

**MUHLBURG HAS EVERY-
THING EXCEPT ROADS**

**County Rich in Coal to Vote on
Proposal for \$500,000 Road
Bond Issue.**

(BY RALPH COGHLAN)

Greenville, Ky., Oct. 27.—Godfrey de Bouillon hardly showed more enthusiasm when he buckled on his armor and marched against the Saracens than Muhlenberg county is now displaying in its campaign for good roads. The enthusiasm arises from a feeling of exasperation with the present condition of the roads and from the certainty that Muhlenberg, with all its mineral riches and all its good agricultural land, will never really come into its own until travel is made easy.

Therefore the movement is daily gaining momentum from Clifty and Long Creek bottoms on the south to Central City and the mining camps on the north, with Greenville and the fertile region of Pond creek crying it on. If there is any heavy and dangerous opposition, it has as yet not made itself vocal. On the other hand, the most important elements in the county are pledging their support.

The question will become acute at the November election when Muhlenberg will be called upon to ratify or defeat a proposal to issue bonds in the sum of \$500,000 to build roads and "tax itself rich." There are several good reasons for believing that the outcome will be "yes."

Six Reasons for Optimism

First—The coal operators. Most if not all of them, are already enlisted in the fight under the good roads banner. Such men as W. G. Duncan, whose Graham mine tract alone covers 11,000 acres, are in the van.

Second—The miners. There are 3,000 automobiles in Muhlenberg today, many of them owned by miners, and there is no place to go in them. A journey over the present roads costs a car owner more in repair bills and depreciation by far than a bond issue will cost.

Third—The ex-soldiers. Men who saw service in the World war—especially those who saw the fine roads of France and England—have come back to Muhlenberg determined that the old world shall not put them to shame in this particular.

Fourth—The farmers. This is the class which will benefit most by good roads. By them farmers will be enabled to get their products to market much more advantageously than they can now. Many of the present roads are impassable in the winter time, a condition which requires farmers to lose money in great sums, besides keeping them and their wives and children in isolation on the farm for weeks at a time.

Fifth—The women. Besides the fact that good roads will do more than any other single thing to bring general prosperity to Muhlenberg, there are a hundred particular ways in which good roads will make life more livable for the women. Proper care of children, social life and wise shopping all depend on ease of contact with the outside world.

Sixth—Professional men and merchants. Almost to a man these classes will vote to put the bond issue across. Many of them would gladly contribute out of their own pockets to bring about the new era of good roads.

Burden on Farmer to Be Light
If the bond issue is passed it is worthy of notice that perhaps 50 per cent of the taxes to defray it will fall most lightly on the poor farmer. Thus the latter is given the opportunity of sharing in the riches that underlie Muhlenberg's soil. Another factor which commends the bond issue to the farmer is that its passage will mean the addition of State and federal funds to Muhlenberg's road-building fund. The chance of getting a million dollars' worth of roads for \$500,000 is not to be despised by any wide-awake citizen.

No one can visit Muhlenberg without being impressed by its possibilities of becoming one of Kentucky's foremost sections. It is said that in 1820, more than a hundred years ago, the first commercial coal mining ever undertaken in the State was begun here. Today, after decades of successful mining, Muhlenberg's coal resources, so vast are they, have scarcely been touched. A solid sheet of coal, of great thickness and broad extent, was Nature's portion to Muhlenberg. The digging for it is not likely to end until that distant time when a traveler from New Zealand takes his stand upon a broken arch of London bridge to view the ruins of St. Paul's. Or un-

til a daily airplane service is instituted between Mars and earth.

The Muhlenberg of today produces one-third of all Western Kentucky coal and ranks all other counties in this field. Only two other Kentucky counties mine more of the black fuel. It has thirty-three mines and employs 7,500 miners, the overwhelming majority of whom are native Americans. A foreigner around a Muhlenberg mine is almost a curiosity. These miners dig, prepare and load an average of 5,000,000 tons a year and draw wages amounting to \$650,000 a month, or the great sum of \$7,800,000 a year. On mine equipment and supplies is spent annually \$750,000.

