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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1931

We are trying in the age of the electric light to teach national economy people with a candle.—Nicholas Murray Butler.

An Impression Justified.

Some weeks ago we set down in these columns our impressions of Judge Ruby Laffoon, Democratic candidate for Governor of Kentucky. The editorial was laudatory and expressed the conviction that in their candidate the Democratic party is blessed with a man of rugged honesty, of undoubted sincerity, endowed with that rarest of gifts, common sense.

The speech delivered by Judge Laffoon at Winchester last Saturday simply justifies, we believe, our estimate of the man, as one who possesses a highly practical and calmly judicial type of mind and who has thought much and constructively of the problems that confront Kentucky.

The full text of his speech appeared Sunday in the leading daily newspapers of the State. It is worthy of your careful reading. It is a truly constructive program. Judge Laffoon has mapped out for himself, a program formulated with a full sense of the difficulties that will beset its entire accomplishment, but with a fine confidence that, when he is elected Governor of Kentucky, he will be able to do what he now says he will do.

If you did not read the full text of his speech, then we urge you to read the summary of his address. It appears in this issue of The Mercury. In it you will find set forth many ideas, which, if you are of a practical turn of mind, you will recognize as something you have long believed should be done. You will find that Ruby Laffoon speaks for those who groan under an inequitable tax burden, for the man of small means; for him who walks the furrow and for him who toils in shop and office. His is the voice of understanding of those problems that beset all of us.

He knows what economy means, because he has been forced to practice it in his personal affairs; he knows what it is to be forced to borrow money to pay mounting taxes, he knows the problem of the all-paid vouchers in the country school, because he has himself, taught a country school. Reared under the old teaching that "willful waste makes woeful want," it is incomprehensible to him that the money of the Commonwealth should be wasted needlessly, any more than that a man's personal funds should be squandered recklessly.

Much has been said of the need for a business man to take over the management of the affairs of Kentucky. Here, in the opinion of this newspaper, speaks such a man.

* * *

From a knowledge gained through personal contact with Judge Laffoon during the last two weeks, our original estimate of the man has not suffered in the least. We have found him to be the Kentuckian we thought he was. We have found him plain-spoken, practical, imbued with the single idea, in his political ambition, of making such a record as Governor of his State, as will reflect honor upon his name.

We have found him to be the kindly man we judged him to be. And, in addition, we have learned this about him. He is one of those most fortunate men, to whom is granted a simple faith in the guiding beneficence of an Immortal Purpose, to which he resigns himself with a supreme trust.

Whether one is able to achieve such a faith or not, its possession by any man is wholly admirable to this writer.

And although the "hardboiled" may sneeringly cry, "baily-hoo" as we are not ashamed, knowing that the words were spoken reverently, to have Laffoon at Winchester last Saturday when, in discussing the distress of dispirited and heart-broken men and women, hard beset by the rigors of a financial depression that seems endless Judge Laffoon said:

"I turn my face to Him who came to bind up the wounds of the broken-hearted, who takes notice even of the falling of the sparrow, and with a trusting heart in His justness and goodness, I implore Him to forsake not His people in the hour of their distress and to preserve a government that was created by His favor."

Strength Lies In Organization.

A political battle, apparently won, may be lost through lack of organization. There can be no doubt of this fact and practical politicians everywhere recognize its truth.

It is also true that a "chain is no stronger than its weakest link," and the party organization of Nicholas county is an important link in the chain of State-wide Democratic organization.

The Mercury urges Nicholas county Democrats to rally to the cause. Do it NOW, not on the closing days of the campaign.

Your County Chairman, Jim Will Martin, and your County Chairwoman, Mrs. B. P. Reynolds, are both workers, experienced and able, yet alone they cannot reach that efficiency of organization that is requisite to a majority of every one of the banner Democratic counties of the Ninth District.

Go to them; offer your services. Show that your interest in this fight—which is a fight of the people—is genuine. Prove that your Democracy is not confined to whooping it up on election night. If you will, The Mercury knows that Nicholas county will pass one of the strongest links in the chain of Democratic organization in Kentucky.

A Record Of Accomplishment.

So admirable has been the record of accomplishment of the present Highway Commission, so impressed with that of the Stamper-controlled Commission, that leading county newspapers of Kentucky, the independence of whose editorial policy is unquestioned, discern with able editorials the announced purpose of the Republicans to attack the integrity of that Commission.

Two of these editorials—one by Henry Lawrence, of Taylor county, and the other by Joe Richardson, of Barren county—appear in this issue of The Mercury. A record of accomplishment speaks for itself.

Poison Darts.

