

# The Harrodsburg Herald

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## Darkness Next Door To a Power Plant

(Editor Robinson in The Courier-Journal)

The Harrodsburg Herald reproduces a chart prepared for it by the Rural Electrification Administration showing farm modernization in Mercer county, which is proof of how little commercial power dams do for the people of the community in which they are established.

Mercer county has on its eastern border the great body of water which once was Dix River and the huge hydro-electric plant at Dix Dam. One of the arguments advanced in its favor when the dam was built was that it would bring industries to the vicinity. Not one worthy of the name has been established within cannon shot of the power plant. Another argument was that the plant would make electricity available at low cost to the surrounding countryside. The Herald's chart gives the answer.

Only 5 per cent of the farms in Mercer county have electric service. The figures are based on the 1930 United States census. The Dix Dam plant went into operation in 1925. It is safe to conclude that since 1930 little, if any, electrification has been put into effect.

Obviously, the cost of electrifying farms under present conditions is prohibitive, even on the banks of Harrington Lake. Only 5 per cent of the farm homes in Mercer county have running water. Piping and the power necessary to pump water are costly. Fifteen per cent of the farms have radios, the extra 10 per cent probably operating with battery sets. However, 45 per cent have telephones, which certainly indicates that telephone line construction and phone service cost the farmer much less than electric service. But these farmers are not miserably poor. Sixty-five per cent of them have automobiles.

In the whole United States, at the beginning of 1935, about one farm in nine had electricity. In Mercer county, at the very door of a huge hydro-electric plant, the average is one in twenty! The situation has resulted in the establishment by the ROOSEVELT Administration of the Rural Electrification Administration to lend money to rural consumer organizations for the construction of distribution lines. The situation under which electricity is too costly for farmers within a stone's throw of a privately-owned hydro plant has resulted in an effort to bring power from a Government-operated dam in Tennessee, in order that farmers may have the comforts and conveniences which the existing circumstances have denied them.

## "The Four Horsemen" Rode Fast, But

### "The Fifth Horseman" Rides Faster

With K. B. Phillips, Chief of the Harrodsburg Fire Department, every week in the year is fire prevention week. Well, that is his job and we are glad he is that way. The other day he walked down the street to hand us the clipping presented below. He thinks remedies for fire prevention, like preaching, cannot be too often given us. The clipping follows:

The National Board of Fire Underwriters reports that the estimated fire loss for January, 1936, was more than 15 per cent in excess for the loss for the same month last year. This loss, it adds, reflects only the beginning of an outbreak of serious fires, whose ravages will be reflected in the statistics for succeeding months.

The unusually severe weather of January and February was, of course, largely responsible for the increase. But to put the blame entirely on weather, and to admit no failure on our parts, is certainly not justified by the facts. The average man is not "ready" for bad weather—because of human ignorance, carelessness, or plain slothfulness. How many of us carry on periodical inspections of furnaces, pipes and other heating devices in order to make sure that they will operate safely at high capacity? Very few do that—the rest just take a chance that the "old furnace is o.k.," and a disastrous fire often results. The shingle roof is the greatest hazard.

Warm Weather will come again, eliminating the heating plant hazard for the time being—but that doesn't mean that we are safe from fire. Each season brings its own hazards, and all are vitally important. Dry weather bakes out fields, setting the stage for disastrous grass fires—and fires of this character have, on many tragic occasions, destroyed whole communities. And dry shingles are the perfect target for a fireplace or cooking stove spark that can set a house afire in an incredibly short time.

Fire loss is rising, after a period of years in which it was slowly but steadily declining. That fact should be taken as a personal challenge by every citizen, and give us the impetus we need to eliminate hazards on our property, cooperate with fire prevention bodies, and thus do our part to rid the nation of the dread menace of "The Fifth Horseman."

## Help For Pastors At Short Course

Many churches are arranging to defray the expenses of their pastors to attend the six-day short course for town and country pastors at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture April 20-25, according to Dr. W. D. Nicholls, who is cooperating with the Kentucky Rural Church Council in planning the programs.

City churches, in a number of instances, announce they will send one or more country pastor to the course, and many pastors will attend on scholarships furnished by their respective denominational boards.

Two outstanding national churchmen will be guest lecturers, Dr. Mark A. Dunbar, of Philadelphia, and Dr. G. S. Dobbins, of Louisville. The former a Methodist and the latter a Baptist. Their lectures will be on problems that face a rural preacher.

We hope that the course includes some training in table etiquette and ministerial ethics. Just the other day a good woman who had recently entertained two preachers in her home was expressing her regret that there was not some practical course of schooling pastors before they are sent out to preach. The two men in question had the most irritating table manners. They offended chiefly in refusing to use the napkins and instead wiped their fingers on the table cloth. Awkwardness in use of knife, fork and spoon were overlooked, but to soil the table cloth was too much.

