

[Sept 1, 1916]

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ARE TRAVELLING EXPENSES TO COUNTY APPOINTEES
UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

In the Courier Journal of the 19th ult. there was printed a "Special" from Frankfort, the matter of which was, presumably supplied by President Henry S. Barker of the University of Kentucky. It recites that the privileges vested in the counties of the Commonwealth ^{FOR} for fifty years of sending to the State University each year a certain number of students selected on competitive examination, to whom is given exemption from all fees, traveling expenses, board and lodging for the term of years required to complete their course of study, are unconstitutional because they violate the Bill of Rights.

In this statement fact and fiction are skillfully blended. In my brief comment I propose to state the facts regarding the law.

In 1862 the Morrill Act passed by Congress gave to each state in the Union public lands in proportion to population with which to found and endow colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts for the education of the masses of the people in the industrial pursuits and professions of life. The allotment to Kentucky was 330,000 acres-- more than 515 square miles. This was given to the state as trustee for its people. The state in order to encourage merit and assist those who needed aid, provided in the act of 1865, which established the College, that each county should be entitled to send one properly prepared student, selected by the majority of the fiscal court each year, who should receive free tuition. The number was to be increased to three when all the land scrip had been sold. When the A.M. College was placed on an independent basis in 1880