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SOVERNMENT ROADMAKING.

Several weeks ago the department of agriculture began its first experiment in roadbuilding at New Brunswick, N. J., under the direction of E. B.

Harrison, special agent of the office of road inquiry. The model read being considered is the first of several which the govern-ment is to build at the various experi-ment stations throughout the country. The government farmishes a rock crusher, screen, engine to drive steam roller, spreading wagon and road grading ma-chine and two skilled operators. The city furnishes the material, carts and

The road will be of macadam pattern An inferior grade of traprock is found in abundance near New Brunswick and this is being used in the substructure of the road. The superstructure is obtained from the traprock deposits in the neighborhood of Plainfield and the

Oranges.

The model pavement will have a depth of about nine inches and the foundation be made of small, wedge shaped, broken stones of as nearly the same dimensions as possible. The roadbed will be prepared by thoroughly rolling with a steam roller weighing about ten tons. Every hole will be carefully filled with the same material that composes the rest of the roadbed, and the finished cross section will be formed by two grades of one foot in 80 feet from the sides, uniting at the center, with the apex slightly rounded. Four inches of crushed stone will be spread on the carefully prepared roadbed to form the foundation of the substructure. The largest of these stones will be crushed so fine as to be able to easily pass through a two inch ring, and the smallest will be about half an inch in diam-

This foundation will then be sprinkled, making the stone as wet as possible without softening the roadbed, and the roller passed over it a few times until the stone is only slightly disturbed by the teams returning with the empty carts. The first foundation is not made deeper than four inches, because it has been found that a greater thickness causes the stones to "elbow" together, wearing off their sharp corners, making the "bonding," which is the great desideratum, a very slow process, if not an impossibility.

When the first foundation has been thoroughly sprinkled, a second coat of similar stone three inches in thickness will be applied. After the stone has been well "bonded" to this extent it will again be sprinkled, and while very wet a thin coating of traprock screenings will be most carefully spread over the surface, just thick enough to fill the small spaces between the stones. The size of the stones of this last application, which is called in the parlance of roadbuilding the "binder," will be from half an inch in diameter to the inest dust. When the work has reached this stage, it will be left untouched in the dry state as long as practicable to barden and bind. The application of water and the passage of vehicles will

be prevented as long as practicable.

As the work progresses Mr. E. B.

Harrison, who is directing the work for liver lectures explaining the process of laying the road. Kutgers college students in the ogricultural department and farmers will be invited to attend the lectures and witness the work.

Nearly 20 years ago General Grant, in enumerating necessary lines of pub-lic improvements, named the public schools and highways. Once, when he and General Sheridan were in a remiiscent mood, the old commander said to "Little Phil," speaking of the latter's famons ride to the battle of Cedar Creek: "Sheridan, if that battle had taken place after a prolonged rain and there had not been a good pike from Winchester, you would never have been promoted to the head of the United States army. You would not have reached the battlefield to cheer your men, and there would have been a great defeat for the Union forces in great victory. That would have left Meade and Thomas a long distance ahead of you in the line of promotion.

-New York Tribune. Reep the Road Dry.

F. A. Dunham, who has been prom-Jersey, at a meeting of the Connecticut Valley Highway association, stated that poor material well put together can be made to produce better results together. Nothing is more fatal to durability than the drainage of the road-bed, and more particularly the sub-drainage, which is often neglected. A macadam road cannot be left to itself

Both Hard and Easy. Good roads are about the easiest thing in the world to make, once undertaken, but about the bardest thing there is to get officials to take hold of.—Parkers-burg (W. Va.) Scutinel.

According to the statement of the president of the Missouri Good Roads

first class roads built by the government, and about an equal number of miles have been built by the different departments, as well as thousands of miles built by smaller divisions. From the beginning of the work to the end there is a system, and responsibility is assured.

Tal roadbuilder.—Rockland (Me.) Star.