Today our ministers are called on to take their place with other men and are expected, besides an exemplary religious character, to also be men of good manners and professional ethics. There are standards of conduct of minister to minister that cannot be violated without embarrassing one's congregation. A minister to be successful in his church, must so conduct himself as to make his congregation have a feeling of admiration and pride in him.

## Let Taxpayers Know Where The Money Goes

(Editor Warren Fisher in Carlisle Mercury)

Kentucky has a law, now some eight years old, which, requires that any official who handles public funds shall cause to have published once each year in a newspaper having the largest circulation in the county a detailed statement of receipts and expenditure. This report must show from what sources the funds are received and in addition must give an itemized list of disbursements, showing the date of each check or warrant, the name of the person receiving same, for what service he received the money and the amount.

Although framers of this law, which is similar to publicity laws in other States, were able to point out instances where the publication of detailed itemized statements of the use made of public funds would have saved thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money, some officials in the various counties still object to such publication as an "unnecessary expense." Attempts have been made to repeal the law, a bill which would have had the effect of repeal being introduced this year, but wisely it was permitted to die in committee.

It was with considerable interest, therefore, after reading news accounts of an increase of \$210,000 in six years in that city's indebtedness, with nothing to show for the increased expenditure, that we wrote Editor A. W. Wood, Jr., of the Kentucky New-Era, a daily newspaper published at Hopkinsville, and asked if the city had been complying with the State's publicity law by publishing detailed, itemized statements annually. Editor Wood replied that the statements had not been published according to law, with the result that the New Era became suspicious and demanded a report. A make-shift report was published, which led to a front-page editorial demanding an audit of the city's records by the taxpayers' auditors, the New-Era leading the fight. Editor Wood's letter, which should be

remembered by every taxpayer, and which demonstrates most conclusively that publication of annual statements by officials handling public funds is certainly NOT an "unnecessary expense?" follows:

February 25, 1936

Dear Editor Fisher:

Should the Kentucky Legislature be so foolish as pass a law which would not require a detailed financial report from the servants of the people I shudder to think what will happen to the taxpayer.

Six years ago Hopkinsville had a total indebtedness of \$135,000 with plenty to show for it. Today the city owes \$345,110, with no more to show for the extra \$210,000 than it had six years ago.

Why would citizens let the city finances get into such a shape? Because they had confidence in the commissioner who handled the finances and he was not required to live up to the law which says the city must publish a regular financial report.

The result of public indifference is that all property assessments face an enormous increase (taxes are already the limit for city departments) and seven of the city's most able business men are working with the new commission (the power of the past crowd was broken at the recent city election when the mayor's right hand man was defeated) to find out what is to be done.

I am enclosing seven or eight papers showing the enormous fight made by The New-Era. The writer personally raised \$1,000 to defray the cost of a private audit and attorneys' fees when the matter was taken to court. After the courts decided taxpayers had a right to conduct a private audit the city's books disappeared and have not yet been found.

All of this could have been avoided had the citizens been kept posted on the city's financial affairs.

We feel it our duty in the future to force officials to publish such audits as the law requires.

Sincerely yours,

A. W. WOOD, Jr.,  
Vice-Pres. Ky. New-Era.

This is not the only instance where the annual publication of the condition of funds handled by public treasurers would have saved the taxpayers much money. In another western Kentucky town some years ago a publisher refused to accept a condensed statement, demanded an itemized statement, which when published disclosed the fact that many disbursements listed had never been received by those whose names appeared as the payees. The outcry which followed led to an audit and the discovery of a big shortage.

Since the passage of the publicity law, officials in Nicholas county having custody of city, city school, county school and county funds in Nicholas county have obeyed the law by annual publication of an itemized statement. In obeying the law these officials not only give taxpayers information to which they are entitled, but protect themselves from possible unwarranted criticism.

The foregoing is very interesting and many other citations might be made from all over the state where failure to obey the law permitted the commitment of flagrant misuse of tax money.

The very greatest safeguard a fiscal officer can have thrown around him for his protection is the publication of the treasurer's report. These reports are very generally read and if there have been any loose statements current about the safety of money in a treasurer's hand the financial report is present to meet them. The misconduct of a treasurer anywhere costs suspicion everywhere. Therefore, every treasurer is held under suspicion until his report is published.

## LETTERS from Our Readers

Editor Herald:

Frankfort, Ky., March 25, 1936—Gov. A. B. Chandler appeared before the joint Senate and House committee at their request to explain what he knew about the so-called Barnes amendments that were put in the substitution bill for House Bill No. 1. The Governor seemed to appreciate the opportunity to let the people of the state that elected him by the largest majority ever given a governor of the proud Blue Grass state, know just what he knew of the bill and also he wanted to tell the people he is keeping every promise made while a candidate for their support.

