THE CARLISLE MERCURY
Established 1867
Entered at the Carlisle Postoffice as second class matter
Warren Fisher, Editor
Grimes Caywood, News Editor
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In Advance
One Year (in advance) $2.00
Six Months (in advance) ... $1.00
MEMBER
KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION
Member National Editorial Association
THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 1936

A Dividend Paying Project.

It is doubtful if the people of Carlisle yet realize how much the construction of a playground and athletic field near the east end of town means to our town as to all of us, and especially to those who are rearing children here. Young people must have proper diversion, healthful amusements, if they are to develop normally. Deprived of wholesome outlet for the energy of youth, boys and girls will seek other amusement wherever it may be found. More than often they find what they seek with disastrous results to health and morals.

In the opinion of The Mercury, nothing holier has been undertaken here in many years, if we except the local hospital. All of the labor is being paid for by the Federal Government and it is estimated that the project will furnish 33 men work for several months. That, in itself means something, but the completed project will begin to pay dividends in wholesome amusement for our young people as soon as completed, will pay additional dividends in good citizenship through the years.

A tract of 4.23 acres, a part of the C. M. Lambert farm, has been purchased. The tract will be raised 5 to feet if possible with flood waters and will be enclosed with a board fence. A football gridiron will be laid out, a base ball diamond, tennis and basket ball courts constructed and a playground reserved for small children. A grandstand, seating 500 people, will be erected. The playing field, as it is now planned, will be lighted for night games, permitting the playing of baseball with a soft ball, a game that has swept the country recently and which gives pleasure to both participants and spectators. The Government has also promised the services of a full-time play ground supervisor.

"It may be all right," you will say, "but children play enough as it is." But did it ever occur to you that the children of Carlisle have no place to play except on the streets? Do you not realize that they are obeying a law of Nature when they play and that it this play instinct is stifled, not only the boy or girl but the parents of these will eventually pay the penalty? The world and its play, makes Jack a dull boy" as an old adage and a true one, as true for Jill, by the way, as it is for Jack, and a stranger is may seem to you, but this old saw holds good for the adult.

At Carlisle's new playground and athletic field, not only children, but adult members of the community will be given the opportunity for welcome. Creditgiving recreation. It is something we have long needed in Carlisle and this newspaper feels that it cannot commend too highly those forward-looking citizens responsible for the project.

Dare We Be Indifferent?

The Christian Science Monitor thinks that delay in the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment is "irrexcusably short-sighted and illogical," in the face of today's labor conditions. For child labor means cutting wages and jobs lost to adults. Of course the right of every child to a happy childhood, the right to education, to proper play, to "mental and physical preparedness for life's work" is the main object of the amendment. But at the same time it must be admitted that jobs now held by children, at children's wages, would be held by adults—often heads of families—should the amendment be ratified.

Of the "bogeys" produced by those who oppose the Child Labor Amendment, the Monitor says:

"A number of "bogeys" that would obscure the issue have been produced by those who oppose the amendment. As, for instance, that because Congress is to be given "the power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age" it would seek to interfere with the home and family affairs. It is surely unnecessary to assume that Congress will suddenly be entirely bereft of sanity—as it certainly would be, if it made any such attempt. It is even suggested that somehow the amendment might lead to federal control of education, a bogey which, according to Frank P. Walsh, New York lawyer, is "without legal basis." But regulation of child labor would give youth more opportunity for education."

And that education of youth is a more vital necessity in this country than ever before the Monitor believes, if the enormous preparation is "to withstand the onslaught of appeals to violence from both right and left." What those of us who favor the adoption of the Child Labor Amendment regard as short-sightedness in those who oppose it might conceivably endanger all of us, would conditions being what they are. A child who has been denied childhood's heritage of play and youth's right to education cannot be expected to grow up into a discontented citizen.

Here in Kentucky we have no opportunity to see child labor at its worst. We have comparatively few factories. When we think of child labor, we envision the farm lad at his chores, the thrifty newsboy, the glass worker in Lincoln. We do not see the sleeping child of the sweat shops, the mine and the cannery, the victim of the coal mine.

The Monitor puts a challenging question to the twelve states that must yet ratify the Child Labor Amendment to make it effective: "When countries such as Russia, Germany and Italy, have long since rejected the democratic ideal that they consider public education and protection of youth of first importance, dare Democracy be laggard and indifferent?"

Mr. Chandler Gives Us Action.

It is not to be expected, reasonably, that the first session of the Legislature, called to meet last Monday, will get its work done with as little friction as marked the regular session. It, however, the action of that body might be expected to develop over the Beer-Inventory Bill—Governor Chandler's expectations upon the inevitable ways of legislatures of the past in Kentucky—he has developed, then may Governor Chandler count himself a master stroke of executive. He has proven himself to be an executive who may find features to which they object, but all fair-minded Kentuckians must admit that here, for the first time so far as this writer knows, a definite step is being taken to simplify governmental structure, promote economy and efficiency in administration. Much talk has been done about the need for such progress and through the years much has been written, but no action has resulted. Governor Chandler has given us action. The ratification of his plan rests with the General Assembly.