American Agriculturist's special crop sport shows a loss in the winter wheat tree, but a 20 per cent gain in spring

From all accounts American apples are found a place in Australian mar-ets, while American peaches find favor

GOOD ROADS TAXES.

Debts Should Be Avoided In Professor John Hamilton, secretary of agriculture of Pennsylvania, in the

ourse of an address delivered before the A. W. assembly at St. Louis said: "Another matter is, I think, worthy our attention. In our seal to secure improvement so long delayed and so long desired we have perhaps overstep-ped the bounds of prudence in advocatped the bounds of prudence in advocat-ing the contracting by localities of enormous debts for road construction, so great that perhaps neither we nor our children will live to see them extin-

"Districts lying near cities or large towns, whose population is made up mostly of business and professional whose means of living are not wholly derived from the income of farm property, but from city occupations, ought perhaps to be excepted from this prohibition, for these wealthy districts need immediate convenience as a neces-sary part of their more luxurious living and can meet, without serious distress, the increased tax needed to construct these expensive roads.

"The income of country people is comparatively small, and although the introduction of good roads will greatly enhance the value of their property and be of untold advantage to them in other respects, yet we must still remember that it is often unwise to go into debt for comforts and conveniences, in themselves highly desirable, but the possession of which we are unable to afford.

"The great underlying and governing principle in all governments should be that the strong should aid those that are weak, and the logical and equitable method in this not private or local but most important public improvement is for the state to undertake the work, and thus enlist all interests and all of the people in the execution of this great enterprise, designed, constructed ntained for the public use."

WORKING THE ROADS.

Methods In Vogue In Many States Is Pro-The extent to which our travel and traffic are bampered annually in the winter, and almost if not actually probibited occasionally, as happens to be the case now, is a disgrace to the people of the county and especially to the officials who in contemplation of law have supervision of the roads. During the last 15 years, says the Woodville (Miss.) Republican, we have urged the impor-tance of a more efficient method of road working and the immense, if indirect, saving that reasonably good roadways would prove to every farmer and plant-

The fact is that without a general outcry and an active public feeling. which we need not expect under existing laws no improvement of the public roads can reasonably be anticipated. If the present almost impassable condition of many of the main county roads could continue throughout the year improve-ment would be forced. But with dry weather the worst holes will be filled with brush covered with a little dirt, not salable in market, the young ones and the intelligent road overseer will only being sold, and the result is that have a plow run a time or two on each side of a road—that is for drainage, you nd, presto, the road is worked. No man of ordinary sense requires to betold that decent roads are not possible under such a slovenly, slipshod, ridicu-lous pretense of public work.

The first principle of roadmaking is drainage, and proper drainage for the roads of a county cannot be had without uniform and most intelligent supervision. Such supervision the present road law does not provide for. More over, a system of good roads was never maintained anywhere without some expenditure of money; not a great deal necessarily, but whether so or not it would return its value to those who paid it a thousandfold.

SHAPING ROADBEDS.

No Gullies Should Intervene Between the The shape of the roadbed is imporant. Usually one of two extremes in using the road machine is met with. Either the operator is afraid of cutting down the bips of a road and so leaves on each side inside the main ditch, which commonly results disas-trously, especially on hills, or else the hips are out entirely down, leaving a steep, rounded shoulder which narrows the way, exposes the surface to unnec sary wash, is frequently positively dan-gerous for passing teams and allows the road, in homely phrase, to squat-out at

The surface should be a straight line a suitable grade to each side adapted to the longitudinal grade of the road, being more crowning as the bill is steeper. If the hips are in the way, out then down just enough for the grade and no center to inner edge of ditch, frequently to bottom of ditch, when elevation of roadbed or drainage does not require an extra depth to these append Charles E. Pettee, Civil Engine

Edwin McIntyre, who lives a hermit life in the house near Warren where Dr. Pilton B. Baker was abot, has a According to the statement of the president of the Bissouri Good Boads association, the people of that state spent \$490,000 during 1896 for road improvement, while it cost them just \$600,000 for roads supervisors. In other words, it cost the state \$1,000,000 for roads supervisors. In other words, it cost the state \$1,000,000 for road supervisors and stones near his bone; and pounding during the year for \$490,000 worth of road improvement.

