

ROADS AND ROADMAKING

BAD ROADS AFFECT TRADE.

The Country Merchant is Directly Benefitted by Good Highways.

The effect of road conditions upon highway traffic has been very forcibly illustrated by the data recently compiled by the Illinois State Highway Commission. A systematic count was made of traffic over various kinds of highways leading to towns and cities in different parts of the State on given days each month throughout the year. Seventy-two points were selected and a record kept of the exact number of vehicles passing, as well as the weather and road conditions.

The results show that traffic over stone and gravel roads is fairly uniform throughout the year, while over earth roads the widest variations are noticeable. The following figures, taken from the report, are sufficient to show the effect of earth road conditions on traffic during the winter and early spring season, the very time when the farmer has the most leisure and wants to go to town.

The Clear Lake earth road leading into Springfield, Ill., for March, showed an average traffic of 65 1-2 vehicles per day. On the same road in June and July following, an average of 239 vehicles passed. On the same days in Florida, under probably the same weather conditions, over a hard road the traffic in March was 166, the average for June and July 153.

A Champaign earth road leading to a Tolono road, showed an average for January, February and March of 63; for September and October 200. The same year at Decatur, over a gravel road, March and April showed 240, July and August 278. The report on the whole would indicate that the falling off in traffic due to bad earth road conditions, ranges from 40 to 80 per cent.

The farmers are the best customers of the country merchant, and any interference with traffic immediately cuts down his trade. Again, the farmer will trade in the town nearest, not in miles, but in time and effort to get there. He will go five miles over a good road rather than three over a bad one. It is to be observed, also, that where roads are good the farmers are more up-to-date citizens, they live better and are more liberal spenders; and the country merchant is directly benefited.

Good Roads as Memorials.

Do men of large means, desirous of leaving a memorial to themselves, appreciate the few forms of memorial are more permanent and confer greater benefits on those who come after them than a thoroughfare, constructed after the most approved methods in road-making? If the Romans could build roads that endure to the present day, modern constructors ought to be able to do likewise, and we know that a name once given to a thoroughfare, whether in the city or the country, is seldom changed. Some day rural highways will be named with the same care as city streets are now named and the difficulty in finding one's way around in the country will thereby be much lessened. If there are men anxious to perpetuate their memories to posterity in the names of country roads, now is their chance, while the good roads movement is gaining impetus.

Practical Farming.

Hay should be well forked and shaken and slightly dampened and fed on the floor or in slatted mangers. The farmer should not buy his work horses—he should raise them. He can grow them at a profit. It is better for the average farmer to raise draft colts.

Only the man who is a born horse lover can raise roadsters profitably. Colts like fine hay much better than they do coarse. Second-growth hay, fed a little at a time, is preferable. Shredded corn fodder is relished, but should be fed in the same way—a little at a time. Grain should be fed liberally.

Right Kind of Road.

The right kind of country road is the one which furnishes the smoothest, soundest, safest surface at all times, but especially that which stands up best in bad weather and makes the least dust or is most easily kept free of dust by oiling or by some other similar method. Cost, of course, has to be taken into consideration, and durability also, but in every case the welfare of the farmers who live on the roads and could not get along without them must be held in mind.

The Mission of the Auto.

While the automobile has been exceedingly destructive to the old macadam pavement, none are more anxious than the motorists that the harm done be offset by an improved method of road laying. And as the farmers invest more and more in automobiles the interests of the pleasure seekers and of those to whom the roads are purely utilitarian will become less diverging.

Necessity of Co-operation.

It has come to be understood and acknowledged that good roads can only be secured through a co-operation in which all the resources of the nation shall in one way or another be combined, and in many States the appropriations have been made of the State Treasury to supplement the local levy.

LIBERTY VERSUS GREENS.

Why the Cullud Gem'man Wanted a Longer Martyrdom.

A colored man from Georgia had lived in Washington but a few days when he was arrested for some slight violation of the city ordinances. Upon hearing that the negro was in jail, the secretary of the colored Y. M. C. A. secured the services of a minister to go with him and sign the prisoner's bail-bond. They reached the jail shortly before noon, and told the negro the object of their visit. In response to the proffered kindness he said:

"Mistah Johnsing, I sho is glad you-all is gwine tah git me out, but I wants you-all to fix it so I can't git out till late dis ebein'."

Of course the two Samaritans were somewhat taken aback by this unusual request. But a moment later they lost their breath when, in answer to the secretary's question, the Georgia negro replied in a whisper: "Well, sah, dey's a-gittin' dinnah ready, an' dey's cookin' greens; an' I sho would like to git some o' dem greens befo' I leabe dis place!"

Retribution.

