

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

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No. 10

## Kentucky's Coal Fields.

### Industrial and Commercial Developments in the Valley of the Cumberland River.

(Special Correspondence Manufactures Record.)

The upper Cumberland River of Kentucky is coming into her own. A few years ago, when the narrow valley was practically unknown, the Louisville & Nashville Railway Company set about plans for the construction of the Wasioto & Black Mountain Railroad, from Wasioto 100 miles into the heart of the Upper Cumberland River coal fields, passing through the long neglected town of Harlan, with a population at that time of about 700 people. The construction work was begun as scheduled and the line rushed as rapidly as possible to completion, the road passing through an almost impenetrable mountain section rich in coal and timber. Since the completion of the Louisville & Nashville branch, the whole of Harlan county, comprising an area of over 700 square miles, has become an immensely rich industrial and commercial section, coal developments and extensive lumber operations being numerous throughout the county. Within the past 18 months several short line branches of the road have been extended up the different tributaries of the Cumberland River to reach new coal beds, upon which are today numerous thriving coal mining plants and timber operations.

Perhaps one of the largest of the coal developments in the new territory is that of the Wisconsin Steel Company at Benham, near Poor Fork, that began its development before the Wasioto & Black Mountain Railroad was completed. The plant is owned and operated exclusively by the Wisconsin Steel Company, and has been prosperous since the day the initial shipments were made. It is operating two veins of coal, running 8 and 11 feet in thickness, solid coal.

Benham grew up almost "overnight," 20 miles from the nearest railroad point across the border in Virginia, from where most of the building material was hauled, and met with a remarkable rapid growth. It was the first "overnight" city built in the whole Eastern Kentucky coal field. Its construction was well planned, all the buildings and streets having been constructed along modern lines. Electric lights, water-works, and one of the best Young Men's Christian Association buildings in the country, were among the modern conveniences.

Other coal-operating companies of Harlan county are: The Harlan Coal Company, The Cumberland Fuel Company, The Republic Coal Company, The Martin's Fork Coal Company, The Harlan Fuel Company, The Without Coal Company, Harlan-Jellico Mining Company, The Poor Fork Coal Company, Kentucky Harlan Fuel Company, The Low Ash Mining Company, and numerous others.

At least ten of the operating companies are in close proximity to Harlan town, both above and below, and on each side, all of which have brought prosperity and a remarkably rapid growth to the town during the past two years. As a result, the town of Harlan has had most rapid growth. All this development has brought millions of dollars into Harlan county, a large part of which was spent in and around Harlan town, and the people of Harlan have been awake to the situation, taking advantage of every opportunity. They have doubtfully profited by it. From a struggling little town of about 700, forty miles or more from the nearest railroad point—Wasioto. Harlan has, within a little more than 18 months, become one of from 3500 to 4000 people, all working to one common end—to make Harlan the very best

town in the State. During 1914, despite the stifling business conditions of the country, Harlan built a dozen or more good substantial business blocks, completed a \$25,000 church building, the best in Eastern Kentucky, a \$45,000 school building, Harlan Academy, an up-to-the-minute theater building, hundreds of fine residences, did a considerable amount of street improvements, opened new streets, built tele- phone exchanges, electric lights, etc. The town is now advertising for water works, and offers the best inducements that could possibly be given. Harlan's Commercial Club, organized early last year, has for its slogan: "Ten thousand people for Harlan by the middle of the year 1917."

Harlan has one of the best depots in Eastern Kentucky, good church and school buildings and streets, three strong banking institutions, wholesale houses, 30 to 40 large retail stores, lumber and planing mills, local and long distance telephone, wood working plants, etc.