Governor Chandler told the committee he had never heard of the so-called Barnes amendments and had knowledge of the amendments agreed upon at the House caucus which was thirty five and one agreed upon at a meeting of the committee appointed to have the bill properly prepared for the printer. He further stated to the committee he had never heard of the Barnes changes and amendments to the bill until it had been passed by Senate. He said the Senate clerk, Hon. Robert Humphries, told him about the time the Senate began voting on the bill he had heard some changes had been made in the bill after the amendments had been agreed upon by the members of the Caucus.

The Governor said he told the clerk to read the bill carefully and had there been any changes made let him know at once, that he would not sign the bill if any changes had been made other than the amendments agreed upon at the caucus and conference held after the caucus.

After hearing the Governor's free and frank statements we believe every member of the committee, Democrats and Republicans, accepted his statements as being absolutely true and he was thanked by the committee and newspaper representatives for the information given the committee.

Sincerely yours,  
THOS. P. REED.

Editor Herald:

Frankfort Ky., March 25, 1936—We understand the Governor wants a full report made of the investigation now being made by the joint Senate and House committee and the facts given to the people of Kentucky whom he is trying to serve. Should any of those who have betrayed his friends be proven to have betrayed him or the people who elected them as their representatives, they will not be shielded by him, nor whitewashed by the committee or the press of the present it looks like the Senate and House will have one member each who will cease to draw their per diem in the near future, and a few others holding responsible positions will very likely be looking for other jobs.

Read The Harrodsburg Herald and you will be given the names of those who have fallen before temptations and who have shown their unfitness for the places they now fill. Sincerely yours,  
THOS. P. REED.

## OPERA HOUSE

Tonight—Friday

Jeannette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in "Rose Marie."

Special Matinee Friday Only

3 o'clock

Fox News.

The price of meat seems to be lighter than air, or at least it does not come down.

## STRANGE and INTERESTING FACTS



The American word Voodoo is a term used loosely for any sorcery or old African witch doctor practice.

In some parts of Haiti "Black Magic" still prevails among the natives as outlined in W. B. Seabrook's book The Magic Island. As an example, native ghouls will remove a corpse from its burying place for various necromantic purposes, they rub grease made from the brain on the edges of tools so that they will cut more accurately, on the head of a hammer so that it will always know where to strike, or upon the sight of a gun so it will shoot truly. From various other parts of the body are made charms for purposes, both good and bad.

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## FOUR ATTEND FORUM

AT LAWRENCEBURG

Messrs. George W. Edwards, C. B. Sullivan, and Glenn Keightley, of the State Bank & Trust Co., and James Peppers, of the Mercer County National Bank, were in Lawrenceburg Thursday night where they attended the Central Ky. Bankers' Forum. The Anderson National and the Lawrenceburg National banks were hosts to the forum at a dinner in the assembly room of the Lawrenceburg Christian church.

Addresses were made by John M. Yost, president of the Kentucky Bankers Association; S. E. Matheny, vice president of the forum; J. R. Miller, Louisville; M. C. Minor, Danville; William McGough, Stanford, and J. W. Gaines, Lawrenceburg. Mr. Yost led a round table discussion on matters pertaining to banking. Towns other than Harrodsburg whose banks were represented at the forum were Lancaster, Stanford, Danville, Hustonville, and Springfield. A large attendance marked the session.

New Hampshire leads all other states in the percentage of farm homes having electric service.

W. R. Reeves, of Tennessee, will be here Saturday with 12 good milk cows for sale. Mercer Co. Stock Yards

## Growth of Trees

A tree of five inches in diameter contains about three cubic feet, while a tree of ten inches in diameter has approximately five times, and a tree 15 inches in diameter, 13 times that volume. A tree five inches in diameter is just at the beginning of its rapid growth.

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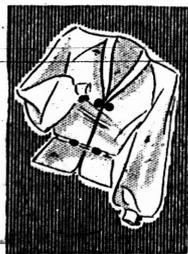
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Smart versions of the spring mode in daytime dresses have just arrived... A variety of styles and colors to please the most exacting taste... Including a new line of stylish boucle knits... Also a new line of dainty wash dresses.



Suits and coats, swagger or dressy, are found in our new spring arrivals... They're all so attractive you'll have difficulty in making a choice. And hats—we just can't wait to show you the new hats in all sizes and shapes.



Two special groups of dresses at reduced prices.

Our Kayser gloves, hosiery, and underwear are without equal for value in their price range. If you haven't tried them you've missed something.

We also have the exclusive agency for the GOSSARD line of corsets and brassieres. Ask us about these garments.

Our line of novelties includes attractive purses, hankies, collars, and other accessories. Come in and see them.

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