(Joe Richardson in Glasgow Times)

Republicans are entering their attack on Ben Johnson, head of the Highway Commission. They forget this is a state, not national election, and that the dirty, mean, contemptible methods used then won't work now. Mr. Johnson, an honest man and clean, has nothing to fear from political assassins, unless it be gangrene from poison darts fired at him.

Ben Johnson

(Gen. Henry Lawrence in the Cadiz Record)

Since party candidates were nominated and the plan of contest for the fall political campaign mapped out, party platforms in Kentucky, there has not been a gathering of Republicans in any section of the state at which better attacks were not made upon Ben Johnson, chairman of the State Highway Commission.

For more than forty years Ben Johnson has been a conspicuous figure in the official life of Kentucky and the nation.

In Kentucky he has been member of the Legislature and Speaker of the House, State Senator and Collector of Internal Revenue.

For twenty years he was the Representative in Congress from the Fourth district.

During all this time he has been the subject of criticism, just as all men of conviction and positive purpose have suffered. But not once has there been the shadow of suspicion upon his honor as a citizen or a capable and honest public official.

While in Washington as a member of Congress he was criticised because he often interfered with the plans of federal officials whose stamps upon the public treasury could not at all times be justified.

Much of the criticism against him during more recent years has run hard here in Kentucky is due to his ever being on the watch for the welfare of the people. He was that way when young was open; it should bring no equal return in service rendered.

As the chairman of the Road Commission at Frankfort, he has established a reputation for being at his post of duty more closely perhaps than any other official of the state ever closely.

He spends never less than four and a half days each week at his desk in the Highway Commission office.

He reaches his office never later than 7:30 in the morning and five o'clock finds him still on the job.

Every piece of mail that enters the building is personally handled by him.

Every payroll for the $,000 and more who are employed by the Road Department is handled by him.

The last number of letters to payments for material that goes into road construction are handled by him.

Of all the vast questionnaires received at his office by mail, Mr. Johnson personally handles all of them.

He has been present at the opening of all bids for the construction of roads and the purchase of materials since he has been in office.

Because he believes that every person connected with the road department should be loyal to his policies and faithful to every trust imposed, because he has frankly opposed all plans that seemed questionable in the handling of the road money of the state, and has not tempered with any scheme that did not have the welfare of the state for its purpose, he has naturally aroused opposition, as all men who dare and do must arouse.

For this he offers no apology nor will any other citizen who has due regard for official integrity and ability subscribe to the doctrine that "to the victor belongs the spoils of office."

History affords no exception to the rule that where a people have stood for the right and for the welfare of the people, they have met bitter opposition.

The case of Ben Johnson right here in the state of Kentucky is no exception to that rule.

BEATING THE CIGARETTE TAX

(Richmond Register)

As one state after another levies taxes on cigarettes it looked for a moment as if the cigarette was to be as universally levied upon as has gasoline. Every state that levies a cigarette tax indirectly injures the foremost cash crop during crop of Kentucky and we always regret to see such steps taken.

Human Inenrnity has recently taken steps that will no doubt have the effect of checking cigarette tax revenues. A Lucrative tobacco manufacturing plant has invented an inexpensive yet effective machine by the use of which the smoker can roll cigarettes quickly from the various suitable tobaccos.

This firm is featuring a cigarette tobacco which it urges be used with the clever little device with which one can so conveniently roll one's own cigarettes, and declares that the tobacco it is hoped will be used in them are being offered for sale in those states where cigarette tax has been levied.

The average package of cigarettes now pays a federal tax of approximately 8 cents. When a three or five cent tax is added the tax collected exceeds the sale value of the commodity.

The roll your own machine, inexpensive and effective, is being so extensively used in states where fags are taxed that none are available to meet the demand in other states, it is said. Through its use the average smoker can make an appreciable reduction in smoking costs, yet have a neatly rolled, compact cigarette.

It is quite probable that this little device will halt the uneconomic practice of levying a state tax on cigarettes by providing an effective way through which smokers may evade paying the tax by substituting home rolled smokes for the manufactured variety. Excessive taxation always is an incentive to counteract its effect. The cigarette tax has been no exception to the rule.

Grandfather and the Boys

One way to keep the spirit youthful and the outlook on life cheery is to keep on doing something worthwhile. At least this recipe seems to work happily for Judge Ruby Laffoon, of Madisonville, Democratic candidate for Governor of Kentucky. This picture shows the judge and his two grandsons, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Robinson, of Madisonville. The lad who sits aback the pony is "R. W.", aged 14 years. The little fellow seated in the saddle is Tom Robinson, Jr., aged 6. The judge Laffoon usually starts his day with a 6 o'clock call upon these youngsters at their farm home which is about a mile and a half out of Madisonville.

