

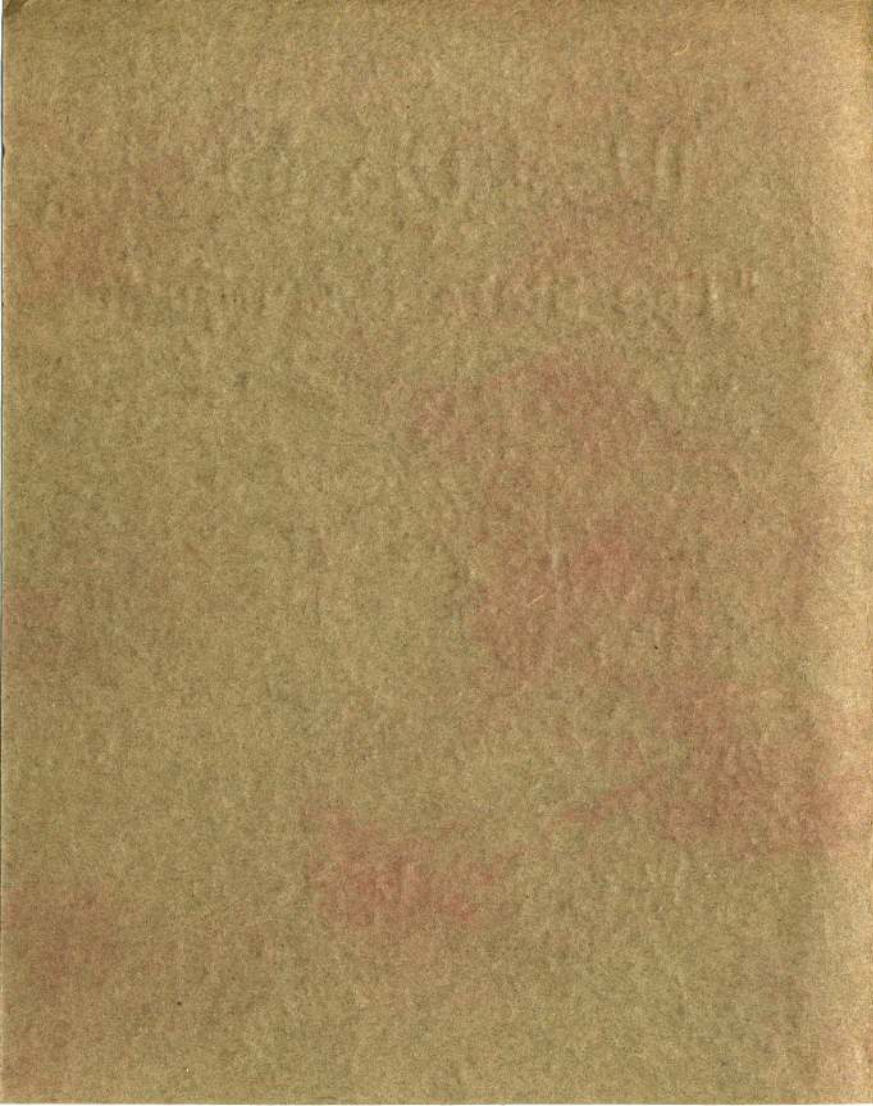
P 523

# West Virginia

"The State Beautiful"



Morgantown Lions Club  
Morgantown, West Virginia



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# MOUNTAIN, MOUNTAIN, MOUNTAINEERS

By Roy Yoke, '03, Alumni Secretary  
West Virginia University

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It is my privilege tonight to bring a message which has been entitled "Mountain, Mountain, Mountaineers." The time, my friends, is any Saturday afternoon in October or November; the place is the new stadium at Morgantown, where your University and mine is playing football against one of her opponents. The score is adverse to West Virginia youth and then, under the leadership of capable cheer leaders the undergraduates give voice to a yell, and that yell is,

"Mountain, mountain, mountaineers,  
"Mountain, mountain, mountaineers,  
West Virginia men of might,  
Fight, fight, fight."

