

History of McCreary County

By Associated Industries

General Description. McCreary county is situated in the southeastern part of the state with its southern border on the Tennessee line, upon which it rises somewhat like a pyramid. It is the baby, in point of age, among the 120 political subdivisions going to form Kentucky. The county was created in 1912 out of parts of Pulaski, Wayne and Whitley counties, and named after Governor James B. McCreary. Its area is 259,349 acres, with the smallest percentage in farms, 24.6%, and a scanty 1 in stock raising.

Population. Estimates. Census Bureau estimates give the county 11,771 inhabitants. Native-born whites constituted 99.6% of the total population in 1920. There were then 2,116 males and 2,007 females between the ages of 18 and 44 years.

Mineral Resources. (Prepared by

Willard R. Jillson, Director, Kentucky Geological Survey) Central and southeastern McCreary county exhibits steep-sided, forested, winding ridges with narrow meandering valleys. Northwestern McCreary county presents in contrast precipitous relief along the gorge of the main Cumberland River from the Cumberland Falls Northwestward to the Puckett county line. A somewhat similar relief, though not quite as considerable, is found in western McCreary county along the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Whitley City, located on the dividing ridge between the Main and South Forks of the Cumberland River, has an elevation of 1,317 feet, the highest of any county seat in Kentucky, but ridges in the southeastern part of the county rise to 2,200 feet, while a minimum eleva-

quence about 8 coals, the following are the most important commercially No. 1 (Hudson), No. 1½ (Hudson Rider), No. 2 (Beaver Creek), No. 3 (Barren Fork), and No. 4 (Lily) The Upper- and Lower Blue Gem coals (Nos. 5 and 6), and the Jellico Seam (No. 7) are also present, but are not operated for export. The Hudson and Beaver Creek coals are interconglomeratic stratigraphically and are of excellent character. In 1925 there were 887 769 tons of coal produced and exported from McCreary county. Small pools of oil and gas have been developed in the district, particularly in western McCreary county near Slavons and White Oak where the well-known and productive Beaver sand (Mississippian) of Wayne county is present and has been somewhat developed.

Limestone suitable for building construction and for use as highway metal and railroad ballast occurs in the valley of the South Fork. Some ledges of this limestone, high in calcareous content, might be used for agricultural lime, and others combined with proper clays would be suitable for Portland cement manufacture. Sands of good character acceptable for general construction, and gravels for highway and general building purposes are available both as transported and disintegrated residual deposits. A reconnaissance geographic map (1925) of McCreary County, is available, and a detailed geological structural oil, gas, and mining map of this district has been prepared by the Kentucky Geological Survey but had not been published in 1927. The topography of the eastern portion of this area is available on the Williamsburg sheet (scale 1:125,000), but that part of the district drained by the South Fork of the Cumberland River has never been topographically surveyed.

Bonded indebtedness. Citizens have authorized bonds in the total sum of \$200,000 for improvement of the highways of this section. There is a 20-cent special road tax for the improvement of local roads in each county and town. A rather detailed description of the surface will be found under the heading "Municipal Government," above. Farms and forests in the northern program valleys, though they are not included in extent of the timberland forest—197,924 acres, or 8.86 per cent of the land devoted to pasture was small 14,103 acres. Woodlands on the farms not used for pasture amounted to 27,998 acres.

Industries. Coal mining and lumbering are the chief industries. McCray is one of the important exporting companies in the Eastern Kentucky coal field. The county's heavy timber industry is centered in the plant of the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company, giving employment to several hundred men. There are many saw mills sprinkled throughout the forested sections.

In the last agricultural census were comparatively small. In 1924 the white potato crop totaled 27,778 bushels, and 6,004 bushels of sweet potatoes and yams were raised. The apple harvest was 35,143 bushels, and the peach crop amounted to 10,457 bushels. Firewood cut on the farms was 12,389 cords. The county's cattle were valued at \$62,137 in 1925, its mules, at \$47,232, its hogs, at \$38,638, and its horses, at \$21,079. Estimated milk production in 1924 was 420,701 gallons. Poultry and eggs brought less than \$50,000.

Transportation. The Cincinnati and Chattanooga Division of the Southern Railway crosses the county from north to south, including Whitley City, the county seat. Stearns and other stations along its route. At the latter point connection is made by the Kentucky & Tennessee Railroad which penetrates the southwestern section of the county. Bus service is maintained between Whitley City and Stearns and Somerset and points north and with Oneida, Tennessee, and points south.

