ABLE PAPERS BY NORTH CAROLINA EDITOR

before the North Carolina Press As- tion. Hendersonville last week.

MR. H. B. VARNER'S ADDRESS, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the North Carolina Press Association.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The relation of the North Carolina

in a fight for better things, and in still the marvel of a modesn world and a rew counties, take the this movement it should foremost place, for there is not another question before our people that fare of the State. It is the high duty of every newspaper in North Carolina better roads. The State of Georgia is affame with good roads enthusiasin because The Constitution, The Journal and other newspapers in that Commonwealth have begun a compaign that must result in good roads. In this instance alone the duty press and the effects of its efforts are brilliantly set forth.

Building good roads is the great question of the hour in North Carolina. In the familiar phrase, it is the paramount issue, not only in this State, but throughout the Union. It transcends in importance polities, the tariff, the money question or any other question. Nothing is hampering this country so much as mud; nothing could possibly do more for the development of the State and nation than macadamized highways. Hence, the duty of the press in this State. especially, to begin a State-wide campaign for the promotion of better It is our manifest duty to ery Poads aloud to advocate strongly, to publish information, to mold public opinion until the people reach that point thes are willing to bear where the cost of building modern roads in every county

United, determined, persisted the press can do anything. It is all-pow-The conqueror of Europe, Naerful. poleon the mighty, himself, said that four hostile newspapers are more to lande be feared than a thousand bayonets. I have no hesitancy in declaring to to-day that if the North Carolina press would plunge into a good roads campaign in all parts of the firing-line State, and stay on the countles had zood roads. twelve months, there would be such dreds of a tide of good roads sentement that North Carolina would be swept from irry home to town to work in one end to the other and good roads mills? would win in almost every county within an incredibly short time. Show the need, explain how, and North Carolinians will do what is right every try; time had there been

I need not go into historical details make farm life so much to show that up to a decade ago, tive. As the price of lands depends North Carolina was doing little. The as much on accessibility to market as State had been struggling to regain on productivity, it follows that road its feet and throw off the blighting improvement, by holding people effects of the civil war and its horrid attracting others, directly tends to-The people had little en- ward increase in values of all farm aftermath. ergy to spare from that task to put into development, although, of course, some development was going on Fin- where the average price of land is ally, there came a day when a political revolution was necessary, and it

Editor Varner spoke as follows on munication. Far back in history good I stand for bonds. Mecklenburg has the raising of funds by issuing coun- people for city-people with the smell makter about the reports of social af-The Duty of the Press in the Good roads building was recognized as a been building roads 30 years, and she ty bonds with the restrictions which Roads Movement in North Carolina, leading factor in advancing civiliza-before the North Carolina Press As- tion. We are told that early explor- Guilford has been building roads six vis., that all moneys so raised shall pociation at its annual meeting in ers in Peru found improved highways, years and she has 100 miles, using be spent under the watchful superone of the military roads being 2,- bonds. We are too far behind to de- vision of a State highway commis-000 miles in length,

through mountains, bridges or ferries ahead and issue bonds. over streams, a road 20 feet wide, roads, increase our wealth, and reap made of flagstones covered with hitu- manyfold the cost of the roads. Is men. Ancient Mexico built good North Carolina to labor another genroads, as did India and Persia, eration before good roads

that is gradually growing throughout arch built a smooth, hard highway enough to macadamize every mile of the State is so plain that it really alongside of the common earth road, road in the State ways little comment. The press al-North Carolina is more to Rome's prosperity and prow- er tax nor bonds in most of the couness than these imperial highways, tries, and there is less improvement ing to all parts of the world-empire, than ever before. Time was when we Following the fall of itome, the did not make a pretense at working to take up the cudgels vigorously for darkness that settled over Europe was the roads, but now in the majority of in no small degree attributable to the cases we do not even obey that outlack of means of communication, and worn law, As a result, the average returning light came with the move- country road is bad even in summer ment to build passable highways. Eu- and practically impassable in winter. rope to day is far shead of us in the Should a county issue bonds, before matter of roads. The thrift and a dollar is expended, a competent civwealth of the Frenchman largely II engineer should be secured and put ome from his magnificent thorough- to work mapping out the county. He fares. England has good roads into should be under either the county every nook and corner of the island, commissions or a highway commission They are constructed scientifically and composed of the commissioners and guarded jealously. This great country other men selected by the people. It