I visited a school one day where Bible instruction was part of the daily course, and in order to test the children's knowledge asked some questions. One class of little girls looked particularly bright, and I asked the tallest one: "What sin did Adam commit?"

"He ate forbidden fruit."

"Right. What tempted Adam?"

"Eve."

"Not really Eve, but the serpent. And how was Adam punished?"

"The girl hesitated and looked confused. Behind her sat a little 8-year-old, who raised her hand and said: "Please, pastor. I know."

"Well, tell us; how was Adam punished?"

"He had to marry Eve."

Paradoxical.

Little Reginald came crying to his mother in the parlor. "Reggie," she inquired solicitously, "what are you crying for?"

"Because the stove-pipe fell all over papa while he was trying to put it up and covered him with soot," sobbingly explained little Reginald.

"And that is all?" reproved the mother. "Reggie, my little man, you shouldn't cry for that. You ought rather to have laughed when the stove-pipe fell on papa."

"Why, mamma, that's what I did do," sobbed Reggie.

The Villain's Excuse.

A melodrama of the most stirring kind was being played in a theatre in a small provincial town. In one of the critical scenes the hero suddenly became aware of the fact that he had come upon the stage minus his dagger. Without a moment's hesitation he made a dash at the traitor.

"Die, villain!" he exclaimed. "I meant to strike thee with my dagger, but I left the weapon in my dressing room, and will therefore strangle thee in the presence of this indulgent audience."—Answers.

GOT THE WORST OF IT.



"Did you have a pleasant time at the picnic, Ronald? I trust that you remembered to fletcherize, and masticated each mouthful 100 times."

"Yes, sir, an' while I was chewin' my first bite the other boys et up all the grub."—Life.

The Kingdom Saved.

When Barry Sullivan, the Irish tragedian, was playing Richard III. one night, and the actor came to the lines, "A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse!" some merry wag in the pit called out:

"And wouldn't a jackass do as well for you?"

"Sure," answered Sullivan, turning like a flash at the sound of the voice. "Come around to the stage door at once!"

Grand Larceny.

If I should steal a kiss, what would you say?"

"I should accuse you of petit larceny."

He ran the risk and then asked, "Now, if I should steal a dozen, what would you say?"

"Oh, that would be 'grand'!"

Where She Felt Worst.

A little girl came to her mother one morning and said: "Mamma, I don't feel very well."

"Well, that's too bad," said mamma, "where do you feel the worst?"

"In school," was the prompt reply.

Annoying.

Mother—"Johnny, why are you beating little sister? Surely she has not been unkind to you?"

Johnny—"No, mamma; but she is so fearfully good. I simply can't stand her."

POULTRY

THE DUST BATH.

During Dry Spell Lay in Stock of Dust for Winter.

While things are dusty and dry it is a fine time to gather up the bathing material for the hens during the winter; don't stint yourself in the amount, get a plenty, remember the winter is long enough for the hens to require lots of dust material.

Have a very large box, so several hens can be dusting at once, better yet partition off a corner or end of the house and fill in with several barrels of dust.

In very cold weather it is well to sift in the warm ashes.

When the bath is large enough hens will dust at once to make a thick fog that is hard on the lice.

When the old hens are sold, or the ones culled out, is a good time to clean up the premises, at any rate the houses, for the winter. Give a thorough cleaning, removing all accumulation from the roostroom, fill in with fresh dust or gravel, a little higher than the old dirt was, then whitewash the walls well, not being nice about dropping the wash; then seal off the roost until every crack and crevice is full of oil.

If the nest boxes are removed, suggests the Indiana Farmer, they should have been removed at the beginning of the clean up, if not removable, then all the nesting should be removed and burned, the sides of the nests oiled inside and whitewashed outside.

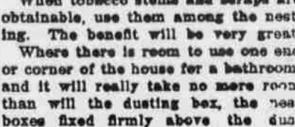
When tobacco stems and scraps are obtainable, use them among the nesting. The benefit will be very great.

Where there is room to use one end or corner of the house for a bathroom, and it will really take no more room than will the dusting box, the nest boxes fixed firmly above the dust place is a good thing.

The more dust the hens raise the better for the boxes, as lice and mites cannot live in a fog of dust; then, too, space is economized.

Fresh Eggs in Packages.

Guaranteed fresh eggs are as good as money in the bank in any town. Even when only properly graded as to size and color in the trade-egg cases, this holds good; but when properly cartoned by the producer, his product at once possesses an added attractiveness as well as an enhanced value to the thrifty housewife and the chef of the kitchen.



Egg Box.

