

THE PILOT

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THE LESSON OF THE SCHOOL ELECTION

Now that the school election is over with a failure to carry, it is a good idea to consider its significance, for this same thing is to be faced in county affairs again in other things. The trouble with the movement was that it did not give the people a chance to consider the need of further bonding of the county, or of the schools proposed, and it did not give them a chance to discuss for themselves the wisdom of the whole matter involved. We proclaim ourselves a government of the people, but that is not always a fact in actual working out of the plans.

If we need more schools or different schools or anything else in the way of change the first thing to do is to lay the proposition before the people as a proposition and not as a final conclusion. Then it is their right to discuss the thing, and to decide whether increased debt is desired and increased facilities. In effect this county as well as this state and this nation are at the crossing of the road. We have to decide whether we are a government of the people or by representatives to whom is delegated practically an absolute authority, wherein popular voice has no action except to say yes or no when the vote is called and where popular information is practically lacking.

Whether the measure defeated was wise or not few people of the county know. But they do know that they do not approve any more debt until they understand more clearly the need of what it will bring. The whole trouble is that the matter was not submitted long enough before hand for the people to study the question, and in that case they simply took the safe course and swept the whole thing aside. It is a valuable lesson if it can be understood. The people want to know more about public affairs before they open the purse.

GETTING TO THE MAIN QUESTION

Last week Rassie Wicker presented a new phase of the proposed constitution, and in doing it he opened a problem that covers about the whole point of issue in every direction at the present time. That is the question of whether we are to be a government of the people or of a limited group.

Of late, North Carolina has been swinging emphatically to the doctrine of a central government. It has been argued so cleverly that many people are persuaded that county and township units should be abolished and state authority vested in boards and commissions should be the sole authority.

It is pretty vigorously contended, for instance, that local units have not the power and range to act with authority and power to stop crime, or to operate schools, or to build and maintain roads, or to do anything else that can be done on a general scale. Possibly that is a fact to a certain extent. Yet there is the other side of the question, and we have been realizing here in this county as well as in every other county and town, that, as the railroad man said when the superintendent asked him why he didn't make better time on his freight run, "The caboose is too far from the locomotive," meaning that he had a bigger train load than the facilities could handle.

Whether our state system is better than our county system is yet to be demonstrated. But most folks realize that the voter in Moore as well as in all the other counties, has less to say about his county affairs. Perhaps long range government accomplishes some things. And

perhaps individual interest and close contact might be better than long range and lack of personal and local interest. That is, the whole thing whittles down to whether the associated power and close relation and community intelligence and energy is the equal of the more mechanical and impersonal and machine-patterned administration by a distant supervisor in everything.

May be this people needs a king. May be it is qualified to rule over itself. May be individualism is not wholly set aside in its uses as a factor in government. It is to be remembered that all of life was set in motion on the basis of individualism, and all the rules that govern existence are the rules of individualism. None of them has ever been modified. None has ever been superseded. It may be said that ants and bees have a sort of social structure, but we do not know enough about its workings or principles to attach much significance to it as an example. Nothing has shown yet that individualism is surpassed by anything forceful enough to carry on the scheme of existence. It is not the new things of today that have brought this nation to where it is, but the workings of the things of yesterday. On the other hand individualism fails to show sufficient force at times to do things, as suppressing crime and lawlessness. The question is a live one, and growing more so.

THINGS WE KNOW AND THAT WE DON'T KNOW

What probably gets us into more troubles than anything else is that abominable notion that nearly every man and woman persists in of thinking their attitudes and assertions are right and everything contrary to their opinions wrong. The fact is that all of us are wrong about as often as we are right and may be much oftener, for as a rule we don't try to be right, but to maintain the views we hold. This is correct regarding nearly all human creatures except a few scientific students and research men who hunt for facts rather than for evidence to bolster a theory.

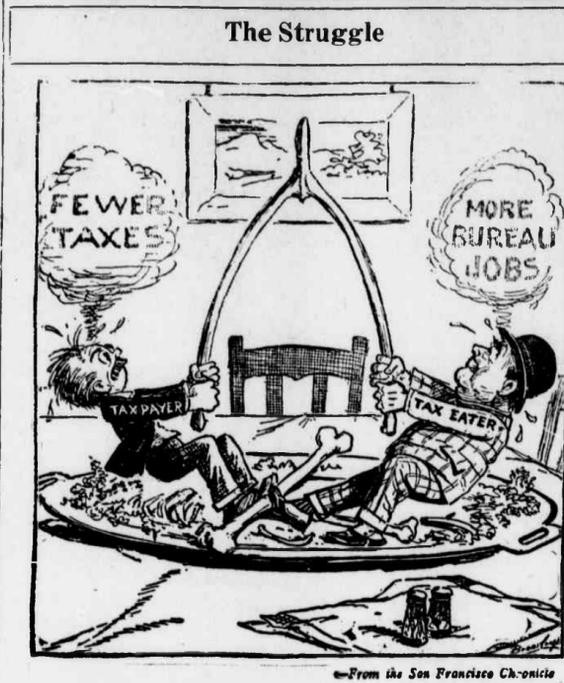
Another misfortune is that most folks are not inclined to hear the opinion of the other fellow, but would suppress him, boycott his business and drive him out of the community. One of the great tasks of the whole world is missionary effort to convert people over to new opinions, even in spite of their own desire to stay with their own views. In practically all our intercourse with each other we do not try to find out the truths that arise, but how to maintain our own opinions and smother the confounded truth if it gets in the way.