30 Years Ago

Thursday, September 19, 1901

Died—Mr. Hubbard Sipe, 21, at his home in the county of —— 19th.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hall, of the county of ——, on the 17th, a son.

Carlisle was a closed town last Saturday. Even the barber shops were closed.

Rev. F. M. Tinder leaves for Lexington to conduct protracted meeting.

James L. Donnell & Sons took ten premiums on their horses at the Exposition.

Residence of Will Day at Carlisle with all of its contents destroyed by fire.

President McKinley lives at Washington as result of cabinet meeting announced.

T. N. French, agent for the Cumberland Tobacco Co., say arrives in Carlisle to begin buying tobacco for the Trust.

Mrs. Joseph Wood flies suit against L. & N. Railroad Company for $5,000 damages as result of injuries received when her horse was frightened by train and ran away.

Married—Miss Amelia Gibson and Mr. [illegible] Owens, both of the county, on the 12th.—Miss Rena Gatliff and Mr. [illegible] Hall, both of the county, on the 18th.

FIREFLIES FLICKER

Eli Lucas is now fluent master of ceremonies on their knees at the Excelsior Hotel.

Residence of Will Day at Carlisle burned Sunday. Cause unknown.

Frank H. Adair and Judge M. Bell, of Carlisle, have been appointed Notaries Public.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mercer, of the county, on the 4th, a son.—To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bryan, of the county, on the 10th, a son.—To Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, of the county, on the 14th, a son.

Blair Bros. & Co. and H. A. M. Henderson have had Anderson Ferry Road graded and Rev. A. E. Lee has had school teachers for Carlisle and Nicholas county to meet at his home. Mrs. Lida Crockett and Mrs. Ella Bell have had several Chinese Maples set out.

Add for extra alive.
Use the snake of the brilliant Hose.
Hose.

How Well We Remember

(Mathematical Monthly)

Ben Johnson, chairman of the highway commission, crashed after passage of the super $25,000,000 bond issue and people in Carlisle Monday, as he walked into the road [illegible] Falls, of economies put in practice by the present road body. The commission engineering alone, he said, had been reduced one-third. He said:

"The old commission sent out men to drive stakes intimating that roads would be built, when its purpose was to deceive. When the present commission decides to build a road, it first contemplates building a road. You don't find idle stakes in that place. The field expense has been cut more than half under the present commission.

How well do we in Hopkins county remember the stake drivers! Just prior to an election they would be swarming all over the roads every-where—sighting through instruments and spotting stakes. Several thousand stakes were driven in this county during the campaign for county offices two years ago, and there was some talk of a tax spread near Morgans Gap. That was a great and costly stunt that fooled none of the voters.

THE REAL GIFT

One man gave lavishly of gold,
And built a tower cold tower;
Then smiled, content to think his deeds
Should win him great renown.

Another, poor in worldly gain,
Gave all within his ken
Of strength and tenderness and truth
To help his fellow men.

The record of that rich man's gift
Lies on a dusty shelf.
The poor man lives in countless hearts
Because he gave himself.
—Francisca Herald

Alpha rays emitted by radio-active bodies produce the chemical union of hydrogen and hydrogen—forming ammonia.

What Editors Of Kentucky Newspapers Are Saying

ORGANIZATION

J. H. Moore in Fulton Daily Leader: In past years the Democratic party has entered into state campaigns with a strong desire to have a real, state-wide organization which will reach every voter in the state. But the desire has been about all that the party had. The actual organization has usually been a failure. As a consequence many races have been won which might otherwise have been won.

It seems to me that this year is the time for all of the Democratic party to be going organized as never before and if this means anything it will be a rousing big victory in November. Frederick A. Wallis, who narrowly missed being the Democratic nominee this year and who may be the standard bearer at the next election, will make state chairman, and has been applying the same tactics that the Democracy of New York state has been using in the past few years. Mr. Wallis is a man who knows how it is set up and he will no doubt see to it that the party is organized in the several successful races that were made by Al Smith and realizes that the same plan will mean a great deal for the success of the Democratic ticket this year.

It is not every man's task to be elected governor of his state, but Governor Ruby Laffoon, democratic nominee for governor of Kentucky, will make state chairman, and has been applying the same tactics that the Democracy of New York state has been using in the past few years. Mr. Wallis is a man who knows how it is set up and he will no doubt see to it that the party is organized in the several successful races that were made by Al Smith and realizes that the same plan will mean a great deal for the success of the Democratic ticket this year.

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