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The Enterprise

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WHOLE NO. 253

GRIFFINS AROUSED DETERMINED TO HAVE GOOD ROADS REGARDLESS

An Enthusiastic Meeting—Speeches—Resolutions

The good roads meeting at the Township Hall in Griffin's last Saturday evening passed off auspiciously. There were about a hundred of the most influential citizens of the Township present. The discussions were of a high order on the whole and they were laden with personal experiences in the matter of good roads.

We give here a summary of the speeches made on the occasion. Mr. Plenny Peel called the meeting to order by a rap of the gavel at about 3 o'clock. Mr. Peel was elected permanent chairman of the meeting and made a few pointed remarks bearing on the object of the meeting.

A sketch of the speech delivered by Mr. Plenny Peel, Chairman of the Good Roads meeting, as taken by Mr. Ephraim Peel. He said in part: "Neighbors, friends and gentlemen, this convention has been called with a true and unbiassed motive, based upon actual needs and demands of all liberty-loving people, who love their county at heart and who want their own conditions bettered."

"We saw the need of this convention years ago but it was postponed until nobody every man raised his voice against the present unfair, unjust and unequable road system. I repeat it—it is unfair, unjust and should not be allowed. In this convention to-day we want every one who will to express his own convictions based upon facts and actual needs of the community at large. Not to tell of tales gone by but to produce evidence why or why not the present unjust road system be changed to a just system whereby all classes may bear their equal proportion of the burden as they do in the maintenance of all other public property."

"I want to state to you gentlemen that this meeting was not called for our own laudatory feeling, but being placed in the position we are; we have heard the complaints of the people and have seen their needs until we saw that a change was inevitable and my good friends, the sooner we make it the measure will be almost of the time. The wheel of time is gradually making change, for one hundred years ago the largest cities had mail but once a week and now the rural districts have mail every day, and for that and many other reasons I say in this convention to-day let us not sleep the sleep of backwardness as China has but awake to prosperity as our own Republic; that our children, our grand-children may call us true Americans."

"I must ask you my friends to arise from the slumber you have been sleeping and look back and review the pages of history of Babylon and see what her first promoters in art, science, commerce and governmental affairs were, the builders of her highways. Think of the overland roads in Egypt, built a thousand years before the Christian era. Think of Rome, 500 years before the birth of our Saviour, having so stately roads entering her by miles long each, reaching out to the rural districts. Think of Napoleon building roads so good that one pair of horses could carry a gun weighing six thousand pounds."

"Think of the roads in Mecklenburg county, N. C., with her 13 roads, 9 miles each, so solid that one mule can carry 3 bales of cotton. Think of the roads in Mecklenburg county, N. C., with her 13 roads, 9 miles each, so solid that one mule can carry 3 bales of cotton. Think of the roads in Mecklenburg county, N. C., with her 13 roads, 9 miles each, so solid that one mule can carry 3 bales of cotton."

"With the ancient, medieval and modern history before us, can we sit on the spot of 'do-nothing' and be buried in the mud as Pompeii was buried in ashes? No, no, no, we will not do so. When the next taxes are levied, what do good roads mean to you my countrymen? It means you can haul 10 or 12 bales of cotton on one wagon. It means you can haul 3 tons of fertilizer. These are men gentlemen, Mecklenburg county hailed when Mr. Alexander, her representative, stood for good roads, but to-day the people are well pleased. Clay and sand make the thing we want. The town of Williamston claved her Main street; the people were taxed but every one is now well pleased. The rail road company pays on 500,000 more than all the land in the county. The value of a dollar is the amount of good it does. A good road is the harbinger of progress. Now then fellow citizens—without an increase of taxation we can take the surplus on hand and we can improve the leading roads of the county, starting at the central points, and step by step we can improve all the leading roads of each township throughout the county. It is best to begin at Williamston and Jamesville and the other important towns and improve them first, for they are used more and would be of direct benefit to all right away."

MUD COSTS MILLIONS

NORMOUS SUM LOST ANNUALLY IN MARKET'S CROPS

Some Figures by an Official of the Department of Agriculture—Increase of Farm Values From Building Good Roads.

"The American people have reason to appreciate the fact that the good roads question appears at last to be taking on a thoroughly practical aspect, with promise of great benefit to every person living in this country," said an official of the Department of Agriculture to a representative of the Washington Enterprise.

"Every foreigner coming to this country is amazed on the one hand at our general progressiveness and enterprise and utterly disgusted on the other hand at our almost total lack of good roads and our almost utter want of appreciation of the advantages of properly improved highways. As a result of this our desirable roads have attained a worldwide renown, which greatly detracts from our reputation of being an exceptionally enlightened and progressive people. The willing submission of the American people to the needless and burdensome condition of our country roads is a remarkable circumstance. Careful study of this matter seems to indicate that this is wholly due to lack of knowledge and appreciation of the comparative benefits of improved roadways over bad ones and the ease and low cost by which the best of roads may be secured."

"It is wholly inconsistent with the characteristic enterprise of Americans that they should willingly submit to the continuous and needless losses due to lack of good roads, especially when these losses are so great. In a few years an equal the cost of building the best roads in the world throughout the entire country. This remarkable fact can only be accounted for as the result of our deplorable ignorance of the comparative economies, comforts and pleasures of good and bad roads. It is conservatively estimated by government officials that we are needlessly losing or wasting over \$600,000,000 each year because of our bad roads, making a mud tax of over \$2,000,000 for every working day in the year and an individual tax of nearly \$5 each year for every person in this country."