The most valuable thing we can get from each other in this world is the accumulation of knowledge that others are gathering. To protest against any man's freedom to express his opinions is no particular hardship to him, but it does shut off what may be the most valued source of thought in the community. Ignorance and error do not triumph. Sooner or later the truth comes uppermost, for it is the one thing that is bound to survive because it is right. If some man tells you you are an addle-pated idiot it is better to go home and study out what it is he sees in you that leads him to give you that low rating and it is never wise to want to fight him, for that will not remedy the short comings that he probably sees in you which makes him allude to them. When a man's opinions differ from yours possibly yours can be benefitted by studying your short comings. Don't be conceited enough to think you know it all and every one else knows nothing.

SEABOARD RAILROAD REVENUES IMPROVE

A financial paragraph says Seaboard income from passenger traffic has improved forty-one per cent over a period of last year covering the same months, which is not only satisfactory to the railroad but is highly important to the territory it serves. Presumably the reduction in fares has to do with the increase of passenger income, for people realize that at the rate of a cent and a half a mile that is the cheapest method of going any place the trains go.

The automobiles and the public busses have cut into the railroad traffic until its passenger



business was badly affected. Then the road took the bull by the horns and cut rates to a point where no other vehicle can make better rates and the experience of several months would point to a recovery of passenger business if the roads keep up the practice of lower rates.

Another thing that has to do with the return of railroad business is the greater safety. Railroads kill so few passengers that you can not recall a case in a long time. But automobiles scatter the road with killed and injured until travelers are becoming alarmed. The signs are that the automobile is not paying much attention to reduction of the casualties on the highway, and one significant result is the raise in the price of insurance to many drivers who do not make a good safety record on the roads. Another thing that is turning people to the railroads is the annoyance and danger of the big trucks that crowd the highways and make traffic increasingly difficult.

Certainly the railroads must have some way to improve their incomes, or the outlook for them is not good. In spite of its increase in passenger revenues the Seaboard announces a big deficit for the first six months of this year, and no concern can pile up a deficit continuously and live. One of the serious influences that help to continue the depression over the country is the inability of the roads to buy rails and material and keep the steel mills running. The mills are running about 20 per cent of capacity now, and no hope ahead. That cuts into employment and labor enormously. The demand for railroad material is not much above nothing. The roads can't buy if they don't earn anything.

LOCAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

The secretary of a local building and loan association, informs The Pilot of a project which the associations of Aberdeen, Pinehurst and Southern Pines are entertaining, having for the object to make these societies better known to the people who may be interested in the work they are doing. It is doubtful if any other project has been carried on in the county that is more beneficial in its field of home building and money saving than that of the building and loan societies, a fact that is recognized not only in this section, but all over the United States. The man who wants to get himself a home and who has energy and determination, is hardly likely to obtain a safer and more helpful aid than that which is provided by these organizations, for the first thing the building society does is to inquire into the standing of the applicant for money and see if his intention of building a house is based on a footing that he can carry out. He is discouraged from getting into anything that is not within his power to accomplish, and when he has taken on the work of building he is encouraged in every way to keep up with the work until his job is paid for. He is kept on a safe footing, on a basis that is within reach and all the way along he has the advice and watchfulness of the investing board of the society.

This not only makes the association a wise counselor and

backer for the builder, but it provides a good investment for people who want to invest small amounts of money in one of the safest securities that this country affords. It is not often that a building and loan account in this county is foreclosed, or that the investor is concerned about his money in one of the societies, or that the home builder is disturbed because of falling behind with his payments. They are doing a great work, and are worth becoming better acquainted with.

Grains of Sand

With the whole state canning sour kraut and cabbage and Uncle Sam going into the canned beef business what a time Mrs. Jiggs could have with corned beef and cabbage in North Carolina this winter if she will come this way and forget her antagonism to the diet she was raised on.

The hills were never better filled with wild seed crops on which the

birds can feed this fall and winter, and folks who roam the woods say birds were never more plentiful.

"Our town is only ten years old," said a visiting brother from Indiana to a resident of Podunkville, a mill town up in the wire grass region "and she is coming right along. Increased fifteen per cent in population last year."

"Same class with our new cemetery in Podunkville," said Pod Dinks, a Podunkville booster. "It increased its population last year by more than that for the new highway has a nice curve just below it and we got a right smart lot of new settlers from that one direction alone. Stop and see us a while. We like folks who are expanding."

The way the farmers talk it is apparent that the Sandhills country is more of a wheat region than some folks were aware.

Probably the greatest fundamental question involved in the revised constitution proposed for North Carolina is that of individualism as opposed to communism. Shall we start with the governor as head and allow the delegation of power to come down from that source; or, shall we start with the town meeting and let the delegation of authority proceed from the people themselves?

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following transfers of real estate have been recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Moore county:

J. L. Cagle and wife to W. B. Lambert and wife, property in Carthage township.

E. G. McIver and wife and others to State Highway and Public Works Commission, property in Deep River township.

S. J. Hinsdale, Receiver, Southern Securities and Guaranty Company, to Mrs. Nannie M. Williamson, property in Carthage.

Luther H. McIntosh and wife to Alie McIntosh, property in Bensalem township.

Mrs. Ruth Sutphin and E. L. Sutphin to Elizabeth VonCanon, property in Mineral Springs township.

J. Abner Thomas and wife to Lora Mae Thomas, property in Greenwood township.

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