

# THE PILOT

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## A GLANCE AT THE SIGN POSTS

Those who think the Democratic victory means the death of the Republican party in the United States evidently have not been studying American politics. A recent tabulation brings out the fact that the Republicans cast about 46 per cent of the total vote in the various contests, although the majorities were so scattered among all the states that a congress of large majority was gained by the Democrats. But a political party that holds 46 per cent of the voting party is not a very dead corpse. For comparison it may be interesting to look at some of the figures.

Bryan in his first race against McKinley had about 48 per cent of the popular vote. In his second defeat he had a little less. Parker in his 1904 campaign against Roosevelt had only 40 per cent. Bryan lost to Taft again on a vote of around 45 per cent, and Wilson in his fight against Taft and Roosevelt was a minority winner, for he had but 45 per cent of the total vote. The next election he trimmed the whole works, bringing the Democratic party from a minority to almost a majority of the whole vote cast, and winning the first Democratic victory since Cleveland's day. But that signified nothing for in 1920 Harding swept the deck with over 16,152,000 votes to 9,147,000 for Cox, showing that a defeated party can come back with thundering gait. With the woods full of candidates in 1924 Coolidge polled more than half of all the votes cast, with Davis, the Democrat, holding less than 30 per cent of the total, a low record that is excelled only by that of Horace Greely when he opposed Grant. Then Hoover in 1928 put the whole things to sleep with a vote of over 21,392,000 against a total of 15,016,000 for Smith. From out of that burial the Democratic party came forth in 1932 with a president, showing that crushing defeats do not crush.

This story has no moral except perhaps that those who think the election of a congress by a large majority means finality might study the fate of Mr. Hoover who gathered in a 61-per-cent victory only to fall outside the breast works in the next campaign, demonstrating that political victories are not permanent, and that party life is about as tenacious as that of the turtle which is said to live after its head is cut off. The election of November 6 does not finish the political contests in this country—nor settle the results, November 6 was not a funeral. It was a counter irritant.

## THE PROSPECTS AT PINEBLUFF

The opening of the Pine Bluff Inn is one of the interesting features of the arriving winter, for Pinebluff is an attractive retreat in itself. A short distance out of Pinehurst and Southern Pines the place was founded on the same lines as the two larger communities, but with the same definite design and the same sound basis. The location is a pleasant one, on a broad bit of level territory, broken by the valleys through which the streams flow, surrounding pine covered hills, pleasant homes and conveniences that a winter outing or a seasonal rest call for.

Pinebluff has a lot of excellent folks, which is the first requisite of a desirable neighborhood. A wide range of the country is represented both by the permanent residents there as well as the winter habitants, and the highest types of social and intelligent neighbors. The Inn was built to meet modern requirements, with a picturesque

location, convenient to the larger villages, but far enough away to be an establishment in itself, and with the excellent Sandhill hard roads affording communication with all of the surrounding region.

The community is not only a factor as an isolated unit, but it is an active and valuable member of the common Sandhill winter neighborhood. The village life is self-contained, but its contacts are as broad as the surrounding region, for Pinebluff is only two or three looks and a half dozen minutes from all the other places, "belonging to the same family but living in different houses." Possibly a long search over this whole American country would not find a more really attractive rural village with the facilities for providing an attractive winter home than Pinebluff, and that the Inn is to be headquarters again for the season is of more than ordinary significance to the Sandhills. Pinebluff is a member of the community that is of great importance. In many ways it is one of the most interesting features of the Sandhills development.

## A SIGNIFICANT BITE TO CHEW

Financial intelligence in the papers announce that the Seaboard railroad receivers have informed the bondholders that funds will not be available to pay receivers' certificates due in February, or equipment trust certificates or interest on underlying provisional bonds. Evidently, which is the common opinion, the Seaboard is not earning the money, and evidently it is not merely the Seaboard that is concerned, but the community the railroad serves. Every county the road traverses is a beneficiary to the extent of big sums paid in taxes in the county. Every county is dependent largely for its business success on the service of the road. Every county has a list of employes on the road depending on it for their livelihood.

Then the railroad is always a convenient thing to damn when we have nothing else to kick about.

But the plight is not a numorous as it is serious. A large portion of North Carolina is leaning on a bent stick when the Seaboard is incapacitated, for until some more capable transportation system than the highway arises to take the place of the railroad the railroad has to serve or we go afoot and carry our freight on our backs. We all know the necessity of the railroads, but they are so easy to plunder and so handy to swear at that they have no helping hands to aid them. Few people take the present plight seriously. Some of the philosophers say government ownership and operation, but the government is so loaded up with deadwood already that the taxpayer has about all he can carry in that quarter. Other wisemen say to sell the railroads to some one who will take them and run them, but these days the market for dead horses is not active. Nobody cares to put good money into doubtful securities, for the only purpose in investing money is to get a return from it, not to become a bearer of dead burden and to invite increased taxation.

This railroad joke is about as funny as a funeral, but it is also as serious as any condition the country faces. The dead horse market is not an active one for a dead horse does not sell like a living one because it does not carry on like a living one. And that is the view point from which the American people can look at their railroads. No more difficult problem faces this country, for it involves transportation, employment, general business and everything that in any way depends on movement of freight and passengers.

## ENLARGED U. S. FORCE TO MAKE HEADQUARTERS HERE

The federal reforestation program in this section is reported as having been made a permanent project, with the result that the staff of government employes here will be greatly augmented after December 1st. Enlarged quarters in the Patch Building are expected to be utilized by the government, with some 32 men engaged in the work, double the force which has been making its headquarters here for several weeks.

