# BIG SANDY NEWS.

*Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.*

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## TROUBLE

### Over Eastern Kentucky Land Titles Assuming Serious Aspect.

#### GREAT EXCITEMENT UP BIG SANDY.

The town of Pikeville will be full of angry citizens on next Monday, gathered to defend their rights against an alleged attempt to take their lands from them, or, as many charge, to extort money from the owners for a relinquishment of the claim set up to the property. The effort is being made in the name of a New York corporation. Among the attorneys for this corporation are Jack Hendrick, formerly Attorney General of Kentucky, and Congressman F. A. Hopkins, of Prestonsburg. From a statement published and signed by J. E. Childers, of Pike county, we take the following:

"Editor Plain Dealer.—On December 27, 1906, there were filed in the County Court Clerk's office of Pike County, land grants, covering practically every acre of land on the west side of the river in Pike County. These grants were issued by the State of Virginia more than one hundred years ago, long before Kentucky was admitted into the Union. The petitioner who filed these grants, Eastern Kentucky Coal Land Corporation, asks the County Court to list the lands covered by them for taxation. In doing this the claimants of these old grants, more generally known as the "Old Virginia Land Grants," are undertaking to comply with a law passed by the Kentucky Legislature March 15, 1906, requiring all claimants of lands to list the same for taxation on or before January, 1907, and pay the taxes for five years preceding said date, and providing that if such claimants shall fail to comply with said law, their claim shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth and force to the benefit of those in possession.

These "granters" in order to delude and mislead the people (betray them with a kiss), have bought out both printing presses in the town of Pikeville, and are sending papers broadcast over the country to any and everybody, free of charge telling the people what good friends to the Big Sandy Valley the granters are, and what an era of prosperity and happiness there will be in Pike County when the "Granters" take our home from us and send us as beggars and paupers over the country like the Arcadians of yore; when they rob the Companies to whom we have sold mineral and timber and disbar Walter S. Harkins from practicing law and divide the property of J. C. C. Mayo, the Joseph of the Big Sandy Valley, among themselves.

They knew that the filing of these suits would stir up a hornet's nest among the people and in order to counteract this movement, they say we are honest thieves, we are just going to rob the mineral companies and we won't take any of your land that is fenced up. How would you like for them to take all of your land that is not fenced up? What position would the people be in if they helped the "Granters" to rob the Companies of the land and timber which the people sold them and to which they made them deeds of General Warrantee? Under the law, If John Jones sells Sam Kid a farm and makes him a deed of "General Warrantee" and if some one takes the farm on account of some defect of title, Kid can recover of Jones the amount paid for the farm. If the Companies are robbed of the mineral and timber, the people sold them, the Companies can come back on the people and recover of them the purchase price of said land and timber.

The law further provides that all parties interested in an action shall be made either plaintiff or defendant. The people wil have to join the "Grantors" and acquiesce in their cause of pillage and robbery or they will have to be made defendants and oppose it. It is generally understood what it takes to constitute adverse possession in the State of Kentucky, but this controversy will be bitterly fought out in the Federal Courts, and who knows what that Court will hold as to adverse possession? If the "Granters" get us in that Court we may hold the enclosed land and we may not.

Is it right for these "Granters" to come in at this late day and take this land from the people, after they have stood by and seen the citizen in good faith purchase it from the State; after they have seen the land improved and taxes paid and transferred from citizen to citizen for the past century, without a word of protest? Why is it they undertake now to enforce these grants? Why haven't they sued before? Because through the efforts of the people of the Big Sandy the country is being developed, mineral and timber have become valuable and accessible, towns are springing up on every hand and the many developments have made the surface valuable and the "granters" think it is worth their while to undertake to dispossess the people of their property."

## How Many Eggs Did He Buy?

"Don't forget to drop in at some grocer's who advertises in the NEWS and order some eggs sent up to the house right away," exclaimed Mrs. Jones as her husband was leaving the house. "You know the Smiths are coming over for dinner and I must bake a cake."

"All right," said Jones, and, mindful of his promise, he stepped into the grocery.

"Hello," said the grocer. "Don't often see you. What can I do for you to-day?"

