

# BIG SANDY ASKS FOR HER RIGHTS

Nothing More is Wanted, Nothing Less Will Satisfy, in the State Normal Matter.

The proposed Eastern Kentucky State Normal School rightfully belongs to the Big Sandy Valley.

The Survey Commission of 1920-21 recommended that it be located in the Big Sandy Valley, because here it will best serve the greatest number of people.

The State will lose a gift of \$250,000.00, and probably half a million, if the school is placed elsewhere.

Let Big Sandy stand up for her rights to the last!

The Survey Commission provided for by the Legislature of 1920 urged the establishment of two more State Normal Schools and recommended the Big Sandy Valley as the site for the eastern school. Therefore, the people of the Big Sandy Valley feel that they have the right to expect the new school to be located in this valley.

That survey commission and the disinterested experts engaged from other states spent fifteen months and \$25,000 in making a thorough investigation of Kentucky's educational situation. Their report makes a book of 226 pages and a most interesting book it is.

From that book we print herewith some facts that have a vital bearing on the situation now arousing so much interest in Kentucky—the location of the State Normal schools. We desire to show how this movement for more training schools was started, how it was worked out, and why in good faith the present commission must locate the eastern school in the Big Sandy valley. Surely, the people of Kentucky want to co-operate in any large movement that will improve our educational facilities; and co-operation in this instance means carrying out the recommendations of a great body of experts who have made a minute survey and an impartial report.

The "General Education Board of New York City" is none other than that established by an enormous gift of money made by John D. Rockefeller, and is commonly referred to as the Rockefeller Foundation. Its purpose is to assist meritorious and needy educational enterprises in the United States. After its part in making this survey in Kentucky the situation appealed to the Board so strongly that an offer was made to donate \$250,000 to the new eastern State Normal (and the same amount to the new western school) which was recommended in the survey report. When the break came in the plan through the unexpected action of the Legislature and the report was broadcasted that Morehead would be named as the result of a deal the General Board of Education withdrew its offer of the magnificent gift of \$250,000.00. The matter has been taken up with the Board again and we are assured that the only chance to have the offer revived is to carry out the recommendation of the survey commission.

Thus it is seen that to locate the school outside of the Big Sandy valley means the loss of a quarter of a million dollars, a sum that would set the new institution ten years or more ahead of what it would be if left to depend entirely upon our pauperized State school funds. In fact, if we are to judge by the niggardly support given other State schools it would take twenty years to catch up with what this \$250,000.00 would do. And not only that, but there was a very broad hint given that the gift would probably be doubled a little later on if plans were satisfactorily carried out. Those who know the history of that Board know that when once really interested in an educational enterprise it follows with support and encouragement right along. So there is no way to estimate the extent of the loss that finally will result to Kentucky if a location in the Big Sandy valley is not chosen for this new normal school.

In view of these facts it is deemed to be timely and justifiable to emphasize them and to call attention to an inevitable result of bad faith in the matter. We believe that every man in any degree responsible for it will be held accountable by the people of Kentucky.

## The Law and the Report.

In order that all may more fully understand the history of this important matter we take the following from the General Board's published report:

The legislature of Kentucky in 1920 enacted a law providing for a state educational survey. This law is as follows:

1. That the Governor be, and is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a commission of five persons, to make a survey of the public educational system of the State, including all schools and educational institutions supported in whole or in part by public taxation, for the sake of determining

the efficiency of their work, and to report its findings, with recommendations for improvement, to the Governor.

2. It shall be the duty of said commission to employ experts, not residents of Kentucky, to make a thorough survey of the school system, co-ordination, administration and general efficiency, and to conduct such survey in accordance with approved scientific standards of educational research.

3. That the members of said commission shall serve without pay, except actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. Said commission is hereby authorized and empowered to purchase such supplies and employ such clerical help in addition to the expert service hereinbefore provided, as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its duty within the limitation herein prescribed.

In accord with the provisions of this law, the Governor appointed an Educational Survey Commission composed of the following five members: W. A. Ganfield, President of Centre College, Danville; Alex. G. Barrett, lawyer, member of the Louisville Board of Education, Louisville; J. L. Harman, President of Bowling Green University, Bowling Green; C. J. Haydon, President of the Springfield Board of Education, Springfield; Miss Katie McDaniel, insurance, formerly County Superintendent of Christian County, Hopkinsville. The Commission organized May 11, 1920, electing Dr. Ganfield chairman, and Mr. Barrett secretary.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of the enactment, the Commission secured the assistance of the General Education Board of New York City in making the survey. The General Education Board furnished to the Commission the services of the following staff: Dr. Frank P. Bachman, local director, Frank L. Shaw, statistician, and Miss Anna C. Thornblum, secretary. Dean M. E. Haggerty, College of Education, University of Minnesota, advised on the testing program.

The State of Kentucky appropriated the sum of \$10,000, of which \$8,000 was used in part payment of the expenses of field work, and \$1,000 in part payment of printing the report. In addition to providing the survey staff, the General Education Board contributed the sum of \$15,000.

Fifteen months were devoted to the survey. During this time Dr. Bachman visited sixty-six counties and made a careful study of the conditions in thirty-three of them, and also studied conditions in about half of the principal cities of the state. He had the active co-operation of the educators of Kentucky, including representatives from the faculties of the colleges, normal schools, and the University of Kentucky, members of the state department of education, and county and city superintendents.

