

USING CONVICTS ON HIGHWAYS

Many States Have Abolished
Contract System of Work-
ing the Prisoners

WORK CONVICTS ON ROADS

Kentucky Could Possibly Save From
Twenty to Thirty Per Cent of the
Money Expended For Road Work on
the Public Highways Says Commis-
sioner Terrell.

Frankfort, Ky.—(Special)—R. C. Terrell, Commissioner of Roads, when asked for his views regarding the employment of convicts on the roads of the state, granted the following interview on this subject:

"In recent years the convict labor problem has been one that has been given a great deal of attention, and prison reforms have brought about a study of conditions as they exist, with a view of how they could be bettered, and as a result, most of the States have abolished the contract system of working the prisoners and have established the more modern system of using the convicts on the public highways, and in the prisons for the purpose of preparing materials for the highways, and on other public works in the various States. Reports from various Highway Departments over the United States show conclusively that convict labor can be used to an advantage in road building and at a saving of both to the county and State in the cost of labor for this class of work.

"In the biennial report of Mr. T. F. Tynan, Warden of the State Penitentiary of Colorado for the year 1912, it is shown that there was built one hundred and fifty-seven miles of road through the mountain sections of that State, at a saving, according to his estimate, of \$223,479.58; that the average cost per day per man for the laborers engaged in this class of work was 32c. He further states that the convicts were able to do the work of not only ordinary laborers, but some were found able to perform the services required of experienced men in drilling, blasting, laying masonry, black-smithing, and other skilled labor. With such labor commanding a salary of from \$2 to \$5 per day, this without a doubt, shows that convict labor can be used to advantage on heavy construction work, and in places where more or less permanent camps can be maintained.

"Virginia also has succeeded in this undertaking, as is shown by the results. For the past nine years convicts have been used on the public highways of this State, and Mr. P. St. J. Wilson, former State Highway Commissioner, and now the Assistant Director in the United States Office of Public Roads at Washington, D. C., stated that more than 1,500 men were used on the public highways of Virginia in the year 1913; that from forty to seventy-five were grouped together in a single camp—separate camps being maintained in each county—and that the cost of clothing and feeding them, and general maintenance of the men was 52c per day for a period of three years; that the men were not specially selected, but that the road forces were made up of prisoners as they were presented at the prisons; that men who were physically weak, or even cripples, were often sent out as part of the road force. He further states that the contractors who contracted for the work had very frequently offered \$1 per day for men furnished by the State.

Under our present system in Kentucky the State receives the magnificent sum of 75c per day per man employed under contract, and the State is required to feed and clothe the prisoners and a great many of the prisoners are let at a lower figure than that stated above.

"Kentucky could possibly save from twenty to thirty per cent of the money expended for road work under the State aid plan, if the convicts could be used on the public highways, and in the preparation of the materials which go into the highways. It would be possible to establish semi-permanent camps in the various counties where limestone is available in large quantities and prepare this material for road building, ready to be delivered by rail or motor truck to roads under construction, and these camps could be maintained practically the entire season.

"In Edmonson County, Kentucky, there exists an unlimited deposit of rock asphalt, which is a hard sandstone—the finest road making material known—containing from seven to nine per cent of bitumen or asphalt base. This material has an overburden of from ten to twenty feet of soil, sand or rock, and lies in a horizontal strata of from six to twenty feet in thickness. Would it not be a fine thing to establish here a permanent convict camp, where they could be used in the stripping of this material, quarrying and pulverizing and loading it ready for shipment to the counties

of the Commonwealth? The actual cost of production, or even a reasonable per cent of profit could be charged by the State for the material, and at the same time very materially reduce the cost for use in road construction, and insuring to the counties for their limestone, macadam, or other hard surfaced roads, a splendid, long lived surfacing material, that is dustless, noiseless, durable and at the same time water-proof. Other camps might be established for the purpose of preparing limestone as stated above, and still others for the manufacture of brick to be used in the surfacing of roads, and a very efficient organization might be had for the placing of concrete roads as is now being used in Illinois, Georgia, and other States where that type of road is being constructed.

