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ROADBUILDING PROBLEM.
 While the administrative part of roadmaking in this country cannot be said to have passed the experimental stage, says one of the constantly growing number of "good roads" men to a representative of the Philadelphia Evening "Eye" it is well and actively begun. Nearly every state in the Union has lately passed laws bearing on the present movement for improved highways. While these laws show a variety of plans and methods by which the common object is to be gained they uniformly show that the real difficulty is not how to build good roads but how to raise the money to build them, how shall the money be raised with which to build them, and by what agency shall it be expended. And in successfully introducing this movement these questions must first be wisely settled before any actual road construction can be engaged in. Some pioneer work must be done before any general plan can be intelligently offered, much less accepted, for the comprehensive treatment of our present bad roads.

BLOTTING PAPER.
 And Something About the Obsolete Sand Boxes and Sand.
 In England they use a thin blotting paper, here we use mainly a thick blotter. Such thin blotting paper as is used here is chiefly for blotting leaves in books. Here we use on a desk a sheet of blotting paper 19 by 24 inches, the standard size, which may be turned over when one side is pretty well filled with ink. In England the thin blotting paper is folded, a number of sheets together, making a sort of pad, something larger than legal cap paper, and when that gets saturated with ink it is torn off.

Blotting paper is not new, but it was first made in this country only about 40 years ago. Before that time we used some of the thin English blotting paper, imported, but more commonly, to prevent ink from blotting, we used sand, which was poured upon the written sheet out of a sand box. The sand box was a common article of desk furniture, as the wafer box was at one time, and almost as commonly seen as the inkstand. It was made sometimes of tin, sometimes of wood. It was perhaps 3 inches in height and maybe 2 1/2 inches across the top, where its diameter was greatest. It was something like a pepper box in the manner of its use, but as to shape, instead of having a convex top, it had a concave top, like a little saucer. The bottom of this saucer was perforated. The box was filled with sand through these perforations. When the box was used, sand was poured from it upon the writing. A little of the sand adhered to the fresh ink and kept it from blotting. Very much the greater part of the sand poured out lay scattered upon the paper. Lifting the book or paper, the surplus sand was poured back into the box.

Many of the wooden sand boxes were handsomely turned articles. The sand used was a peculiar, fine black sand of uniform grain brought from Lake George, in this state. At the time of the civil war in this country blotting paper had come into comparatively common use. It is only within 15 or 20 years, however, that it has come into the wide and very nearly general use of the present time. Now the sales of it increase with the population or more rapidly. There are American paper mills devoted wholly to the manufacture of blotting paper, and their products amount to thousands of tons annually, and American blotting paper is now an article of export. We still import a little English blotting paper, but only a very little, not enough to cut any figure in the market.

The very best blotting paper is made wholly of cotton rags. Some poorer grades are made partly of wood pulp, and with it may be some clay. Such papers, as they dry out, become still less absorbent. The addition of dyes to blotting paper makes it less absorbent. English blotting paper is made usually of from 20 to 40 pounds to the ream. American blotting paper is made from 40 to 150 pounds to the ream. Blotting paper colors are white, blue, granite (a very light gray), yellow and pink. It is made in various shades of these colors. There is sold of white blotting paper ten times as much as of any other color.

Some of the calendars used in calendaring cloths are made of blotting paper, sheets of which are pressed together to form a roll. There still comes now and then to the wholesale stationery dealer in New York a call for Lake George sand, showing that there are yet some users of the old time sand box, but these calls are now so rare that they are no longer supplied, and the sand boxes have long since ceased to be a part of the wholesale stationery stock. These, however, may still be found at some retail dealers, a few left over from years ago, and occasionally one of these is sold. A city stationer sold one only the other day, but it was not to be actually used as a sand box; it was to finish out the equipment of an old fashioned desk. — New York Sun.

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IMPROVED HIGHWAYS.
 Once the People Get Them They Will Be Satisfied With No Other.
 Once a community finds out that good roads are possible all the year round and that they are cheaper by all odds than poor roads it will insist on having highways that are a public comfort and convenience.

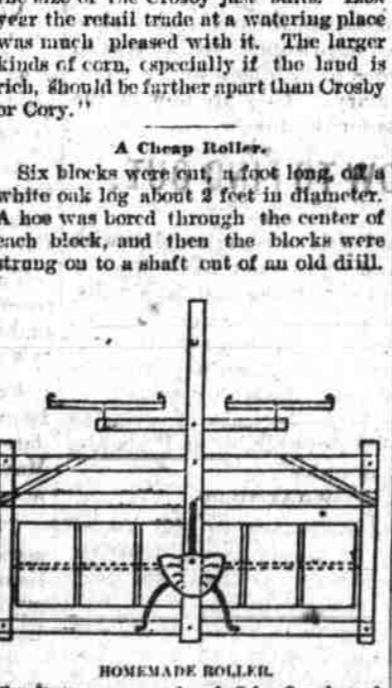
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ACCESSION OF SWEET CORN.
 The accession of sweet corn for the Connecticut trade was the subject of a communication to Rural New Yorker. The writer said:
 We do not depend on successive plantings, as oftentimes the same variety, planted 5, 10 or 15 days apart on very early ground, will often mature at practically the same time. Nothing will kill a corn trade quite so quickly as old, tough corn. We think it just right when the fall will easily break through the skin of the kernel and it is full of milk. Of the short varieties like Cory, we have the rows 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart and the hills 2 1/2 feet in the row. Of the tall varieties we have rows 3 feet apart and the hills 3 feet in the hill. Planting too thickly will give too many small and imperfect ears.

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HOME MADE ROLLER.
 The frame was made of 3 by 3 oak and set high enough so that the tongue could be bolted to back of the frame and over the roller. The corners were braced with old wagon tire. This illustrated description is from Ohio Farmer.

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 The board of directors of the North Carolina school for the deaf and dumb met at Morganton week before last. Three new members of the board were present. Mr. Lee was re-elected president of the board. E. McK. Goodwin was re-elected superintendent for three years. Capt. Phifer was re-elected. Former teachers re-elected.

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