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THE HIGHWAYS OF AMERICA.

One of the greatest boons America ever enjoyed was also her misfortune. For the steam railroad made America the wonder of the world in progress, in territorial expansion, and in wealth, but it caused by its coming the total neglect of the common public highways. In the history of all nations civilization has been followed, and doubtless helped on, by the construction of substantial public roads between various sections of the country. The United States, progressive as she is, has probably the poorest constructed system of commercial and military highways of any civilized nation in the world. The reason of course is apparent, for steam came into use shortly after our national birth and all the energy and money once put into public carriage highways has been devoted to the building of steam railroads, until there are now six hundred millions of dollars invested in this business in the union alone. For the purpose of opening up a new country these ribbons of steel are far better than carriage roads ever could be, but the nation loses greatly by its almost total oversight of the latter. The railroad, while operated by private wealth, is expected to be a source of profit and can never take the place of roads free to all. The great body of agricultural travel must ever be on the cross-country highways, and of recent years the bicycle and automobile have showed that the demands of pleasure may be quite as urgent and perhaps a more powerful incentive for improvement.

When the power of Rome spread over all the known world, much of its stability was due to the vast system of public highways, which, taking the place of our modern railroads, extended from Rome to every province of the state. Broad, solid and smooth, paved with stones and even granite, they run everywhere with little heed for obstructions of nature; mountains were tunneled, broad streams arched and expense was not a factor. That was sixteen hundred years ago. The empire is dead and its people no more. But these roads still endure in many places and their existence helped long after the empire's decay to hold together the scattered remains of the state.

In its early history the United States entered upon just such a system of road building as this. In the administration of Monroe the famous National road was started on the banks of the Potomac and ran west, crossing the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, to Wheeling, and later it was extended to Illinois. Six million dollars were expended in construction and it amply repaid the cost to the country. But it was the last attempt made by the government towards building a national system of roads. Two causes were responsible: first, the introduction of the railroad, which seemed to supersede the ordinary highway; second, a deep seated prejudice against using national money for seemingly local internal improvements. The result has been deplorable. Here and there enterprising counties have systematically improved the roads, but the larger portion of the country, sparsely inhabited, has shrunk from the cost of macadamizing or otherwise constructing solid and enduring highways.

THE IMPERIAL EAGLE.

When the Continental Congress adopted the eagle as our national emblem, Franklin was angry because the eagle is a merciless bird of prey, cleaving the skies but robbing the earth, and America was to be a haven for the oppressed of earth, a country of peace and content. The emblem was an apparent misfit, but there

are times when men are wiser in their blindness than they dream. When the nation was young the eagle defended herself and increased in power. In her youthful strength she flew to the south and west and added to our borders. With a scream of martial fury she crossed the wide ocean four years ago and caught up distant islands as her prey. She is rising higher every day and from her height looks down upon the nations of the earth. Some day—and it is not far distant—she will pounce upon the petty nations of America, north and south, and carry them captives to her imperial nest at Washington. That is to say, the United States, willingly or not, is the destined ruler of America and her flag and her authority will some day be acknowledged from the bleak snows of Cape Horn to the ice floes of the Arctic ocean. It is not wrong to take that which is our own, and it has ever been recognized in the politics of the world that superiority of mind, of aim—and of might, too—gives the right to spread a better government over unstable, unprogressive and revolutionary states. The countries of South America are among the richest in the world in natural resources and need but progressive men to work the field. We were not ready when Monroe was president to assert our rights, so we only warned Europe America was not for it. We are mighty now and can plainly say America is not for Europe because it is our own.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS.

