

THE PILOT

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ARE WE GOING FORWARD OR BACKWARD?

Twenty-two years ago Robeson county, North Carolina, was the most productive farm county of the United States, with Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, a close second. Robeson county was a leading cotton county of America. Our neighbor county of Hoke, smaller, but aggressive, was on a plane like Robeson, producing cotton abundantly, getting about twelve cents a pound for the lint, feeding its people, providing for them, with the county thriving. Capital for cotton production was ample and easy to procure, and planters were in good condition, as their tenants were also. The farms were self-contained to a large extent, the mule power was fed on corn raised on the farms, the planters at the end of the year met their bills and had money to pay for their farms and improvements, and the tenants were working for themselves and their farm employers and living a satisfactory life instead of living on government relief that comes in taxes from the country at large.

It would be interesting to know why. Capital was sufficient then. Employment was not hard to find. Capital kept the farms and shops and other things going, but by the more liberal help of workers. Now capital has brought us improved farm machinery, automobiles, self-operating machines of all sorts, and employes have insisted on labor-saving devices that they may ride on the job instead of walk, that they may drive a truck to the gin with seed cotton instead of a mule, that they may operate machines to do everything instead of muscle, and the Frankenstein has eaten its master. We have demanded machines until the farm mule no longer needs farm corn. The village blacksmith gets his horseshoes at the garage and the country grist mill has moved to Minneapolis. The wood pile has moved to the Texas oil fields, every thing is machine made, and we all, worker and everybody else, insist on more machines for everything. The man who used to saw your wood with a buck saw now uses a gas engine.

Twenty years ago a dinky, a mule and a sweep plow made the cotton crop, and everybody, including the farmer, thrived. Today we all want to ride machines and the machines do the work, and the thriving is at the factory that makes the machines, the gasoline, and sells repairs. The worker is stood to one side, the mule is a stranger on the roads and lessening in number in the fields, consuming less of the farm corn and hay, and doing much less of the farm work to be paid with products of the farm. We have allowed the machine to set aside the worker and the worker has helped to drive the hand worker from the horizon of industry.

Probably it is all right, but one thing that it means is that the machine shop has become a keen competitor of the farm. The farm has traded its birthright not for a mess of pottage which it could eat, but for a lot of junk, which is pulling up all over the county, until America is becoming a scrap pile for old iron.

CAROLINA POWER RESTORES DIVIDENDS

Careful observer and optimists, which is what we all should be, will not be surprised at the information coming out from Raleigh that on January 2, the Carolina Power and Light Company will restore its six and seven per cent dividends on its preferred stock. The same source

of information notes that the company during the last year or two, while it has been walking mighty close to the ground, has been making unusual effort to maintain its efficiency and keep equipment up with the requirements of good engineering progress. The tone of the information is highly encouraging.

This is a matter of considerable local interest in two ways. The first is that this company serves this community. And to paraphrase the old song about Mrs. Riley who keeps the hotel, which says, "that's Mrs. Riley, she keeps it darn well," permits the same thing to be said about the Carolina Power and Light Company. It provides an efficient service from a large and dependable series of plants, and its capability is one of the assets of this territory. The other reason why this intelligence is cheering lies in the fact that a large number of people in this region are holders of Carolina securities, which is a good thing all around. It gives the patrons of the company an interest in the company. It puts in their pocketbooks a dividend from the earnings of this company. It becomes a local institution whichever way we look at it, going or coming.

When the depressed conditions compelled the company to reduce the dividends some of the Doubting Thomases predicted the downfall of the company. But the longer-headed folks did not scare at the temporary interruption. To refer to July, Way, this country has not gone to the dogs yet. We are not for some little time going to bed when the sun goes down and we are not for a long time likely to see any other source of light and power administered with the same satisfaction and success. All signs point to the continued expansion of the Carolina Power and Light company, continued efficiency of service and continued solidity as a financial concern. Along with all the rest it has a mighty good personnel in its offices in this section, from Ralph Chandler

A PROPHET IN NINEVEH

In his speech before the Kiwanis Club last week Senator Bailey was not wholly analogous to Jonah and his experience at Nineveh, yet there is considerable similarity. It was through no shortcoming of his own that Senator Bailey's foot slipped with some of the powers at Washington, so unlike Jonah he was not dumped overboard nor led to take up friendly relations with the sociable whole. Senator Bailey made direct for Nineveh and has preached there since.

His text at the Kiwanis Club was "Has America the Capacity to Carry On Under a Constitutional Democracy in the Face of the Problems Confronting Her?" His answer was, "I can give no assurance, only hope that we can meet the situation, the consequences and responsibility are the peoples." The Senator does not foreshadow the destruction of our modern Nineveh, but he does present a question there that gives studious people something to think over. So Jonah went to Nineveh and preached and the people believed and improved their habits and Jehovah spared the city. Incidentally the repentance and salvation of Nineveh upset Jonah's predictions to some extent, but Senator Bailey is not quite as decisive a prophet as Jonah. The Senator confesses that whether our modern Nineveh is upset or not is also largely in the hands of the people as was largely the case of the Nineveh of Jonah's days.