of ours, with its illimitable resources is absolutely necessary that an enand its teeming millions, the grand- gineer be employed, even though he est country on the face of the earth, cost considerable salary, for the locais fettered by mud, and our people are tion, construction and maintenance of just awakening to the absolute neces- roads are operations that no man or sity of good roads if we are to pro- set of men without the aid of an engress and become what we should be. gineer can conduct in the proper way to get the best results at the least cost. progress and prosperity and are a benefit to the peo-There is a disposition on the part of ole who live in cities, and an advan- many people to cavil at the price paid tage to people who live in the country. such an engineer, and if you under-Like good streets, they make habitatake to fight for roads you will meet tion along them desirable. You nev- it at the outset. That idea must be er, or rarely ever and then not for eradicated, as must also the idea that long, see a shabby home by the side the man entrusted with the public of a modern road, where everybody funds will not place every dollar where it belongs. In an age of skepticism They make people straighten up and put their best foot forward. The value of farms is enhanced. Statistics prove voted for roads will be preyed upon. proved roads are a powerful factor in

encouraging the settlement of unused tion, making maps, and doing all that ing influence in holding men to their farms, and restraining them than wasted. from drifting to the towns. While the man-A county which shows sufficient ufacturing towns must have labor, who is here that will deny that if our the good farmers would have moved their families from the counbest meet its requirements. So great an exodus occurred two or three years ago that farm labor was almost impossible to secure. These people are needed in the coun there they would have stayed office of public roads standing good rouds which more attractake pattern.

lands within touch of the improved highways. It is shown that in States 'ess than \$20 an acre the percentage 8. where-

with tunnels pend on a direct tax. We must go sioner, because otherwise the money build the may be wasted.

> Inasmuch as road building and road mending have been for a century under county commissioners and towncome to ship road supervisors with practically no beneficial results observable-it seems plain that the time for a radical change of methods is at hand.

Many farmers fear a bond issue at ways leads, or always ought to lead, al highness. The Homan roads are At present, with the exception of a they do the visits of the chinch bug are still used Nothing contributed doing nothing at all. There is neith- benefits they derive from that method or the Kansas grasshopper, but the of raising 'money for road improvement are far-reaching and immediate, is so vitally connected with the wel- straight as an engle's fight, reach- work under the old road law system while the individual tax on each is so small that it is scarcely noticeable. In reality, borrowing money through the sale of road bonds is like buying a house, a farm, or a business on the instaiment plan. The purchaser receives the object at once and derives the benefits from it while paying for it As the benefits derived from perfected highways cover long periods of time, fairness and equity demand that the rising generation should bear a portion of the cost and that the increased citizenship, always attracted to the locality by a system of good roads, should also aid in paying for the added benefits.

FLOATING BONDS.

Besides that, there is a financial wisdom in floating county bonds for road improvement. In many cases those bonds sell at a premium; and everybody interested gains a benefit. in some Southern States good road bonds have brought a price so high that the premium has wiped out two trade and government and education or three years' interest on the principal. In Bradley county, Tennessee, but a few years ago, the supervisors voted a bond issue of \$90,000. Those bonds bore interest at the rate of five per cent. So enthusiastic were the in business, it is not unnatural that citizens for road improvement, and people should suspect that huge sums so much confidence did they have in the locality in which they lived that that in nearly every case the States No county can build roads without an the premium was \$20,000; the cash having the highest percentage of im- engineer who acts as pathfinder, going sales placing in the county treasury over the county, studying the situa- \$110,000

