

PEACE IN ROWAN.

Suggestions come from Frankfort to the effect that peace will soon prevail in Rowan, as the two factions have come to terms of agreement. This rose-colored view of the situation is accompanied by praises of one leader by the leader of the so-called Republican faction, with the suggestion that the salvation of the Democratic party depends on supremacy in party councils of Mr. ZACHARIAH TAYLOR YOUNG, County Attorney of Rowan county and candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney in that Judicial district.

It seems never to occur to these wire-workers that any one could object to such a treaty of peace or that the State could have any interest whatever in the terms of the agreement.

As a matter of fact, the law has been openly violated; men have been assassinated; homes have been burned and women driven from them to spend the night on some bleak hillside hiding from their enemies. Witnesses have been threatened and cajoled and intimidated. Grand juries have been manipulated. Judges and Justices have been moved by some clique like pawns on a chess board. Not only has the law been impotent to prevent these wrongs and outrages, but its very machinery has been used to shield its violators, to terrorize the quiet citizens of the community and destroy all hope of justice.

The demand of the State, of the dishonored people of Kentucky is for a rigid, thorough, complete investigation. Too much time has been wasted, and prompt action must now alone for it. Lawlessness has destroyed all security for life and property in Rowan, and the responsibility must be fixed where it belongs. If the fault lies with the law, the law must be amended. If it is with the officers of the law these officers must be punished severely and swiftly. Organized society does not exist in Rowan, and on the State Legislature rests the solemn responsibility of restoring good government to an oppressed and a long suffering people.

Party considerations count for nothing in this case. Greater evils exist than Republican ascendancy in local affairs in Rowan. The County Attorney of Rowan county is a Democrat, and until he can show that the responsibility for the wretched condition of affairs rests not with him, the Democratic party suffers. In open court, in one of the most important cases, in which were involved all the principles of action on which alone justice could be done, this County Attorney threw all of his influence against the State, and sought by this action to break down, and to destroy the testimony of a most important witness. If this action is passed by in silence, if a Democratic Legislature subverts without inquiry or investigation to such a perversion of power, the party will be compelled to bear the consequence.

The only wise course, the only politic course from the standpoint of citizen or party follower is for a Democratic Legislature to go to the root of this matter. From the time of the Kuklux until now Kentucky has faced no more serious question than this. It overshadows the pleuro-pneumonia bill, the wardenship of the penitentiary, even the bills relating to the revenue. It is a matter of life and death; not to one but to many. All the most sacred and cherished interests of society are involved in the case. Barbarism is triumphant in Rowan; barbarism must be overthrown.

Fix the responsibility first, and then apply the remedies. If the County Attorney can vindicate himself, give him the opportunity. If the Legislature adjourns without action it licenses murderers and marauders. The whole power of the Executive department has been exerted in vain. Entrenched as it is in terrorism, the lawless element in Rowan has brought to naught every effort of the Governor to restore peace to Rowan—that peace which must follow justice.

The burden now rests on the Legislature. It is not to be shifted. The facts can be easily brought to light; falsehood can be separated from the truth and the crime brought home to the criminals only by the Legislature.