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STATE AID FOR ROADS.

Good Results in New Jersey and Massachusetts—Value of Road Leagues.

Six years ago New Jersey set out intelligently to provide the state with good, hard, smooth roads and within that period \$1,400,000 has been expended by the state, counties and individuals on permanent roads, of which sum the state expended \$498,898; leaving nearly \$1,000,000 which has been raised by the counties and individuals to meet the state appropriation. As a result of this expenditure 300 miles of the most frequented highways have been permanently improved on modern lines, the antiquated highways having been turned into smooth, hard roads, with foot-paths and cycle paths and beautified by trees and shrubbery, whereby "the appearance of various communities has been so changed that they have become attractive centers of settlement."

So anxious are the people to avail themselves of the fostering aid of the state in the matter of good roads that in many cases petitions of certain communities have been on file for years, and in Massachusetts not more than 18 per cent of similar petitions could be acted on last year for lack of state funds. New Jersey and Massachusetts have demonstrated the value of good roads to a community, and as a result the fear of increased taxation, which has in other states prevented in some cases the adoption of a liberal and systematic plan of road construction, has been completely overcome, farmers and all others being eager to add to the attractiveness and value of their lands in this way.

In this work of permanent road improvement the good roads leagues and associations formed throughout the state have been important factors in educating public sentiment. "Too much stress," says Commissioner Budd of New Jersey, "cannot be laid upon the importance of these associations. There is no power so useful as that which persuades each and every person or community to do its best to help itself by its own labor and contributions."

Such leagues and associations should be formed at once throughout Illinois, and the work of improving and beautifying this great state by a system of good roads should receive the most careful attention of the present legislature. As a motto for good roads associations it would be difficult to improve upon that of the advocates of good roads in New Jersey:

"Good roads decrease taxation, decrease living expenses, increase property values, increase farmers' incomes, increase railroad business, promote prosperity, promote civilization."

NOVEL HIGHWAYS.

Palm Fiber and Wood Shavings Utilized in Roadbuilding.

General Roy Stone, chief of the bureau of road inquiry, speaking of the progress of road improvement, says there ought to be a highway commission in every state and a local commission in every county of the Union. "Talking of roads reminds me," says General Stone, "that they have a novel road in Florida that is delightful to ride over. It is known as fiber road and is made of the refuse of the palm fiber that is used for brooms, brushes, baskets and other purposes. They spread this waste eight or ten inches deep upon a foundation of sand and then spread sand over it. When moistened by rain, the fiber and sand pack closely and become a solid substance, even more elastic than tannin."

The only other road resembling it is at Neenah, Wis., where the shavings from the mills that saw shingles with the grain of the wood are laid on a short roadway with great success. Another good road in Florida is made of fine fossilized shells, but it is more expensive, owing to the cost of transportation. The good roads movement in this country, I may say, owes its success thus far to the bicycle riders. They have taken the initiative in nearly every state and look after the legislation."

A Profitable Investment.

If the cost of marketing the crop of a given country can be reduced by 10 per cent through the building of good roads, that country will find good roads a paying investment. Good roads once built will last almost forever, and the cost of maintaining them is relatively smaller the better they are built in the first place. Crops are marketed year after year, and the unnecessary expenditure of time and effort, the unnecessary wear and tear on wagons and harness, resulting from bad roads repeat themselves annually.

Money spent on good roads is an investment which pays handsome annual dividends. They are, as certain, too, as the annual return of the warm spring sunshine after the frost and snows of winter. Good roads are a most profitable investment.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Farmers Are Walking Up.

The interest of the farmers in the matter of high improvement was hard to arouse, but a distinct impression has certainly been made upon them. It is only in the poorer towns of Connecticut that any opposition is offered to the building of improved highways. The same is reported true of all states where the good roads movement has gained an appreciable hold.—American Cyclist.

Two of a Kind.

The man who opposes good roads in this day and generation is an shortsighted as his ancestor who entered a long-laying protest against the railroad because the cow would be sure to get on the track.—Minneapolis Journal.

Road Notes.

The better the road is drained the easier it is maintained.

There is usually good road material within easy distance of every road.

Good roads mean as much as good crops to the farmer.

Without roads no community can hope to "get there."

THE EVAPORATOR.

Tower Evaporator Leads in Western New York—The Kilmaster Is Cheapest.