I am an earnest believer in Federal Roads also have a far-reach- very necessary preliminary work with- and State aid and co-operation in out which offtimes money is worse building good roads, and I believe that the time is at hand when the government will hit upon some plan progress to Bond itself in a liberal whereby it may co-operate with the amount for the purpose of securing State and the State with the county, improved roads should keep its mon- in the work. It has been argued that reconstruction. But to-day we cannot intact until its officers have tearn- it is unconstitutional. Why should ed exactly what class of roads will it be more so than the expenditure of what type money for river and harbor improve- Southern life and industry. foad it is best qualified to con- ments, which often take the form of what it can best afford, a private enterprise? As a matter of and those facts can be secured through fact, it has been shown conclusivethe aid of the national government, ly in Congress that so far from being the government in unconstitutional. ready to give gratuitous advice and its very beginning began the supply skilled highway engineers who struction of good roads and expended are amply qualified to tell what type more than seven millions on the old of highway would best meet that coun- Cumberland road from Maryland to ty's requirements and to demonstrate St. Louis, a distance of 700 miles, and base suggestions by supervising the the work was only abandoned because building of stretches of model high- there arose a question of authority ways, after which local officials may and responsibility as to who should maintain and repair the road, the

Wide-awake State and county off- States or the Federal government. cials are now showing the liveliest an- What does the government do for the preciation of the wonderful results farmer? We spend millions annually following a visit by these skilful men. on the army, a dead loss. so heavy that it is impossible for Di- hundred millions on the navy; have rector Page to meet more than 20 per spent a half billion on river and harcent, of the requests being filed in his hor improvements. During ten years we spent more than six billion dollars of which about forty-seven million ROAD-RUILDING AN ART went to the agricultural department: When county officers learn to apbut not a dollar for the promotion of preciate the fact that road-building is good roads, a common blessing for all an art, they will rely more and more the people. During fifty years in all upon expert advice and scientific dethe vast sum our government has dismonstration, and when they have bursed for one thing and another, not class of roads 18 dollar has been appropriated desirable, they will construct them for roads. And yet, the farmers of the country compose the bulk of popula-Therein lies one of the most importion, and last year contributed to the hational wealth some eight billions of Americans build as good roads dollars. The one-horse farmer around but behind the hill miles from town forms the foundation of the nation, and with their efforts and let each passing what has the government done him? Nothing. The burden is upon him, he foots the bills; and the government takes his money and spends In the countries of Europe, where it on everything under the sun by the well-nigh perfect roads are the millions, on everything but on what pride of the citizens and the envy and affects him mostly-roads. the farmers of this country not only jealous care is constantly given; a fed more than eighty millions of peocareful day-by-day inspection is made. ple, but sent across the sea a billion and every depression is quickly filled five hundred millions of farm prodand all inequalities rolled or tamped. ucts. This preserved the balance of Two requisites, therefore, confront trade with all the world, and gave five hundred millions to the country to irst to ascertain what roads would be set aside for the proverbial rainy day. most suitable to that particular sec- Had this not been, a billion dollars would have had to have been sent since good roads have been built has expended for their maintenance after abroad to pay import duties. It was enough to pay the immense appropriations of Congress and still add half a billion to the national wealth In the face of all this, the Federal to them. government has done not a thing for good roads. The forerunners of a national highions made impracticable and out of way from New York south to Atlanfall cost proportion to the county's is have recently passed through the State I believe the time is at hand when the government will spend mon however, and Pike county, Alabama, ey on that road. I believe we shall see a road from Asheville and the There west through to the coast. the county officials had planned to ex- bound to come. The duty of the press lies in hastening the day. We must stir our people to a realization of the value of roads, of the necessity of roads, and see to it that our Legislature two years from now is a good roads Legislature, that our Congress-00 miles of important routes needed men are good roads Congressmen. If the press will but do this, it will have rendered the State a service that will eclipse all services rendered in the past. First get the folks in the notion, get the State in the notion, get the government of the nation in the notion, and all three, people. State and nation, working together in harmony, will work one of the greatest revolutions this country has seen since the foundation of the government

of the city upon them-unrelated to fairs in your town-about the write-country life, bearing no message of ups of weddings and ice cream suphope or inspiration for the farmer, pers and card parties? What will it dealing with him as if he were mere- matter a hundred years from now ly a lefeover man in society instead whether you get John Smith or of being the fundamental man as he Jones elected register of deeds? What will it matter whether the vote of most certainly is. Henderson county goes for John A. AGRICULTURE IN THE NEW CEN-