And that team of eleven men down there, wearing the Old Gold and Blue of West Virginia, responds to the admonition of the student body and wins a victory; not for personal honor, not for personal glory, not for personal aggrandizement, but for the glory and the honor and the uplift of this Mountain State of ours.

And as those football warriors fought, I come to you tonight and say to you that we, as West Virginians, must go out, we must gird on our armor and fight for the glory and the honor of the state which is ours.

I am here to refute some of the libels that have been perpetrated upon this state we all love. I care not where you were born. I was fortunate to have been born among the West Vir-

ginia hills, I could only have been more fortunate had I been born in some other state or some other country in order that I might have shown my intelligence by moving into West Virginia.

I read just a few months ago statements like this in our eastern press: "West Virginia is an island of barbarity surrounded by a sea of civilization"; meaning, I presume, our eastern seaboard.

I read again that West Virginia should be deprived of her statehood until she has learned how to govern herself. And then, in a magazine which is supposed to be reputable, I read this statement: "Is West Virginia civilizible?" The author went ahead to prove conclusively that we are not even civilizible.

More recently, in a book just off the press—"These United States"—James Cain in his chapter on West Virginia writes these glaring falsehoods:

"In West Virginia

Culture is at a standstill.

The only theaters are those that show five-reel shooting features.

There are few libraries.

Hardly ever is there a concert.

The state police are animated by no maturer ideal than to posture as moving picture editions of the Canadian mounted.

Three-fingered handshakes are exchanged.

All citizens are miners or operators.

All lawyers chew tobacco in the court rooms and spit on the juries."

I want to tell you some of the reasons and some of the things that make me happy to be a West Virginian. It is said, and it is true, there are but three great torches of progress: Coal, oil and gas.

West Virginia is the most important coal producing state within the Union.

She has 85 seams of coal, 49 counties are underlaid by these seams.

In 1920 she produced 99,000,000 tons of coal and still has enough at that rate of production to last 1,600 years.

West Virginia has a greater amount of smokeless coal than any other state.

Thirty-one of West Virginia's counties produce oil of a high grade and in 1920, she produced 8,500,000 barrels of oil.

West Virginia produced two-fifths of all the gas produced in the United States of America, and yet, possessing these three great torches of progress, the eastern press dares to say that we are an island of barbarity surrounded by a sea of civilization, which reminds me that sometime ago I was in the Capital City of Charleston, and a traveling man asked me, "What do you sell?"

I replied, "I try to sell the State of West Virginia to West Virginians."

He said, "Huh, you haven't much to sell, have you?"

I replied, "What state are you from?"

He said, "I am from the great state of Illinois." I replied, "Fine, how are you getting along out there at Herrin now?"

West Virginia is the greatest glass producing state in the Union.

West Virginia has more oak and chestnut than any other state in the Union.

West Virginia has inexhaustible supplies of limestone, shale, glass sand, yellow ochre, clays, sandstone and iron ore.

West Virginia's production of blue grass is comparable to that of Kentucky.

God must have loved West Virginia because He placed underneath her territory medicinal waters.

West Virginia has more mineral springs than any other state in the Union.

West Virginia has an iron mountain that makes the iron mountain of Missouri sink into insignificance.

In 1920 West Virginia produced 22,000,000 bushels of corn; 5,400,000 bushels of oats and 4,250,000 bushels of wheat and enough buckwheat to supply all the breakfast tables of the world.

In 1920 our mineral products amounted to \$633,000,000; our manufacturing production amounted to \$370,000,000; our farm production, \$96,000,000; yet we are an "island of barbarity, surrounded by a sea of civilization."

It makes no difference, Ladies and Gentlemen, how much you produce unless you can market it.

What about our transportation? West Virginia has four navigable rivers, 1,200 miles of class "A" roads, and \$50,000,000 to complete the job—\$50,000,000 bond issue which will last until every county seat in the state is connected; until our wonderful southland shakes hands with the great northland, and Harper's Ferry and Wheeling are next door neighbors.