Educational. Four white high schools, located at Whitley City, Greenwood, Pine Knot and Stearns, 57 elementary schools and one colored elementary school, are maintained under the public school system of the county. Sixty-five white teachers and one colored teacher are employed. Two private schools are also located in McCreary county. According to the school census of 1926 an average enrollment of 2,807 pupils is given for county schools.

The high school at Stearns is an accredited Class A institution. Cities and Towns. Whitley City, the county seat, is a village of about 500 population. A new court house, costing about \$50,000 has just been completed. Stearns, about 2 miles from the county seat, is the metropolis of this district, with a population of about 1,500 inhabitants. It is a model town maintained by the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company. A bank, a newspaper, a hotel, a theater, churches and a modern

CABINET

**Of Hoover Contains Six Lawyers,
One Banker, Engineer and
Other Professions.**

Six lawyers, one banker one engineer, one educator and one former steel worker make up the cabinet of President Hoover. Eight of them exceed him in age from one to twenty-one years, one is his own age fifty-four, and the tenth is three years his junior.

The cabinet members are
 Secretary of State — Henry L. Stimson of New York, lawyer, age 62.
 Secretary of the Treasury — Andrew W. Mellon of Pennsylvania, banker, age 75.
 Secretary of War — James W. Goodwin, Iowa, lawyer, age 63.
 Attorney General — William D. Mitchell of Minnesota, age 55.
 Postmaster General — Walter F. Brown of Ohio, lawyer, age 60.
 Secretary of the Navy — Charles

Francis Adams of Massachusetts, lawyer, age 63
Secretary of the Interior—Dr Ray Lyman Wilbur of California, educator age 54
Secretary of Agriculture—Arthur M Hyde of Missouri lawyer age 51
Secretary of Commerce—Robert P Lamont of Illinois, engineer, age 62.
Secretary of Labor—James J Davis of Pennsylvania, former steel worker, age 56—

STATE LEGION MEETING

AT DANVILLE JULY 22-24
It was announced last week that the state convention of the American Legion will be held in Danville on July 22, 23 and 24. The Danville Post of the Legion secured the state meet while at Bowling Green last fall and the dates of the meeting were not released until last week.

The wise man meets an emergency head-on, and butts a little harder than it does.

An Oklahoma Mother Says:



"BLACK-DRAUGHT is a fine medicine to give to children. I use it for mine whenever I need to give them a laxative. They don't mind taking it when I make it into a tea, and it quickly relieves constipation and the bad symptoms which come from it. I can recommend it to other mothers, for I have found it useful in my home.

"When I was a child my mother gave it to me whenever I complained of not feeling well. I have always taken it for upset stomach and constipation. It is the only medicine I have to take a few doses of Black-Draught, now and then, keep my system in order. My husband takes it, too. I hardly see how I could keep house without Black-Draught. It has become a standby with us, in keeping the children and ourselves well."—Mrs. Luther Brassfield, Claremore, Okla.

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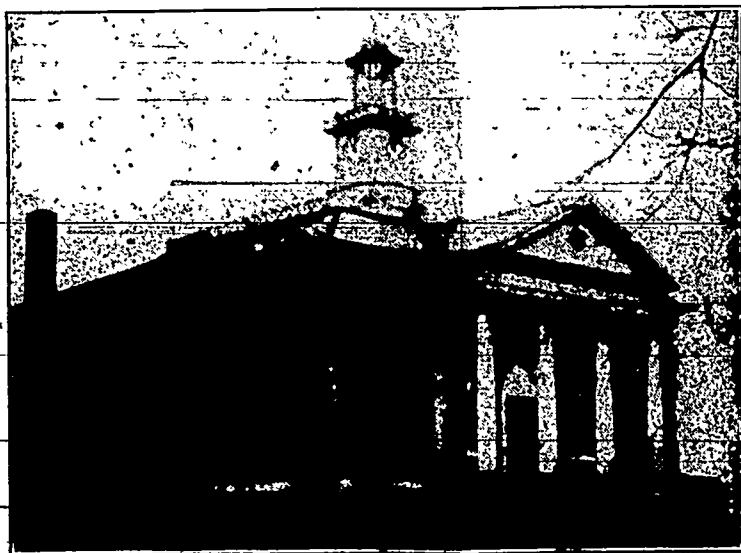
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