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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1941

Kentucky Becomes A Leader.

The remark, "Politics is the standard in Kentucky," was at one time as much a part of Kentucky that a visitor to the state could get. Yet "While the united we stand divided we fall," doing on the state seal instead of politics is the 'standard' in Kentucky".

The Kentucky citizen of whom that question was asked laughed, a silly little laugh because he knew it was true and was trying to make light of the fact, and then, went on to explain and whitewash the state to the best of his ability. Today if that question is asked of a Kentuckian he will exhibit a great amount of anger, justifiable anger. That statement is not true today.

Politics in Kentucky during the last six years has undergone a complete rejuvenation. That colorful, but rather obnoxious era, like all colorful eras has given away to a new surge of thought. Public opinion now demands and demanded an efficient government, an honest, hardworking, every man's government, and that demand today has been fulfilled at the point where Kentucky stands as the leader among the southern states. Today, Kentucky is looked to for ideas in the ever increasing demand for efficient state governments in the south.

It was not by any "hit-or-miss" plan that this efficiency and progress was brought about. It was a thorough and systematic process. In have any kind of efficiency, to launch upon any program for progress, first demanded that the state debt, which had reached staggering proportions, be reduced. The first step was taken, slowly to be sure, but taken. Today the state debt is but a fraction of the original, and, by May 20 another $1,000,000 will be applied to it. The debt will stand then at $2,968,000 which is one of the lowest in the entire nation. Thus Kentucky took its first progressive step in many years.

Another process was the elimination of "Hangers-on," or in simple everyday language, reorganization of the state personel and hiring competent office employees, dismissing political in-office holders, thus reducing expenses and increasing efficiency. Another step had been taken.

In the past, state maintained institutions had come in for much black publicity and criticism. The public demanded reorganization and improvements. Disregarding possible injury to certain "big-wig" politicians, the state government closed house. When the unexpected shake-up was finished, more errors of past administrations came to light and the deplorable conditions of some of the institution for the first time was realized by every Kentuckian. No time was wasted and improvements began immediately. Today Kentuckians rest easier, but they are not finished. The work is still going on.

Kentucky road conditions were known throughout the nation. In the past the road department had been maintained more for vote getting than for road fixing, to the epinions of many. Wishes to not avoid state complained and were disgusted, returned home to tell others, and tourists turned away from our doors. Today Kentucky is launched upon a road building program second to none in the entire United States. Before another governor sits in the executive mansion at Frankfort, Kentucky will be among the leading states in the country in highway systems.

These are but a few of the many things done, demanded by public opinion, to erase the phrase, "Politics is the 'standard' in Kentucky," and to make this a progressive state. There are many more improvements to be made, and if they will be made. "Rome was not built in a day," is a true saying, nor is a completely efficient and progressive government made in a few years. It is safe to say, however, that in 1942 when Kentucky observes its sesquicentennial year, visitors to our state will understand the motto upon the state seal, "United we stand divided we fall."

Starved By Hitler.

In one way or another word about the pinch in the food situation in Europe is leaking out to the world. Meager as the information is, it is sufficient to show that the tightening degree of privation is progressive. News from Belgium and Yugoslavia illustrates how widespread is the failure of food supplies.

More and more potato meal is going into bread in Belgium and potato soup, supplied free to Belgians by America in the first world war, is becoming less plentiful. In Yugoslavia the air bombing of the towns disrupted markets and the movement of armies destroyed food sources in the country.

The distress due to the general food failure is descending as well upon countries not yet invaded by Hitler. Finland is pushing fish hards in an effort to stave off famine. Spain is suffering or sustenance as well. This week new and rigorous ration regulations were applied to restaurants. The bread ration in Spain is now down to three ounces a day.

Texas Gets Tough.

As soon as the venerable Madisonville, Texas Sidewalk Cattlemen's Association achieves its first objective—to put drugstore cowboys in their place in Texas—it ought to enlarge the scope of the campaign and make it continent-wide. In reporting to the Texas Digest the steps which have been taken, the correspondent points out that they were drastic, perhaps even totalitarian, but he seemed to approve them, nevertheless.