"The men become skilled in the performance of their duties, and this, while preparing them for a better existence when they have completed their term, also reduces the possibility of breaking up the organization by men quitting. Another important factor to be considered is the reduction of the cost, the reducing of the cost making it possible for all the counties in the state—not merely the rich counties—but practically all of them, to construct permanent roads. When one stops to consider that there are one hundred and twenty counties in Kentucky, most of them having a road fund ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, while less than ten have a road fund of more than \$20,000, it is quite an easy matter to understand the advantage that convict labor would furnish these counties, where funds are limited, in the securing of permanent types of road.

"The convict labor would not come in competition with free labor, for without it the counties would be compelled to build a cheaper type of road, and in many instances would not be able to build at all, while, with the convict labor, better and more durable types of road could be constructed, as well as a more durable type of bridges. Even in the fabrication of steel material for the longer span bridges these could be obtained at a much cheaper figure, with the convict labor, than they could be done by contract.

"In summing up the advantages to the counties and to the state, one should not overlook the big advantage to the convict himself—the wholesome out-of-door labor—bettering him, mentally, morally and physically—a much more healthy occupation than that which he would find inside the prison walls."

BUILDING GOOD ROADS

More than 80 counties in Kentucky are actually at work building roads under state supervision and with state aid. Twenty other counties have asked for and been granted such aid and are now preparing to begin work. The state-wide road building movement is on in earnest, and it is here to stay.

At the two penitentiaries, at Frankfort and Eddyville, there are 2,000 men convicts. A large proportion of that number are physically capable of working on the roads. Instead of being so worked, they are let out to prison contractors at an annual loss to the state.

At the coming election, a constitutional amendment to work the convicts on the roads is to be voted on. It has been twice submitted by the General Assembly and once adopted by the people. That adoption was nullified by a failure to advertise the amendment within the prescribed 90 days. The necessary advertising has now been done. The whole question is in the hands of the voters, and both political parties have declared for adoption in their state platforms.

The prison contractor is opposed to adoption. It will put an end to his profits. Organized labor is a unit on wanting to see the amendment adopted. It will put an end to convict competition with free labor. It will put men at work on the roads where there is now a scarcity of labor.

In the state of Virginia, it was found that convict labor effected a saving of \$1,500 a mile in the cost of building roads. In a score of other states, where this labor is used, it has been demonstrated that roads can be built with contract labor at half the cost of free labor.

Convict labor on the roads has proved good for the state and good for the convict. It has helped him physically and morally. It has, in many instances, restored him to good citizenship, and a convict restored to good citizenship is an asset; a convict released to follow a life of crime is a liability.

If Kentucky wants the advantages that come from convict labor on the roads, all that will be necessary will be to vote Yes for the amendment. If Kentucky prefers to let the prison contractor get richer at her expense by continuing in effect a system of slavery, the amendment will be defeated.

But the voter who goes to the polls and fails to vote on the amendment will overlook an opportunity to do his county and the state good service.

ROBERT J. McBRIDE, JR.,
President Kentucky Good Roads
Association.



Cheap and big can Baking Powders do not save you money. Calumet does—it's Pure and far superior to sour milk and soda.

Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper,

Save when you are young to spend when you are old.

How to Prevent Croup.

It may be a surprise to you to learn that in many cases croup can be prevented. Mrs. H. M. Johns, Elida, O., relates her experience as follows: "My little boy is subject to croup. During the past winter I kept a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in the house, and when he began having that croupy cough I would give him one or two doses of it would break the attack. I like it better for children than any other cough medicine because children take it willingly, and it is safe and reliable." For sale by Paul Drug Co. Adv.

Ever live (misfortune excepted) within your income.

When you speak to a person look him in the face.

People Say To Us

"I cannot eat this or that food, it does not agree with me." Our advice to all of them is to take a

Rexall Dyspepsia Tablet
before and after each meal. 25c a box.
Paul Drug Co.