"A revolution," says Victor Hugo, "is the grease the Omnipotent uses to keep the groove of human events smooth. If the human machine hitches and will not go—quick, a revolution, and all goes smooth again. Progress moves by men and events, but geniuses are needed among men and revolutions among events. Great accidents are the law; the order of things must have them. Heaven itself needs a sensation and sends a comet across its face." This may account for the multitudinous wars and rumors of wars now flying around the world. Blockades on the coast of Venezuela, revolutions in the state; Guatemala snarls at Salvador and Honduras chimes in; rebels in Columbia and unrest in China; saintly pretenders to the Sultan of Morocco's throne and rumors of insurrection in the Philippines; while to cap all Turkey, the "sick man of Europe," threatens to give the diplomatic doctors of Europe bloody work to do. Revolutions are not new, wars are as old as the sons of men, and this world would have an exceedingly dry history were it not enlivened by these ever recurring scimmages.

THE WAGES OF THE TEACHER.

A bill is now before the Pennsylvania legislature fixing the minimum of a school teacher's wages at \$35 per month. Originally it was fixed at \$40 but cut down on second reading. Even the larger amount is small compensation for a profession which requires such high moral character and long preparation. It is little wonder that teachers in general regard their work not as a life business, as they would in any other profession, but merely as a stepping stone to some more lucrative position. The training of pupils in school is acknowledged one of the noblest professions and should be rewarded accordingly. Germany has the true conception of this and her school teachers are appointed for life, or during good behavior. It is natural that a man knowing his work for years will be in the same spot would take deeper interest in his work, put forth more effort for success, and lay larger plans than a teacher who has no assurance that he will spend even two years in the same position, and whose salary, seldom large, is made smaller by the usual summer months of idleness.

A vine has been discovered in Central America which on cutting produces a sap like rubber. The vine grows in wild luxuriance, ranging in diameter from four inches to two feet. The rubber is said to be superior to that obtained from Brazil.

Saved Her Child's Life.

"In three weeks our chubby little boy was changed by Pneumonia almost to a skeleton," writes Mrs. W. Watkins, of Pleasant City, O. "A terrible cough set in, that, in spite of a good doctor's treatment for several weeks, grew worse every day. We then used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling was soon sound and well. We are sure this grand medicine saved his life." Millions know it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung Diseases. H. Alex. Stokes, the druggist, guarantees satisfaction. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

For Sale.

127 acres of land, 15 acres cleared and balance in woods, with a lot of second growth chestnut and other hardwood, and a two story house, 18 x 28 ft., stable and other outbuildings, and 50 growing fruit trees. Located one mile west of Emersville. Inquire of A. G. Dinger, Emersville, Pa.

Millions put to Work.

The wonderful activity of the new century is shown by an enormous demand for the world's best workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. For Constipation, Sick Headache, Biliousness, or any trouble of Stomach, Liver or Kidneys they're unrivaled. Only 25c at H. Alex. Stokes's drug store.

Try the "Menu" brand of devilled crabs at the City Hotel restaurant this week.

It is pleasure and economy to deal at Millirens department store.

WANT COLUMN.

Rates—One cent per word for each and every insertion.

LOST—French poodle dog Monday afternoon. Return to Supt. John Reed's residence, Main street.

For Rent—Two furnished rooms for light housekeeping. Inquire of Mrs. James Cathcart, Jackson street.

For Sale—Second hand cook stove. Inquire at THE STAR office.

For Sale—A seven room house, lot 60 by 150 feet, in West Reynoldsville. M. E. Weed.

For Sale—Newcome fly shuttle carpet loom. Inquire at THE STAR office.

NOTICE—Employees of the silk mill using electric cars going to and from work can purchase car tickets at lower rates.

LOST—Side comb with sterling silver top was lost night of Elk banquet. Finder please leave at STAR office.

WANTED—Girls that are looking for steady employment. Apply at silk mill.

For Sale—Brown and white single comb Leghorn and Plymouth Rock eggs for hatching in season. Inquire of J. J. Hoffman.

Splinters Wanted—Apply to Brookville Woolen Mills.

For Sale—Lot on Main street. Inquire of L. J. McEntire.

For Sale or Rent—A good property, including a store room, on Worth street. Inquire at THE STAR office.

