

The Legislature at it Now, and Will  
Send a Committee to Investigate the Court Proceedings.

For months past Morehead has been about as quiet, as peaceful and as prosperous a place as any town of her size in the State. Her merchants have been doing a good business, there has been a steady advance in the value of her real estate, and confidence has been restored to her citizens. Since Craig Tolliver and his gang were so summarily dealt with, the general opinion has prevailed that the Rowan lawlessness, which had been a disgrace to the State so long, was forever at an end. Everything has served to strengthen this opinion.

The Tolliverites are rarely ever heard of now, and the good citizens of Morehead have gone earnestly at work to redeem the place, and in this they are meeting with success, if all reports are true. The people of the State have been in hopes that the Rowan troubles would be heard of no more, but the Legislature has brought the matter to the front. The following resolution was introduced in the house last Tuesday:

"WHEREAS, Information has been received by this General Assembly, through the message of the Governor and the reports of the Adjutant General and Captain Ernest MacPherson, in reference to the continual factional warfare and riots in Rowan County; and

"WHEREAS, It sufficiently appears from said message and said reports that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that Judge A. E. Cole, Judge of Fourteenth Judicial district, has been guilty of gross official misconduct, if not corruption in office, in connection with the trials of persons engaged in said riots; and

"WHEREAS, said reports reflect severely and either justly or unjustly upon his course as Judge of the Rowan Circuit Court, and upon his integrity as an officer of this Commonwealth; and whereas, the condition of affairs in said county earnestly demands the serious consideration of this General Assembly:

"Therefore be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That a joint committee of the two houses, consisting of five members from the House and three from the Senate, to be designated by the respective Speakers thereof, be appointed to thoroughly investigate the said troubles, as well as the causes thereof, in Rowan County, and to fully and fairly investigate said charges against the Judge of the Rowan Circuit Court, as well as the reflections upon his official conduct, and to this end it shall be the duty of said committee to visit Rowan County and the town of Morehead, and to take proof and hear such evidence as they may, in their discretion, deem proper, and said committee shall have power to summons witnesses and compel their attendance, and to send for persons and papers. And said committee shall make full reports in writing to this General Assembly of its meetings and doings at the earliest date possible."

Mr. Gooding, of Mason, moved to eliminate that part which referred to Judge Cole. Under the rules Mr. Reed's resolution went over and the motion was out of order.

Now that the matter has been brought up it is to be hoped the investigation will be full, but fair to all parties. It is hardly necessary to say that no one has been found here in Maysville, where Judge Cole is best known, who believes that he has been guilty of any "gross official misconduct." A prominent Republican in referring to the resolution said:

"I can't see what the Legislature is up to. Judge Cole has had the law on his side in everything he has done at Morehead."

The Lexington Transcript, referring to the matter, says: "As to Judge Cole being guilty of any malfeasance in his discharge of the duties of Judge, we do not believe it possible. It is a well known fact that the officers of a court of justice are almost powerless to execute the law unless supported by public sentiment. A Judge can only preside in his court and see that the jury has the cases properly presented; but if the state of public sentiment is such that the jury refuses to find the proper verdict, the Judge is powerless. If the Legislature wants to give Rowan lawlessness a black eye, it should divide the county and attach portions of it to neighboring counties. This would divide the factions, so that any one of them would feel compelled to obey the laws."

Representative Gooding, of this county, will offer an amendment to the resolution that the investigation be made at Frankfort instead of Morehead. To a Courier Journal reporter, Mr. Gooding said: "I am not the partisan of Judge Cole, nor am I in any way connected with the factional fights of Rowan County. I am of the opinion that a fuller and a fairer hearing could be had should the committee discharge its obligation right here (at Frankfort). I want Judge Cole to have an impartial hearing, and if what has been alleged against him is sustained, I want the world to know it."

Judge Cole hopes a thorough investigation will be made.

Sons of Veterans.

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