Senator Bailey asks a question. He candidly confesses he does not know the answer, and that is because he does not know what the people will do. But those who have read the story of mankind during the period from Jonah to Josiah William Bailey have observed that many great civilizations have been so broken and upheaved that in some cases even their story is extremely vague. The great city of Nineveh lay buried for thousands of ears until about a century ago, Layard, the English archaeologist, with a force of workmen, removed the earthen cover and disclosed marvelous buildings, statuary, records, showing what a great ruin had been made of the city

Civic Loyalty Pays Big Dividends



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which the scripture says was an exceeding great city.

The question Senator Bailey asked is highly prophetic. The answer that it depends on the people is absolute in its truth. Few public utterances in regard to our present plight give this American people more occasion for serious thought.

"Has America the capacity to carry on?" And he answers it when he says, "I do not know, I can only hope. It depends on the people."

THE EARLY OPENING OF THE HOLLY INN

The unusually early opening of the Holly Inn at Pinehurst is rather a decisive sign of the turn of the winter. This would indicate that the prophets of hope have been justified in their predictions. When the arrivals begin to crowd the hotels and boarding houses no question remains as to the inclination of people to have a winter outing or as to their ability to pay the bills. Along with the announcement of the opening of the Inn are numerous other signs of similar tenor. It looks as if the Seaboard Airline Railway is making an unusual move to stimulate traffic. Improved traveling facilities on the road seem to be recovering passenger business that had been sandbagged away from them by the automobile. It need not surprise anybody if the highway traffic has reached the state where it is doomed to give up some of its travel to the steam cars. Lower rates have one influence, but the comforts, the lack of responsibility, the safety and the roominess of a railroad car are beginning to count again.

It is also believable that some of the new attractions in the Sandhills are beginning to have an influence. More horses coming bring more people and wider acquaintance among those who will come later. The idea of a dogwood festival in the spring promises to stimulate talk during the winter. Other new things have their influence. Summed up, everything points to one of the best winters in a long time.

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS AT COLLEGE

There is no doubt that the school system in North Carolina is destined to awaken some problems. How to gather money for the school expenses will be one problem, for in spite of attempts to curtail costs and the difficulty of pulling out such taxes as are thought necessary in some quarters, nothing has been pointed out yet that tells the tax payer where to get the money. The tax payer protests that he is as much a subject for consideration and relief as the teachers and as the school children, and possibly something more positive than arguments will have to be the factor of the final settlement. At any rate this difference of opinion is not going to be disposed of today, nor next week nor at any other early period, until state finances are more definitely where they can be counted.

Another question that is also under discussion is the accredited high school. When high schools here and there over the state were under certain conditions granted a rating that permitted their graduates to enter colleges without examinations it was hailed as an important gain. Probably it was. Yet there are those who claim that no child aspiring to enter college should hesitate to stand an examina-

Grains of Sand

Moore county is ranked 18th among counties in a table showing per capita wealth as listed for taxation in the state in 1933. The first five on the list are Forsyth, Durham, Graham, New Hanover and Guilford. Mecklenburg, home of the largest city, Charlotte, is seventh. Hereabouts, Lee is 31st, Scotland 40th, Hoke 53d. At the bottom of the list, No. 100, is Ashe county.

Moore figures reveal taxable wealth in 1929 as \$27,139,000; in 1933, \$20,096,000. The per capita wealth in 1933 is shown as \$712. The Moore County tax rate in 1933 was 70 cents.

The amount of taxes levied can be calculated by multiplying assessed valuations by rates.

The figures, supplied by the State Tax Commissioner, show that on the tax books North Carolina was poorer in 1933 than in 1929 by almost exactly \$900,000,000. The bulk of the decline in taxable wealth was the result of revaluation of property in 1933.

An unusual will, made by the late John T. Wilds, pastor of the Seventh Presbyterian Church of Jesus Christ in New York City, has been filed for probate in the Clerk's office in Moore county, the deceased having been the holder of some property in this state. The estate is valued at several thousand dollars.

The will reads:

"Where Love Is There Is God; For God Is Love."

"When I wedded my wife, Anna Henri Wilds, I vowed at the altar and sealed the vow with a ring upon her finger, 'With all my worldly goods I thee endow.' And such is my will and testament, my desire and purpose, and such it has always been. At the altar I made my will and such it is now. To my wife all I have I do bequeath."

Mr. Wilds is survived by a number of relatives, among them being a sister, Mrs. Kate Wilds Wilson of West End.

NEW BUICK CARS NOW ON DISPLAY IN ABERDEEN

Four lines of motor cars are announced by the Buick Motor Company for 1935, covering the broad range from the low medium to the high medium price fields and offering the largest of body types in the history of the Buick organization.

The new cars, keyed to modern requirements of style, comfort and performance, are being displayed simultaneously throughout the United States in the showrooms of Buick dealers and distributors. With the factory in full production on the 1935 models, adequate stocks are now in dealers' hands and representative models of the complete line are on display. Dealers, consequently are able to make prompt deliveries. Buick here is handled by Martin Motor Co., in Aberdeen.

tion as to fitness, for those who are far enough advanced merely prove the fact by an examination. However that is but a minor matter, which will adjust itself like everything else does. Possibly the mere fear of such a condition may stimulate the schools to greater effort. Perhaps the schools are in hard plight, like everything else. Perhaps also they are not much worse off than all the rest of the institutions operated by mankind. And possibly if everybody, schools along with the rest, will tighten up their belts a little and dig in a little and figure on how to get the job done, even if it does take a little more sweating blood the whole glomeration of disasters that seem to beset us may be swept up. Other things at the present time will get this world farther than shedding tears.

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