Friday, July 27, 1934.

THE PILOT, Southern Pines and Aberdeen, North Carolina

Page Three

Yours sincerely,

REPLIES TO DR. DANIELS

Dr. Daniels, in his article appear-

ing in the Moore County News of

July 19th, apparently overlooked the

fact that the election on August 25th

will decide whether we shall have the

"county unit" plan of taxation to

pay old and new school debts or con-

tinue on the district basis. It was

legal and administrative aspects of

the "county unit" plan in my state-

the plan, if adopted, would affect the

doctor will be patient, all the facts

(Please turn to page 7)

Editor, The Pilot:

-ERNEST M. POATE.

The School Loan Question

Southern Bines, N. C. Mrs. Millicent A. Hayes, Principal A COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL FOR Editor, The Pilot: BOYS AND GIRLS Kindergarten through the 8th year MUSIC--ART-LANGUAGES Tutoring Arranged for Older Groups Limited Accommodations for Boarders

The Ark



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olina contractor, much less a Moore tax big enough to retire the bonds PWA.

Mr. H. Lee Thomas' explanation of the school situation has been read wrong to me is that those cities that tal county-wide tax of, say, 16c per more money to spend, it ought to go Southern Pines, July 23, 1934. with much interest. Personally I were so short sighted as to build \$100. the city was a mistake, but the school buildings in their cities.

law was afterwards changed so that Lildren from the surrounding coun- not only pay them \$6,600 a year for without consulting us? try. Pinehurst and Southern Pines past follies but give them in addibrick and included the surrounding essary.

country 30 that those living within -LEONARD TUFTS. three or four miles or perhaps further July 21, 1934. could have all the advantages of the

DR. POATE'S ANALYSIS

legislature will give us better edu- Editor, The Pilot:

cation. What is needed to accomplish It is very hard to get exact figures this I don't know, but I do know as to the proposed county school band town tax-rate is \$1.00, and the specespecially up to the 8th grade, that issue. In last week's Moore County ial school tax about 87c, or a total the education the children of the News, Mr. H. Lee Thomas speaks of of \$1.87 above the county tax. state are getting is a disgrace and a "the \$166,000 bond issue." From oth-

er sources which I believe to be au- Southern Pines tax rate by 16c, mak-Nor do I disagree with Mr. Thomas thoritative I learn that the total ing it \$3,23-while the Carthage tax that some new construction is need- sum of money which the county would is reduced from \$1.87 to \$1.45, and ed and if this can't be done from borrow under this plan :s .232,600- the Aberdeen rate from \$1.50 to

PWA. Many of the buildings, that it is proposed to abandon and replace with should have to pay back nearly \$400.- not fair. new ones, could be enlarged and al- 000, counting interest. And thats a

tered so as to be approved by the lot of money. State at a very small cost. The Comthis would be for schools only. With ey back.

Pinehurst will be glad to subscribe

If the adjoining counties have school \$100, is not needed to repay the PWA never approved, or had any good facilities to teach some of the Moore loan. An additional 8c would be from, that's all right, too. But let County children why shouldn't they? enough to retire this new bond issue. I can't see any reason if this is pos- Or let's be generous, and call it 9.5c. sible why we should put up build- is proposed, only one-fourth of the ings. Why not cooperate with them? 7c on each \$100 be raised to 45c, as The parents of the children in Manly If our present county school tax of as far as I know don't object to send- added tax will be used to pay off the ing their children to Southern Pines. new debt. The rest of the added 38c, Why should the people of Moore ob- or about 28.5c (it is really more) ject to sending children to Montgom- would go toward paying old debts contracted, not by the county, but by

A member of the school board told various single school-districts.me recently that only two new build- Moreover, the districts which have the ings were necessary. These might biggest debts now would be the ones cost \$50,000. We had better add this to profit most by the new arrange

two projects were tied together. us vote on the two proposals sepa- new \$300,000 here before many years. The PWA doesn't care about our rately: because these back debts of Do the folks in Carthage, and Deep existing debt-structure. They would be certain school districts haven't a River, and Ritters, and Sheffield. TUFTS AGREES AND DISAGREES | and the chances of even a North Car. perfectly satisfied with a county-wide thing in the world to do with the want to help us pay it back? I wonder

> County man, getting it are very small. they have offered to buy-which Qne last objection, which seems However the thing that seems would mean about 9c more, or a to- mighty serious to me.-If we have

agree with most of Mr. Thomas' needlessly expensive buildings and so These school districts-Carthage, worked so faithfully and loyally for

Mr. Thomas speaks of "equalizing" ward, if there's anything left. must pay.

\$1.50, I am told-which includes the rate would be lowered for a while this before the election. If the good special school tax. In Carthage, the would suffer.

Is it "equalization" to raise the

taxes, a small bond issue may be nec- though not all of it comes from the \$1.23? It would make our tax more than double that paid by either

If we borrow this \$232,000, we Aberdeen or Carthage; and that's just

As Mr. Thomas admitted (though it sounded like an accusation) South-Moreover, there are two sides to ern Pines has good schools. Our tax missioners had no way of getting es- the plan. The total school-bond debt rate is by far the highest in the countimates of the cost other than ask- in Moore County is now \$610,000-- ty: and we don't object to that. But ing the architects of the State School mainly contracted by various special we can't see the justice in raising board to furnish them plans. These charter school districts, and not by our high taxes still higher, in order architects deserve our most hearty the county as a unit. It is now pro- to lower taxes elsewhere, which are commendation for they have design- posed that the county assume this already very much lower than ours. ed a series of inexpensive, attractive load, and increase it by borrowing Whatever the merits of these two buildings to suit all needs. They sent \$232,000 more-which means that we proposals, they ought not to be tied a man here who suggested which set should have to pay back, in all, about together thus. If the folks of Moore of plans was needed for each locali- \$953,000. Nearly a million dollars!- County want to borrow \$232,000, well ty. He could not take the time to And that's not all; the county has a and good. Let's do it, and raise the prepare alteration plans for each ex- large bonded debt for other purposes: school tax 9c or so to pay the mon-

