THE CARLISLE MERCURY

ESTABLISHED 1867

Entered at the Carlisle Postoffice as second class matter

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One Year (in advance) $2.00
Six Months (in advance) $1.00

MEMBER KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1936

Each Soldier Slain A Prayer For Peace.

"There never was a good war," wrote Benjamin Franklin, "or a bad peace."

The Mercury is inclined to agree. And somehow we do not like to think of the services of Decoration Day as a glorification of war, but rather as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the living for those who won for us the boon of peace. America, we think, should have a war of only one quest, unless the wresting of this land from its original owners, the Indians, may be called a war of conquest. We may be a nation of money-grubbers, but we have not, as a nation, cast covetous eyes upon the lands of weaker neighbors. Our Revolutionary struggle was a war for liberty; the war of 1812 was fought to maintain a principle of freedom; and Civil War was fought because men on both sides had ideals and beliefs to maintain for which they were willing to give their lives. Our one war with Spain, brought on suddenly by the sinking of the Maine, had been simmering for years, fed by reports of barbarous cruelties being practiced on a down-trodden people at our very doors. And whatever damage may be done by any of our wars in the next war of all time, we were ourselves convinced that our cause was just that we fought for the liberty of the world, for democracy, for peace and for a lasting peace. One has but to remember the almost holy zeal of the men and the willingness of an entire people to make any sacrifice for the cause, to realize that a world peace, a lasting peace, was our goal in that titanic struggle. That we failed to realize that ideal that the magnificent dream of our war president is unconsummated and that the dreamer himself broke under the strain of carrying his flaming ideal to his countrymen is to us, the saddest chapter in our history as a nation. Too soon, perhaps, came this vision of universal peace, but finally that ideal will be realized, for every life that has been snuffed out on every battle field of history has been a mute prayer for the outlawing of war and the peaceful settlement of the differences of men.

"Beautiful," writes Whitman, "that war and all its deeds of carnage must in time be utterly lost."

Action At Last

Apparently something is to be done about our antiquated hospital for the insane at Lexington, our overcrowded prisons by this administration. Both Governor Chandler and his head of the Welfare Board, Mr. Frederick A. Wallis, have shown that they fully realize the neglect that these hardly outmoded institutions have suffered and that they mean to do something about it.

If help is given by the Federal Government in this rehabilitation plan, the work may be undertaken at once; and once begun, public sentiment will demand that the job be finished.

Indications point to an unusually excellent administration in Kentucky's penal affairs, and if he is able to effect the rehabilitation of our prisons and eleemosynary institutions, as we make no doubt he is in that direction, his administration will become memorable and epochal in Kentucky's political history.

Borah Holds The Balance Of Power.

In Illinois more than one-half of the voters cast their ballots in the Republican presidential primary for Senator Borah. In Ohio one-third of the vote cast went to the Idaho Senator. Governor Landon, if it is true, seems to hold a commanding lead for the nomination and may win at Cleveland. Should he his winning is to prove an empty honor or not depends, however, upon Bill Borah.

Senator Borah announced recently that party lines will not stop him this year, if candidates and platform are not to his liking. It is difficult, to imagine Borah, the liberal, as a champion of Landon, being carefully groomed by his publicity "build-up" at another Coolidge. It is true that Senator Borah has always "gone regular" after his party has made its nomination, but this year the Idaho champion says it is known that he means to bolt.

As a concession, he will be permitted, no doubt to write some liberal planks into his party platform. Indications are not lacking, however, that such concessions will scarcely satisfy Mr. Borah. And he is in position to dictate terms—if not at Cleveland, then in November. If vote in the presidential primaries may not be laughed off.

Why Advertising Must Be Persistent.

All of us who have guessed the destinies of country newspapers, which includes the soliciting of advertising in addition to taking a hand at most every other activity in the shop, have heard the old advertising sales resistance line: "Why advertise, everyone knows where my store is and what I have for sale."

The editor of the Holden, Mo., Progress answers: Maybe so, but "everyone" can also forget; and gives a case in point:

"When in Columbia recently we enjoyed a visit with Floyd Shoemaker, secretary of the state historical society. While there, an inquiry came over the phone: 'Who was the vice-presidential candidate with Hughes in 1916?' Shoemaker could not recall, neither could the writer. We scurried through the 'blue books,' whose election figures, though complete, give only Hughes' name in the tabulations. A clerk in the library finally stumbled onto a document with the missing name. The man had been for years one of the most prominent men in the nation, and for six hectic months his name was in the mouth of every citizen of the United States.

"Who was he? You tell!"

Still The Best Investment.

Farm land values are up nine points over 1931 according to a recent report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is one of the best of indications that basic conditions are greatly improved and proof as well that land still continues to be an sound an investment as may be made.

The purchaser of a farm during the last three years and more is assured of a reasonable profit on his investment and insured against inflation more than what may. For one may always take a "living" out of the soil, even if there is no balance on the profit side of the ledger at the end of a year.

Well chosen farm land remains as always one of the best and safest investments a man may make. Especially is this true in all of the Central Kentucky counties.

How Right Was Barnum!

"O, wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful wonderful! and yet again wonderful, and after that out of all hooping," quoth the immortal Bard of Avon. And so would be if the iridescent dream of P. T. Barnum's might materialize into a workable plan. There are few of us with whom time begins to gallop withal who would not relish the more or less trivial task of spending two thousand dollars each thirty days. It would be wonderful to look forward to an old age from which the specters of want and worry were banished and our only care the daily spending of six dollars and sixty-six and two-third cents. Out of all hooping it would be, Dr. Townsend has many followers who dream with him, thousands who water the structure of his dream with real money.

