THE FARMERS, THE COAL INTERESTS AND THE TAXES

(By Henry Lloyd, Professor of Mathematics of Transylvania College.)

To the Farmers and Tax-Payers of Kentucky:

In the interest of no candidate or cause, but of any person as an individual, and to the best of the writer's knowledge and belief, against the just and rightful interest of no person or persons whatever, but solely in the interest of that large group who for many years have borne the burden of what seems unjust and inequitable taxation in Kentucky, the writer desires, purely on his own motion, and in the future, may be known, to call to the attention of the electorate some of the outstanding results of the most impartial study he was able to make of some of the astonishing facts of our present tax situation.

According to the last published report of the State Auditor (this report is published biennially) the County of Fayette paid as taxes into the state treasury in the fiscal year 1921 over three hundred and eighty three thousand dollars ($383,000.00) more than it got back. (See Auditor's Report for fiscal years ending June 30, 1920, and June 30, 1921, page 123.)

This handsome gift—for one year, let us remember—to the "pauper counties who do not pay their own way in government" from one and a half times what it cost to build the Fayette County Court House, and is considerably more than three times (look) what the County of Fayette got back for the year we use that year.

In the same year the County of Bourbon paid as taxes into the State Treasury over One Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars ($138,000.00) more than it got back for the year we use, which is considerably more than three times what Bourbon got back.

In the same year Woodford county paid in over Ninety-One Thousand Dollars ($91,000.00) more than it got back, or nearly three and a half times as much as it got back.

To put it another way, the three counties mentioned all got back less than one-fourth of what they paid in state taxes, the sister more than three-fourths going to the so-called "pauper" counties.

In the same way Scott County got back considerably less than a third of what it put in; Franklin County a little more than a third; Harrison County, less than a third; Nicholas County, about a third. Fleming County got back less than half what the pot in. Bracken got back only a little more than a third.

The County of Mason paid as taxes in the one year over Ninety-One Thousand Dollars ($96,000.00) more than it got back, getting back considerably less than one-third of what it gave in.

And the sturdy little County of Robertson, the dominatrix of Northern Kentucky, whose boundary is not traversed or even nearly approached by a railway or navigable stream, and whose population, like that of all its neighbors, Bracken, Mason, Fleming, Nicholas, and Harrison, has steadily decreased for the past twenty years, as shown by the census—Robertson County pays its own way and then contributes to the support of the "Pauper" counties almost as much as it keeps for itself.

And which are some of the "paupers" or so-called supporting counties of Kentucky? Answer: Fifteen counties out of the sixteen largest coal producers in 1922 in Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky are pauper counties, according to the last report of the State auditor. (See pages 122 to 131 of the report.) And the one non-pauper county out of the sixteen above referred to emerged from the pauper class only since 1920.

Coal production data for Kentucky in 1922 was obtained from the Chief Inspector of Mines.

The following statements in regard to population are based on the figures of the United States Census of 1920. The word county is used to include also the towns within the county.

The population of each and every one of these sixteen largest coal producing counties increased, in some cases doubled or trebled, from 1900 to 1920. The population of the first thirteen in coal production increased more than ninety-nine thousand (99,000) in ten years, and more than one hundred and forty-five thousand (145,000) in twenty years, or, an average for the entire thirteen counties, more than 7,000 per county in the ten years, and more than 14,000 per county in the twenty years.

This certainly demands thought. We are glad of their prosperity, but why do all these counties remain on the pauper list during the entire twenty year period?

Compare this situation with that in Robertson County and in the four counties above mentioned, whose population, without exception, have decreased for twenty years. Harrison and Mason having most heavily, the average loss being about 2900 each for the six counties. And yet, as has been pointed out, these counties pay in taxes to the state from twice to more than three times what they get back.

Or compare it with the situation presented by the six neighbors of Fayette County, Bourbon, Scott, Jessamine, Woodford, Madison and Clark Counties, only one of which, Bourbon County, held its own population from 1910 to 1920, the County of Scott losing most heavily—over 1600—the average loss being 438 each for the six counties. And yet, as shown, three of these counties paid in taxes to the state more than four times what they got back, the other three more than two and more than three times.

But, it may be asked, was not the population lost by Fayette County's neighbors gained by Fayette County? The answer is that between 1910 and 1920, Fayette County, including Lexington, gained less than seven thousand in population, lacking seven hundred twenty (720) of equaling the average gain for each of the thirteen coal counties above referred to, who remained on the pauper list.