We have 4,000 miles of railroad, and innumerable miles of interurban street car lines. I say to you that we are not an island. We are not shut out from the world and the world is not shut out from us.

May I mention briefly some of the things in West Virginia which are the largest in the United States.

Baldwin's Shovel Factory at Parkersburg.

General Porcelain Company—electrical porcelain—at Parkersburg.

Kelley's Axe Factory at Charleston.



Owens Bottle Factory at Fairmont.  
Interwoven Hosiery Mills, at Martinsburg.  
Bowers Sanitary Pottery, at Mannington.  
Fulton Manufacturing Company (clothespins) at

Richwood.

Sterling Products Company at Wheeling.

Pressed Prism Glass Company at Morgantown, which is the only one of its kind in the world.

The Four-H Camp at Jackson's Mill, the only one of its kind in the world, which exists primarily for the development of the citizenship of the boys and girls of West Virginia.

These things are not only large; they are the largest in the United States, and yet our eastern press never heard anything about them. So much, my friends, for the resources of West Virginia.

What about West Virginia patriotism? "Leave me but a banner and the means to reach West Augusta, and I will have rallied 'round me the men who will lift their bleeding country from the dust." George Washington said that, and when he mentioned West Augusta he mentioned the mountaineers of West Virginia.

The cannon balls used by Perry on Lake Erie were made by West Virginians from West Virginia iron ore and fired by West Virginia gunners.

We have more graves of Revolutionary soldiers in West Virginia than any other state in the Union.

The first Union soldier to be killed in the war between the States was Bailey Brown, a West Virginian, who was killed at Fetterman, West Virginia.

The first and last battles of the Revolutionary war were at Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774, and Wheeling, September 11, 1782, both within the boundaries of West Virginia.

The first battle of the Civil War was fought at Philippi, on June 3, 1861.

Andrew Rowan (Skinny Rowan), came from Monroe County to West Virginia University, and from there he went to West Point, and from there he carried the "Message to Garcia."

West Virginia had 60,000 men in the last world war, and 514 sleep the sleep that knows no awakening, in Flanders Field.

Ward Lanham of Fairmont, West Virginia, was the first man to ride his horse into the Rhine River.

West Virginia patriotic, yes. Yet Mr. James W. Cain says that civil war is raging in this mountain state of ours, and that we are not amenable to law.

What about our men and our women? West Virginia has given to the M. E. Church five of her great bishops.

She gave to the Baptist Church, John W. Carter, the Spurgeon of America.

Champ Clark to Missouri.

Senator Dolliver to Iowa.

Senator Farley to California.

To medicine she gave John W. Mitchell.

To invention, James Rumsey, who had his steamboat on the Potomac before Fulton had his on the Hudson.

She also gave invention William Morris and Owen.

She has given to statesmanship, John W. Davis.

She has given to President's cabinets, Stephen B. Elkins, W. L. Wilson, Nathan Goff, Newton D. Baker, John Barton Payne and Howard M. Gore.

She has given to literature, Melville Post, John Esten Cook, Rebecca Davis, Richard Harding Davis and John Herbert, better known as Herbert Quick.

She gave Dudley Evans to the Wells-Fargo Company.

Thomas Fitzgerald and John J. Cornwell to the B. & O.

Herbert Fitzpatrick to the C. & O.

E. Knight to the Virginian.

At the present time three chief counsels of great railroad systems come from West Virginia.

She gave Joseph Ray to mathematics; to the colored race, Booker T. Washington; to sports, "Hurry Up" Yost and Errett Rodgers.

She has given to the world two great Alexanders, each greater than Alexander of Macedon—Alexander Wade, the father of the graded school system of the United States, and Alexander Campbell, who founded a great church.

She gave to strategy, military leadership and to the world, General "Stonewall" Jackson.

And our women. She gave Mary McFarland, the inspired missionary of Alaska.