To make this system effective, eggs should be gathered every day and the date stamped on each egg. Eggs of uniform size and color are put in cartons or paper cases holding one dozen each. These are sealed with a label on which is printed a statement that the eggs are guaranteed to be strictly fresh, and are marketed, selling readily and at an advanced price. If the breeder establishes his own trade (selling direct to the consumers) we believe the advance price over current market reports would be from 25 per cent. and up. The average consumer wants fresh eggs, and is willing to pay for a prime article.

Cross-Bred Fowls.

A reader asks us what we think of crossing pure-bred Leghorns and Barred Plymouth Rocks, in order to get a breed of wols larger than the former and better layers than the latter. Our advice is to stick to a pure breed, as just as soon as we cross the two we take the first step backward, and from thence on we will have only mongrel fowls, which become more worthless with each year.

Many pure breeds of fowls are large enough for the demands of any market, and they will lay almost as many eggs, all things considered, as will the Leghorns. The trouble is that the larger breeds often sit and hatch out a brood, and sometimes more of chicks during the summer, while the Leghorn loses no time that way. An incubator or common hen does the work of hatching for the latter, while the former is expected to attend to that herself, but is given no credit for results.

Raising Turkeys.

Turkeys should have as much room as possible and should always be allowed to roost where there is plenty of fresh air. They pick up food as they go, covering large areas. When old enough to be turned out on a range they should not be fed on mash. Overfeeding of turkeys brings on disease.

Feeding Chicks.

Don't overfeed the first week of hatching. Rather feed lightly three times a day.

Coram meal, meat and potatoes are three of the most valuable ingredients in the hatching bill of fare.

Free range chickens are never so tender for roasting as those with mixed range and fed on pine feed.

Poetry Worth Reading.

These Are Others.

Don't imagine, my boy, if you throw up your job
That the firm that employs you will fail,

That the whole office force in their anguish will sob
And the senior partner turn pale. You are highly efficient and active and bright—

So you say, I'm unwilling to doubt you;
But the chance of all this is incredibly slight.

There are plenty of others without you.

Don't get mad with the girl, and to make her feel bad
Fall to go for your usual call. It's the truth, though I know it sounds awfully sad,

That she never may miss you at all.

It's a mighty poor policy staying away,
Though I grant that at times she may frown you,

But I know that I'm in a position to say
There are plenty of others without you.

Don't get soured on the world and do anything rash,
Not to speak of the good for your soul.

If you jump in the lake you may make a small splash,
But you'll never leave much of a hole.

Don't expect folks to make such a terrible fuss.
When they think very little about you,

And, to use common language, aren't caring a cuss,
There are plenty of others without you.

—Chicago News.

The Man Ahead.

In almost any newspaper
You're pretty sure to find
A lot of gush in printer's ink,
About the man behind.

There's the man behind the counter,
And the man behind the gun,
The man behind the kodak,
And the man behind the sun.

The sleepy man behind the times
The man behind his fist,
The man 'a'las, behind his rent,
And so throughout the list.

But they've skipped another fellow,
Of whom nothing has been said—
The fellow who is even
Or a little way ahead.

Who pays at once for what he gets,
Whose bills are always signed;
He's a blamed sight more important
Than the man who is behind.

All the editors and merchants
And the whole commercial clan,
Are indebted for existence
To this honest fellow-man.

He keeps us all in business
And his town is never dead,
And so we take our hats off
To the man who is ahead.

—Australian Harware and Machinery.

Once in a Lifetime.

It was a pitiful mistake,
An error sad and grim;
I waited for the railway train;
The light was low and dim.

It came at last, and from the car
There stepped a dainty dame,
And, looking up and down the place,
She straight unto me came.

"Oh, Jack!" she cried, "oh, dear old Jack!"

And kissed me as she spake;
Then looked again and frightened cried,
"Oh, what a bad mistake!"

I said, "Forgive me, maiden fair,
For I am not your Jack;
And as regards the kiss you gave
I'll straightway give it back."

And since that night I've often stood
Upon that platform dim,
But only once in man's whole life
Do such things come to him.

—The Traveller.

He Debated It.

"I'm an orphan, sir," she said,
He tenderly consoled her.
And when he saw it pleased her too,
His sympathy grew bolder.

"Poor, lonely little one," he said,
"I also am another;
'Twould be the thing, I'm sure, if I
Should kiss you for your mother."

He did, but e'en that thoughtful deed
Seemed hardly to suffice her.
She murmured: "I forgot to say
My papa married twice, sir."

—From the Bohemian.

The Upper Side.

When the clouds are low, and the winds are wild,
And the world forgets that it ever smiled,
Have thou no fear for above the cloud,
And above the realm where the winds are loud,
Light and glory, and joy abide;
There is always light on the upper side.

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