"This estimate is for the direct money loss and takes no account of the incidental disadvantages, discomforts and inconveniences of bad roads, which would probably exceed the direct money loss. Besides this, the increased value of farms reached by good roads would amount to an enormous sum. In New York and other states this increase in selling values has equaled from \$25 to \$100 an acre in many cases. An increase of only \$5 an acre on the estimate of 640,000,000 acres for the country would amount to something like \$3,200,000,000, or more than enough to build the best and finest main roads in the world—about 1,000,000 miles—throughout the entire country several times over, and by recently developed methods in road building the best roads can be built for a cost which should not exceed an average of \$2,000 a mile. The interest on this sum of \$3,200,000,000 at 4 per cent would build all the main traveled roads in the country in less than ten years at a cost of only 40 per cent of the increased farm value."

"From this it appears that we would receive benefits from improving our main roads in the increase of farm values alone equal to two and one-half fold, or 250 per cent of their cost. A direct saving of \$600,000,000 a year, figured at 4 per cent interest, would save a cost of \$12,500,000,000. This is over six times, or 600 per cent, of the necessary cost of the main roads for the entire country. If the indirect comforts, benefits and savings will equal the direct saving we will have another item of \$600,000,000. This makes the total benefits from good main roads equal to something like \$30,000,000,000, or fifteen times their cost. The interest from this sum at 7 per cent would pay the cost of building the finest and best main roads in the world throughout the entire country each and every year. These benefits are so enormous that it is difficult to rightly comprehend them without making some comparisons. The benefits of \$30,000,000,000, instance, are nearly a hundred times the amount of the cost of the Spanish war and certainly appear to make this the greatest economic question before this country at the present time."

Only For the Farmers. Many times it happens that the farmers in the stormy season cannot get to the railroads, and therefore the produce which he would like to market and for which the market is clamoring is cut off by bad roads. Could the farmer, at all seasons, draw his produce to the nearest shipping point, he would use his own time to better advantage because he would do this drawing in full seasons, and the rolling stock of the railroads would be far more effective, because a steady supply of freight would be a measure to away with the congestion of traffic which happens from time to time and which is a source of great loss to all concerned.

Vagabond Work on Georgia Roads. Georgia's new vagabond law makes it lawful to get to work on the highways any adult who cannot show he has regular employment. As a result of the enforcement of this law the highways of that state are being put in the finest condition.

A THEFT FOLLOWED BY BLOODY FIGHT

Will Smallwood Shot Cliff Bland Five Times, Three Balls Taking Effect, Then Made His Escape

Sunday morning about 9 o'clock Cliff Bland, an old fisherman, was shot three times in the mouth by a young negro, Will Smallwood.

Bland went early Sunday morning to catch the fellow whom he suspected was stealing his fish out of his nets on the creek. He went in pursuit of him from the wharf but could not catch him so he got out, pointed his gun at the negro—after he saw him fishing with his nets and saw the water dripping from them—and arrested him. He made the negro row up to him and take him to his canoe, which he had left down the river. When they were about to change from one canoe to another, the negro catching the eye of Bland, ran up to him before he could do anything, and shot him three times in the mouth. They had a scuffle in the canoe and creek, and the negro shot him two more times. Bland crawled on the canoe, for he was almost exhausted; the negro hit him on the head with the paddle, and went to hunt a pole to kill him with. When he came back Bland pretended like he was calling some friends to his assistance, and the negro ran away from fright.

The pistol ball was extracted from Bland's neck Thursday evening. The negro is in jail suffering from a lick inflicted on his head. **Bland's Statement.** Last Sunday I went to the river, saw Smallwood with a sack and I remarked to three young men who were standing near, he is going to get my fish and I can catch him too. I forthwith pursued him to the mouth of the creek. He has just fished the net and the water was dripping off of it. Then I followed him up the creek to catch him and I found that I could not catch him, so he had 20 minutes start on me, so I landed and made him come across the creek to me by arresting him with my gun. Then I made him paddle me down to where my boat was. When I went to shift canoes he caught my eye and as I turned, he jumped at me and shot me three times in the mouth. We went together and fought in the canoe and fell into the creek. He shot twice while I was in the creek. He tried to drown me but he was unable to. I crawled up on the canoe almost worn out. He hit me on the head with the paddle and said he was going to get a pole and finish me. I had crawled out on a log and as I heard him I hollered come on boys! come on!

This frightened him and he ran away. This is what saved me. I crawled and walked about two and one half miles to Mr. Wilson's. **Smallwood's Statement.** Mr. Bland went down there drew his gun on me and told me I had been stealing his fish. He made me come to him with my boat and he got in my boat. After paddling my boat to the mouth of the river with his gun on me. He told me he was of a good mind to kill me anyhow and he struck me over the head with his gun. I shot him three times and the ball at turned

A Summer Cold. A summer cold is not only annoying but if not relieved Pneumonia will be the probable result by Fall. One Minute Cough Cure clears the phlegm, draws out the inflammation, heals, soothes and strengthens the lungs and bronchial tubes. One Minute Cough Cure is an ideal remedy for children. It is pleasant to the taste and perfectly harmless. A certain cure for Croup, Cough and Cold. Sold by Anderson Crawford & Co.

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