Try Walking.

The arm chair will get you if you don't watch out! Mark Twain proved by statistics that lying in bed was the most deadly of occupations. Now the United States Public Health service tells

Visitors to Louisville

Looking For

Carpets, Rugs and Linoleums

Are never disappointed when they visit our store. No bigger stock, no better values anywhere—"Most for your Money" is our Motto.

We compete successfully with catalogue offers and in many instances give better values.

Write to us if you are not able to visit Louisville

Biggest Carpet and Rug Store

Hubbuck Bros. & Wellendorff,

INCORPORATED

522 & 524 W. Market Street

"Efficiency" has made our growth possible.

The Peevish Child Needs a Laxative

It is natural for a child to laugh and play and when it sulks drowsily or cries you may depend on it something physical is the matter. If you see no evidences of a serious ailment you will not be wrong if you quietly give it a dose of mild laxative that evening on putting it to bed.

The remedy most generally recommended for this purpose is Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which mothers throughout the country have been giving their children for a quarter of a century. Today thousands of families are using it where hundreds used it then, and there must be good reason for this word of mouth recommendation.

It is admittedly the perfect laxative for children, women, old people and all others who need a gentle bowel stimulant and not a violent salt, cathartic pill or doctored water. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin will act gently, and when taken before retiring will bring com-

plete satisfaction in the morning. After a short use of this remedy all forms of outside aid can be dispensed with and nature will again act alone.

All classes of good American people keep it in the home for ills of the stomach, liver and bowels, and among the thousands who have written the doctor that they will never be without it are Mrs. J. W. Haynes, Brady, Ky., and Mrs. E. L. Weeks, 1744 W. 2nd St., Owensboro, Ky. A dose of it has saved many a person from a serious illness.

Anyone wishing to make a trial of this remedy before buying it in the regular way of a druggist at fifty cents or one dollar a large bottle (family size) can have a sample bottle sent to the home free of charge by simply addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 405 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. Your name and address on a postal card will do.

that every chair upholstered or plain, is rife with germs that kill.

Primitive man was very much on the jump. He was so spry on his feet that heart and kidney disease, appendicitis, and indigestion were not able to work him into a corner and land a knockout. Superb footwork saved our ancestors from degeneration at 40.

Walk. Don't stroll; go at a pace that will stretch the stagnant muscles and rock the vital organs that were not intended to sleep 24 hours a day. The first sign of life is action; the first symptom of death is sluggishness.

Fifteen active minutes in the open air daily is the best insurance against doctors' bills.

Beware of Cheap Substitutes.

In these days of keen competition it is important that the public should see that they get Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and not take substitutes sold for the sake of extra profit. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has stood the test and been approved for more than forty years. For sale by Paul Drug Co. Adv.

Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

Our Advice Is:

When you feel out of sorts from constipation, let us say that if

Rexall Orderlies
do not relieve you, see a physician, because no other home remedy will. Sold only by us, 10 cents.
Paul Drug Co.

WELL DRILLER

I will drill wells in Adair and adjoining counties. See me before contracting. Latest improved machinery of all kinds. Pump Repairing Done. Give me a Call.

J. C. YATES

A Splendid
Clubbing Bargain
We Offer
the Adair County News
and

The Cincinnati
Weekly Enquirer

Both One
Year
For Only \$1.35

Subscription may be
new or renewal

What the Weekly Enquirer is

It is issued every Thursday, subscription price \$1.00 per year, and it is one of the best home metropolitan weeklies of today. It has all the facilities of the great DAILY ENQUIRER for obtaining the world's events, and for that reason can give you all the leading news. It carries a carries a great amount of valuable farm matter, crisp editorials and reliable up-to-date market reports. Its numerous departments make it a necessity to every one, farm or business man.

This grand offer is limited and we advise you to take advantage by subscribing for the above combination right now. Call or mail orders to

The Adair County News,
Columbia, Ky.

Keep good company or none. Never be idle. Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.