

.. THE NORMAL SCHOOLS

(Mt. Sterling Sentinel-Democrat)

Not satisfied with their efforts to dictate just who can and who cannot run for office, on both the Democratic and Republican tickets in the next State campaign, the Louisville press is very much exercised because the members of the Normal School Commission saw fit, as free born American citizens, to refuse to be dictated to by either them or their Republican candidate for Governor, Mr. Colvin, as to where the two schools should be located. We are not personally acquainted with the Western Kentucky situation, but feel we have a fair knowledge of the Eastern district.

Morehead, the county seat of Rowan county, is located some thirty miles east of us and though once a feud-ridden place, is to-day one of the cleanest and most law-abiding communities in Kentucky. Its people are moral, God-fearing and upright and we know of no town in which the students could be placed where they would receive a more hearty welcome into the best homes or be thrown in a more moral atmosphere, than in the good little town of Morehead. It is the home of Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, a pioneer in educational work in Kentucky and we have never seen a healthier school sentiment any where than exists there. From a health standpoint, its death rate is very low and only recently its progressive citizens voted a bond issue for water works and sewers. It already has a splendid electric plant. The site it offers is one of the most beautiful in the State, is within a hundred yards of the court house and in every way ideally fitted for a big school. It is not a large town its population being about 1,000, but that is as it should be. The school should be the one big thing in the community and not one of the many attractions of a large and corrupt city.

We have never been in the city of Murray, but are informed it has a population of about 2,500; has ample water, light and sewer facilities; has a wonderful hospital, that would bear favorable comparison with those of Louisville or Lexington; has a new three story brick high school building, which cost approximately \$125,000, the use of which it tenders the State as temporary quarters and has the lowest

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death rate of any county applying for the school in that district. Its people are the equal of any in the State and will leave no stone unturned to make the school an honor to the Commonwealth.

Much has been said about the influence of Judge Allie W. Young, of Morehead, in the selection of these two sites and the fact that he is attorney for some coal corporations is seized upon and featured at length. * * *

Morehead is not in a mining district and the corporations represented by him do business in the Big Sandy. The coal barons there endorsed Paintsville, so the stories, wilfully false as they are, must fall with their own weight. * * *

As a matter of fact, Judge Young was sick in a hospital in New Orleans and was not in Frankfort during the entire session. These facts are known to the Louisville press, yet they continue to republish them as if true. Of course, Judge Young and Mr. Wells have done all they honorably could for their respective towns and who would have done otherwise? With fifteen towns asking for the two schools, it is but natural that much dissatisfaction should arise.

It is significant, however, to note that all criticism instigated by the press has been aimed at the five Commissioners appointed by Speaker Thompson. Two of those appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, though honorable men, were members of the educational survey and recommended in writing that the proposed normal school in Eastern Kentucky be located "probably" in the Big Sandy. They thus prejudged the applications of Morehead and West Liberty. * * * If Morehead was so repulsive to them, they had an opportunity and in fact Mr. Wallen urged them to join him and name West Liberty, which could have been done with the sentiment on the commission already outspoken for West Liberty. We might also add here that West Liberty would have been an excellent location for such an institution.

There are many other things we could mention, but lack of space forbids, and these are merely mentioned to show the unfair and rule-or-ruin attitude assumed by the Louisville press. The talk of a special session of the Legislature is, in our judgment, silly and time will vindicate the wisdom of the Commission's actions.

MOREHEAD GETS NEW NORMAL SCHOOL

Morehead was selected as the site of the Eastern State Normal School at a meeting of the Normal School Commission held recently, at the Phoenix Hotel, in Lexington. and Prof. R. T. Green was named as president of the Western State Normal School at Murray. W. S. Wallen. of Prestonburg, a staunch adherent of Paintsville as the location of the school during the early periods of the controversy, cast his ballots in favor of the Rowan county town on the fifth vote, and the deadlock of several months standing was at an end. Professor Green was elected with only one dissenting vote.

The citizens of Morehead have agreed to donate the land for the school and will also construct buildings to the extent of \$100,000, this offer having been made sometime ago as an inducement to the commission to locate the school in Rowan county. If all of this money is not paid out in the building fund, it has been agreed that the difference shall be made up in cash. Paintsville has also offered to donate 10 acres of land for the site of the buildings and to raise a fund of \$100,000.