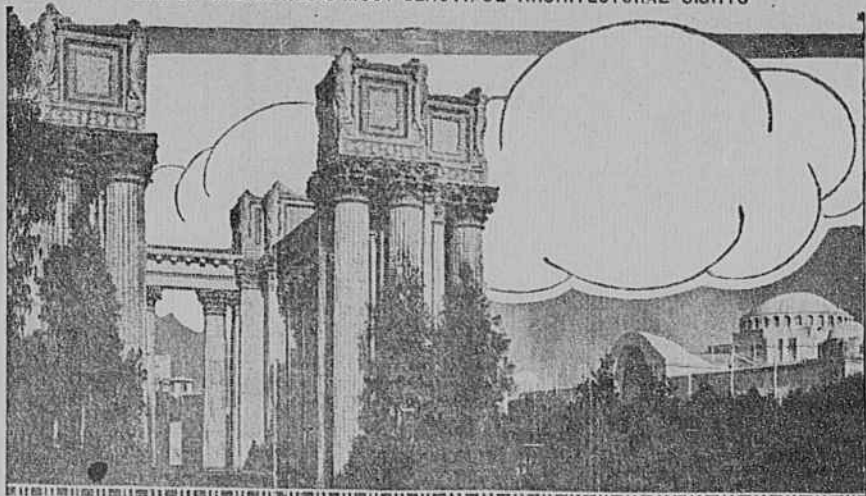
Good roads are being constructed throughout the county as rapidly as possible, while bridges are being built across the streams, every available dollar of the county's funds being put into such improvements. It is likely that, some time during the year 1915 the county will call a road bond election, as great interest is manifested in road building, and the question is sure to carry.

During the past year the town of Chad, Baxter, Nolansburg, Poor Fork and others have sprung up, and all are healthy youngsters, having coal mining industries of note. The largest of these is Poor Fork, a splendid trade and mercantile center in the upper end of the county near Benham.

The upper Cumberland River coal field comprises Harlan and a part of Bell county, and extends for over 100 miles along the Cumberland River, bounded on one side by the Big Black Mountain and "The Pocket" section of Virginia, an extensive coal field, on one side, and the Kentucky River and its tributaries, another extensively rich field, on the other, while immediately beyond its headwaters is a rich coal section of Wise county, Virginia. This section of Virginia is undeveloped. Benham, the terminus of the Wasioto & Black Mountain branch of the Louisville & Nashville, is almost 20 miles from the Virginia line at the headwaters of the Cumberland. It is, and has been planned, ever since the Louisville & Nashville was completed, to extend the road on up Cumberland River, through a part of Letcher county coal field into Virginia. From the Virginia border the line would pass down Pound River, one of the head tributaries of the Big Sandy. The road, as proposed, is to follow Pound River to "The Breaks" at its mouth—its junction with the Big Sandy—where connection would be made with the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio, lately completed from Elkhorn City, Kentucky, to Dante, Virginia, forming a most important connection with the South Atlantic sea-coast ports. The distance is about 50 miles, and besides making an important connection, it would open for development an immensely rich coal and timber section along and contiguous to the Kentucky-Virginia border. When business conditions of the country is thoroughly righted it is more than likely that this extension will be a certainty.

Through the efforts of Mrs. R. W. Holly a Baraca Bible Class has been organized at the Appalachian Baptist Church and the members are quite enthusiastic over the project. The officers are: Mrs. R. W. Holly, teacher; Charlie Polly, president; Guy Seavers, vice president; Joe Dickenson, secretary and treasurer; Creed Polly, reporter. Hustling committee—Henry Siphers, Charlie Polly, Joe Dickenson, Willie Brotherton and Orlando Amburgey. The newly organized class extends a cordial welcome to all who wish to become members—Appalachian Progressive.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURAL SIGHTS



End view of Graeco-Roman colonnade extending 1,100 feet before the Palace of Fine Arts, Panama-Pacific International Exposition, at San Francisco, and curving in a graceful sweep along the shores of the Fine Arts lagoon. Surmounting these pillars are beautiful figures of women marking into an urn, expressive of Art and Beauty. Eric Kiler house is the designer of these groups. Over the foliage and forestation of the Fine Arts lagoon can be seen the Hall of Philosophy and the grand central dome of the Palace of Education.

## Panama Contest

Will Close on Wednesday, April 7th.

The contest for a free trip to the Panama Exposition which has been in progress for the past few months, conducted by the Kelly Drug Company and The Big Stone Gap Post, will close on Wednesday, April 7th, and the name of the winner will be given in the issue of The Post of April 14th.

Four weeks yet remain for the candidates to work for votes, and it is possible for changes to be brought about in that time by candidates who hustle.