"How much are your best eggs?" asked Jones.

"Well," said the grocer, "two more than I am now selling for twenty-four cents would make them two cents a dozen less than they are now."

"All right," said Jones. "Send twenty-four cents' worth over to the house right away. My wife is waiting for them."

How many eggs did he buy? After he reached the office he started to figure it out, and before he got through he was nearly crazy. He then gave the problem to his bookkeeper, who also came to grief over it. He then handed it to a pupil of the Kentucky Normal College who had no difficulty in solving it. What is the answer?

## Pure Butter.

The NEWS calls the attention of butter makers to the following ruling of the Pure Food Commission. It is a fact that this all-powerful body has secret agents in all parts of the country, and no one knows when or where they may strike:

Housewives must work out the buttermilk if they want to put their butter on the market. A national law recently enacted classifies as neuterated all butter that contains 16 per cent, or more of moisture. The law will be enforced by agents of the general government sent out under the direction of the agricultural department. Recently agents were out and took samples of creamery and country butter which is claimed within the law. The foreign substance in the butter is a moisture known as buttermilk. The agents state that there is but little butter sold by farmers that has less than 18 per cent, of this moisture in it. Should the law be strictly enforced as proposed it will work a revolution of the butter trade.

## Increase of Business.

During the year 1905 the receipts of the Louisa C. and O. ticket office were $1,211.94. For 1906 the amount received for tickets was $15,466.85, the increase for the year being $4,254.91. During the year 1906 15,460 passengers bought tickets at the Louisa office. Of course the number of passengers who entrained at this point is much greater than the one given, as many passengers daily take the trains who neglect or forget to purchase tickets. These figures show that the business of the C. and O. at this point is large and rapidly increasing.

The NEWS is indebted to the courteous ticket agent, H. G. Wellman for this information.

## Lawrence Circuit Court.

The January term of this body will convene in Louisa next Monday, the 14th. Litigants, witnesses and jurors will do well to remember the day and date. It is said that papers have been generally served, and the prospect for a busy session is good.

## Broke Her Wrist.

The friends of Mrs. Ernest Shannon will be sorry to hear that while roller skating at the rink last Monday evening she fell and broke her right wrist. The accident will disable her for several weeks.

## HYDROPHOBIA FEARED

### A Buchanan Boy Bitten by His Pet Dog.

Fred Gilkerson, of Buchanan, was in the city yesterday with his little son whom he was taking to Charleston, to a mad stone.

The child is about eight years old and was at play last Monday in the yard of his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Gilkerson when her dog suddenly going mad ran amuck and bit the innocent unsuspecting child on the leg resulting at once in hydrophobia. The dog was immediate- shot, but nothing could be done for the child.

It is to be hoped that he will soon recover its reason of which it was so pathetically deprived. —Catlettsburg Tribune.

This paper publishes the above as an item of news and also to call the attention to some mistakes contained therein. No dog ever "suddenly went mad." They often become suddenly angry, just as all animals will. And a bite never results at once in hydrophobia. "The dog was immediately shot." No worse mistake could have been made. In the minds of the child's friends there will always be the dread suspicion that some day it will go "mad" and death in a most horrible form will result. Instead of having the brute killed it should have been securely confined. In all probability its fit of anger would soon have passed off and the child and its friends relieved of much suspense and anxiety. If the little fellow developes hydrophobia, or, more correctly speaking, rabies, all the "mad" stones on earth will be as pebbles.

## Graham (Va) College.

The local press speaks as follows of some former Louisians:

The Christmas entertainment given at Graham College last Friday night proved a grand success and was pronounced by all who were so fortunate as to be present to be the best ever witnessed in Graham.

Much credit is due the faculty of the College for the progress they are making. Prof. and Mrs. McClure and Misses Wheeler, Hartman and Wingo displayed indomitable energy and courage in their untiring efforts to perfect the arrangements for the entertainment in the face of numerous obstacles, chief among which was the short length of time they had after deciding to give the entertainment.

Miss Goodwill McClure's name appears in the cast of characters in the Christmas Carol.