How indubitably right was Barnum! And yet, to be fair to the good doctor, he is not attempting to fool the people we think, but is simply attempting to do the fanciful web of his own dreaming.

The trivial task of spending two thousand dollars each thirty days, a Congressional committee begins probing, the good doctor "walks out" on the problem and the front page and London and Manhattan is in sight. Hoboken. What fools we mortals be!

"A Capacity For Future Contingencies."

The Mercury would call the attention of those who would have perturbed spirits over the violation of the Constitution by the following quotations from Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson and one from Chief Justice John Marshall:

"We must bear in mind that we are not to expect that we are to live in the present period, but to look for it to remote futurity. Nothing should be more fallacious than to judge the extent of any power proper to be lodged in the several governments from an estimate of its immediate necessities."

"There ought to be a capacity for future contingencies, as they may happen and as those are illimitable in their nature, so it is impossible safely to limit that capacity."

Thomas Jefferson had said in 1787, the year of the signing:

"The real friends of the Constitution in its Federal form, if they wish it to be immortal, should be attentive to make it keep pace with the advance of the age in science and experience."

Chief Justice John Marshall, "second maker of the Constitution," in a notable decision in 1819, wrote:

"This provision is made in a constitution intended to endure for ages to come and consequently to be adapted to the various crises of human affairs. To have prescribed the means by which government should, in all future time, execute its powers would have been to change entirely the character of the instrument and give it the properties of a legal code. It would have been an unwise attempt to provide, by immutable rules, for exigencies which, if foreseen at all, must have been seen dimly and which can best be provided for as they occur."

Youth Against War.

(Ashland Independent)

That half a million young American college students could be induced to assemble and there solemnly declare that they will never don their country's uniform or fight their country's foe is something to disturb the statesmen.

Before we let ourselves get too worked up over this, however, it might be sensible to sit down calmly and try to figure out whose fault it all is.

It won't do to blame it all on personal soft-heartedness or cowardice. That answer is too pat. It explains nothing, but merely substitutes one puzzle for another. These youngsters did what they did because they had something on their minds. What was it, and how did it get there?

It is reasonable to assume, first of all, that they were thinking about 1918.

As we get far enough away from the World War to obtain a good perspective on it, we can see that it was one of the great tragedies of all history; not because it took a frightful number of lives—but because those lives seem to have been poured out for so little purpose.

A war to save democracy, which left democracy on the verge of death; a war to end militarism which left militarism stronger than ever before; a war to crush despotism, which succeeded only in replacing the despotism of divine right with that of brute strength—that young man, college or other wise, could look back at that without feeling that somebody had sold his elders a colossal gold brick?

We have had other post-war generations, but none of them looked back at any such thing as that. Our other wars, bloody and stupid and pointless though they may have been, did at least settle things. This one left a worse mess than it found and settled next to nothing.

But that isn't all that may have been on our collegiate minds. They also had the recent munitions trade disclosures to mull over, and the mulling can't have been very pleasant.

If the profits-before-patriotism revelations of the last year have not been enough to set any young man's heart against war, nothing ever could do it.

To ask a young man to give up his life for something bigger and better than himself is one thing; to ask him to do it so that some TNT magnate or armor plate peddler can reap a 60 per cent dividend is something quite different. It's not exactly suprising if collegiate youth choked on it.

In other words, if our young men are swearing off on war, we have only ourselves to blame.

The stupidity which brings on wars that should be avoided, the greed which debases the high ideals for which men are asked to die—these are the real villains behind the students' anti-war demonstrations.

Ancient Schools Give Way to Modern Under WPA

WPA Photo.

That the Works Progress Administration in Kentucky has done one of the greatest things in the State's educational system in recent years is the belief of many citizens familiar with what is being accomplished with farm decks and log cabins as school houses. The above picture is one of the many that will be seen as the WPA school construction program. At the present date a total of 227 buildings are in progress, representing an investment of $1,781,522.

YOUR GOVERNMENT
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PROBATION

Probation is a method by which the community, through its courts seeks to discipline, supervise and reform criminals without sending them to prison. It is a substitute for imprisonment between the judge and the criminal, with the alternative of going to jail.

The probation system originated in Boston, Massachusetts in 1878. Since then between thirty-five and forty states have legalized the system for both adults and juveniles. Many states and counties have worked out the probation involving the detention of youthful offenders and have interpreted and applied such a law in terms of common sense and justice.

Under a system of probation as for either juveniles or adults some provision must be made for the constructive individual treatment of offenders by a court equipped with resourceful well-trained probation officers. Such a system is proposed in the recently enacted law by the Kentucky General Assembly.

The chief motive behind the adoption of the recent Kentucky law as probation undoubtedly is the over-crowded condition of the state's penal institutions. Of all these institutions crowded to overflowing, the state penitentiary, at Eddyville, is the worst. It was constructed to house 500 prisoners at present there are more than 1,000 inmates in the institution. Not only is there a shortage in the living cells but there is also a shortage in the dining room facilities. Prisoners are forced to eat in relays, and in the cells. Likewise such action is a step backward in the rehabilitation of prisoners. Separation from careers of crime is the first step toward the goal of reformation. Probation has the added opportunity of giving the prisoner a chance to keep each of the present jobs and of continuing their work and thus supporting their families