In France there are \$4,000 miles of the proof of the present of the pre ties, recognizing the value of the work,

According to ancient history has stored fewer eggs this year than last, "throwing the dart" was one of the but the larger holdings east will doubt-

EXHIBITION FOWLS.

Do Not Overlook the Useful Qualities In

There are breeders of fancy poultry, says Henry L. Allen in The National Stockman and Farmer, who aim to produce exhibition fowls without regard to agg production. The farmer who secure his stock from a breeder of this kind is likely to regret it, if be does not become disgusted and join the army of men who after a rimilar experience declare that standard bred poultry is far juferior to scrub poultry from a practical stand point, and comparing standard bred poultry raised under the conditions here outlined with scrubs well cared for and selected with reference to their practical qualities they are right.

There are, however, many breeders of standard bred fowls who never lose sight of the practical qualities they know will make their fowls of twofold value as compared with those bred for exhibition purposes alone. It is not a difficult matter for a breeder to keep the practical qualities of his fowls developed in a satisfactory degree and at the same time not interfere with their usefulness as exhibition birds. A breeder who aims to have his fowls

excel in both respects need only give them the care necessary to induce the production of eggs, and which, in fact, consists of keeping them in the most vigorous and bealthy condition imaginable, rejecting for breeding purposes such as fail to respond to such treat-

Many fanciers use this method eeding, and so anxious are they for the public to understand the fact that the utilities of their fowls are beginning to be a feature of their advertisements. This being the case, perhaps the safest course to pursue when buying fowls or eggs for hatching is to do so only when assured that one is buying from a breeder who has not allowed the utility qualities of his fowls to become dormant in an endeavor to produce prize winner

regardless of other consideration It is a noticeable fact that where t few years ago only about one breeder in 20 mentioned the useful qualities of his fowls in his advertisements fully 15 out of 20 now call attention to those qualities. This is a most encouraging feature of the business and shows that the popular demand for a combination of use ful qualities with perfection in form and feather has been more effective than many have believed possible.

Breeding Stock.

Good breeding stock-that from which the future layers are to come—is the foundation of success. In saving breeding stock for next year keep the old turkeys, geese and ducks and also hens that have done good service. It is possible that they have fallen behind those that are young, but it is a rule that the strongest young stock is pro-cured from the matured birds. The hundieds of chicks that full by the wayside and perish from no apparent cause are the offspring of pullets. This breeding from the younger stock every year is destroying the turkeys. With geese the fault is not so frequent, as old geese are geese give less trouble in raising them than any other class of poultry. At the ent day there is too much reliance placed on young ducks for breeding puroses, and the fact is being brought out that the losses of ducklings are increasing every year. When the old ducks only are used and breeders will select the best and most vigorous for breeding purposes, the difficulty of weak offspring will be overcome.—Farm and Fireside.

The Two Hundred Egg Hen. Can we produce hens that will lay 200 eggs per annum? Without a doubt. scientific breeding, as for a good butter cow or a good milker, as for a trotting or high jumping horse. Experiments have been made to increase the number of rows of corn on the cob with success. The same method is applicable to poultry breeding. We will start with a hen that lays 120 eggs. me of her chicks will lay, say, 150. per year. From these we will pick out yers, and so on till 200 or better are the result. At the came time it is just as essential to breed our males from prolific layers as it is the females. In fact, it is more so. If we look after the breeding of the females only we will introduce on the male side blood which is lacking in proficiency and thus check every attempt at progress. It is just as essential that the male should be from a hen which laid 175 eggs and from a male that was bred from a hen that laid 150 eggs as it is that the hea was from one that laid 175 eggs and whose mothlaid 150 eggs.

