

For their report, the Frankfort statistics folks asked someone from each county to come up with a history of their county. They got more of a description than a history from most authors, but they can be interesting, nonetheless.

KENTON COUNTY.

Harry Hartke, Covington, Ky.

Kenton, the northernmost county of Kentucky (and including the second largest city in the state, Covington) has a population of about eighty thousand, of which ten thousand are engaged in farming. In the northern part of the county and extending south ten miles, the soil shows indication of glacial formation. The central and southern parts are limestone.

The principal agricultural pursuits are in the northern part adjoining Covington, gardening and dairying; in the southern part dairying and raising tobacco, corn and alfalfa hay.

The topography is rolling and hilly, there being very little bottom land.

Water is secured from springs and artificial ponds and lakes. Drilled wells in hilly and rolling lands have all been failures.

There are three hundred miles of roads, most of which are improved macadam. The Lexington pike is built of concrete and the Independence pike is principally tarvia; the balance improved macadam. The Lexington pike is built of concrete and the Independence pike is principally tarvia; the balance of this road is water bound. This county has recently passed a hundred and fifty thousand dollar bond issue for road improvements.

Kenton county, on account of its close proximity to the large markets of Cincinnati and Covington, should make market gardening and dairying very profitable. Gardeners principally have been successful, as a large number of this class of farmers have accumulated some wealth. Dairying, however, has not proven profitable, due largely to the low prices paid by milk dealers in the city. This condition has recently been remedied and the dairy farmers are co-operating with one another, the result of which has enabled them to sell their milk at reasonable prices instead of being compelled to accept the monopolistic bid of the milk dealers. There is no doubt, as co-operation among the dairy farmers increases, dairy conditions will improve, in which case this county is destined to be one of the leading dairy communities in the State, the natural conditions being very favorable to this class of farming.

The land will grow excellent blue grass, making first-class pastures and with the acreage of alfalfa rapidly increasing, one must come to the conclusion that dairying will be the chief agricultural pursuit in the future. Labor conditions on the farms are very bad. The high prices and short hours paid for common labor in the city have attracted the majority of the young men so that unless this condition is remedied, it will be difficult to produce in this community its usual proportion of food stuffs for local consumption.

The city of Covington is located in the northern part of the county, opposite Cincinnati, Ohio. It has a population of about sixty thousand and has railroad facilities to the north, south, east and west and is now receiving some recognition by manufacturing industries which have been attracted by favorable conditions. Covington has the unusual advantage of having a large per cent of its inhabitants owning their own homes.