Johnson or William J. Bryan in the TURY.

national Democratic convention? But now a change is coming-a ro-But it will matter much whether table and inspiring change, full of promise for our section and for our the boys and girls of your county have the door of hope and education opencraft. The editor has caught the spirit ed to them or walk in the darkness of of the new agriculture. For a hundred ignorance; whether the roads of the county keep its people fifty years beyears past great industrial revolutions have been going on, and the world of hind the times or put them in the commerce and transportation and vanguard of progress; whether the inbusiness has been made over-changdustries of the country are developed ed completely by railroad and teleor allowed to retrograde; whether the graph and telephone and the thouresources of the county are utilized by sand and one other inventions and disits own people or left to be exploited coveries of our marvelous age-while by foreigners; whether its farming agriculture has remained pracbecomes a matter of pride and prof-it or a matter of drudgery and debt; tically dormant. It is only within the last few years that we have begun to whether its soil-tillers are scientific realize that a like revolution is possifarmers or mere clodhoppers, ble in agriculture. The tide is turning meat or buy meat, have bank acbackward toward farming. Here it is counts or store accounts, have shackthat the wonders of science are now ly cabins or painted houses, whethbeing exhibited; here it is that the er your young men find the county most splendid opportunity for human a good place to live in or a good place service is now offered; here it is that to move from, and whether, in short, progress and enthusiastic effort are the population shall keep step with to be at white-heat in the new cen- the great forward march of Southern ury upon which we have entered. progress or only hinder those that

Much as this means to the world at large, to the South it means more, for the South is to-day the only section of the country of which it is true there are more people engaged in agriculture than in all other occupations combined. An agricultural revolution alone can restore the South to its ancient 'prestige; an agricultural revolu'ion alone will give it the high place it should have in the world of and science

NEED.

The North Carolina editor's duty in sibilities; we have not realized the promoting rural development there- riousness of our responsibilities. Dr. fore is something more than a mere George T. Winston said to me once, duty to the community in which he speaking of a North Carolina politi-Our larger patrotism, our love cian of local prominene, "He has powlives. for the South, Jemands it no less im-peratively. er enough to run a saw mill and he's only whittling sticks!" I feel that the

The old ante-bellum type of jourhal has survived too long in the South-the newspaper interested solely in politics. In that day our greatest need was for papers of that sort; today it is not. Before the war politics was necessary to support the institution of slavery; after the war politics was necessary to correct the evils of look to politics to remedy in any large measure the great defects in

And if you forget everything clse school, and the fundamental duty of may say to you to-day, take with you the paper that would lead in rural ust this one thought. The crying need of the South to-

not to politics but to community development.

And to illustrate my point, to get away from any glittering generalities county depends. The campaign for about the newspaper man's opportuni- better public schools may have come ty for State building, let us look squarely at the situation in the South triter than the talk of politics, and it Take a backward county, for is vastly more meaningful. It is our to-day. example, where the roads are bad, the one hope, and our vision of a greater schools poor, the school houses inade- South can never be realized without quate, the water-powers unharnessed, it. Find out which communities in