## Suicide In Huntington.

A most shocking suicide occurred late Saturday afternoon in the big department store of Valentine and Newcomb at Huntington when Bessie Bennett, a saleslady employed at the fur counter, took her own life by drinking carbolic acid.

Miss Bennett was engaged in waiting upon a customer, when she asked to be excused for a moment, and going to the third floor swallowed the contents of a small vial containing the deadly drug. Shortly afterward Mr. Valentine's attention was attracted by struggles on the upper floor as if some one were in awful distress, and going hurriedly to the scene found the girl suffering untold agonies. Medical aid was summoned, but before anything could be done to relieve her, the girl died.

No cause is known for the rash act, but it is supposed that disappointment in a love affair upset her reason. Miss Bennett was the daughter and almost the sole support of a widowed mother.

## Louisa Building and Loan.

The Louisa Loan and Building Association re-elected old officers and directors Saturday night, as follows: Directors, Augustus Snyder, R. L. Vinson, M. W. Chambers, W. N. Sullivan and M. F. Conley; Secretary, M. S. Burns; Attorney, A. O. Carter,; Treasurer, A. M. Hughes. The usual good dividend was paid on the business of the past six months.

## For The Kentucky Exhibition.

On the 12th of last month, Jamestown Day in the public schools, Miss Martha B. Arnett, one of the capable teachers in the Kentucky Normal College, devoted much of the day to telling her pupils, and having them tell her, about the settlement on the James. She took the offerings of the scholars in aid of the State exhibit and sent them to Superintendent Fuqua and received from him the following appreciative letter:

Miss Martha B. Arnett, Dec. 17,
Louisa, Ky.,

My dear Miss Arnett:

Your kind letter with postal order enclosed was duly received for which accept my sincere thanks and also the thanks of all interested in this good work with me. If all the schools do half as good as yours Kentucky would be very proud of the display made for education at the Jamestown Exposition. I feel very much encouraged with my department so far and feel assured that we will be able to travel abreast with our sister states. Tender to your pupils my deepest thanks and accept for yourself the everlasting good wishes of myself and associates.

Yours, very truly,
Jas. H. Fuqua, Sr.

## A Talented Louisa Woman.

The following from a Chillicothe, Ohio, paper, refers to a native of Louisa, better known here as Miss Martha Pigg, daughter of Mrs. Rebecca Lewis:

"Mrs. Austin Chestnut, who has been taking an advanced course in elocution at the Metropolitan College, Mount Auburn, Cincinnati, also private lessons from Cincinnati's artist, Miss Mary Shillito Neff, returned home Thursday for the holidays.

Mrs. Chestnut started the year ten weeks after the beginning of the collegiate term and passed the required examination for the first year's work, entered the second year class and made up the entire fifteen weeks' work in five weeks. The course is a broad one, including theory, rhetoric, collateral reading, short story writing, study of English literature from the fifth century to the present, also a thorough course in voice culture and Americanized Delsarte.

Mrs. Chestnut has been before many Chillicothe audiences and is recognized as a reader of marked ability. That she comes home with the highest praise and greatest encouragement from the college will be pleasant news to her friends. She will return January 3rd to resume her studies."

## Big Sandy Terminals.

"At the completion of the new C. and O. depot to be erected in Huntington by the C. and O. railway company soon, will be witnessed moving of the end of the Big Sandy division of the C. and O. railway from Catlettsburg to this point," said a well known railroad man to a representative of The Herald in answer to an inquiry to-day.

This fact was settled at the last visit of President Stevens to this city when a conference was held with the Chamber of Commerce here.

The Huntington body also asked for the moving of the Lexington division of the C. and O. from Ashland to Huntington, but this was refused by Mr. Stevens, mainly ecause of the fact that the C. and O. had purchased much real estate in Ashland, which they intended devoting toward yards for this division. —Huntington Herald.

## School Reception.

The citizens of Louisa will give a public reception to-night at the Court House. Let it be a rouser! There will be addresses of welcome and response, music, and a general good time. Let us make these young men and women of the Kentucky Normal College feel that they are among friends. This paper has assured them all along that they are, and the NEWS now calls on the people of the town to heartily endorse what has been said in these columns.