It is important to notice that while the combined population of the thirteen coal counties have diminished increased more than one hundred and forty nine thousand (149,000) in twenty years, the same census figures show that the combined population of the thirteen other counties, comprising the section from Madison at one end to Mason and Bracken Counties at the other, including Fayette County—registered a decrease of approximately one thousand (1,000) in the same twenty-year period.

It is the opinion of a well-informed and reliable farmer of Fayette County that a few years ago three-fourths or more, of the farmers of the county had to borrow money to pay taxes. It would be interesting to know how many coal barons did the same thing. Possibly as large a per cent as of the farmers did. But the drift of population to the coal counties would not indicate that money was being lost there in large quantities—nor that not enough money was being made to make three counties out of the pauper roll.

THE FARMER TODAY

The farmer should be an optimist, but not a fool optimist that will refuse to read the handwriting on the wall. It is there; let us read it and act accordingly.

The farmer must continue to do business, for he must continue to live and pay taxes. He may be forced to change the whole aspect of his farming, so that income will be avoided if possible, for most changes are costly both in money and in time.

In any event, he must choose more profitable crops than cotton and tobacco, which are not to his soil, climate, or labor conditions, and which can be taken anyhow as we pass into the country conditions.

As conditions are just now, with high wages and no unemployment, meat animals and animal products are more profitable because labor consumed by meat meats and dairy products which can afford to do so. Exposition in this direction must be tempered by caution, for a few months at any time may produce unemployment, the first effect of which is a drop in prices of animal products.

The farmer should keep out of debt as if already involved he should plan to pay off as rapidly as possible and should not lower interest rates, for these should be more favorable in the future.

He must avoid building as far as possible and all unnecessary purchases even of farm machinery, for it is going to be the restoration of farming under present conditions he will probably have to hands full. If in debt, he may even be obliged to "run" his farm in order to meet his pay months.

In all "safety first" is his slogan, for nobody is one of the weeds yet in the matter of business safety, or anybody, whatever that may be.—Exchange.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

To Hold Annual Convention at Myers Church Friday, August 14

The annual convention of the Sunday School Association will be held at the Myers Station church on Friday, August 14, at which time the following program will be given:

9:30—Devotional, Mrs. Nannie Buchanan.

9:35—How to Put New Life in the Sunday School, Rev. L. C. Godsey.

10:00—"Training Our Young Boys and Young Men," Rev. B. B. Hodge.

10:10—"Missions in the Sunday School," Rev. J. W. Stephens.

10:20—Reports from the Superintendents.

11:00—Minutes of Last Meeting.

11:10—"The Tragedy of a Godless Child," W. H. Hughes, state worker.

11:20—Appointment of Committees.

12:00—Adjournment for lunch.

1:30—Devotional, H. S. Weaver.

1:35—Roll of Schools.

1:50—"What Our Sunday School Should Do for Our Community," Rev. J. Ed. Taylor.

2:10—How Can We Make Our Sunday School Better to the Community," Rev. B. E. Elsom.

2:30—"Worship in the Elementary Department," Mrs. Robert Harper.

2:40—Special song by L. W. Hoyer Trio.

2:50—"Need of Teacher Training Classes in the Sunday School," Rev. W. S. Maxwell.

3:00—"Responsibility of the Cradle Roll," Cora Hisle.

3:05—"Our Problems with the Youth of Our Church Schools," Mrs. Ella S. Taylor.

3:20—Quartet work, presented by W. J. Vaughn.

3:30—Report of committees.

O. E. Coffey, President.
U. G. Mutton, Secretary.

BEATS RAILROADS

The automobile is today the leading passenger transportation agency in the United States. This is indicated by the volume of traffic handled, the capacity of cars and the extent of the finished roadbed. It has been estimated that the automobiles use in 1922 had a seating capacity twenty times that of all railroad passenger coaches and during the same year totaled nearly two and a half times the passenger mileage of rail facilities.

A CARLISLE INTERVIEW

Mr. Myers Tells His Experience

The following brief account of an interview with a Carlisle man many years ago, and its sequel, will be read with keen interest by every citizen.

John M. Myers, per Shadrach Tarman Ave., says: "We are family even without Doan's Kidney Pills in our home. They are fine. My kidneys were weak and their action was irregular. The secretions contained sediment. I felt miserable. I read about Doan's Kidney Pills and I used them. They did the work and I have had no trouble since." (Statement given January 19, 1922.)