forests butchered, farmers using one- your county ought to have longer orse plows and putting more faith in terms, or ought to consolidate their Whose imanac signs than in agricultural districts, and bring the matter to science, and the natural resources gen their attention. Print the pictures of the old schoel house and the new erally going to waste. What may not be accomplished in such a community where improvement has been made. Demand that a thoroughly equipped by an editor filled with the spirit of progress and enterprise! What a county superintendent be employed golden opportunity is neglected when to give his whole time to the county such an editor shuts his eyes to it and school work. See to it that the schools wastes his life in fighting the battles take on more of an industrial cast-Press. the little cliques and machines inthat they relate themselves to the actual everyday life of the pupils. Enide his party! courage every teacher who is giving THE SMITHVILLE OBSERVER." especial attention to agriculture and I have in mind now a paper which domestic science. List the schools that approaches somewhat the ideal that I have libraries and ask why the others have. Let us call it The Smithville have. Let us call it The Smithville have not. Lend your aid to the Wo-Observer. It is refreshing to turn to its man's Betterment Association and editorial page each week. I know that urge the beautifying of school buildin it I am less likely to find the ediings and grounds. Exalt your county tor's inconsequential opinion of Phil- superintendent. He is ten times more adelphia politics than I am to find his important to the life of your county than your sheriff or your register or pinion of how to make the streets of Smithville beautiful. your clerk of the court. And if some It may not contain much misinforteacher starts a corn contest among the boys or a school farm or an imnation about the tariff, but I know that it will have something about the proved course in agriculture or dost methods of improving the roads mestic science, let him see that the county appreciates his progressive of Smith county-and, by the way. Smith county will some time vote a step. ed bond issue and a good system of roads will be the best monument to that fundamental to all progress. Other editor's memory. I know, too, that if local taxation foundation can no man lay than this. The editor should cry aloud and spare for schools is to the fore, that editor will fight side by side with his counin the 'educational procession. Let better schools be his first motto. ty's soldiers of progress. Nor will the chool houses themselves be neglect-AFITATE FOR BETTER ROADS. ed, nor that county's share of the And in connection with betschool House Loan Fund be left idle if ter schools, let him also urge The Observer's influence can turn it to better roads. Let him call use in improving the buildings. unceasingly to his people. And school libraries-more than 'Mind your ways!" Bond issues where ne group of school children famishthey are justified; improved legislang for food intellectual, owe a debt tion where it is needed, macadam The Observer for keeping up the where you can afford it, the sand-clay agitation until Smith county has its said. method where it is best, and the full quots of libraries. simple split-log drag where more ex-More than this, if Farmer Brown pensive methods are inexpedient. It as so improved his land as to double is gratifying to see the widespread inhis corn yield, I know that The terest in better roads as shown by all Joserver will give the whole story for our State papers. the benefit of other farmers-arguing DIGNIFY FARMING. that it is as big a piece of news as the And then you must dignify the farmer-that is to say, the good suicide of old Whiskey Jones down in Hanging Dog township Moreover, if I find this week farmer, the only kind worth dignifying. Your business man may conserve olumn about the emigration of wealth, but your farmer creates it. farm labor. I shall probably read next I have only the highest regard for week a column story of how Farmer Brown, by the use of improved implements and machinery, has reduced merely runs a store and sells a certain amount of groceries and half the expense of hand labor dry goods and drugs at a certain profit to in making the crop. himself necessarily adds little to the 11 the Farmers' Institute is to general prosperity of the country; held in Smithville, it will be advertised that is, he is in the very nature of as persistently and prominently as if things unable to create new wealth were a political debate. promise. for the community. But your farmer If Mr. Jones is preparing to start a can. If he learns to double his corn factory, he will be just as likely to yield. if he informs himself and find his picture in the paper as if he and farms better so that his income were running for Congress. is \$500 more a year, (as the average If a bond issue for street improve-North Carolina farmer's income ought ment is on hand. The Observer rooster to be), the general prosperity of the will crow as loudly the morning after county is enhanced. He has created otion as it ones over the success new wealth, he has added \$500 more of the State political ticket. that did not exist before. Merchant, banker, doctor, lawyer, editor--alt would feel the invigorating touch of an agricultural revolution which it points out where a new rural mail would increase the average produc-tion per farm) from \$398 as it was in oute might be profitably started; the other week it had a list of 100 North Carolina at the last census to \$984 hs the average was for the north Atlantic States or to \$1,084 as and is urging farmers to name their farms. In short, every enterprise and the average was for the north central

tell about imperialism pines.

