

the lack of them. The novel crusade of Dr. Alexander... influence Western Pennsylvania and mark a higher stage in the development of road building.

While realizing the importance of a radical change in our policy, public opinion is much divided as to the best means for obtaining the desired ends. There are three avenues open for reform, which will consist of: First, toll roads, constructed and maintained by private enterprise; second, roads of a semi-public nature, built by means of public co-operation with private management; third, free roads, maintained by the public.

THE TAX QUESTION. The fundamental question in all legislation should be how to distribute the burdens for the support of the roads most equitably. Absolute justice is of course impossible of attainment. The aim should be, however, as in all taxation, to place the tax where it is most equitably borne and where the sacrifices entailed will be in proportion to ability to pay it.

TOLL ROADS.—It is a singular fact that toll roads have almost entirely disappeared from the continent of Europe. England being the only country of any importance which still maintains this "relic of barbarism," as it has been called. Scotland abolished them in 1883, while England is freeing herself from them as fast as possible. In the United States all but ten of the States possess toll roads, although in many of them the tolls are so low that they are rapidly about to die.

At first blush this appears reasonable, but in reality such charges are unjust, because we find that toll roads are a benefit to all the land contiguous to them, and to the town population as well, for they greatly increase the prosperity of the district. It is not only the farmer, but the traveler, that the traveling public should bear the entire burden, as they do not bear to receive all the benefit. Thus the taxing of the farmer, who is a goodly and inalienable right, is a heavy burden, and the traveler, who is a goodly and inalienable right, is a heavy burden.

Public Co-Operation With Private Management.—The second plan of private enterprise is that the State, or county, or city, should acquire the right to use the system. Warren county has secured the best roads in the State of Kentucky. The cost of building the roads varied according to the style of road, grades and general character of the country. Where the country was level and drainage good the roads were constructed at from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per mile, but where hills were encountered and washouts to be prevented the road was usually macadamized at a cost of about \$1,500 per mile.

FREE ROADS.—The last plan, and the one most usually recommended by road experts is that of free roads, constructed and maintained at public expense. This has been done before this plan necessitates State initiative, as the counties are usually too conservative to make a move of their own accord.

various classes. A State statute should be passed providing that the township shall constitute the road district, in each of which an overseer is to be appointed to hold office for one or more years; who shall give bonds for \$500 for the faithful discharge of his duties. The overseer shall be paid for his services out of the township to be open road, keep him in such repair as the County Engineer may think necessary and make all improvements which may be required. Each township shall further be required to erect grade boards at every cross roads and keep them in good repair.

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LATE NEWS IN BRIEF. —Eight inches of snow fell in North Dakota. —Fire destroyed \$10,000 worth of property at Upton, Wis. —The union foundrymen of Cincinnati are on a strike.

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