On January 20, 1923, Mr. Myers said: "The statement I gave recommending Doan's Kidney Pills holds good. Doan's, when I used a kidney tonic and they always bring the best of results."

60c, at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

TOMATO IN THIRD PLACE

The tomato now ranks third in importance among truck crops, according to the Department of Agriculture, and the demand for high quality or shipping tomatoes is increasing. Because there is need for improvement of the cultivating methods and quality of tomatoes grown for the early market the department has published a summary of the methods and results of tomato growers who have been specially successful.

STORM DAMAGES CORN CROP

The heavy rains that passed to the Southwest and South Monday evening did considerable damage to crops, particularly corn, along Main Licking and in the vicinity thereof. The rains were followed by a storm that leveled corn to the ground. Jas. W. Hedges, of near Ruddles Mills, lost 15 and 20 acres of corn practically all gone. Across the river in Nicholas, and beyond, the damage is reported to be great.—Mr. Olivet Democrat.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Nicholas Circuit Court
F. M. Rankin, Plaintiff,
Vs.
O. S. Ferrell, etc., Defendants.

By virtue of a judgment and order of sale rendered at the May term, 1925, of the Nicholas Circuit Court in the above styled action, I shall proceed to offer for sale at public auctio to the highest and best bidder, on the premises, on the court house door in Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky., on Monday, August 13th, 1925, upon a credit of six and twelve months, the following described property:

A certain tract or parcel of land in the Nicholas County Court House, Nicholas County, Ky., and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a set stake corner to George Fitzpatrick's and Mrs. Green with Fitzhugh's line N 51½ W 28.25 poles to a set stake corner to Fitzhugh's and Mrs. Green's line; thence with the center of said road S 42½ W 24.2 poles to the center of same corner to B. W. and Talitha Hamilton's line; thence with the center of Mary's line S 6 E 16 poles to a black walnut corner to W. T. Barber; thence S 27 E 52.80 poles to a set stone fence corner to same, thence N 6 W 18.02 poles to a set fence post corner to Rev. Edith Young; thence N 6 W 18.02 poles to a set fence post corner to Rev. Edith Young; thence N 6 W 4½ 12 poles; N 16 E 17.12 poles; N 6 W 67 poles; N 38½ W 14.08 poles; N 28½ E 8.80 poles; N 6 W 4 poles; N 6 W 4 poles to the beginning, containing 6 acres, 1 rood and 20 poles.

Second tract: Bounded and adjoining the above tract, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stone corner to Nicholas and the Mosefield & Upper Lick Turnpike road; thence with the road 4 poles.

This tract was land conveyed to Sallie Ferrell by deed of Mary Hamilton, March 1st, 1919.

The purchaser land will be offered in three tracts, the first tract in two tracts of 10 acres and 3 acres, and the second tract will be offered separately, and the third tract will be offered as a whole, the highest and best bidder control.

The sale is made for the purpose of realizing the sum of $2,000 subject to a credit of $1,000 on the 1st day of 1919, interest paid on same to March 1st, 1921, and a credit on interest of $139.35 of date Feb. 14th, 1922, with the further sum of $2,000 interest in full paid to March 1st, 1923, with the further credit of $100 paid on interest of date Feb. 14th, 1923, and a credit of date Feb. 14th, 1924, of $100 and a credit of date March 1st, 1925 and $140.00 costs.

The purchaser to pay the taxes due on the land for the year 1924 and for the year 1925.

Or so much of said land as may be necessary to satisfy the first and second court costs. For the purchase price the purchaser will be required to execute his bond, with interest from date of sale until paid, under the laws of Kentucky and a lien retained on the land. Bidders will be prepared to make prompt settlement.

This the 29th day of June.

Ed. S. Taylor, Master Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Nicholas Circuit Court
Ellen Ferrell, Plaintiff,
Vs.
O. S. Ferrell, etc., Defendants.

By virtue of a judgment and order of sale rendered at the May term, 1925, of the Nicholas Circuit Court in the above styled action, I shall proceed to offer for sale at public auction to the highest and best bidder, on the premises, on the court house door in Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky., on Monday, August 13th, 1925, upon a credit of six and twelve months, the following described property to-wit:

Beginning at a set stone corner to Mrs. Green's line; thence with the line N 6 W 16 poles to