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Prisons And Paroles.

Within the memory of this writer Kentucky Governors have been abused more or less for their parole and pardon records. Much of the criticism is from those who do not realize what a hard row any chief executive of a State has to hoe in this regard. It is one thing to criticize, it is another to listen, unmoved to the pleadings of mothers and wives and sisters, pleading for clemency for a son, husband or brother. One week's experience of such an ordeal would make some of the harsher critics wave tolerant. Not that it is right to turn dangerous criminals loose upon society, but that we should realize how difficult it is to hold the power to grant life and condemn to death; to restore liberty or withdraw it and not be moved sometimes by the heart rather than the head.

Much will be said in the campaign this summer and more this fall, perhaps, of the pardon and parole record of the present State administration. It may be of interest, therefore to learn that 89.3 per cent of the prisoners paroled during the term of Governor Laffoon have made good on parole, which is a very creditable showing and compares well with parole records in any State.

A little thought should convince anyone that it was far better for this 89 per cent to be free and earning their way than to have them remain herded with more hardened criminals to learn more devilry and to become embittered against society. Those paroled or pardoned prisoners are not free men; they can serve no part of their sentence while on parole, but remain on parole the rest of their lives, unless pardoned by the Governor. In most States the period of parole expires with the expiration of the maximum term fixed by the Court.

The parole laws of Kentucky provide that prisoners become eligible for parole as follows:

Sentences of 10 years or less—At the expiration of one-half of the sentence imposed by the Court.

Sentences of more than 10 years, but not more than 21 years—At the expiration of 8 years.

Sentences of more than 21 years, including life sentences—At the expiration of 8 years.

Parole eligibility is calculated upon flat or calendar time, without credit for good behavior. Paroled prisoners are subject to return to the institution at any time during their lives for a violation of the terms of the parole.

That necessity of paroles in Kentucky is evident to the most casual observer. Our prisons are crowded to double their capacity and so far no Kentucky Legislature has seen fit to appropriate funds for new prisons, modern institutions, or prison farms, where those imprisoned for minor offenses may be segregated from old and hardened criminals. The money's lacking for it, we'll take a great deal of it to solve our prison problems, and that money can't be "saved," despite any demagogic oratory you may hear to the contrary. It must be raised by taxes and taxes are anathema to most of us these days, or at any time.

A Better Investment.

According to a report of the State Inspector and Examiner approximately $100,000 has been received from motorists and automobile dealers during the period from July 1, 1934 to May 1, 1935 Pocket Commission, from State Board of Motor Licenses, from November, 1933. From July 1, 1934 to May 1, 1935 Pocket Commission, from Cumberland Parkway the treasurer receipts of $4,556.64. Cumberland Falls, not yet accessible easily from the west, produced $1,943.57 and Natural Bridge, $1,776.75 in the same period.

As times improve and tourist travel reaches its maximum we are proud that our own, Blue Licks Battlefield Park will rank near the top as a money getter also.

Eventually those who preferred a "line of smoke-stacks" to the preservation of scenic beauties and the historic interests of State parks will realize, we think, that a better investment for Kentucky has been made by the establishment of a park system.

A Good Bill.

The Richmond Register calls attention to an excellent bill apparently lost "in the swirl of New Deal measures" introduced by the Supreme Court's NRA decision.

The bill, introduced by Senators Gerald Nye and Bennett Clark, outlaws three resolutions setting up industrial councils in the country being drawn by Senator Borgeson was. These resolutions would bar all trade, public or private, to a foreign nation at war, or to aid a foreign nation in war. It would prohibit passports to Americans wishing to travel in war zones and would prevent the export of munitions of war to belligerent countries from the United States would be made strictly at the buyer's risk.

This bill should be passed; and an amendment making it compulsory that the executive officers of any farm or industrial commodities be certified by the drawing nation at war necessary the shipment in person might not be enough. We would take it, by the way, to prevent by law objects, should such an amendment be adopted.

In any event it is certain that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to our embroilment in any foreign fracas and passage of the Nye-Clark bill will meet with universal approval.

A Valuable Man.

Joseph E. Robinson, editor of The Central Record, Lancaster, has announced as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Representative of his county.