Ann Jarvis, the founder of Mothers' Day, and Julia Pierpont, who founded Decoration Day. These are but a few of the men and women whom West Virginia has given to the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will agree with me that there are but three great factors upon which rests the wealth of any nation, and those three things are natural resources, native ability and education. Our natural resources are gradually being exhausted and only a God can put them back again. Native ability can be improved and enlarged perhaps by centuries of eugenic breeding. There is but one way, therefore, that we may increase our wealth, if we hope to go on and continue a prosperous nation, or a prosperous state, and that is through education.

The things that I have told you about are past. Most of the men I have mentioned and the women are gone. That is history. It is our duty and should be our pleasure to work for the future. I have come to you, therefore, with this special plea: If we are to prove to the world that we are not barbarians, there is only one way to do it and that is through and by education.

We are proud of the fact and we have a right to be proud that 90 percent of our population are native white

born. We point with pride to the fact our great educational awakening which is a comparatively recent thing has been productive of such splendid results. Today we have 206 first class high schools with an enrollment of over 32,000. I realize full well that Maryland is not responsible for the nativity of Jim Cain, but I ask him to make a comparison of the educational development of Maryland and West Virginia. Let me repeat that progress—civilization has but one standard of measurement and that standard is education.

I plead with you tonight for the next generation, for young America, for your boys and your girls, my boy and my girl .

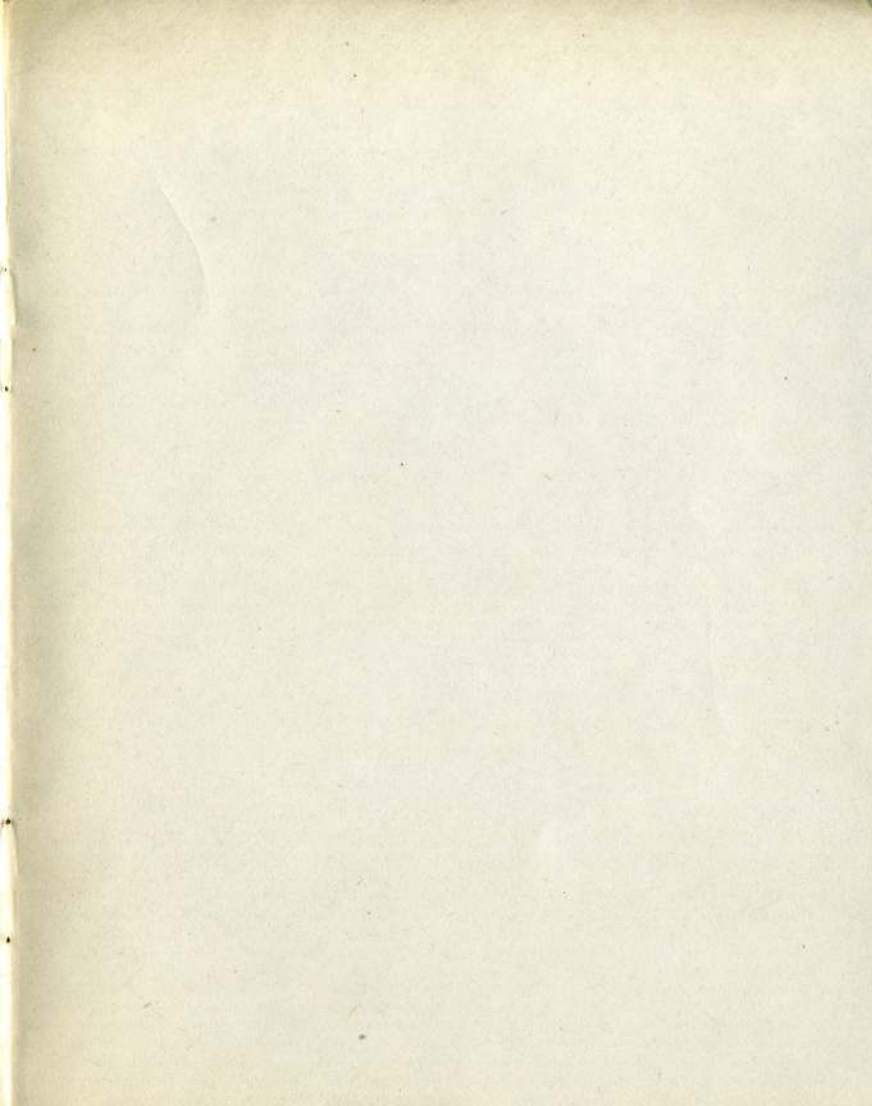
Ladies and Gentlemen: I believe that you believe with me that it is better to build a monument in the heart of some boy or some girl than it is to have a gigantic pillar of stone erected over your grave. I come to you tonight and ask you to go from this meeting resolved that you are going to so live and work and act that the paid press of the East can never again detract from this state of ours. You are West Virginians just as much as I am. I grant you that. But I defy any man on God's earth to be a better West Virginian than I try to be.