Making Hens Lay at Will. The North Dakota experiment station has a well appointed poultry farm with as much to do with the egg production as it has with beef or batter there is but as it has with beef or butter there is but little question. We placed two pens of fowls under exactly the same conditions as far as the temperature, room and care were concerned, but fed them with an entirely different object in view. One pen we wished for breeding purposes and did not want them to lay until the breeding season opened, so that we can get a more steady egg production than if they were made to lay during the entire winter."

Now that there is so much snow upon the ground a good supply of gravel in the henboose is most important. With-out some gravel in their crops with which to grind their food hene will often

Joseph Harris sowed turnips with a batant should be the victor in all in winter and plenty of shade in sum-

ABOUT STRAWBERRIES.

The Secret of Success In Their Cultiva-The secret of success in the cultivatributes in any variety of strawberry, out only four to five runners, layering them at intervals about the parent, where the young plant will soon develop to large proportions, soon rivaling the mother in size. Keep off all other runners for the balance of the season. The ater formed plants, even if allowed to grow, would never get large enough to bear much fruit and would detract much brutal frankness with all their with the state of the stat from the fruitfulness of the others.

A second point made by this writer is on the use of fertilizers: About one ton of commercial fertilizers should be applied to every acre of strawberries. and more if the previous manuring has been partially neglected. It should analvge at least 5 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 10 per cent potash. It may be applied, 500 pounds before the plants are set in the spring, scattered over the surface broadast and harrowed in, 500 pounds during the growing season, scattered about the plants and hoed in, and the balance in the spring of the fruiting year, before the plants begin to grow. A good time to apply it is on the last little snow that we get early in April. To those unfamiliar with the results of heavy fertilizing this seems a large amount to apply to one acre, but results have shown that it will surely pay.

Experiments have been carried on in this section and it has been found that, generally speaking, a mixed fertilizer— viz, one having all the three elements in its make up, will produce the best results on most farms. , A few isolated cases are reported where nitrogen used alone will bring results equally as good phosphoric acid to perfect the seeds and consequently the shape of the berry and potash to give firmness to the fruiting stalks and berries as well as flavor and color to the fruit.

Indian Corn as an Export. One of the most interesting features of our export trade during 1897, noted in the report on foreign trade by the department of agriculture, is the remarkaggregating as high as 176,916,365 bushels, and thus surpassing by a wide margin all previous records. The exports of the year preceding, although reaching the exceptionally high aggre-gate of 99,992,885 bushels, were exceedbushels. It is also noted that the shipments of corn during the past year, while less in value, were in more than twice as large as the exports of wheat and also much larger than those of wheat and wheat flour combined. The value of the corn sent to foras against \$37,836,862 in 1896. In the two years mentioned the average export price per bushel declined from 87.8 cents to 80.6 cents.

Planting and Harvesting Sugar Beets. The main consideration to be kept in mind in New York, as recommended by the agricultural station of that state, in respect to time of planting sugar beets, is to allow sufficient time for complete maturing. Taking seasons as they average, the planting can usually be done in May. In planting later than June I, the proper ripening of the crop. Before harvesting the beets should ripen completely, since immature beets less sugar than the ripe ones. At maturity the leaves turn yellowish green and the outer ones bend down about the beet. It requires about 150 days for s crop to develop its highest sugar content, varying, of course, with the character of the season. Harvesting must take pince before the second growth es, since this decreases the amount of sugar.