ITEMS THAT COUNT. Don't content yourself w sional items abo brought you a and most luscion tasted," or the fine made by Farmer "champion sweet potato son: who can beat the variety of the extra fine fi how it was grown and what ties there are for fruit growt county, and the gave the big yield, how many where and expense Farmer Jones and the kind of sweet potat ignate as champion and what land and fertilizer were

produce it. IDEAL WORTHY OF "I am going to rebuild my n so far as in me only ideal that is high worthy enough for sell the county paper, the stand for the of his county-and good schools, good roads at farming-are fundamental campaign of wagon to a star and dedicate your velopment of your great, and there is no

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BUILD UP YOUR COUR

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Does all this depend upon the editor, do you ask? Well, not wholly, and yet in far, far greater measure than we have come to realize. I feel sometimes, my fellow craftsmen, as if we were like that young man, the servant of the old Biblical prophet, who saw nothing about him until the Lord opened his eyes. "and behold the mountain was full of horses and char-POLITICS NO LONGER SUPREME lots round about "Elisha." We have pine government. not caught the vision of our own pos-

press of North Carolina has power enough to set in motion forces that would rebuild the State, that would make it in our own time one of the dozen foremost Commonwealths of America, and yet alas! how many of us are only whittling sticks! God help us to catch the larger vision! God and gullied farms and indi help us to make ourselves leaders in careless farmers transform the great twentieth century development and our people! THE SCHOOL FUNDAMENTAL.

The fundamental thing is the development in North Carolina is to set itself to get the finest school sysday is for the newspaper dedicated tem that can possibly be devised for its county. Preach local taxation; don't be afraid to face a frowning Skinflint and preach the Gospel upon

not only will be succeed final which the economic salvation of the but he saves his own life. from the barren unprofitab the man who leaves the world to sound trite to you, but it is not ter for his existence. of the travail of his soul and s satisfied; and so

"Join the cheir invisible Of those immortal dead who In minds made better by world. MR. ARCHIDALD JOHNSON DRESS The following address Future of North Carolina at Part to Be Played Therein delivered WAS North Carolina Press Associa Hendersonville, Last fweek. Archibald Johnson, editor of and Children. The future of North Carolina of the largest subjects that could been assigned me and the p press is to play therein. largest. So much has been plished within the last deca we stand amazed at our own power. It takes no propheli to tell some of the things i come to pass when life will b worth living than at any per the history of the world Dr. Thomas Meredith who seventy-five years ago, looking the future of North Carolina ex this fine sentiment: Mo The public school, let me repeat, is brethren, who live in the day the world has ever seen. permitted to witness events would have daszled the visio not so long as his county is behind startled the faith of prophels apostles---who are portunities which no pre-ed eration was ever permitted joy - who sustain TERDON more fearful, perhaps, than ar ever before oppressed the co of men-consider, we beseet who and where you are, my momentans surprising and ities of your situation. Let hearts speak and It is hard for us in richer time to imagine writer of the above based his argument. velopment we had a sign. No railroads, no towns, no manufacto tion, and a community tled and terlink unspeakable hatte these great things well heart of the prophsay who stand in our merchants-and yet the man who real day ' I have often wished years younger that mighty unfolding of We are. our State. where we can catch future so rich in ILS First, North Car ed with highways like th Already we are on mendous revolution Our citizens are begin a small tax for the great highways is the that we can possibly pr ignorance and preju however, to deprive m les of this priceless bless the near future public have become clarified and we shall all see e speak the same thing natter of good roads. brethren, notably The server, have faith will quit the earth every movement looking to the retransport ourselves and States. making of eld Smith county finds an along air lines in fact Find out what farmers in your ally and friend in The Smithville name, thus rising county are leading in this silent res-Observer. road question-but there olution and get behind them. They so great faith in all Educationally the WHAT IS WORTH WHILE. are your champions; they are the men Now, what we need in the South, that shall redeem your Israel. ant for North Carolina The demonstration work, the farmexcept the recent more Smithville Observers. We need ers' institutes, the farmers' unions, tory. reditable to so good a to catch the vision of the greater the test farm-advertise all these just Sentiment in favor of as earnestly as you would your party -and stion, now so strong. cue at primary or the campaign barb of the past decade.