The Association, alarmed by "the influx of drugstore cowboys," have set up the following rules: 1. Before a man is entitled to wear boots, he must own at least two head of cattle. 2. If he owns three head, he may stuff his right pants leg into his boot tops. 3. If he owns four head, he may stuff both pants legs in. 4. If he owns six head, he may wear spurs.

There is nothing totalitarian about this. The rules are the Association. They apply to members and the only force they have for non-members springs from implied orders to the ridiculous pseudo cowboys. They ought to be ashamed. The American cowhand has a fine tradition. He is not a thing of the past, as many seem to believe, but a part of American life today.

When Texas, under the guidance of the Madisonville gents, gets rid of its own drugstore cowboys, it could serve the nation greatly by turning its attention to those who are clutter-ing up the air waves. Let he slogan be: "Give back the Songs by Cowboys only." The world's tired of hearing crooning to laugh the crooning drugstore cowboys off the air.

Railroad Gains.

Coincidental with the payment of the United States Maritime Commission to the railroads of millions of dollars for use in supplying transportation with American production in a period when the railroads are asked to handle forthcoming traffic made heavier by the diversion of coastwise shipping to the Atlantic trade.

Products such as lumber, oil, steel, grain, paper, sugar, fruits, canned goods, and fresh fish which have been moving along the coasts and through the Panama Canal will now begin moving by rail. For the United States railroads estimate freight traffic of 43,600,000 carloads requiring an increase of 130,000 freight cars. By 1943 the traffic will be on an estimated 48,000,000 carloads, calling for an additional 150,000 new freight cars.

In the heyday of American railroads a record traffic volume of 53,100,000 cars was handled. The railroads then owned 2,350,000 freight cars. Today they possess 1,661,000 cars, which figure will be boosted to approximately 2,000,000 by forthcoming car construction. The average capacity of freight cars is now 50 tons, compared to 45 tons in 1926. Thus the railroads find two years expect to have approximately as much freight moving capacity as they have ever had.

This adds appreciably to the pictures of railroads as permanent equipment for America's defense. In recent years there were pessimistic forecasts of doom for the rails. But the railroads are staging a miraculous comeback.

Best In World.

Military men in Washington are already certain that Uncle Sam's Army and Navy in the world and that it is getting better right along. Frequently they disclose their reasons. Frequently they disclose their reasons. When America's air force, when mass production really is achieved, likewise will be far better than anything any other nation has achieved.

The other day Robert A. Lovett, Assistant Secretary of War for Air, disclosed within the next three or four months American airplane factories will be turning out equipment that will have no equal anywhere.

More models of fighting planes have been approved and contracts for mass production have been publicly announced. For example, in pursuit planes P-47, a refined version of the public's P-43, is the highest type number that has been disclosed. But Mr. Lovett says that designs approved and ready for production are in the P-1943.

Planes now being delivered were ordered in the early days of the war by the British and the French. These orders made it possible for the aircraft industry to get up steam. Now the factories are about ready to begin making deliveries for the American program, to be featured by the world's best planes.

While mass production will be emphasized, it is planned to keep the industry ready, not to change models on short notice. "If you can choose models and get something relief for a period of a certain certain for three years you have won," says Lovett. "It is as simple as that."

Turn In Gold Tide.

A financial observer sees a probability that under the operation of the Lease-Lend Law the tide of gold metal flowing into the United States will be turned and started to run the other way. He points out that this year in March the United States received only $118,000,000 in gold from abroad, compared to $459,000,000 in March, 1940.

The Lease-Lend Act began to apply to shipments out of the United States on March 11 last. Of course the country's exports for the month jumped as a consequence. So, also be-cause of America's defense efforts, gold imports which were larger than in any March in four years.

Under the Lease-Lend Law the United States does not press for immediate payment for its goods as previously. Therefore Britain does not rush gold to these shores. But with imports rising and exceeding American exports to various countries supplying raw materials for American factories, Uncle Sam will pay out the difference between exports and imports in gold.

