

# THE PILOT

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## THE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

Fall elections come along in a few weeks, and possibly the folks of North Carolina will have in the proposed new constitution one of the most important propositions they have faced in a long time. The main trouble is not in making a change in the constitution of the state, but in the fact that only the smallest few of the people of North Carolina know a thing about what the existing constitution signifies or what the new one has to offer. In your own case what do you know of your constitution? How many of your acquaintances are unconstituted under the document or under the new one? How many of us can give an intelligent answer to any question that is based on the fundamental law of the state?

And yet we are called on to vote on the substitution of a new basic law for the existing one. Every man and woman who is a voter in the state is asked to take a hand in deciding whether or not this shall be done. The Pilot is asked to help along in this election, and it has answered the committee candidly that its attitude on the matter is to favor the change, and chiefly because the men who have written the new document and who are urging its adoption have looked into the questions involved very carefully and favor the work they have prepared. Probably The Pilot ranks in intelligence and general information fairly well with the rest of the state. But it is no bouquet to toss at popular government when it is said that the people who are the government are so little interested in the constitution or in the fundamental grounds of popular government that probably nine out of ten could not repeat ten words of the existing constitution or of the proposed new one. And we are asked to vote for a change of our organic law on that basis of understanding, and the vote will be taken in November.

The inference is that as a people we are indifferent to government. Our disregard for laws in all forms is further evidence. The fierce increase of infraction of law is another sign, as is the multiplying of prison population week by week. The Pilot favors the new constitution, as has been said, because the men who prepared it recommended it and they are capable men. But until we get over some of our emotional ideas of everything we have anything to do with we might as well take the old constitution, paint some yellow stripes on it, and tie a pink ribbon to it and say that will do the job. The revision of government this whole country needs is a revision of the interest in good government and in some serious thought and action in that direction. Meanwhile a vote for the new constitution is probably a wise act.

## WHY BANKS ARE FULL OF MONEY

A few things we might think about these days of waiting for the fall weather and the time to fill the wood house. One is the accumulation of money in the banks and the difficulty in getting it out. Folks may imagine that if a bank has a liberal supply of money it should pour out that money to any who apply. But that day has gone for a while. It was that pouring out of money that got the country's money tied up in such a way that most of it is not in condition to untie. Banks will not lend money now except on proper security, and what is more on propositions that are business like and headed by men of known business ability and able to pay.

Moreover men who have business ability do not care to borrow money to put into business until they can see that conditions indicate a probable demand for things that might be manufactured and offered for sale. Business men are afraid to take chances on their own money or on borrowed money, for business is yet too uncertain. The competition of government in business in all directions does not encourage business men to venture very far beyond their present boundaries, and especially as government can procure money to put into competitive business by the simple process of tax collecting, while the business man has to get his money from some source that will call for that money back. Competing with the tax collector scares many men who would like to venture into business farther than they go at present, but no business can borrow money and compete with government ventures that merely send the tax collector around and get money from the citizen with no return in payment.

Business does not care to spread out very far until some of the strikes have been removed from the menacing position they present to business all over the country.

Plenty of money is in existence to carry on more business than is under way, but all the philosophies and all the urging and all the argument will not lead business men to venture their own money, nor borrowed money, nor any other money in business where fear occupies the place it does at the present time. Money is in the banks because the owners are afraid to take it out to put it any place else. The banks are not profiting, for they cannot loan their money. Borrowers will not assume the risks of borrowing. Depositors are afraid to invest their money so they put it in the banks.

This country has got to go to earning money by business and real production instead of by taxation, and until we undertake that method business will go slow. We can not tax ourselves prosperous, nor borrow ourselves rich. Just as soon as we realize that we will start for a better financial and industrial basis, and not a minute before.

## NO TIME FOR POLITICS

This county, this state and this nation are in a political plight that is alarming only if we fuzzle our plays. If we keep our heads and use some sense the integrity and intelligence of the people will bring us through. Our state finances appear to be quite satisfactory, our national finances kiting in rather sensational manner, our county finances in condition to be studied as general conditions far better than has been the case at times in the history of the nation. But we need to bear in mind that all is not well because the political ins say so, or all wrong because the political outs say so. The legitimate business of the country is not to elect men to office, but the purpose of electing men is to serve the country.

Our country has a two-party political system, which is probably the most satisfactory arrangement that can be conceived, for it allows the same political tribunal that is provided by the court of law, an official advocate of both sides of all propositions that come up, with an official opponent. Between the two groups of thought the whole matter that comes before the public is completely discussed and analyzed, permitting the voter to back the principles that most strongly appeal to him. County, state and nation at the present time are upholding Democratic doctrines. That compels that party to be the leader in all government affairs down to the township unit. But it also compels the opponents to be alert to see that nothing is put over that is not sound and public-spirited and capable of permanent welfare. It is well for Democrat and Republican to thoroughly maul each other around the floor on every theme that comes up, but it must be remembered that the purpose is to bring out the truth of all principles and hold government on the most logical basis, and that to get certain men into office and certain hands in the pork barrel is not the honest aim of government.