My suggestion is that some of the nearly a fourth of all county taxes And if the rest of the county want larger tax payers subscribe enough now in arrears, how can we afford to to assume the back debts of Carthto have this work done and we at assume this enormous additional debt? age school district, and of Vass, Cam-Bear in mind that the proposed eron, and the others in the six discounty wide school-tax, of 45c on each tricts listed, and to pay off debts they

to our school teachers, who have

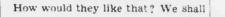
statements and deductions. For exam- selfish as to limit the school district Hemp, West End, Cameron, Vass- less money than the PWA pays laborple, I agree that the extravagant to the city limits should be able to Lakeview and Aberdeen-Pinebluff- ers. Plenty of teachers in Moore school building at Carthage, for ex- throw this burden on the rest of the whose taxes it is now planned to re- County are being paid \$50 a month: ample, and the exclusion of all chil- County through a consolidation of duce, voted to borrow money for now how would they feel to watch a dren from it except those living in debt and at the same time get more school purposes. Nobody outside those quarter-million dollars forth of new districts had any say in the matter. buildings going up? It is not marble Take for example the city of Car They borrowed on their own credit. buildings which make good schools: there had to be a certain number of thage will save \$6,600 in taxes each Why should the rest of us be asked, it's skilled teachers. If we have monchildren to a teacher which forced year and get \$33,550 more buildings. now, to help them pay off debts ey to spare, let's take care of our such cities as Carthage to take in the Why should the rest of the county which they contracted deliberately, teachers first-pay them decently, my purpose to discuss some of the and build new school-houses after-

built adequate inexpensive frame tion \$33,550 that I am told by a the tax rate. But the Southern Pines But with a quarter of our county ment July 12th and later in the July buildings covered with plaster or member of the school board isn't nec- town tax rate is now \$2.60, plus 47c taxes still unpaid, and with the pa-19th issue of the paper, to show how special school tax (22c debt-service pers full, every week, of tax-foreand the rest for operating expenses), closure notices, it's a mighty poor tax rates in the various districts and or a total tax-rate of \$3.07, in addi- time to be adding to the county debt, areas of the county. This was essention to the county tax which everyone and trying to raise taxes. Our taxes tial in order to give a complete unare high enough now-plenty! And in derstanding of the proposition. There

In Aberdeen, the town tax rate is the long run, even those whose tax- appeared to be plenty of time to do

Because it won't be long before will be forthcoming in due time. Southern Pines will need two entire My discussion dealt with condinew school plants. In ten years, West tions as they existed over a period

Southern Pines school has grown from of years in the State as a whole prior 4 to 16 teachers. And with this conn- to 1931, when tuition was abolished ty-wide scheme, the rest of the coun- and children allowed to cross district ty would be taxed to build new school- lines freely. A few charter districts houses for Southern Pines.





ND THEN HE SMOKED CAMELI

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to next year's taxes than to burden ment. Let us take Mr. Thomas's own ourselves with the big debt proposed. figures: If the construction of these buildings would aid in employment that have their tax-rate lowered by the fol-

higher valuations of these towns.

shame

isting building.

and cooperate.

ery?

Most heart'ly I hope that the next

would be a horse of another color, lowing amounts: but the contracts into which Uncle Sam puts money are properly open each \$100; Cameron, reduced 37c;

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Aberdeen-Pinebluff, reduced 27c on to the people of the United States Carthage, reduced 42c, (and that's quite a reduction !); Hemp, reduced

12c; West End, reduced 29c, and Vass-Lakeview, reduced 22c.

The rest of the county, on the other hand, would have to make up these reductions.

These six school districts would

In Pinehurst, the school-tax would be increased 9c on each \$100: Eagle Springs, 23c; Eureka-Hallison, 28c; Southern Pines, 16c; Sheffield-Ritters, 38c; Deep River, 38c; Bensalem, and parts of Carthage township, 38c; Greenwood, and parts of Sandhills township, 38c (and these are pretty big increases!) and Mineral Springs, 21c.

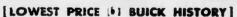
The folks at the north end of the county, and everyone who lives outside the former special charter school districts, are now paying 7c county school tax on each \$100. Under the new plan, they would pay 45c, an increase of 38c: and they would have to pay the total sum of \$181,000 to retire the proposed bond issue of \$232,-000. They'd have more than 2-3 of it all to pay!

"But look at the benefits!" says Mr. Thomas .- As we have already seen, only 1-4 of the increased tax would go toward new buildings; the other 3-4 would pay old debts which these people never approved. Three-quarters of the "benefits" would go to Cameron, and Carthage, and West End and Hemp, and the rest of the six districts whose taxrate would be lowered. If the folks in Sheffield and Ritters and Deep River and Eagle Springs and elsewhere want new buildings, they could pay for them out of an additional tax of ten or fifteen cents, at most. Or, they could get all the benefits of the new PWA loan by paying a county-wide tax of about 9c per \$100.

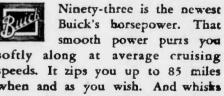
As far as I can find out, nobody has even tried to explain why these

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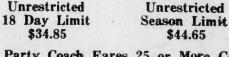
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