

TO STAMP OUT ILLITERACY.

The campaign which the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission headed by Mrs Cora Wilson Stewart, of Frankfort, has just launched, means that illiteracy is going to be stamped out of the State of Kentucky. At the meeting of the Kentucky Press Association, which was held recently at Dawson Springs, the Kentucky newspaper men went on record as being willing to use every means possible at their hands to aid in stamping out illiteracy in this State. The Independent was a party to this resolution, and we propose to fill our part of the contract. Elsewhere in today's Independent will be found a report of the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission which shows that Boyd County has the enormous number of fifteen hundred and seventy-three illiterates. We who move every day in the shadows of schools, churches, literary societies and associate with cultured and refined people do not realize the state of mental darkness in which more than 1500 of Boyd county's citizens are living. The people of Boyd county need to be aroused on this question. There is no use in allowing people to go through the world and not be able to read and write. True, there are many families who are so shiftless as to not care whether they are educated or not. In fact, they seem to prefer a state of absolute ignorance in preference to being educated. And, by the way, you do not have to go out in the hills of Boyd county in order to find the illiterates. In our visit to two of the banks of Ashland recently we were called upon once in each bank to write a man's name on the back of a check in order that he might have it cashed at the bank. Both of these men were good looking, and apparently possessed of at least ordinary intelligence, and we were greatly surprised when they told us they could not write. And to think, there are 1573 people in Boyd county who belong to this class. It is a situation that we are ashamed of, and it is one that all our good people should be willing to aid in stamping out.

The Kentucky Illiteracy Commission will be glad to lend assistance and devise plans of stamping out illiteracy in any county where people themselves show a willingness to want it done. Let's get busy and clean up Boyd county as far as illiteracy is concerned.—Ashland Independent.