THE MERCURY

Established 1867

Entered at the Carlisle Postoffice as second class matter

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year (in advance)	$2.00
Six Months (in advance)	1.00
Three Months (in advance)	.65

Member Kentucky Press Association
Member Nat'l Editorial Association

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1926

The pure, the beautiful, the bright
That stirred our hearts in youth,
The impulse to a wordless prayer,
The dreams of love and truth,
The longings after something lost,
The spirit's yearning cry,
The strivings after holier hopes,
These things can never die.
—Sarah Doudney.

CONVENTION NOT GOOD FOR WHAT AILS US.

Somehow we can't agree with those excellent newspapers that decry the primary system and urge the convention as a means of selecting candidates for State offices next year. If we could believe, as they contend, that the convention method of nomination would result in the selection of men of higher type, they would be left scant argument against the change. The Mercury, however, is skeptical of the convention as a remedy for what ails us in the selection of non-representative representatives.

Our friends, the Republicans, on the convention method have in Kentucky and the type of politicians usually selected to go to the back room with his souvenir to the greenhorn people is not so high that his hide freezes in a rarefied atmosphere. United States senators chosen by the convention method in many States, fail to stand somehow like the "stern, forbidding Cato" at Washington, but rather make the "yes-yes-boys," more often than not. At least, the primary-selected senators are not chosen as was by the convention-bosses members of the Millionaire's Club. And there's a case in point.

The primary must plead guilty to many ills. We'll admit that it is expensive, but so is the convention. We are disposed to agree to that, with Mr. H. A. Fullton who writes from Paducah to the Courier-Journal:

In regard to the expense to which the candidate and his followers are put, the advocates of the convention system does not obviate the evil, and probably does not even reduce it. Before a convention a prospective nominee usually makes the campaign tour, stump speaking in every county, if possible, and his headquarters must organize the State and judicial counties at about the same expense that would be required to organize for a primary.

Politics is an expensive sport, whether one enters it by the primary or convention route. That it should not be so is not to be denied, but we can't believe that a change in the method of making the nominations will make the game less costly.

Another evil of the primary system is that it keeps party leaders interest and fails to vote. That, my we, is the fault of the voter, not of the primary. It may, we hope it be well, in a primary, he is not given the opportunity to vote in a convention, controlled by a committee which may easily be unrepresentative, after the convention has been in session for a day or two. Or, as is quite often the case, the delegates are actually handpicked at the last minute by the bosses. Not a great number of the annual fund raised for the maintenance of politics are probably much more important in the average farmer than the main-traveled roads. Our information is that the farmer will be sufficient to have the side roads in good repair, which he spend in his opinion, business for every farmer and business man in the community. The main-traveled road they will be necessary.

Believing the best issue to be down home, I would prefer getting off the side highways, where I live, to a Democratic victory, Democratic local officers, or no local issue, and to the road-time the Republicans will find the road, which will something must be done or they will become unmovable. The road from town to town will be the road of the future. We can't take the gains of industry and—and, say, can't that be done? We can't do the problem of the "revolving" of both our political parties and primary systems? Can we do it? Can we do it? Can we do it