A section of broken wagon pole makes a good rammer for planting posts. Or take a two inch iron water pipe, to be had of a plumber, and fit a piece of white oak in each end, one for the hanwhich some interesting experiments white oak in each end, one for the han-have been made and the following is a report of one of them: "That food has with. Make a tight fit in each end. For outting out old canes from raspberry or



envenience or effectiveness the implement shown in the cut. Get a "stob" which to grind their food hene will often become crop boned and dis. A good supply of gravel is necessary to enable fowls to make the most of the nutrition in their food. Lack of it is more often the cause of soft eggsbells than any illustrated and described by The Farm

According to ancient history "throwing the dart" was one of the five exercises practiced by the Greeks, the other four exercises being the total fally up to last pear's figures. The cost of storage secundations has been lower than ever before since cold storage became very extensive. In general the goods stand in about 10 cents laid down at eastern was decided in one day, and sometimes the same morning, and that to obtain the prize, which was above these prices for eastern deliveries.

Care means a paturally warm bones. Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt sweeny, ring-born, strains, sprain cures Piles, or no pay requied. It anteed by all druggists and general is guaranteed to give perfect satis-stores. 25 ce ts per box. For sale at T. Bear the Signature

People in Raleigh, at least, will re-

courses here some time ago of Dean Hart of Denver—the clergyman with tion of strawberries, as told in The an Irish face and an English voice. He American Cultivator by a New York had the eloquence of one and the refarmer, is to hoe them before the weeds bustness of the other. This robustness ecome large enough to interfere with is not confined to his sincere treatment the hoeing and also to properly restrict and simplicity. It is in the man where, the hoeing and also to properly restrict the runners. Great vigor and ability to make lots of plants are admirable at-ment gentleman in Raleigh who knows something of the early life of the dean. but this natural tendency must be It was in Denver during the cowboy checked if we are to pick large crops of and desperado days. There was a row berries. Therefore, if best results are of barrooms-they constituted about the wanted, allow the parent plant to send chief business houses along the narrow streets of the pioneer prairie town. Dean Hart was then a young man, and his force was making itself felt even among these almost abandoned men. The gamblers and drink house keepers grew restive. They could not stand any shock of good deeds, but they had a brutal frankness with all their wayward habits of life. They gave the young preacher so many days to get out of town. He refused to go and kept on with his work. Pluck is a pet quality with these men, and the young man had

One of the most degreeate of the dance ball keepers came to him and said: "Young man, I like you because you are game. Come to my shanty to-night and preach, and no one shall barm a hair of your head." The young man was there, and his andience! A with pistols and knives in their belts. The stage was crowded with the same ers kept their keen eyes primed for busi ness, and the young man proceeded. He staid there. He has been there ever since. He built at first a small church. He is now dean of the Denver cathedral .- Raleigh News and Observer.

The Unchanging Snowdrop

There is no more constant timekeep than the snowdrop. It seems constitu-tionally insensible of temperature, for although hard frost may retard the blossoms by making the ground like iron, through which they cannot be as when all the elements were used. thrust, they make their appearance si-The same is true of phosphoric acid and multaneously with a thaw. On the other potash. The latter seems to always af-fect the color and the firmness of the respond to abnormal warmth, natural fruit favorably, yet in the majority of or applied. You may coddle the bulbs cases the three elements are necessary in pots and put them in a warm frame in the fertilizers we use—nitrogen to with crocus, hyacinth, narcissus and make vigor of plants and size of fruit, lily of the valley-these last will reward you by anticipating their natural season by many weeks. Not so the snowdrop. Unless the outside be really frost bound the protected flowers will keep exact pace with those in the lawn turf. Botanists do not admit the snowdrop as a true native of Britain. From the Caucasus to central Germany, they say, is its legitimate range, but there is no pretty weed which has established able increase that took place in the climate suit it. In the Scilly isles, abroad, the total shipments of the year strange to say, where bulbous plants are cultivated to produce hundreds oftons of early blossoms, the snowdrop will scarcely live, while 400 miles to the north, on the misty Atlantic seaboard, it spreads from garden to lawn, from lawn to woodland and sheets th

Ber Way. "I have found a way," said the girl who works down town, "to avoid being shoved aside by men behind me when am trying to get on an 'L' car in the evening to go home. I don't want men always avoid the appearance of staring a man out of a seat. They have paid their money and are entitled to their sent if once they get it. Nor do I object so much when a seat in front of me is vacated if the man who has been standing up beside me makes a wild leap for

"But I do not like being shoved around and pushed to one side from behind so that men who are farther from the car platforms than I am car get in first. I don't try to break into a line when getting theater tickets nor at the stamp window of the postoffice, a many women think it is their privilege to do. Yet a woman can hardly fight to keep her place on the 'L' platform. Se when they push me too roughly I turn one side and, unking as low a bow as possible at such short range, say, 'After you, sir!' It never yet has failed to work. But I expect some day to be dis appointed."—New York Press.