Garrard county may count itself fortunate—and Garrard county may count itself fortunate—and confident it does—that it is to be accorded an opportunity to vote for a man so eminently fitted to serve his State as Joe Robinson.

Mr. Robinson is an excellent lawyer and a successful farmer on an extensive scale. He is a former National Committeeman of his party, and has had long experience in State politics. He will, we feel sure, be given the nomination and he duly elected. He will make her safe his county, but the State, a valuable man at Frankfort.

Is Society Safe For Pitts?

The name, "reformatory" is more than often a misnomer in this many instances. The convict is schooled through his association with hardened criminals elder than he in the subtleties of crime. He emerges from prison with the idea that society owes him a living, yet it how he will.

But it seems there are cases of true reformation of prisoners, who have served their terms, paid their debts to society and in such instances the convict owes them more the opportunity to take their place in its ranks once more as useful citizens. Prison administrators have often been told that their job is to rehabilitate men convicted of crimes so they will be safe for society," says the Christian Science Monitor; "the issue in this instance that of "Alabama" Pitts" appears to be whether society is safe for the established man."

Edwin C. Pitts, convicted of robbery at 20, walked out of Sing Sing prison recently a free man. He was a star football and baseball player while in prison. Warden Lawes calls him "a man in every sense of the word." The Albany team in the International League offered Pitts a job upon his release, but Judge W. O. Brantham, president of the National Association of Minor Baseball Leagues, ruled that an ex-convict could not be admitted to organized baseball.

Here is a case in which a man has paid the price of his offense against society and society refuses—through Judge Brantham, at least—to release the new-man. Having paid, that it has held upon one man's freedom. The attitude is thoroughly unfair.

The Festival Of June.

The landscape was typical. The gently rolling contour of the fields, the meandering "branch," glimpses of distant woodland of ash and oak and walnut, the rich colors of the ploughed fields all marked it as The Bluegrass. It was, too, one of those rare June mornings, warm, glistening and yet with a breeze that was cool and odorous as if "off a rain." Waffles, golden brown waffles for breakfast! and then to sit on the porch with smoldering cigarette and be soothed by the beauties of a scene familiar, yet never to lose its charm. There is no rugged grandeur of mountain life and one wonders if the appeal of its loveliness is not somehow linked with poignant boyish memories of childhood, of carefree days along a winding "branch," of the incense of the meadows, the clatter of a mowing machine, the smell of fresh cut hay curing in the windrows, or the lonesome tinkle of a sheep bell at twilight, the plaintive call of a whippoorwill at midnight, of a grazing horse in the tall grass and plantain of the yard at nightfall, fragrance of lemon verbena and the dank yet sweet smell of Virginia Creeper about the old portico. Perhaps it is all this and because of these that we are this familiar landscape of the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky through the eyes of a lover. Yet the charm of its quiet beauty lies before one like a beautiful stage setting of exquisite craftsmanship. One feels but the need of an orchestra to complete the picture and it is then that we realize that Nature is the perfect artist always, setting her stage so cunningly that she moves her wild folk, her little feathered musicians, to song.

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Clear, liquid, penetrating comes the canary-like trill of a song sparrow from the blue bushes. Pour little songer! His rowdy cousin, the English sparrow has welcomed crowded him from his habitat and song has been heard from every tree and hedgerow. The meadow lark sails, parrotlet-like to a fence stake, turns and darts into the air, to drift to us in plaintive ecstasy of sweetness. A quail whistles from a meadow, the woodpeckers drum industriously and a friendly robin expresses his satisfaction upon the finding of an especially fat worm. Other feathered musicians join the chorus, contributing their parts to the orchestral accompaniment of Nature's production of the Pageant and the Festival of June. Too seldom we listen to these symphonies of the fields and meadows and woods and few of us we think, realize the importance of these birds in making perfect that element of birth and life and beauty which is Summer. Without them, how sad the fields, how silent the trees, how unlovely the world!

The "Clinging Vine."

What has become of the "clinging vine" type of woman? Some ten years ago it was a favorite theme of fiction and humor. Other feathered musicians join the chorus, contributing their parts to the orchestral accompaniment of Nature's production of the Pageant and the Festival of June. Too seldom we listen to these symphonies of the fields and meadows and woods and few of us we think, realize the importance of these birds in making perfect that element of birth and life and beauty which is Summer. Without them, how sad the fields, how silent the trees, how unlovely the world!