Financial experts hold that it is not improbable that part of the United States' huge stock of the metal may be redistributed if the economic trend favors such a move.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

A NEW SERIES BY DREW PEARSON & ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

MEDITERRANEAN KEY

Key to the bitter battle of the Mediterranean which is about to burst in full force is not Libya, as at first sight it would appear, but Britain's great naval base at Alexandria, 175 miles from the canal entrance.

The fate of Alexandria would decide the fate of British or Axis domination of the eastern Mediterranean.

Actually, the base is of little value to the British for months. It went out of use as the assailed "Sitzkrieg of the empire" when the Axis air attacks became severely damaged the key carrier H.M.S. Ark Royal. It is not safe enough yet to convoy shipping through the Mediterranean.

Since then the Mediterranean has been a sea of death for all British vessels. While 2,000 miles in length, it is so narrow that Axis planes have made it extremely hazardous for any British shipping to pass around the Cape of Good Hope.

Loss of the Mediterranean would be a serious blow to the British; but it would by no means be the end of the world, as Hitler and the Axis. With her fleet intact, Britain could still carry the fight to Hitler and Mussolini.

MACHINE TOOLS

Chief reason behind the strike settlement in auto plants was the release of urgently needed machine tools to the British. Which means that bottleneck could be broken and the flow of British munitions speeded by the motor industry were turned to the making of tanks, planes and other armament.

Insiders reports estimate that there are around 1,500,000 machine tools in the U. S., which make up the lifeline in plants making motor vehicles or parts for them, and in the allied metal fabricating industry. The last industry includes milling machines, lathes, boring machines, presses, gear cutters, drills, and shapers, all vital in the production of defense equipment.

A few months of machine tools is now speeding at the rate of 14,000 a month. This is a spectacular achievement and a great tribute to the industry. But it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the 150,000 machine tools already produced for the auto and metal fabricating industries, which are now receiving increase defense production, and should be diverted immediately to pooled and devoted entirely to this purpose.

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HIDDEN COLLEAGUE

A Washington cab man, flanked by a group of sightseers, approached a Capitol policeman and asked directions to the office of Sen. Hiram Johnson of California.

Tucked away in an obscure corner of the north side of the Capitol building, the senator's office is one of the hardest to find in the great structure.

"I'll do my best to explain how to get there," said the policeman. "Are you a tourist?"

"No," replied the inquirer, "I'm the other senator from California, Sen. Johnson."

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FERRY SCHOOL

Everyone is wondering how the swarms of fighting planes which the United States will produce for the British in the next 12 months will be transported overseas. The answer for the big ships, is that they will be flown across in sixty-mile hops, numbered that the British are setting up a special pilot training school for ferry pilots in the United States.

The school will give an intensive two-weeks' course to volunteer agents to qualify them for "ferrying" the big bombers across the Atlantic.

The volunteers may be British, Canadian, or American. However, it is expected that the largest numbers will be Americans. The British can use 250 of them.

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GOOD NEIGHBOR PLOTS

Another "Good Neighbor" gesture will soon be made to our immediate neighbor to the south, Mexico. The state department will offer pilot training courses to a number of Mexican youths in the United States.

Initiator of the idea was Vice President Henry Wallace. When he visited Mexico last year, one of the most pleasure discussed was the shortage of aviators in Mexico. The average age of aviators was told that Mexico wanted to undertake a training program similar to that in the United States, but lacked planes and instructors.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

Leading economists rate the industrial and financial surveys compiled by the O'Mahoney monopoly committee as the most valuable source material on the economy of the country ever compiled.

Department of agriculture is recommending a new plant to hold sugar in the gullies—but they wish the Japanese would tell how to produce the seed. Known to India, it is one of the plant secrets of Japan. It serves not only as a soil binder but also as a feed, surpassing alfalfa.

It Pays To Advertise

Say you saw it in The Mercury. Patronize Mercury Advertisers.

50 YEARS AGO

Thursday, May 21, 1891

Married—Miss Katie Burke to Michael O'Connell, both of the county, at the Catholic Cathedral, on the 20th.—Miss Rosa Richards and Mr. Hugh Roe, both of the county, at Carlisle on the 16th.