We have had no opportunity to study the Reorganization Bill personally, but elsewhere on this page, under the caption, "The Way To Better Government," is an able discussion of the act, explaining as it appears to the department of highways, written by a member of the administration who has studied the act. We urge you to read it.

A City "Country Paper."

"Your city man," says an exchange, "may boast that he is interested in his neighbors, but he's a sprightly little weekly paper in his community and he knows his family well as to it like a kitten to cream." Such a weekly published in New York City, of all places in the Green-wich Village section, has proved to the city man as well as his rural brother, likes "to see his name in print," and to read about the doings of his neighborhood.

People like the human touch, if we may call it that, which the little home-town or community paper brings. The experience of the Villager, the weekly published in the Greenwich Village section of New York City, is a case in point:

"A recent issue of the Villager set a new style in front page news. The "lead" was based on suggestions of a name for a stray kitten which wander ed into its office and was prompted by readers who invited suggestions for a name for the newcomer, and enough poured in to warrant a front page story, which discusses the merits of Scoop, Kim, Boots, Felix, Catspull, Tempo, Scamp, Lovey, Copycat, and others.

"Who shall say that the Villager's evaluation of news is not too young to have heard of Robert Browning but it brings to mind his words:

For, don't you mark? We're made so that we love
First when we see them painted, things we have passed
Perhaps a hundred times nor cared to see;

"And when we first see them printed, too. A pat for The Village's front-page kitten"

A Tax-Relief Pessimist.

The subject of taxation again occupies the center of the stage and administrators of the affairs of State and Nation are faced with the difficult task of adding to revenues depleted by the assessed valuation of real estate and the shrinkage in tax values incident to the same time the expenditures have been increased somewhat by his business or profession and his perfectly normal desire that his line of endeavor be burdened as little as possible with levies for the public treasury. Economy in public administration is the cry of many of these, unless the economy includes their particular source of income, and there is also a well defined feeling that "the other fellow" should be taxed a bit more.

How these thousands of pseudo experts would set about this business of tax reduction, were the power to put their remedies into effect given them, is evidenced by the pursuit of ideas developed by the average legislator. There are those who will be found with a much talk of abolishing this and that, but few reasonable proposals are offered. Human nature being of the stuff that it has been always there is too much of a philosophy equation in the consideration of the subject of taxation for scientific and technical knowledge that is demanded in the solution of the problem of taxation.

Here in Kentucky, for instance, the ad valorem tax on real estate is removed. That is as it should be, no doubt, but it will be opposed by few. However, such reduction means that the income of the state will be less and granting that useless offices are abolished, consolidations effected and economies reduced, there still will be required a large sum to be raised even such reduced operating expenses, a larger sum than was netted without the imposition of additional taxes. How then is it to be raised?

Not through a liquor tax say dispensers, not by means of a tobacco tax says agricultural Kentucky, not by taxing trucks and busses say operators of trucks and busses, not by means of an income tax say those who have incomes, not through a luxury tax say hotters of soft drinks and they object, but all fair-minded Kentuckians must admit that expenses must be met and interest on the state debt must be paid. How to solve this problem and give real estate needed tax relief is not for us to decide, thank Heaven. And we have no plan or panacea.

All of which gives proof that this writer is a pessimist, so far as the matter of genuine tax relief for a people who are overtaxed and will continue to demand the full measure of everything in return. He who dances must pay the piper—and the dance of taxation is imposed living conditions, goes on and will continue to go on.

So we are not tearing our hair in a great deal over taxes. We have a bit of tax off us and put it on richer fellow, we now object neither will we rejoice. For taxes shifted from one ground to another are like the proverbial bread, which, cast upon the waters, returns after many days. There is this difference, however, we who do the ultimate consuming seem to pay the day the tax goes on.

The Way To Better Government.

The Reorganization Commission, appointed by Governor Chandler to draft a bill in which economy and operation of the state government will be effected, when enacted into law, will mean an important chapter in the history of Kentucky's progress toward improved government.

The bill drafted by the commission and approved by the governor represents a monumental piece of work. It simplifies the governmental structure, promotes economy and efficiency of administration, makes it easier for a governor to give the state good government.

As the bill was read and discussed by members of the commission it was revealed that the reorganization had been carefully and admirably adapted to the situation which it seeks to correct. The commission made an intelligent effort to devise an improved system which fits Kentucky's problems. On calm reflection one can but conclude that such has been done to a degree that is highly gratifying.

Although there are 65 operative pages of the bill in which the reorganization mechanism is set forth, it is a short act when one considers the magnitude of its scope. The highway organization plan is typical and illustrative of the effort that has been made to adapt the reorganization proposal to existing conditions.

There is created, under the bill, a department of highways headed by a commissioner of highways "who shall have sole charge of the administration of the department." With approval by the governor the commissioner of highways shall appoint a state highway engineer who shall be the technical adviser and is to supervise all construction and maintenance work.