There is no formal program, but all who go to this meeting will be glad they went. So come out en masse and show by your presence that you are glad we have the College.

## Prominent Visitor.

Hon. A. B. Stephens, the able Commonwealth's Attorney for the Floyd-Knott district, was in Louisa this week. Mr. Stephens is a citizen of Prestonsburg, the former home of the Kentucky Normal College. Having personal knowledge of the many excellences of this famous school, now located here, Mr. Stephens brought his son and matriculated him as a pupil.

## At Work.

The B. of S. for Lawrence county, the board which raises your property and lowers your finances, is at work here this week. The board of G. and K.—Growlers and Kickers — will hold their session later.

## PERT PARAGRAPHS

### Picked Up At Pike, Paint and Prestonsburg.

W. M. Webb, a school teacher of Martin county, is a "full-fedged candidate for Representative in the John-Martin-Pike district."

During a heated argument over a settlement of an account Russell Wallen slashed his cousin, "Doc" Wallen, on the neck with a knife, at Red Bush, a few days since.

"Put me off at Tow-head. That's the name Harmon Harris has given Paintsville." Wonder who harmon harris is, any way.—Herald.

Knock that chip off his shoulder and you'll find out.

A deal was closed recently, whereby the Acrogen Coal Company passes into the control of the North-East Coal Company.

It is said the stockholders of the Acrogen received $60,000 for their holdings.

Butler Leslie, son of Mrs. M. A. Leslie, of Pike county, on Sunday afternoon while under the influence of intoxicants, swallowed a quantity of laudanum and soon sank into what appeared to be the stupor of death. Friends and physicians succeeded in saving his life.

Lexington, Ky., Jan. 3.—Information has been received here from Whitesburg, Letcher county, that Jesse Holbrook, a member of the Letcher county Company of State Guards, was married last night to Miss Sadie Colley. The groom is sixteen years old and the bride only a few months over twelve.

Judge Bracken L. Davis was unfortunate in having his home destroyed by fire at the mouth of Buffalo creek, Johnson county, on Christmas eve. The contents of the house, including $300 which Judge Davis had saved up for a rainy day, were also destroyed. The loss is a serious one to Judge Davis and his wife, in their declining days.

Mt. Sterling, Ky., Jan. 2.—Harry Stafford, of Paintsville, Johnson county, and Miss Bessie Turley, of this city, were married at the bride's home Wednesday, January 2, at noon, Rev. H. D. Clark officiating. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Turley. The groom is in the lumber business at Paintsville.

Pikeville, Jan. 5.—The "land grant" people on yesterday got out their first issue of "The Plain Talker," their mouthpiece, which we understand is now in the mails, making its way into the homes of the country people, not for the purpose of enlightening them, but to beguile and deceive them. It has just developed that the grantors own the printing press here, and it therefore became necessary for Editor S. S. Cassity of The Plain Dealer, to go to Cincinnati to purchase a press.

Otto Stapleton, 14 years old, stabbed Roy Bunyard, aged 15.

A number of boys living on Jo's creek, a small creek emptying into Big Mud Lick, just below Hendrix Salyer's, met at Jay Salyer's a few days since, for a little social pastime enlivened by banjo music. A quarrel arose between the Bunyard boy and the Stapleton boy, presumable over some previous rackets that they had had, and by mutual agreement the boys went out of the house to settle the trouble.

The Bunyard boy will die as the result of the "settlement."

Active operations on the "Kentucky North & South Railway," which, is to extend from Portsmouth to Charleston, S. C., via Pound Gap and Bristol, Tenn., will begin with a survey within the next two weeks.

Mr Parsons, the engineer, announced that all was in readiness for the work to begin, that instruments and all other needed field equipment were now on the way from Springfield. The survey will begin at Salyersville, Magoffin county, Ky. The engineering corps will work north to Portsmouth. Other surveying parties will be distributed over the other parts of the line later on, while several big corps have been at work on the southern end for some time past.