The exposition opened a few days ago, and it is said to be the wonder of the age. To visit San Francisco and see this great exposition is a prize well worth working for.

The candidates and their friends should get busy, as only a short time remains in which to win this great trip.

## Blue Grass Fair Circuit.

The Blue Grass Fair Circuit, composed of the fairs in the banner counties of the blue grass belt of the Appalachians, was reorganized for the current year in an enthusiastic meeting of the officers of the Association, held at the Blue Sulphur Inn, St. Paul, on last Monday. Five counties were represented: Lee, Wise, Scott, Russell and Tazewell.

The following officers were elected for the year:

President, R. L. McLemore, Wise, Va.  
Vice-President, W. E. Glimmer, Lebanon, Va.  
Secretary and Treasurer, W. G. O'Brien, Tazewell, Va.

The following were selected as the dates for holding the fairs this fall:

Lee county, week of September 12th.  
W. O. Woodward, Secretary, Jonesville, Va.

Wise county, week of September 19th.  
C. J. Holyfield, Secretary, Wise, Va.

Scott county, week of September 26th.  
E. G. Quillen, Secretary, Gate City, Va.

Russell county, week of October 3rd.  
W. E. Glimmer, Secretary, Lebanon, Va.

Tazewell county, week of October 10th.  
W. G. O'Brien, Secretary, Tazewell, Va.

As one or more of the counties wish to hold a four-days' fair, the selection of the days of the week on which the fairs will be held was left open until after the next meeting of the executive committee of the various fairs.

It was resolved that no girl shows or percentage games be allowed on the grounds of the fair members of this circuit.

All members of the circuit present advised the outlook good for a banner fair this fall—Tazewell Republican.

## Mr. Webb Teaches Soldier Boys First Aid Work.

J. M. Webb, of Birmingham, Ala., an efficient instructor of mine rescue work and first aid work of the United States Bureau of Mines, instructed Virginia Volunteers at the army on last Friday night in the first aid to the injured.

After a few remarks by Capt. Bullitt, Mr. Webb spoke to the boys about how first aid work should interest the soldier as well as the miner. His instructions were plain and the boys showed much interest. For over an hour Mr. Webb demonstrated how to bandage different kinds of wounds at different parts of the body and explained the care that should be taken. He also taught several ways to make a stretcher. The soldier boys listened attentively and watched with interest Mr. Webb's many demonstrations and we are sure the boys profited very materially by the instructions.

## CARD.

In behalf of myself and family, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who so kindly aided us in the death and burial of my beloved wife, and especially do we thank the gentlemen who so kindly placed their cars at our service.

S. W. WAX.

## Quarantine Proclamation.

Against States Where Contagious Foot-and-Mouth Disease Exists in Cattle, Sheep, Other Ruminants and Swine.

Whereas, It has been determined by the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, and notice has been duly given to the State Veterinarian of Virginia, that the contagious, communicable disease, known as Foot-and-Mouth Disease exists in her stock in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin; and

Whereas, by authority conferred by Section 1309, paragraph 4, of an act of the General Assembly approved March 12, 1908, authorizing the Virginia State Live Stock Sanitary Board to establish and maintain such quarantine against all contagious diseases affecting live stock in other States, as said Board may deem necessary to protect the domestic animals of this State, said Board has issued such order establishing quarantine against the States heretofore named;

Now, therefore, I, H. C. Stuart, Governor of Virginia, do hereby declare the State of Virginia quarantined against the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. No cattle, sheep, other ruminants or swine, and no birds, skins, wool, hair, bones or parts of such animals shall be moved into Virginia from any of said States for any purpose until this order is officially rescinded or modified.

Hay, straw or similar fodder, beet pulp, and bags or similar containers used for stock feed, may be received in Virginia from quarantined States, from areas defined by Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, "Modified" or "Restricted".

Provided that the owner or consignee shall first file an affidavit with the transportation company at point of shipment certifying that the hay, straw or similar fodder or beet pulp, was harvested in "Modified" or "Restricted" area.

Provided, further, that waybill is endorsed with the statement that the affidavit aforesaid is on file at point of shipment, a copy of which affidavit shall also be attached to said waybill.