This act prescribes for Kentucky all the advantages that are said to accrue from a one-man highway commission. It centralizes responsibility and authority in a competent individual who is responsible only to the governor. It eliminates partisanship of faction and discord such as developed in the last highway commission, as well as the conflict of views and aid four on the other. Efficiency and economy in administration will be made increasingly possible. Chief concern of a commissioner of highways will be the building of the greatest possible road mileage, for all areas where traffic surveys reveal it will be most useful, disregarding of political considerations.

The commissioner of highways is to be appointed by and is subject to the highway commission, consisting of the governor and the vice-president district. The bill specifically provides that it shall be the duty of the advisory commissioners to acquaint themselves with conditions and needs in their respective districts. But it is specifically stated that the advisory commissioners "shall have no administrative or executive responsibility in the operation of the department of highways."

Creation of the advisory commission continues to provide local representation, which is highly desirable. It is impossible for Frankfort officials to be fully informed to Frankfort in his many duties to know and understand, for instance, the relative merits of the state's claims to road improvements. The most reliable advice concerning such matters will be that which can be available for the commissioner at all times. The advisory board should accommodate itself whether the power is to be exercised by the commissioner or by more than advisory and the bill specifically leaves that question to the governor.

Effect of this system will be to take the building of roads off the state as a plan by which to road politics and place it on a basis of economy and efficiency with assurance that the best roads will be constructed.

To the department of highways has been delegated the increased responsibility of taking over control of the 4,000 miles of road and two millions of dollars has been added to the fund for the state's counties for county road work. The department of highways is to have a director who is to advise with the county fiscal court as to the roads on which the money is to be expended.

The system of county road improvement makes it increasingly important that there be provided the agency through which the county fiscal court may keep in touch with the commissioner of highways. The advisory commissioner will be specially useful in putting into effect this part of the highway road construction. If there was not made provision for such a contact between the department of highways and the commissioner of highways, it would be necessary for officials from all counties to make frequent trips to Frankfort to present their viewpoint. Under the plan proposed each county will present its problems to the advisory commissioner from whom the department will receive advice that through this intermediary will be laid before that body.

A study of the plan can but lead to the conclusion that it combines all the advantages of a one-man highway department with the idea that there should be a means of bringing the conditions of the state. Effect should be the setting up of a department of highways whose operation will be concentrated on road building rather than the making of a political machine. And if roads are to be built economically and without waste of money, that in itself will prove to be good politics as well as good public service, better government.

Governor Chandler and his Reorganization Commission are to be commended upon the character of the work with which they have worked out a reorganization plan that gives promise of increased administrative efficiency and economy.

POEMS THAT WE LIKE

LIFT YOUR LIPS TO APRIL

(Lucy Jean Anderson)

Do not say that winter is a horror
Devoid of beauty and filled with pain;
Do not say that winter is a terror
to sing

The loveliness of spring to come again.

Do not say that winter nights are too long,
And days are but barren hours, weirdly still;
Hold in your thinning blood an ancient song
To make you lift your lips to eager April!

Do not say that winter is a cruel thing,
Pattern with bitterness and small, hard gain;
In winter strength is a song. If you but sing,
The loveliness of spring must again be born!

50 Years Ago

Thursday, March 4, 1886

Fire department nets $83 on supper given at court house last Thursday night.

McDonald & Linville construct new sidewalk on lot of Sam Terry near his stable.

E. A. Kelley, L. & N. brakeman, fingers fractured by a log rolling on them.

William Bond arrives here from Bath county to take charge of A. Bruce's farm.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Shulman leave for Tyler, Texas, where Mr. Shulman has taken a position as conductor on a railroad.

William Ledford suffers two broken ribs and other injuries when he is thrown from buggy near shop of Huff & Myers.

John M. Beck, proprietor of the Palace Clothing House, announces he will dispose of his stock of goods and move to Wichita, Kansas.

David R. Atchison, who died in Missouri recently, was a citizen of Carlisle in 1828-29. Mr. Atchison was a member of Congress from Missouri, and was President of the Senate during the term of President Polk.

Democratic Senator Taylor defeated President Taylor for re-election in Tennessee on March 1 because it was on Taylor's veto of the river and harbor bill.

Married—Miss Mary Bishop to Joseph M. Griffin, Jr., both of Fleming on February 26th.

Married—Miss Lucy Bishop to Claude Moreland, both of the county, on February 26th.

Married—Miss Mary Bishop to Joseph M. Griffin, Jr., on February 26th.

H. Kenney, both of the county, on February 26th.

Married—Miss Lillie Bishop to Claude Moreland, both of the county, on February 26th.

Married—Miss Mary Bishop to Joseph M. Griffin, Jr., on February 26th.

H. Kenney, both of the county, on February 26th.

Married—Miss Clara Shield and Mr. Thomas L. Kennes, both of Nicholas county, on February 24th.