It can be seen that of the third largest coal State in the Union, Muhlenberg county is a most important constituent. Its importance was considerably heightened from May to August of this year, when most of the union mines of the nation were idle as a result of the strike. During this period Muhlenberg worked at full capacity and did much to stave off the possibility of a coal famine, as well as increased its own prosperity.

Altogether few counties in Kentucky have come so rapidly to the fore in the last few years. The war gave Muhlenberg its first great impetus by making coal mining profitable, where before mines had had a very difficult time to get along. Some inkling of this may be had from the tax figures. In 1917 total assessed valuation of Muhlenberg land was \$4,451,698; in 1921 it was \$12,463,885. Taxes paid in 1917 were \$71,227; in 1921 almost double that amount, or \$135,453 was paid.

A trip to the two key cities of Muhlenberg is perhaps even more eloquent than things are humming in this neighborhood. Central City and Greenville both bear testimony to progress. The one is young, vigorous, alert, a boom town with not enough room to house the people who want to live there. The other is older and more sedate, the seat of the county, whose quaintness gains by the contrast that beautiful new buildings afford and whose quiet power is proved by the fact that its bank deposits total nearly two millions of dollars.

In Muhlenberg is the largest single mining operation in the Western Kentucky field and one of the two or three largest in the State. This is the Graham mine of the W. G. Duncan Coal Company. The Duncans are old Muhlenberg county people, having come here many decades ago from Scotland, about the time "Lord" Alexander, one of their countrymen, began the operation of his famous Airdrie furnace near Paradise on Green river. W. G. Duncan, now an old man, has had a remarkably successful career, having worked at every angle of coal mining from the pick-and-shovel stage upward. His two sons, A. W. Duncan and W. G. Duncan, Jr., are secretary-treasurer and superintendent, respectively, of the coal company.

The Graham tipple has the enormous capacity of 3,200 tons of coal for an eight hours' run. Its average production is 2,500 tons scaled down to fit the car supply. At the Graham mine is what has been called the best equipped power plant in the Western Kentucky coal field. It has practically the same output as the great St. Bernard plant at Earlington. These two supply electricity to all parts of Western Kentucky. Working only ninety-six days in 1921, the two mines of the Duncans—the Graham and the Luzerne—produced 375,902 tons of coal and employed the services of 635 inside men and 165 outside men.

Other splendid coal-mining operations in Muhlenberg are conducted by: Black Diamond Coal & Mining Company, Drakesboro, H. Mills, superintendent; Bevier Coal Company, Cleaton, J. P. Cox, superintendent; Beech Creek Coal Company, Beech Creek, J. H. Chumley, superintendent; C. M. Miller Coal Company, Central City, D. A. Woodburn, superintendent; Crescent Coal Company, Bevier, F. P. Wright, superintendent; Greenville Coal Company, Greenville and Powderly, C. M. Martin, superintendent; Green River Collieries Company, Mogg, F. E. Roland, superintendent; Gibraltar Coal Company, Central City, J. A. Smith, superintendent; Hayden Coal Company, Moreer, Kirk Coal Company, Beech Creek, W. L. Russell, superintendent; Kentucky Midland Coal Company, Midland, J. W. Blackwell, superintendent; Liberty Coal Mining Company, Hillside, F. A. Hall, superintendent; Lewis Benemitz Coal Company, Greenville, L. Benemitz, superintendent; Madison Coal Corporation, Central City, W. P. Mix, superintendent; Mercer Coal Company, Central City, S. A. Green, superintendent; Middle West Coal Company,

**Advertisers Want
Circulation Brings RESULTS**

The HARTFORD HERALD
Has
The Largest Circulation
of
Any Newspaper in Ohio County.