Every flake of her frame
Proves her launched for one sole issue,
armed and engined for the same.
And in serve this single law, for the generations fall.
The female of the species must be dradlier than the male.

Likewise a better actor. And what a pretty lot of stage-play it was in the days of the hoop-skirt and the bustle with its "rapours" and blushings and fainting—that were often but fetishings—yet was a lovely art and one heralds its passing with a sigh.

State Police Make Good Beginning.

(Richmond Register)

Within the first six months of its existence the State police force supplied impressive evidence to justify its creation, demonstration that it was worth the money it is providing an effective law enforcement agency. It is a snappy looking outfit of high class men.

Within the six months period 116 stolen automobiles were recovered by the officers. Value of the stolen property returned to owners is greater than the cost of maintaining the state police within the period it has been on duty.

Arrests made by the seven uniformed officers total 1,571, and resulted in 1,223 convictions. Their activities on the highways has had a good effect, in that it has reduced reckless driving and resulted in drivers of this type being more cautious.

The state police force came into being with enactment of a state driver's license law. Under management of a state driver's license bureau, operating after being procured, permit one to drive a motor vehicle unless the license is revoked for reckless driving. A number of licenses have been revoked and the effect has been good in checking disregard for safety considerations on the highways.

Effectiveness of the state police has been so demonstrated that the general public is pleased with the service of this helpful law enforcement auxiliary. It is realized that the force is too small to be of maximum usefulness. It is quite probable that its value will be so extensively realized that there will be a general increase in its enlargement.

CLIPPED FROM OTHER EDITORIAL PAGES

MR. LOWDEN VIEWS WITH ALARM

(Louisville Times)

Frank O. Lowden, addressing grass rooters who, Mr. Hyde indicated, have not assented to "back" Herbert Hoover, makes a deprecated speech in behalf of adherence to the Constitution, and declares himself against centralization of government.

It was expected that Mr. Lowden would speak well of the Constitution, and up for States' rights. It is through possible that he might also say something else. The conditions of the times seem to call for something more than a declaration of fealty to the Constitution, and an announcement of the debut of the G. O. P. as a States' rights party. Some people may have been surprised at Mr. Lowden's sweeping denunciation of government; at his declaration that there are only two forms of government, the autocratic and the democratic; that the Soviet regime in Russia, the Nazi regime in Germany and the British Government, do not differ, as George III were as like as three peas.

It was inevitable that as a result of the separatist movement which the American Revolution school children would think of George III as a tyrant, a despot, and of the Declaration of Independence as a document of protest against despotism.

But it will be time enough for grown people to forget Magna Carta, and the rights of the people, and even know George III as a monarch whose motives were not always "royal," as king—prior to his accession to the throne—seems to have been a fairly decent sort of fellow. Twenty years of effort to assert himself as a king who hardly to be always an actor.

George the home-loving sedate husband; the keen politician, the counterpart of Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, England in the days of Pitt and Fox and Parliament and Whig assertiveness as Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany!

THE FARMER'S OPPORTUNITY

(Big Sandy News-Recorder)

The farmers have had very unfavorable weather this spring and summer that should have been planted earlier are not yet in the ground.

This is a year that will test the farmers. Those who measure up to the standard of efficiency in their crops will win prizes worth fighting for. Those who fail to do so will have it hard next winter and next year.

The markets for farm products, including all kinds of live stock, are finding all kinds of live stock, are higher than for many years. Only the farmers who raise something to sell will profit by the rising prices. Those who fail to raise meat will have it hard next winter and next year.

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The farmer's opportunity is here. Many will undoubtedly find hospitality, and the farmer who will use it will be amply rewarded. Those who double their efforts, those who put their heads and their hands to the task, those who will diversify their crops, those who will raise a variety of products to sell and will be happy for having done so, will prosper as never before. The story is told of a farmer who had a small farm and grew certain things, which may be different from the routine crops heretofore raised, or perhaps from the rut in the system of Kentucky farming for years, but this man traveled for years, but this man traveled for years, but this man traveled