordon Cameron, W. E. Blue, Col. G. P. Hawes.

Barbecue—L. V. O'Callaghan, chairman; John Stephenson, Joe Fuller, Carleton Wicker, William Milam, L. C. Buckingham, C. B. Fields, Marvin Davis, Make Pleasants, Harry Brower, Harry Zirkle, E. B. Keith.

Music—F. M. Dwight, chairman; Dr. Frank Pinkerton, Dr. J. W. Dickie, Colin Osborne, J. D. McLean.

Publicity—Raymond Kennedy, chairman; N. C. Hyde, John Beasley, John Hemmer, F. L. Dupont.

Legion Streets Park—J. C. Clarke, chairman; Tom Wilson, Bill Steen, W. E. Andrews.

Lalson—J. Vance Rowe, chairman; C. B. Welch, I. C. Sledge, W. B. Warner.

SEVENTH OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES

FROM THE BACK SEAT

By DR. ERNEST M. POATE

I had considered discussing Literature and things today; but instead, let's talk about something serious. I mean, serious things are always the most amusing. And this is supposed to be a funny column . . . Well, sometimes.

Anyhow, one often hears it said that we Americans are a lawless people. Now that is a base slander. Because we really do have more laws and more fool laws—than all the rest of the Family of Nations put together.

Further, it is charged that Americans have no respect for law. But this, too, is a base canard.

But to resume: We Americans have a tremendous respect for law. A respect so intense that we pamper our laws, make company out of them, and persistently refuse to put them to work.

The real national game of these United States is law-making. And the great national delusion is that somehow passing nice, shiny new laws and having them printed in big yellowish-brown covered books will have its effect.—What could possibly indicate a greater respect for law than our simple trust that every statute is self-enforcing?

Why, Congress has passed a law directing the Secretary of Agriculture, or somebody, to bring back the "price level" of 1926.—Nobody knows exactly why 1926; at least, nobody has known until now. But I will explain. It is because this act was written by a numerologist. If you add the digits of 1926 they make 18, which is six times three. And it is well known, of course, that three is the luckiest of all lucky numbers. Obviously, six threes, or twice three times three, must give us all the luck there is.

Setting aside as irrelevant trifles the facts that the "price level" of 1926 wasn't much good anyhow, and that by doubling half the prices added to make up the average, and halving the rest, we might restore the "price level" without bringing back any single individual price to what it used to be; and finally—and of still less importance—that neither the Secretary of Agriculture nor anybody else could possibly bring back any price level at all, no matter how he tried . . . Well, setting all that aside, what is there left? Not very much, I'm afraid.

Of all silly persons, the silliest is the so-called Idealist. That is, one who deliberately shuts his eyes to obvious facts, and ignores possibilities, and stubbornly declares that this or that "ought to be so." And makes that declaration a reason for passing a law to make it so.

When you pause to analyze "it ought to be," you'll have to admit that it really means, "I think it ought to be."—Though it's possible I may be wrong. And, right or wrong, what possible use is it to say it ought to be, if stubborn facts reply "It can't be done." So what?

Why, pass a law, of course; and then go home satisfied.

None of our thorough-going reformers ever stops to ask whether a new law can be enforced—or what has happened to last year's laws. Most of the laws originally enacted to satisfy somebody's urge for morality lie dead in the books—or are used only, like the unsavory Mann Act, as means of blackmail. Top, we are hearing today, even more than ever before, that absolute and irresponsible power ought to be given to executive officials, because (a) they won't use that power and (b) if they did, they can be trusted to do it fairly. Granting that the present officials would (though I wonder if any man lives who can be trusted with irresponsible power) — who knows how long it will be before somebody else has the job? Office-holders change, but laws stay on the books. A law that might be abused by anybody, in any circumstances, is a bad law.

If we would all take a more practical attitude, and think just a little bit about the possible effects of proposed laws before urging their enactment, we'd have fewer statutes. Before approving any bill, no matter how noble its purpose, we ought to ask:

Can it be enforced at all? Who will enforce it—and can he be trusted? Can all the men who come after him? (And there are bound to be some poor sticks.) If it were enforced, against you and me, would we like it?

Too many laws are directed against the mar around the corner—like the late and unlamented Volstead Act. Any law about which folks say, "I don't need it myself, of course; but Bill Jones does"—any such law is very, very bad. Because what folks mean when they say that sort of thing is really: "I don't intend to pay any attention; but I'll make Bill be good." What right have we to ask Bill Jones to respect a law which we don't obey?—If all of us had welcomed Prohibition for our own selves; if everybody had stopped drinking, or buying liquor; if the man who drank had been treated by his friends like the man who stole—why, then Prohibition might have worked.

I doubt if any law intended to regulate people's private morals can ever be enforced; but I know perfectly well—and so do you, every last one of you—that no law intended to correct other people's faults (but not our own) can ever be worth passing.

It is the saddest, and silliest, and most distastefully amusing thing in the world, this habit of making laws for other folks. Behind the "idealism" which inspires people to suggest such laws is always the notion "I know what's best for you all, darn you. Give me the power and I'll make you happy if it kills you." Because every reformer who wants absolute power given to any executive is thinking in his heart: "I'm the guy to use this power. You can trust me to use it right."—It's funny. Why don't you laugh?

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