of improved roads is only not Wish. droi partisan politics by referring to this. ue is more than \$20, the average of nor by saying that, since there must mproved roads is 9 per cent, of the he a great leader in every fight. total mileage Charles B. Aycock came to point the way

AN INDUSTRIAL ERA. Having gone through with that, we, Aycock, quickly went railroads through their land and infollowing with an educational revoluthrough dustrial tion, until North Carolina was rais- through which good roads ed far from her lowly position in the list of States. Coincident, almost, and at the same time a result of the fore- thusiastic, all concede that the ingoing, came an industrial era, when vrease is marked, immediate and infactories and mills sprang up everyevitable. where, and North Carolina took proud place along with other manufacturing States. Capital flowed in- it will be seen that the land to the State from the four quarters thus benefited would gain not And all along there was growing a than \$900.000. powerful moral sentiment which had amounted to half a its culmination last May a year ago. I would be \$400,000 profit at once The recite these matters in an effort to

show you that North Carolina has met farm products is equally certain and and settled wisely and well a series plain. of great problems and that she has nothing unless it can be placed on the come to another great problem that has guite as much to do with the food would be rotting in one place public weal as any of those that have while people suffered for the lack of een solved in the past, namely, building good roads Governor Aycock because it was immossible to transport was the great educational leader: Gov- the products of the farms. ernor Glenn was the great moral and industrial leader: who will step forward and be our great good roads leader, for the time is at hand for us to do something, and there is a call for a man to point the way" We cannot stand still, we will either go backward or forward,

In all these movements for better things which I have narrated, the price of produce, since, press played an important part. In-froads are bad, he gets \$2.50 a cord deed, it cannot be gainsaid that much for wood, because wood is made scarce of the credit is due the newspapers by the impassability of the highways; the work that has been done. Now, and he says he would rather haul there is another opportunity for the wood through mud hub deep for \$2.50 man behind the pen to serve his State. than to roll along a smooth road and is there an oditor in the State sell it for \$1, which price he claims a who will not answer the call? I be- cord will drop to in the event of good lieve not, for newspaper men are near- roads. The experience of Charlotte ly always patriotic and self-sacrificing. and Greensboro entirely

It is idle for me to attempt enum- this absurd idea, for there are not eration of the benefits good roads con- two better markets in the State, and fer on a people. Every man, no mat- the first named has 200 miles of good ter how unlettered, instinctively knows roads leading to it, and the second 100 that a good road is a far better thing miles. have than a bad road. We nat- There is no question about it, why

urally have it in us to know the value argue further? We may close the of, and to construct an easy pathway, discussion of the advantages of good but, unfortunately, the devil of tax roads with this quotation from the steps in and tempts us to hear the ills Hon, John H. Bankhead; "Good roads we have, rather than fly to blessings are avenues of progress, we know, of and greatly desire. Our proof of intelligence; they aid the ople all believe in good roads, but social and religious advancement of people all believe in good roads, but social and religious advancement of there are some who are unwilling to the people; they increase the value of pay the cost. I have heard good men products; they save time, labor and good farmers declare that inas- money; they are the initial sources of much as the mud trails we now have commerce, which swell were used by their fathers, they are streams and flow everywhere, distribgood enough for us and it were use- uting the products of our fields, forless to suggest a change in them. Oth- ests and factories. The highways are ers declare that we are too poor to the common property of the country. attempt road construction, and still their benefits are shared by all others are vehement in their oppositively are needed by all; they benefit \$825. Forty thousand dollars was at tion to the idea of handing down to all, and all should contribute to succeeding generations such a loath- them " some thing as a public debt. These

are some of the objections one hears FACTOR IN CIVILIZATION.