Western New York, which leads the world in the production of dried raspberries, employs five styles of evaporators—namely, the kilns, horizontal evaporators, towers, steam tray evaporators and air blast evaporators. The tower or stack evaporator in various forms, however, far surpasses other appliances in this state. The stack is a chimneylike structure of wood or brick, resting in the basement of the building and extending up through the building and projecting above the roof. A coal or wood furnace—preferably the former—is placed in its base, and air which is drawn in from the basement passes over the heated surface and ascends through the shaft, drying the fruit as it rises and carrying the vapors into the atmosphere. The fruit is placed in the stack on the first floor—that is, the floor above the basement. It is spread on trays, and as new trays are put in those which were first inserted are elevated in the tower. The trays finally reach the second story, by which time the fruit should be finished, and the trays are removed and emptied and taken back to the first floor, to be used again. This, in brief, is the principle upon which the tower evaporators work, but there are endless variations in the details.

Steam is occasionally used in kiln driers; and for a large output is probably the best.

The kiln is nothing more than a slatted floor, underneath which hot air or smoke pipes or steam pipes are conducted. The slats are hard wood, saved about seven-eighths inch wide and a half inch wide on the bottom, and they are laid so that a crack one-fourth inch wide is left on the floor. As the crack is wider below, it does not clog and fill up. The kiln is used for curing hops, for drying the skins and cores of apples and occasionally for drying raspberries and even for the making of "white stock"—that is, the commercial grade of sliced evaporated apples. Kilns are generally less efficient in the production of a first quality of dried fruit than the other styles of evaporators, because the fruit is not so completely under the control of the operator. Yet there are instances in which the operator exercises sufficient care to turn out a product which is indistinguishable from the tower dried fruit. The particular merit of the kiln evaporator is its cheapness.

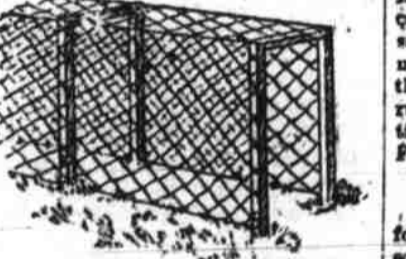
Steam is sometimes used in the kiln driers, and for a large output is perhaps the most efficient and economical heat, particularly where light power is also wanted for running pumps, cider presses, carriers and the like, and it also has the advantage of being easily carried to all parts of the establishment for warming purposes. The foregoing is an extract from a Cornell university station bulletin by Professor L. H. Bailey.

Onions From Sets.

The wonderful results which onion growers have obtained seem very exciting, but no man without experience can attend to an acre of onions grown from the seed successfully or with profit. If the fever must be humored, it is by far better to grow them from the sets than from the seed. The start costs more, but the cultivation less.—Exchange.

A Quickly Made Hedge.

The accompanying illustration from American Gardening shows a short cut to a handsome hedge. A "form" is made of wire netting, the sides and top also being covered. Along the base on either side of this quickly growing vines are planted, which soon cover the wire with a mass of green that becomes more and more dense and beautiful each succeeding year if the proper sort of vines are used. The "proper sort" would include our common woodbine. It is a quick grower, and its foliage is remark-



TO MAKE A HEDGE QUICKLY.

ably handsome; both in the green state and when touched by autumn frosts. There are many other vines, however, that would answer admirably for this purpose, so that all tastes can be suited. Such a hedge needs only such annual clipping as will suffice to keep the vines growing evenly all over the wire—as thickly in one place as in another. Cedar stakes should be used and carefully set in making such a hedge, since once made and covered with a thick growth of vines it will be inconvenient to make interior repairs, though stakes can, of course, be driven down through the netting if necessary.

By the Way.

Vermont maple sugar has a national fame, and no finer is made, yet, according to one authority, Vermont makes less than one-fiftieth of the whole supply.

Repeated sowings of alfalfa at the Rhode Island station have failed to produce a permanent stand.

J. B. Olcott's turf garden or grass experimental plot at South Manchester, Conn., is one of the most interesting works of the kind in this country and an adequate picture of it has been published by the Connecticut board of agriculture.

Massachusetts has a law for the protection of roadside trees.

Professor Brooks of the Massachusetts Agricultural college is credited with strongly recommending the barnyard variety of Japanese millet (Panicum crus galli) as a fodder crop, either to be cut and fed green, for the silo or for hay for horses.

PIGEON BREEDING.

Notes Upon Nest Building, Brooding Rooms and Hatching.