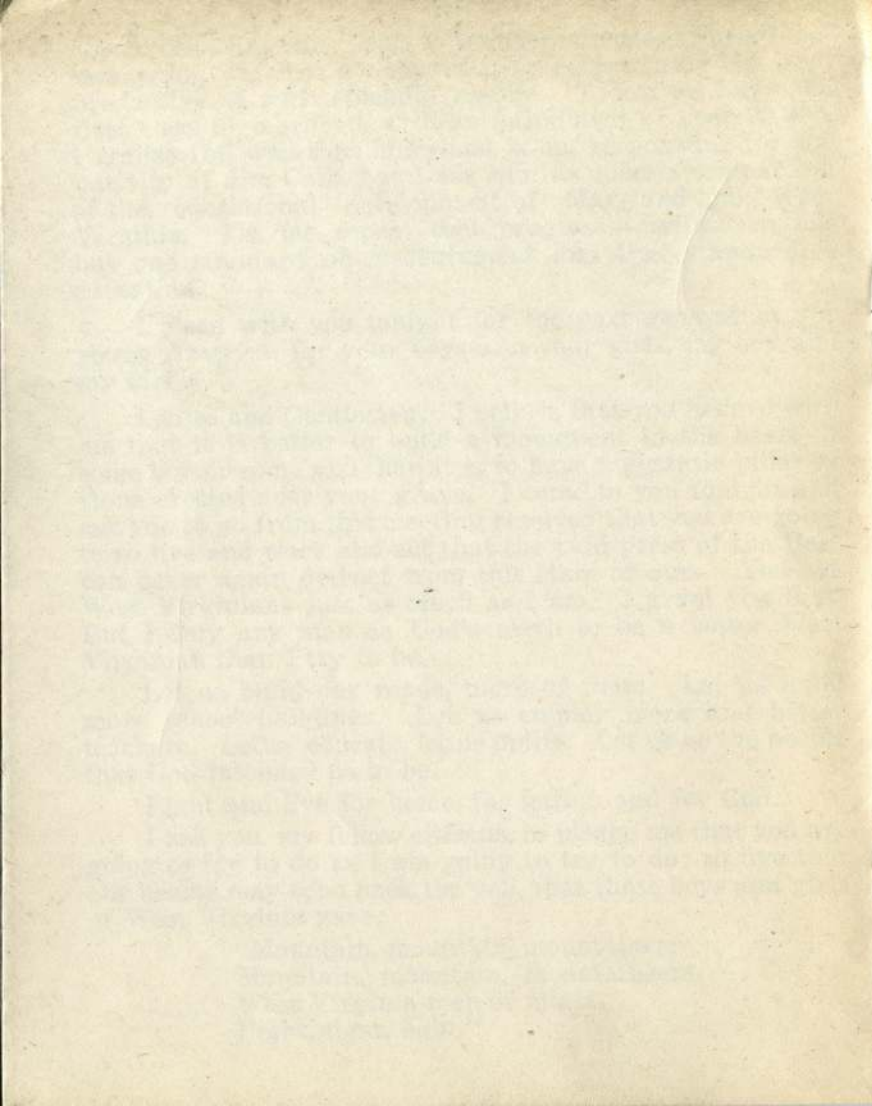
Let us build our roads, more of them. Let us build more school buildings. Let us employ more and better teachers. Let us educate, let us uplift. Let us be the people that God intended us to be.