Mr. Advertiser:—

You know that the extent of the circulation of your advertising medium measures the value of your publicity. Your business judgment and experience tell you that.

Would you like to present the merits of your wares or services to every third family in Ohio County every week?

Would the fact that a paper has the largest bona fide circulation in your county and is read by a third of its population, recommend it to you?

The Answer Is:

**ADVERTISE IN
THE HARTFORD HERALD.**

"It Covers Ohio County Like a Blanket."

So Reach for your 'Phone, call Farmers' Mutual No. 73, Hartford, and

**MAKE YOUR DOLLARS
DOUBLE
DUTY**

**Thomas Nelson Page, Author and
Diplomat, Is Dead in Virginia**

Richmond, Va., Nov. 1.—News of the death today at the home of relatives in Hanover county, Va., of Thomas Nelson Page, former United States ambassador to Italy, and widely known author, was received in reports to the News-Leader here.

Mr. Page's death was sudden. The first intimation Richmond relatives had of his illness came today when they were called to the plantation, where the former ambassador had gone for a rest.

Although he served as American ambassador at Rome for six years, Mr. Page was best known for his literary productions. President Wilson at the beginning of his administration, asked him to enter the diplomatic service. He was appointed ambassador to Italy in June, 1913, and served in that capacity until August, 1919. He was born in 1853, in Hanover county.

As a youth Mr. Page attended Washington and Lee university. In 1874 the degree of Bachelor of Laws

was conferred on him by the University of Virginia. Subsequently the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Washington and Lee, Tuaine university and William and Mary college, and the degree of Doctor of Literature by Yale, Harvard and Washington and Lee.

Mr. Page was twice married.—In 1884 to Miss Anne Seddon Bruce, who died in 1888, and in 1893, to Mrs. Florence Lathrop Field, widow of Henry Field, of Chicago. Her death occurred last year.

Mr. Page was author of a number of books on Southern Life, among them "Marse Chan," "Two Little Confederates," and "Gordon Keith."

In 1920 he produced "Italy and the World War," and two years previously wrote in Italian "A Life of Thomas Jefferson."

Until recently Mr. Page had been making his home in Washington. Mr. Page's service as ambassador to Italy covered a critical period in American-European relations.

Depoy, M. Goodman, superintendent; Nelson Creek Coal Company, Nelson, J. W. Bostin, superintendent; Oakland Coal Company, Greenville, Tom Mitchell, superintendent; Phoenix Coal Company, Tarms, J. F. Bridges, superintendent; Pacific Coal & Mining Company, Mercer, Irvin Glass, superintendent; Rogers Bros. Coal Company, Bevier, T. L. Rogers, superintendent; Rockport Coal Company, Central City, L. Tucker, superintendent; Salesburg Coal Company, Hillside; Thompson Coal Company, Drakesboro, J. J. Thompson, superintendent; W. A. Wickliff Coal Company, Greenville, Robert Wickliff, superintendent.—Louisville Post.

**ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB
SWALLOWED BY YOUTH**

Murray, Ky., Nov. 1.—Harry Lee Westerfield, ten year old son of Mrs. Lois Westerfield, who swallowed an electric light bulb yesterday while repairing a flash light, has felt no inconvenience from it, although it has been in his stomach more than twenty-four hours.

The boy placed the bulb in his mouth for safe keeping and swallowed it when his mind became centered on the work of repairing the light.

The Hartford Herald, \$1.50 the year



Perfect Baking and
Absolute Fuel Saving

COLE'S
HOT BLAST
FUEL SAVING
SYSTEM

Don't waste your food
and fuel. Cole's Sanitary
Down Draft

Range will save one-third to one-half on your fuel bill and will give you perfect baking and cooking results that you have always wanted. Let us explain to you the wonderful features found on this up to the minute range. See us at once.

J. F. CASEBIER & SON,
—DEALERS—
Beaver Dam, Kentucky

HARTFORD HERALD, ONLY \$1.50 THE YEAR