Standard tests or examinations were given to the school children in nine representative counties and in fifteen cities. Fifteen thousand seven hundred pupils were examined in the fifth, seventh, and eighth grades, and nearly 55,000 test papers were marked and the results tabulated. Data on pupil progress were collected from these same nine counties, and from 2.2 graded school districts and 47 cities, or from a total of 136,828 children. Information was collected on the training of 11,712 of the 13,953 teachers, or 86 per cent. of the total number.

Questionnaires were sent to all city superintendents, graded school principals, and county superintendents, asking for information on school finances, length of school year and term, consolidated schools, provisions for supervision, attendance officers, medical inspection, school nurses, office equipment, and clerical assistance. Information of many kinds was also collected from the records of the state department of education, school laws, and other sources.

The Commission desires to acknowledge with sincere appreciation and gratitude the generous professional and financial assistance of the General Education Board. We further record our grateful acknowledgment of the helpful counsel and advice of Dr. Wallace Buttrick, President of the General Education Board, and of Dr. Abraham Flexner, Secretary of the Board. Dr. Flexner also gave liberally of his time in perfecting the report, and made several visits to the state to counsel with the survey staff and the Commission.

We would further express appreciation of the splendid co-operation and helpful service rendered by the Hon. George Colvin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and John W. Carr, Director of Health Education.

Members of the Commission have served without pay, being reimbursed only for the actual expenses involved in the discharge of their duties. The \$1,000 reserved for this purpose will

more than provide for their expenses. The Commission has not outlined plans or recommendations that are impossible of attainment. The suggestions and recommendations offered are practicable and within reach. We venture to hope that the findings of this survey will aid the citizens and the legislature of the Commonwealth in providing a school system that will ultimately afford to all the children of the state "the power that knowledge gives."

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) W. A. GANFIELD, Ch'n.  
ALEX. G. BARRET  
J. L. HARMAN  
C. J. HAYDON  
KATIE McDANIEL.

After describing at length the work of the two State Normal schools already established at Richmond and Bowling Green, the report says:

"But these two normal schools, when fully developed, will together probably not graduate, in any one year, more than 400 well-trained teachers. At that rate, it would take the output of seven such fully developed normal schools merely to fill the places of teachers who annually leave the service. To establish five new state normal schools at one stroke would be ill advised, but the next general assembly should make a beginning by establishing at least one, and preferably two.

The new schools should be put where they will do the most good. One should probably be located in the Big Sandy Valley, the other in the western part of the state, east of the Tennessee River."

## FALL OF SLATE IN MINE ENDS LIFE OF MR. JOHN G. SMYTH

Was the Founder of Jenkins and Well Known in the Big Sandy Valley.

John G. Smyth, General Manager of Elkhorn Division of the Consolidation Coal Company, was instantly killed at the mine of the Buckfield Coal Co. on Shelby creek last Thursday morning at eleven o'clock, by falling slate.

Accompanied by A. B. Brooke, superintendent of the mine, and G. W. Hay, of McRoberts Mr. Smyth had just completed a tour of inspection of the mine, and the party were proceeding along the main entry, near the face, when a slab of slate about six feet long fell from the top without warning, and struck Mr. Smyth on the head, fracturing his skull. Death was instantaneous.

The remains were conveyed to Jenkins by special train. Funeral services were held Friday morning, after which the remains were taken to Fairmont, W. Va., for burial Monday.

John Gordon Smyth was born Jan. 9 1880, at Pottsville, Pa., and educated as a civil and mining engineer. He began his career with The Consolidation Coal Company at Fairmont, W. Va. About 1909 he was sent to Johnson county to take charge of the construction of the town of Van Lear, and the opening of the mines at that place. Having completed his work, he was sent to Letcher county in 1911, where he took charge of the construction of the towns of Jenkins and McRoberts, and the opening of the mines there. At that time the site of the present town of Jenkins was a mountain wilderness twenty miles distant from the railroad, over almost impassable roads. Notwithstanding almost insurmountable difficulties, the work of construction proceeded to a successful conclusion until today Jenkins is a model mining town, and in many respects unequalled anywhere.

At the outbreak of the war Mr. Smyth entered the service of the government and was assigned to the ordnance division in the manufacture of TNT and was stationed during that work in a California plant.

## K. OF P. EXPOSITION AT FORT GAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The K. of P. Farm Festival and Exposition which was to have been held in Fort Gay, W. Va., during the present week, has been postponed until October 9 to 14.

This was made necessary on account of Smith's Greater Shows forfeiting their contract by failing to come when the committee sent L. W. Border's boat to Chinnville, Ky., after them.

Other arrangements will be made for good features and the committee is determined that the affair shall be a big success.

## Aged Woman Dies at Richardson, Ky.

Mrs. Jane Warnick died Wednesday at her home at Richardson, this county, from the infirmities of extreme old age. She was nearly 90 years old. The funeral will be preached Friday morning by Rev. H. B. Hewlett. Mrs. Warnick was a sister of McDonald Preston and was a faithful wife and mother. She is survived by sons John, McClelland and Willie Warnick, and daughters Mrs. Sam Vaughan, Mrs. W. J. Vaughan, Mrs. Tom Layne, Mrs. Robt. Brown and Miss Mattie Warnick.