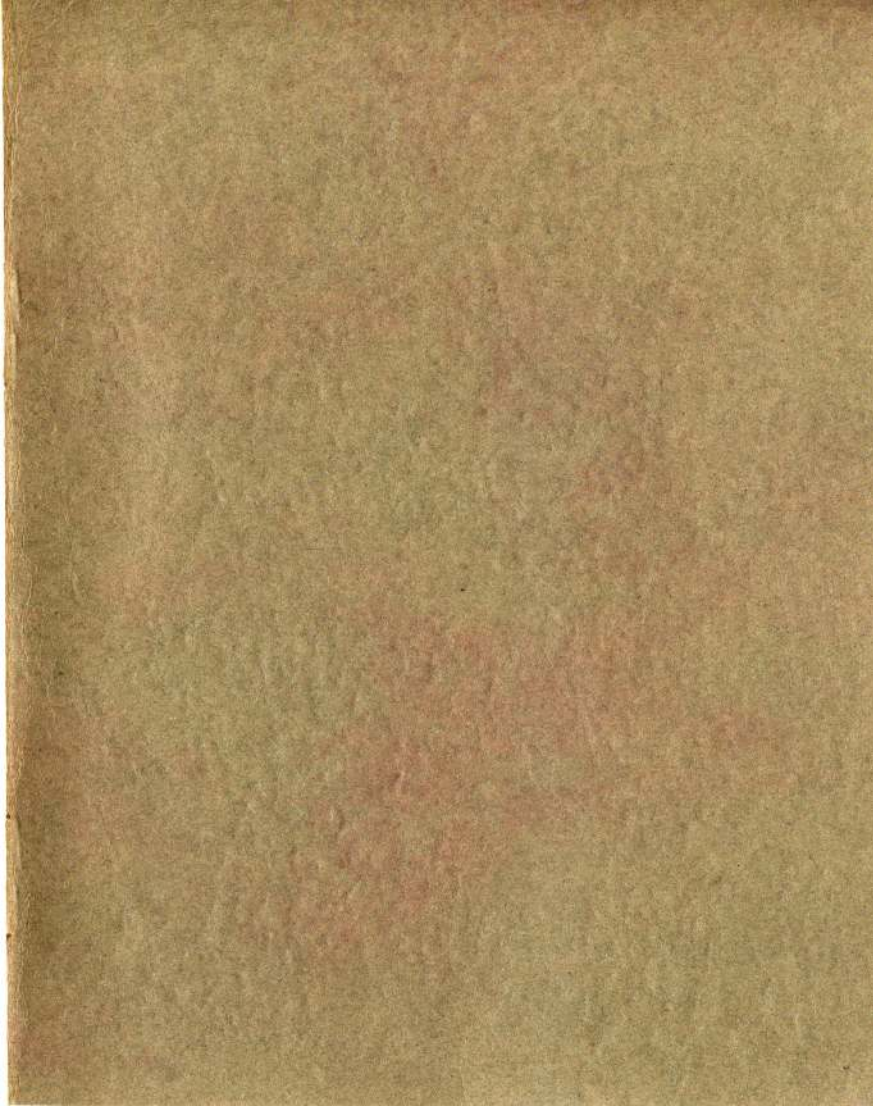
Fight and live for home, for nation and for God.

I ask you, my fellow citizens, to pledge me that you are going to try to do as I am going to try to do; so live that our hearts may echo back the yell, that those boys and girls of West Virginia gave:

“Mountain, mountain, mountaineers,  
Mountain, mountain, mountaineers,  
West Virginia men of might,  
Fight, fight, fight.”







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