The printer's reader no longer allows us to say, "His life was marked with a ess and truth that was undenis ble." We are now expected to use "were." Presently we shall be saying. "Thirteen and fourpence are the price."
Already some people say, "Five pounds
are a large sum," and we are losing, if we have not already lost, the right to speak of "five foot ten." The pedant, too often ignorant of the Saxon idiom, will have it "feet."

Our plurals certainly want regulating. Macaulay speaks of "a sirambles," but it gives me a shudder to read of "a gasworks." Why not "a gaswork" or "a soapwork?" "Polities" and news" are becoming established as singular nonns, but the newspaper scribe is still bothered with "lockout," the plural of which is given both as locksout and lockouts. To my mind, "locksout" is not defensible lock" there is not a noun but a verb. Of "author" and "authoress" as applied to a woman, which is the better? There appears to be no rule. Miss Braddon on her title pages always calls herself an "author."—Academy.

Mrs. Bilkins-The new girl broke bur plates today.

Mr. Bilkins—Did she assign any res-An for not breaking the entire set Ohio State Journal.

Southern and Western stock men know a good thing when they The Best Salve in the world for see it therefore for scratches, Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chillblains, Corns, and Goose (rease Liniment, it is good all Skin Eruptions, and positively for man as beast. Sold and guar-

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SAMPLE BROWN MERCANTILE CO., of Greensboro, want the people of Alamance to know that they now have an immense stock of NEW SPRING GOODS, embracing as nice, stylish, ap to date stuff as is kept by any house in N. C. In their dry goods house, 234 South Elm St. you will find everything in

Dress Goods, Trimmings, Notions, Hosiery, Silks, Carpets, Mattings, etc.

At 225 South Elm St. they have by far the largest stock

OF FINE SHOES

carried by any house in the State. You are earnestly requested to call on us when in Greensboro or order what you want with the understanding that if goods and prices are not satisfactory money will be cheerfully refunded.

Sample Brown Mercantile Go. GREENSBORO, N. C.

INSURANCE!

I wish to call the attention of insurers in Alamance county to the fact that the Burlington Insurance Agency, established in 1893 by the late firm of Tate & Albright, is still in the ring.

There is no insurance agency in North Carolina with better facilities for placing large lines of insurance, that can give lower rates or better indemnity. Only first-class companies, in every branch of the business, find a lodgement in my office. With a practical experience of more than ten years, I feel warranted in soliciting a share of the local patronage. I guarantee full satisfaction in every instance. Correspondence solicited upon all matters pertaining to insurance.

I am making a specialty of Life Insurance and will make it to the interest of all who desire protection for their families or their estates, or who wish to make absolutely safe and profitable investment, to confer with me before giving their applications to other agents.

Very respectfully,

JAMES P. ALBRIGHT. BURLINGTON, N. C.

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Read description carefully—bed 6ft. high, bureau glass 24x20 ierman beveled, wash stand, 2 doors and drawer, and high splashe ack. Nice centre table, 24 in. square, all solid oak, ONLY \$15.00 Other suits \$6.99 up.

ELLIS FURNITURE CO.,

Only

\$15.00

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Suppose you had a nicely displayed advertisement in this space, then what? Why the 2,500 eyes that scan these pages every week would see it and would know of your business, and when something in your line was wanted they would naturally look you up.

See? Had you ever thought of it?

