

AUTO ROAD EXTENDING FAR INTO POLAR REGION.

Most any American who has an automobile, a bicycle or even a good pair of legs now, can venture far within the Arctic Circle.

A road located in Northern Finland and believed to be the northernmost thoroughfare in existence, starts about 300 kilometers within the circle and extends about 250 kilometers farther north to the Fjord of Petsamo in the Arctic Ocean. Incidentally this harbor is free from ice the year around.

American automobile tourists are going to hear much about this road next month when delegates to the Sixth International Road Congress convene. E. W. Skogstrom, director general of roads, Helsingford, Finland, will submit a detailed report on its construction and capability in handling traffic.

The Imperial Russian Government started construction of the highway in 1916 as a military measure. It would establish communication with the Allies and bank the German blockade of the Baltic Sea. Then came the revolution in that country in March the following year and Finland resumed the construction work. Total cost of the road aggregates \$1,500,000.

The road has been open for quite some time and already venturesome motor tourists have traveled to its northern end. Automobile service stations and roadside hotels have sprung up but most of them are open only during the summer months.

Among the delegates who will open their sessions October 6 and continue until October 11th are Wilhelm Richard Boeckl and Edmund Stinnes. Boeckl won the world championship for figure skating at the Madison Square rink, New York city, last year and will be there as one of the delegates from Austria. Stinnes is a son of the late Hugo Stinnes, Berlin, Germany, motor magnate and capitalist. He comes as a representative of the society for the promotion of automobile highways. Another representative of the society will be Joseph Brix, of Berlin-Charlottenburg, government consulting engineer.

The highway education board has sent 300 invitations to the delegates of the congress to participate in a number of highway inspection tours. The tours are being arranged to afford the foreign delegates first hand information on the construction, maintenance and use of all types of modern roads in the University.

GIGANTIC STRIDES MADE IN USE OF ESPERANTO

Esperanto was created by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof (1859-1917), who was born at Bialostock, Russia. He believed that much international misunderstanding might be removed if a common language were available, and he conceived the idea of Esperanto. By the age of nineteen, he had completed the construction of his new language, but it was then subjected to scrutiny and practical tests till 1887, when he published his "Lingvo Internacia" under the pseudonym of "Doctor Esperanto." Since that time the use of Esperanto has spread rapidly, and Esperanto associations have been formed in every country. Even in the British Isles, where the importance of the movement does not appear to have been fully understood, there are supposed to be 100,000 persons with a knowledge of the language. The third universal Esperanto congress was held at Cambridge in 1907, and since then more than 1,250,000 textbooks have been sold in these islands. More than 1,200 delegates representing every country in the world, attended the twenty-second universal Esperanto congress at Oxford. Among them were a number of Icelanders.

FOR HAPPY FISHERMEN NEXT SUMMER SEASON.

Fishermen, here's something pleasant to think over while chill winds blow and skaters glide over your favorite haunts, the fisheries of Pennsylvania promise many happy days with rod and reel.

Pike, perch, suckers, black bass, brook trout, catfish, lake trout, minnows, pickerel, sunfish—a variety of fish to suit the sport of every type of fisherman has been distributed for your benefit.

A statement issued says that a total of 69,344,028 fish and 92,236 frogs were distributed to the streams from the Pleasant Mount Fish Hatchery between January 1, 1930, and November 30, 1930, inclusive.

School Inspector to Pretty Teacher—"Do you teach observation?" "Yes."

"Then I will take the class. Now, children, shut your eyes and sit still."

Following this the inspector made a slow whistling sort of noise and followed with, "Now, children, what did I do?"

For some time there was no answer but ultimately one little boy piped out, "You kissed the teacher."

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TAXES RAISED BY HARD TIMES

Burden Is Lightest in Communities Boasting Live and Thriving Towns.

FARMER FEELS THE EFFECT

Is Inclined to Forget, at Times, That He Is Most Vitrally Interested in Prosperity of Near-by Cities.

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Taxes are always heavy—to the man who has to pay them—but taxes in some communities are much higher than in others. If you have ever stopped to investigate the matter you have discovered that the lowest taxes are found in the most prosperous communities. And there's a reason.

The prosperous community has the lowest taxes because there is a large amount of wealth in the community against which the taxes may be assessed. There are prosperous merchants with large stocks of goods upon which taxes are levied. Property values are high and there are thriving industries which pay a large proportion of the taxes.

The higher the property values and the greater the wealth of the community the lower are the tax levies, for a lower tax on each hundred dollars of valuation is required to produce the necessary revenue for the administration of the city and county governments.

Other Taxes Are Raised.

On the other hand, take a dead town. Property values are low. Merchants' stocks are small and they have little money in the bank. Industries which ordinarily pay a large part of the taxes of a community have closed down. There are vacant store buildings which were formerly filled with stocks of merchandise upon which the owners paid heavy taxes. Who pays the taxes that were once paid by the merchants, the manufacturers, the bankers and the men who had large holdings of high-priced property? The taxes to conduct the city and county governments, to maintain the schools, to build and repair the roads must be collected from someone. Who pays them? The man who owns his little home or the vacant lot or two upon which he has been planning to build his home must pay double or triple the amount which he paid in the times when the town was prosperous, to make up for the taxes which are not paid now by

the merchants, the bankers, the manufacturers and the big property owners who bore the heaviest burdens of taxation when times were good.

The farmers in the country surrounding the town are also among the heaviest sufferers from the ebbing of the town's prosperity. A certain amount of money must be raised by taxation to provide for the expenses of the county. Roads must be built and kept in repair. Bridges must be built and maintained. Salaries of county officers must be paid. County institutions for the care of the sick and the poor must be maintained. In counties which contain one or more thriving towns, a large proportion of the taxes for the county are paid by the towns. The greater the wealth of the towns and the higher the property valuations, the lower the tax levy for the entire county. When the tax levy is low the burden placed upon the farmer is light.

Burden Falls on Farmer.

When the county contains no prosperous and wealthy towns, the greater part of the burden of taxation for the county falls upon the farmer. The value of the farmer's property does not fall in proportion to the value of the property in the town and the higher tax levy that results from the lower property values in the towns makes his taxes higher.

The farmer forgets at times that he is vitally interested in the prosperity of "his town." He thinks that it is up to the town to take care of itself and that it is up to him to take care of himself and he overlooks that fact that the prosperity of the town means as much to him as it does to those who live in it. The farmer who is inclined to overlook this fact has only to think of the matter of taxes and he is likely to change his point of view for taxes are one thing that neither he nor anyone else can escape, and they are one thing in which the farmer ordinarily takes a very lively interest.

How Farmer Can Help.

There is just one way in which the farmer can best promote prosperity in the town near which he lives and that is by spending his money in that town instead of sending it away to the far-distant city. Every time the farmer sends an order to a mail order house he helps to destroy the prosperity of his own community and to boost his own taxes. When he sends a dollar away from home he gets none of it back. When he spends a dollar at home, a part of that dollar comes back to him in some way. It helps the town where it is spent to provide a profitable market for his products and it helps the town pay a large part of his taxes.

The farmer is the one man in the community, above all others, who should have no love for the mail order houses for they are doing more to add to his troubles than any other one agency.

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