The Pilot is not a Democratic paper, but it is vitally interested in helping the Democratic ad-

ministration to the limit for there is to be found the agency that is entrusted with government and it must be sustained by all patriotic and far-seeing people. Neither is The Pilot a Republican paper, but it is decidedly friendly to the work that party assumes to do, for it is the defender of the ideas that are offered on the other side of the questions the Democratic advance. Between the two parties all that is substantial is brought to the surface for study, and all that is objectionable is also disclosed. It would be a calamity if either party were to be suppressed. Possibly it would be beneficial if the two were more closely balanced. But things are as they are, and as far as can be seen there is little to complain of.

Just now the school election has brought before the county the question of increasing the bonded debt. Whether we want to increase our taxes, whether we can afford to add to our outstanding and far-extended debt, whether we need the things the proposed debt is to pay for, such topics as these are the things that now demand the thought of the people of the county. It is not who offers the proposition, nor who backs either side of the question, but the real meat of the whole business is the status of Moore county. Every taxpayer, every citizen, every resident is involved in settling this matter in the most sensible way. The same course of action applies to every public step at this time. The need for every individual is that he shall give most serious thought to the whole government policy and administration. And act in accordance with what he really believes to be the most practical thing.

## Grains of Sand

In spite of the repeal of the prohibition laws most of the country west of the Missouri river is drier than ever in history. It is wise to remember that man-made laws do not have much effect on Nature's schemes.

With municipal improvement going on from Knollwood to Weymouth hilltop it is evident that the Southern Pines section will be ready for the boom when it strikes.

Now that the peach season has been a good one the talk of more orchards is in the air. That's the way we do things. Plow down when we have too much and plant when we reduce, but we don't hit the medium very often.

If the big trucks keep on taking the highways it will soon be time to think of building some roads for the passenger automobiles.

With the state prison camps in the upper part of the county considering the development of a coal mine to keep the prisoners warm crime becomes still more promising as a career. At least the convict need have no fear about cold weather while the rest of us on the outside of jail shiver through the winter.

Fairly Ray, from down the Wagram way, who was in Southern Pines this week, says his wheat crop runs around 28 bushels to the acre. The average yield in the United States is not half that much. Fairly learned to farm on the old Ray farm on Piney Bottoms in this section, but it looks as if he learned too well how to make an acre work in these days when we are all trying to produce the least possible.

Labor day soon due. But it should remember that six hours is a day these times, and overtime should not be allowed.

## Correspondence

### FAVORS LOCAL CONTROL

Editor The Pilot:  
There seems to be one thing that the depression has so far failed to kill. That is the urge that a lot of us have to spend money that we haven't, instead of trying to pay our debts and live within our meagre income as we should.

It is the wrong time to increase our bonded indebtedness by \$340,000 as it is proposed to do. Taxes are so high now that many of our homes have been sold, and many more will be sold unless there is a reduction instead of an increase.

The question of schools is of the utmost importance and we should do nothing to cripple them or reduce their usefulness, but that does not

mean that we should blindly support everything sponsored by this great (?) system of education we now have in this state.

Mr. Leonard Tufts was entirely right about our schools being a disgrace to our state, only from my observation and experience I think the high schools are as bad or worse than the grades. These high priced buildings we erected a few years ago will not last many years even if they escape the fire hazard, and we all know they will burn the same as the concrete bridges built by that other great (?) system that we are affiliated with.

Instead of further centralization of our schools, roads, etc., we should return to local contract of local issues.

Most of those who favor this increase in our obligations are those who will handle this money or otherwise benefit directly by its expenditure.

Those of us who raise our voices against these things will be accused of being pessimists or knockers but we should remember what the prophet Amos said about such. "They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly."

Even though it is enough just to stay away. Let's go to the polls and make our disappointment emphatic.

-C. G. PRIEST.

Lakeview, N. C.

## LIKED EDITORIAL

Editor, The Pilot:

Your Editorial "Overlooking the Consumer" in the last issue of The Pilot is the clearest one I have read on the subject and I have read many. Most of the public cannot pay high prices for the simple reason most of the public do not have the money with which to pay high prices. The balance of the public are not going to pay high prices for the very good reason they are too wise, when they know all they have to do is to hold up the works and they can get what they want at their own price. There would doubtless be a great amount of building and remodeling if it were not for the high prices and this has the most important of all industries practically at a standstill.

Very truly yours,

-LEON HEWITT.

Clayton, N. C.

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