The pairing of pigeons is over. Now look out for the breeding cages. Each nest pan should be provided with a layer of sawdust in the bottom—cedar, if possible to get it; pine, if the latter cannot be had. Some breeders give their pigeons no other material, but I believe it is better to strew pieces of hay, straw and twigs three or four inches in length about. These it delights them to collect and arrange for a nest, and although pigeons even in a state of nature build rough looking nests they will arrange this rough material in a neater manner than we could arrange it for them. Collecting this rough material keeps them busy, and there is less likelihood of disturbance where all are busy in this way than if the work was all done for them and they comparatively idle, for, as we have been often told, idleness is apt to induce discontent; therefore to prevent any prospect of discord it is best to keep them interested and busy.

The nest building is alternated with loafing, billing and cooing, calling and driving occupying the time until the first egg makes its appearance. Some fanciers who watch their birds carefully take the first egg away until the second is laid, which is about 30 hours after the first, believing that they are apt to hatch closer together if the incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, they sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Lagers.

The Blue Lagers are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a



well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens.

It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their pets it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 16 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high; making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned.—Cot. Farm Poultry.

An Apoptrophe to the Hen.

Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there are a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dimes and dollars. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The eggs may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow is on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders.

I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed equals any as egg producers. To produce capons combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent cross. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.



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Head-Quarters

Read what a successful Rockingham farmer says about

Clark's Cutaway Harrow.

Deep Springs Farm, Rockingham County, N. C.; Mar. 16, 1896.

Messrs. C. C. Townsend & Co., Burlington, N. C.

Gentlemen:—I am very much pleased with "Clark's Cutaway Harrow" I purchased of you this winter. I have put in all my oats with it, and on the same land that was turned last summer, with perfect satisfaction. I have other improved farm implements, Mower, Rake, Reaper, Binder, etc.; and I regard my cutaway harrow as fine an implement as I have.

Very truly,
T. B. LINDSAY.

The above testimonial speaks for itself. We bought a solid car load of these harrows. Price complete \$20.00—one price to all. No up to date farmer can afford to be without this tool.

1,000 sacks corn and tobacco fertilizers at prices 10c to 85c per sack less than other dealers ask for the same goods. Some agents wonder why we can sell it so low.

We have the agency for the best makes of buggies, surreys and phaetons sold in this section and prices are lower than ever known before. Have over 3 car loads in stock to select from.

Big oak of Syme's Chilled Plows and castings. Our sales are increasing daily on these plows.

We defy competition on all lines we handle, and pay more freight than any other retail merchant in Alamance county.

Come to Burlington and look at our stock. We are sure we can please you.

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C. C. TOWNSEND & CO.,
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We wish to become personally acquainted with every man, young and old, who buys his clothes in Greensboro. We are in the clothing business and must have your support if we succeed. We are confident that if you will give us a trial we will make a customer of you. Our expenses are small, our stock is all new, we make no bad debts, we do business on our own capital, hence we can sell you

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SALESMEN:—John W. Crawford, John E. Shaw, Will H. Rees, WILL H. MATTHEWS, Manager.

Gov. Russell has appointed Capt. W. H. Day a director of the deaf and dumb institution at Raleigh.

Mrs. Brock of Mecklenburg, on Monday a week found a one and a half pound nugget of gold on her farm.

Frank Pyatt, a work hand on the Southern Railway at Marion, board of the wrong train while drunk, attempted to jump off, fell on his face and was killed.

It should be made a matter of public knowledge that DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve will speedily cure piles of the longest standing. It is the household favorite for burns, scalds, cuts, bruises and sores of all kinds. Simmonds' Druggist.

Mortgage Sale!

By virtue of the powers given in a mortgage executed by A. Tate and wife to the undersigned on the 15th day of October, 1896, and registered in Book No. 17 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Alamance county, I will sell at the court house door in Graham, N. C.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1897.

to the highest bidder, for CASH, the land conveyed in said mortgage, to-wit: A tract of 100 acres in Melville township, adjoining E. Tate, Hugh McQueen and others.

The title is good. Possession given as soon as sale is made. This is known as the Armstrong tract of land. Sale at 12 M.

H. J. STOKES, M.D., Mortgagee.

For further information address J. A. Long, Attorney, Graham, N. C.

LAND SALE.

By virtue of an order of the Superior court of Alamance county, I will sell to the highest bidder at the court house door in Graham, N. C.

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1897.

the following described tract of land in Mecklenburg township, to-wit: The Jacob Hooten tract of land containing about

112 ACRES,

more or less, and on which Sally Huffman now lives. It is sold subject to the dower of Sally Huffman which covers the dwelling house and about 20 acres. The land is sold for partition. The title is good.

Particulars: One-third cash, balance due in six months with interest from day of sale.

J. A. LONG, Com'r.

May 4, 1897.