Sergent, Ky., January 4. — Attorney John Hendrick and C. P. Davis, of New York, are here pressing suits on numerous large tracts of mountain coal and timber land in Pike and Harlan counties, comprising about 100,000 acres, much of it from $30 to $50 per acre, and owned by native citizens. The property in question is claimed to be held on old Virginia land grants made over a century ago. In Pike county 37,537 acres, the cream of the Elkhorn coal fields, now the property of the Big Sandy Company, a large New York corporation, and worth millions, is claimed by Hendrick and Davis, representing a New York syndicate. In Harlan county, more than 70,000 acres, about two thirds owned by the natives, is claimed to be covered by these old grants.

Hundreds of these native mountaineers are flocking to the county seats to confer with the local attorneys and at the same time are preparing themselves with guns to make any resistance that is necessary in the protection of their property. Many of these have sent word to the New Yorkers not to put a foot upon their property. If, however, peaceable adjustment cannot be made. Hendrick and Davis will shortly begin ejectment proceedings in the Federal Courts to gain possession of the land.

This litigation is expected to have a marked effect upon railroad building and developments, hence great interest is manifest. To attempt to force possession will mean much blood shed and it is said in Pike county that Governor Beckham will be called upon for troops to keep down impending outbreaks.

## Our Boys Are There.

Last Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock a Louisville and Nashville train of six coaches took up the Kentucky Military Institute at Bashaw Station and whisked faculty, servants and pupils away to Eau Gallie, Fla., where the usual routine of work was resumed last Monday morning, just as if nothing had happened.

From the grip of genuine icy winter, the pupils were whisked on the wings of steam to a climate where bathers are disporting on the East Coast beaches, and the rolling chair, with its luxurious burden of humanity, is being pushed about in the bright glare of summer sunshine.

This will be the second winter that Prof. Fowler has moved his school to Florida to escape the rigors of the Kentucky climate. The change enables the school to continue its drills and other outdoor occupations without interruption. The institute will be removed to its home at Bashaw about April 1.

Charley York and Richard Garred, of this place, are students of the K. M. I. and are now with the school in Florida.

## Home For A Rest.

M. B. F. Thomas, of the U. S. Engineer office, Cincinnati, came home Tuesday for a much needed rest and entire freedom from work. How long his leave continues depends upon the condition of his health. His inclination for work is always good, but he finds that the close confinement to the office, coupled with such strict attention to his very responsible duties, has made a respite absolutely necessary. Mr. Thomas has been in the employ of the Government as an engineer for twenty-three years, and this is his first absence on a sick leave.

As the busy years are "23" he is certainly entitled to the "leave."

## F. B. Brown.

This gentleman and his family have recently come to Louisa as residents and are occupying the Frank Yates property near the mill. For ten or more years Mr. Brown was store manager for some of the big mining concerns in the Pocohontas coal field. He comes to this city as one of the Big Sandy Produce Company, and as this firm caters to the wants and demands of the mining section, supplying them with all sorts of food, Mr. Brown's broad experience will be valuable to his company. Louisians welcome him and his family to their midst.

## They Are Surely Here.

University-like, the college is scattered pretty nearly all over town. The opera house, the Odd Fellows hall and part of the Bank Block are used as recitation rooms. In some of them recitations begin at seven o'clock, and they are not concluded until late in the afternoon. These and the other recitations are attended by earnest, ambitious, intelligent young men and and women, all seeking that pearl of great price—Wisdom. And the Kentucky Normal College is the place where it may be obtained.

## The City Fathers.

This body met in regular session Tuesday night, all present but Father Blankenship. Outside of routine business not very much was done. James Carey was elected City Clerk. He will make a good officer. A Truant law was passed, and it should be backed up by public sentiment. Without this support it can not be enforced. The crossing building was inquired into, with directions that the work be pushed.

## Kentucky Delegates.

Governor Beckham has named these gentlemen from this section as delegates to the National Convention for the Extension of Foreign Commerce of the United States, to be held in Washington City January 14, 1907: Col. Douglas Putnam, Ashland; John C. C. Mayo, Paintsville; J. B. Bennett, Greenup, and F. A. Hopkins, Prestonsburg.