The question comes, how to good roads? T believe in my soul that a bad road tax or shall we issue bonds? is the greatest curse that can be laid we pay as we go, or shall we pay part erous sum was still on hand; eight on a community. It stunts the in- now and let future generations pay gangs were at work, and the people dustrial, moral and intellectual life part? To my mind, the whole quesa people. But a good road is equal- tion comes down to whether we want take up the remaining issue of \$42,000 In as great a blessing, for once a good roads now, or whether we are and expend it in the same way. community gets facilities for trans- willing to build a few miles now and pertation and communication, all oth- let another generation build a few way director that such facts should alessings will be added thereunto. miles and another and another, until he impressed upon the people of all . Boosevelt has well said that the in the course of human events we se- counties desirous of extending and im-

There are records which show that office

Good roads mean

pusses and sees how you live.

oads have increased the value of farm lands from 50 to 500 per cent. has been ascertained by a dozen departments farms that run are enhanced in value from \$2 to \$9 learned what acre, and whether conservative or enand then guard them.

Suppose a county of 200. ant of all American highway ques-000 acres votes bonds, and placing the tions as Englishmen or Frenchmen. enhanced value at only \$4.50 an acre. having done so, they rest contented If the bond breath of air, speeding automobile, or IRBUR dreching rain blow or wash the road there urface away. increase in the profit and price of

The farmer's produce is worth admiration of visiting Americans, most market. Time was in England when it in a community a few miles away the county supervisors at the outset-PRICE OF FARM PRODUCTS

Official records in Guilford county ion, and secure what sums should be show that the price of farm products increased from four hundred to seven ompletion. These are vastly important and the hundred per cent. And yet, there is nation's very small percentage of imfarmer in my county who maintaine proved roads is due largely to a fallthat good roads will ruin him and the ure to give consideration county, because they will reduce the Millions of money have been wasted when the

building roads which local condi-There are exceptions to all rules, stands as a glittering exception to the usual construction blunder.

pend a large sum in the building of gravel froads. Mr. W. L. Spoon, United States su-perintendent of road construction, being sent to make an inspection of the ounty's road possibilities, learned that

disprove

TAX OR BONDS

Shall we note a direct

mprovement. He figured that the cost gravel roads would be \$3.000 a mile-plainly a sum greater than the county could be bonded for. Conditions, however, were ideal for sandlay construction and he strongly urgd its adoption. By legal provise the ounty could be bonded for only 34 per centum of the assessed value of the real and personal property. The plan was decided upon and an issue of \$143,000 was voted. One hundred thousand dollars' worth of the bonds

were quickly sold, being disposed of in \$50,000 allotments.

The first allotment brought a premium of \$625 and the second one of

once spent for mules and road-buildng machinery and work was started. With the sum remaining, 118 miles get of the finest sand-clay roads in the South had been built within two years from the date of the bond issue; a genwere so pleased they stood ready to

It is the belief of the nation's highbetween semi-barbarism cure good roads throughout the State proving their highways before actual

MR. C. H. POE'S ADDRESS

The following address on "What May the Country Editor Do to Promote Rural Development," Association on June 24, at Henderson ville

The most gratifying change few years has been the increasing interest in rural development. The editor's vision is no longer limited by the boundaries of the county seat. Rural free delivery and the steady increase of rural education are showing him a greater field out of sight of the court house tower. He is beginning

fact that 80 per cent. of our population-his possible clientele-is rural. and civilization is the difference be- years after every person now at the work is under way. When that has like his children's text books, have

Do to Pro-was deliv-the expansion of small industries ered Before the North Carolina Press which would be helpful to the county;

North Carolina journalism these last appropriate names for country homes,

to realize the deep significance of the what we need in North Carolina, is newspapers. South that we can bring abouttween good and poor means of com- age of accountability is dead and gone, been done, he is warmly in favor of been too long largely made by city to bringing it about. What does it

ombe is