H. F. Adair, C. W. Hamilton and Jno. W. Campbell named as commissioners for settlement of the 21st annual meeting of the old settlers of Nicholas county, which will be held in Carlisle Monday, June 15. Bucket shops are not to be served on the court house lawn.

Democratic State Convention in Louisville last week nominated Governor John Young Brown for Governor, M. C. Alford, of Boyd, for Lieutenant Governor, W. J. Hendrick, of Boone, for Treasurer, Hiram Bulloch, of Lyon, for Auditor, H. B. Saunders, of Shelby, for Attorney General, Dr. Ed Porter Thompson, of Woodford, for Public Instruction, Capt. Sam Adams, of Harrison, for Clerk of the Court of Appeals. Mr. Brown was made chairman of the convention.

10 YEARS AGO

Thursday, May 23, 1901

Married—Mr. Mary Conyer, to Miss Charles Alexander, both of the county, at the home of the bride's father, near Humbolt, on the 16th.

Movement on foot to have the annual reunion of the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry meet in this city in September.

Annual meeting of the Nicholas County Sunday School Association to be held at Blue Lick Springs on Saturday June 1st.

In circuit court last week, Hector Arms was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary for horse stealing; Hume Deshaw, colored, one year for malicious cutting, and Peter Grant colored, three years for grand larceny.

H. E. Mann, proprietor of the Blue Lick Springs hotel, sends out invitations to the opening which hotel will be held Thursday May 31.

At the spring meeting of the fiscal court in session this week the salaries of the county officers were fixed as follows: County Judge, $600 per year; County Attorney, $400; Superintendent of Schools, $150. The jury was fixed at 50 cents on the $100, and poll tax $1.50.

20 YEARS AGO

Thursday, May 19, 1921

Died — Mr. David Williams Hopkins, 66, at his home near Oakland Mills on the 10th after several weeks illness.—Mr. Henry Mann, 77, at the home of his son, Frank Mann, near town, Sunday after an illness of several months.—Mrs. Elizabeth Day, 80, at the home of her son, Jno. Day, near Paris, on the 10th.—Tuesday—Miss Sallie Jane Hughes, 78, at her home in Lexington.

Married — Miss Allie Irene Paris, 16, to Mr. Carl Lawrence, both of Carlisle, at Paris Tuesday.—Mrs. Ada Muger Lee and Dr. Charles W. Mathers, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Tilton, on Wednesday.

Fire of an unknown origin destroyed a stable and several other outbuildings at the home of Joseph Scott, in Demoville, on Tuesday afternoon.

Ten years ago Monday Carlisle was visited by one of the most destructive fires in her history, when two block of buildings along the railroad were reduced to ashes.

Real estate agent Dan Westfall sold last Friday to Judge Paul Hamilton 27 acres of the McClanahan farm on the Maysville and Lexington pike for $110 per acre.

Directors of the Burley Tobacco Growers Co-Operative Association Wednesday clinched the withdrawal of their tobacco competitor in Kentucky and opened a drive for members to remain in the association's charter.

OTHER EDITORIALS

NOT DUMMIES

(Lexington Herald)

Secretary of State George Glenn Hatcher appropriately warns candidates that they must include in their declarations a clause that they are not "dummy candidates."

Such oaths always have been required of candidates for the position for such a requirement is well enough known. It is not to obtain election officers it has been the practice, heretofore, for a certain number of "dummy candidates" to run against the regular candidates.

Candidates for office in Kentucky are not dummies.

They are the people who must bear the burden of the whole election machinery. They are the people who must be nominated and elected. They are the people who must be responsible for both sides of the ledger.

BARING THE DEVICES

(Christian Science Monitor)

Newspaper junk seems to be a big business. Scrap metal is being sought by the ton. Rubber is being sought by the pound. Tin is being sought by the ounce. Paper is being sought by the pound. Rags are being sought by the ounce. Bones are being sought by the pound. Fats are being sought by the ounce. Bones are being sought by the pound. Fats are being sought by the ounce. Bones are being sought by the pound. Fats