Provided, further, that waybill is endorsed that a statement from the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, is on file at the office of the transportation company issuing said waybill, certifying that the country in which such shipment originated is in "Modified" or "Restricted" area on date of said shipment, and giving the name of the county, a copy of which statement shall also accompany said waybill.

No hay, straw or similar fodder, or beet pulp, or bags, or similar containers used for stock feed, from any area classified by Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, on date of shipment as "Closed" or "Exposed" area, shall be received in Virginia.

All modifications of the original quarantine against all live stock of the States above mentioned are hereby revoked, and absolute quarantine is hereby declared

## Civic League Notes.

Now is the time for the house-keeper to think of house cleaning, but how about outside the house? Don't forget that back porch that has been neglected through the cold winter, and all the outbuildings, to say nothing of the back yard, as well as the front yard and gardens. If one has animals, cows, hogs, etc., there are their houses and yards to look after also. A rake and hoe put to good use will help a lot to gather up old and decayed vegetation as well as all the refuse from the outbuildings, for soon the flies will be coming out of their winter quarters. When all, or part, is cleaned up, a light coat of air-slacked lime sprinkled all over, will be of great benefit to vegetation, helping to purify and make all the more sanitary when the heat of the summer sun comes.

Let one and all, rich and poor, do at least a little right now to help our town that is naturally so beautiful. Don't forget the back yards and outbuildings.

## Republicans

Hold Convention at Norton and Nominate Candidates.

Norton, Va., March 6.—The Republicans of Wise county held their county convention here today in the Town Hall for the purpose of nominating candidates for the election this fall. It was perhaps the most largely attended convention held here in years. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity, and including delegates and visitors, it was estimated that fully eight hundred republicans in town.

The meeting was called to order by its chairman, Mayor T. M. Pepper, of this place, who made a short speech, predicting a great victory for the republicans in this fall's election. After this the work of nominating candidates was taken up with the following results: Sheriff, W. B. Addington, of Stonegap; Commonwealth Attorney, C. R. McCorkle, of Appalachia; Treasurer, R. W. Holly, of Appalachia; Commissioner of Revenue Eastern District, C. E. Bevin, of Hurricane; Commissioner of Revenue Western District, W. C. Stewart, of East Stonegap; Supervisor of Richmond District, E. J. Prescott, of Big Stone Gap. No nominations for supervisors were made in the other districts of the county.

## NOTICE.

To all parties who have not paid their 1914 taxes.

Your taxes are now due and have been since December 1st, 1914. As you all know, this is my last year as Treasurer of Wise County, and in order to meet my final settlement I must collect all outstanding taxes. All taxes that are not promptly paid will have to be collected by levy. In order to avoid the necessity and cost of levy, I urgently request that you call at once and make settlement with me or my deputy in your district.

R. V. WOHLFORD,  
Treasurer Wise County

Do Not Grip  
We have a pleasant laxative that will just do what you want it to do.

Rexall Orderlies

We sell thousands of them and we have never seen a better remedy for the bowels. Sold only by us, 10 cents. Kelly Drug Co.

## Shooting at Duffield.

Aged Man Killed Instantly and Son is Wounded.

Duffield, Va., March 6.—Jessie Bowens, aged 65 years, was shot and instantly killed here tonight by Otto Giles, while attempting to separate Giles and his son, William Bowens, who were engaged in a fight. Young Bowens was shot in the right arm. It is said the two young men held a grudge against each other and when they met near the depot tonight at about 9:30 o'clock, they began fighting. It was at this stage the father tried to intervene and was shot through the heart. Giles is 22 years old. He escaped from the authorities, who are scouring the country to learn of his whereabouts. Bowens is survived by a wife and six children.

## It's Great For Balky Bowels and Stomachs.

We want all people who have chronic stomach trouble or constipation, no matter of how long standing, to try one dose of Mayr's Wonderful Remedy—one dose will convince you. This is the medicine so many of our local people have been taking with surprising results. The most thorough system cleanser ever known. Mayr's Wonderful Remedy is sold by leading druggists everywhere with the positive understanding that your money will be refunded without question or quibble if ONE bottle fails to give you absolute satisfaction.

Mr. Webb Teaches Soldier Boys First Aid Work.

Blue Grass Fair Circuit.

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