## PIANO RECITAL TUESDAY

Mrs. Claude A. Hafer will give a piano recital at the home of Dr. E. Levis Prizer on Tuesday afternoon, December 4th at 5 o'clock.

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## You Can't Have an Interesting Chat With a Pile of Gold

So Mr. Butler Counts His Riches  
in Friends Such as Neighbor Nichols

By Bion H. Butler

I will never die a poor man. Not that my fortune will include any money or securities as we call them, for in the things that have a selling value in the market I have not a great deal, but in the immeasurably riches I have steadily increasing acquisitions. For instance there is M. G. Nichols. He has been up in the mountains during the summer, but has been home again for a period, recovering health. The doctor tells him not to go out and run around much, but Nichols is like old Rip Van Winkle who when ordered not to drink any more liquor got around it at times by saying he would not count this one. So Nichols Sunday got out the gas buggy and ran out to our house and will not count that trip for it is on a quiet road away from the traffic and safe for a man who is not wholly recovered yet.

Nichols is great wealth to me. He is a philosopher, and before he was out here but a few minutes we were together back in Nineveh with the Jews and the Talmud and over in India and then in China with the ancient Chinese fundamental religions, and we gave Zoroaster a little touch and theosophy and that mysterious cult of the early Asiatics and the Egyptian Book of the Dead, and Einstein and Hamurabi, and mighty near all our old friends of ages ago. Nichols is a student and a thinker, and he is deeply interested in the origin of religions and their relations to each other and their development, and as we dug into some of the things he fished up we didn't care two cents whether Ford will sign the NRA code or not, or what Congress is going to do when the January session opens up.

The Preacher Man

I would have a great deal of sympathy with the preacher only for one thing. He is so much bigger than the most of us that he does not need our care for sympathy. He is doing a work so far above the heads of most of us that his rewards are the greater or smaller successes of his work. But some times he must be discouraged in his results, for he is often working with mighty refractory clay. But he plugs along, getting an occasional strangle hold on some chap who needs to be headed right although a good deal of his load drags pretty heavy.

Nichols is a student of the religions of the earth, which is one of the most fascinating things that can come before the mind of man, for it is the religious habit of thought that orders the highest aims and stimulates the greatest emotions. He has been a traveler, and is familiar with the old world, and therefore highly interesting. It is notable that the prominent religions originated in Asia, the Egyptian doctrines alone perhaps excepted, and they are under such intimate Asiatic contact that Egypt may not be very far isolated with Asiatic influences. Certainly the Christian culture has its foundations not only in Palestine, but certainly on the Euphrates, and the ancient Jews, borrowing somewhat from Zoroaster and from Confucius and probably Gautama of India, for our whole civilization has its origin down there in that ancient center far back in the unknown story of man.

A Thinker-Through

Nichols is more than well-read. He is an analyst, and his schooling, of whatever character it has been, has required of him a thoroughness that is fascinating. He is of the type that likes to go to the end of the road no matter how far it leads, and that gives him a knowledge of things the

## Grains of Sand

The annual North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which met in Washington, N. C., last week, gave the Aberdeen-Vass charge a Hall in exchange for a Ball.

A gentleman who manufactures automobile accessories dropped into town the other day. He was invited to dine at the home of a friend who lives in the Sandhills and whose wife plays the piano. During the evening she sat down at the Steinway and rattled off a little jazz, followed by one or two classical selections.

One of the latter appealed to the gentleman from the automotive industry.

"What is that, may I ask?"

"Kreisler's Sonata," she said.

"Oh, Walter Chrysler. I know him, well, great friend of mine. Sell him a lot of stuff."

From an editorial in Tuesday's Charlotte Observer, anent the Sandhills and Struthers Burt, we clip the last paragraph:

And if somebody would draw the curtain a little further apart, there would be sure to be seen in the background one who has made as much reputation as a Sandhills promoter as Burt, the same being Bion Butler, who has done vast work in bringing people worth while to the Sandhills and in making it a land famed, far and near as the new Florida of the United States.

It's time to think about Christmas Seals, those little enemies of tuberculosis. Buy them and use them through the Christmas holidays.

superficial observer does not pick up. He came out to our house to stay a few minutes, just to get out for a short jaunt that would afford a bit of country refreshment, but he stayed two or three hours, and we dug in subjects that were as interesting as walking along the chestnut ridges of the mountains after the October frosts have shattered the burrs and dropped the leaves until as you walk you kick out the nuts here and there in continued joy.

One of Shakespeare's characters says of his wife, "Why man, she is mine own, and I as rich in having her as twenty seas if all their rocks were pearls, the waters nectar and their sands pure gold." That old chap had a correct conception of values. One day fifty years ago when I was a printer in Carson, Nevada, George Tuffy, the State treasurer took me in the vaults in the Statehouse and showed me a pile of gold that he said was well up toward a million dollars in value. It looked like a pile of cord wood. But how long would a fellow like to sit down by that pile of stuff and talk with it and think about things as compared with discussing old friend Gautama or Confucius with a companion like Nichols? It is people, and particularly the high class of people that I meet with in all directions around the Sandhills, that I rank as the most valuable of our resources, and in the list I count them in all ranks from the old colored woman who drops in from time to time to talk about the interesting local affairs around the farms up to even the preacher himself, who still has to be rated as among the biggest of all because he is following that banner of the humanities and the righteousness of unselfishness rather than the narrowness of individual profit and individual personal benefit.

## MRS. EVANS, RALEIGH TALKS ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mrs. May Thompson Evans of Raleigh, members of the State Commission on Unemployment Insurance appointed by Governor Ehringhaus, addressed a meeting of women in the Community House in Aberdeen on Monday afternoon. She made a forceful and informative talk much appreciated and enjoyed by those present.

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