Shick & Wagner

THE BIG STORE

AS A RESPONSE to the inquiries of our many friends when we expect to show spring lines, we desire to say we put on display this week those lines which are so earnestly sought after by the ladies for their early sewing. We are prepared to give you the best possible service and in keeping with our reputation. We can assure you we will be able to give you at all times the best and newest productions of our most reliable manufactures as well as many of the newest and most striking novelties of foreign importation.

Inventory is about over and we shall give our entire and devoted attention to your spring wants, but we find a few things—left overs from a most successful winter season—which we will dispose of at a fractional part of its original cost. We have not the time to enumerate these things and tell you about them, but in case of need of anything in cold weather merchandise kindly ask for it and you will receive the proper attention of some one from a most efficient sales force.

Next door to Postoffice.
Reynoldsville, Pa.

Fancy White Etamine and Pique Vests.

MILLIRENS

Greatest Department Store in Jefferson County

Arrow Brand Collars, Two for 25 Cents.

Arrivals in SPRING Apparel—Winter Wear Sacrificed

Winter Goods are being hard-pressed by the intruding spring stocks. We will not pack away any heavy goods, hence the only outlet is through slashed prices and this we do. Ladies' Coats and Men's Overcoats must be worn for some time yet, and can be secured here for ridiculously small figures. The advance guard of our spring apparel is here and shows that we have bought to surpass all previous seasons in richness and completeness of display.

Special Offer of Women's Early Spring Suits

An immense assortment from one of the leading makers of tailored suits of the country. Made in right up-to-date styles, including collarless blouses, Norfolk and coat effect, trimmed with fancy braids, straps, puff sleeves, coats silk lined, postillion backs, skirts in shapely flare. Materials are Venetian cloth, homespuns, chevots and fancy mixtures in blue, brown, gray, castor and black. Perfect in fit and shape. A saving on every one of these suits—\$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 \$20.00.

WOMEN'S SKIRTS.

Here in abundance. Dress or walking skirts, made of broadcloths, Kerseys, home spuns or meltons, in plain colors or new stripes and mixtures. Walking skirts with finished or slot seams. Dress skirts have silk trimmings.—\$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00, \$8.00.

Spring Waistings Now Here.

Etamines, Wool Voile, mercerized etamines and foulards, in all the late predominating colors. Come in and see them and all the new trimmings in grape and medallion effects.

Shoes for Ladies.

In all the late toes and all widths from A to EE, in wide extension sole or the nice, neat turn sole. They are all made for service and comfort. Some are lace, others are button.—\$1.25, \$1.50, 2.00, 2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50.

RIGHT CLOTHING RIGHT PRICED

Spring Top Coats.

In tan covert lined with skinner's satin, short length, \$10.00.

Clearing Out Winter Weight

SUITS at a sacrifice. Made of fancy chevots and mixed cassimeres in stylish effects; well tailored and finished, \$5.00, \$6, \$7, \$8.00. WINTER OVERCOATS in black and blue Kersey, oxford, vicunna or black astrichan. All must go at \$3.50, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00. Look them over for your selection.

First Spring Hats.

Shown here in great array. All the late spring shapes in narrow flange brim or the wide full set with medium low crown, to be worn with double crease, \$1.00, 1.50, 2.00, \$2.50. Come in and see our new Howard stiff hat.

Men's Shirts and Collars.

Monarch colored shirts in stiff bosoms or soft negligees. All the late colors in dots or neat effects in stripes. Some have separate cuffs, all to be worn with white collars. \$1.00 and \$1.50. Princely shirts, this year's styles, 50 cents.

Shoes for Men and Boys.

Here in abundance. Florsheim and Bostonian make. All the late toes, all widths of soles, some are cut plain, others are cut on Blucher style. \$1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, \$3.50. Visit our Shoe Department for Values. Trunks, Suitcases and Telescopes.

