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GASOLINE

A Poem for Today

CUSHLA MA CHREE

By John Francis Waller

By the banks of Shannon I wooed thee, dear Mary,
Where the sweet birds were singing in summer's
gay pride.
From those green banks I turn now, heartbroken and
drear.
As the sun sets to weep o'er the grave of my bride,
Though the sweet birds are singing around me as singing.
Summer like winter is cheerless to me;
I heed not if snow falls or flow'rets are springing.
For my heart's light is darkened, my cushla ma chree.

Oh, bright shone the morning when first as my bride, love,
Thy foot like a sunbeam my threshold crossed o'er,
And blest on our hearth fell that soft evening, dove,
When first on my bosom thy heart lay, astore!
Restlessly now, on my lone pillow turning,
War of night watches, still thinking on thee,
And darker than night breaks the light of the morning,
For my aching eyes find thee not, cushla ma chree.

Oh, my loved one, my lost one, why didst thou leave me
To linger on earth with my heart in the grave?
Oh, would thy cold arms, love, might open to receive me
To my rest 'neath the dark boughs that over thee wave!
Still from our once happy dwelling I roam, love,
Erewhile seeking, my own bride, for thee;
Oh, Mary, wherever thou art is my home, love,
And I'll soon lie beside thee, my cushla ma chree!

A COMBINATION ROAD

ADVANTAGES OF A DIRT AND STONE HIGHWAY.

Less Expensive to Keep in Repair Than One Built Entirely of Either Material—Cheapest and Most Convenient Road For Many Sections.

"There are not a few people who decried the dirt road as being utterly worthless under any and all circumstances," says William E. Voorhees in the Good Roads Magazine. "According to these numerous critics no road worthy of the name can be made of dirt. It is a wasteful and extravagant creation; a thing that swallows taxes, mires horses and wagons, fills the traveler with dust, and, in short, is an evil from any standpoint that it may be viewed. The opponents of the dirt road naturally look upon the stone highway as an ideal thoroughfare. They point to its excellent traffic qualities; they call attention to the fact that it is dry in winter as well as in summer, and they argue that it is the consummation to be desired by every progressive community.

"Now, the fact of the matter is—as any unprejudiced student of the road question will admit—neither of these views is wholly correct. The dirt road is ordinarily built and maintained in a very poor affair, especially in the winter and early spring months, but there are seasons when a dirt road is preferable to a stone highway for light driving. The stone road, if well built, is so far in advance of the dirt highway that many people have reached the conclusion that as a matter of convenience and economy the former should supplant the latter in every case. But the stone road has its limitations. In dry weather it is not pleasant to travel over on account of the noise that is caused by the horses' hoofs and the wagon tires coming in contact with the hard material. The ideal highway would therefore appear to be one which combines the best features of the two most pronounced types of roadway—namely, the dirt and the stone. The best method to economize in stone road construction is to decrease the width of the track. A stone road eight feet in width necessarily costs but one-half as much as a highway sixteen feet wide, and it will answer the purpose just as well as the wider thoroughfare. It will therefore be seen that the first advantage in favor of the combination road is that of cheapness on account of the narrow stone track which is possible with this type of highway.

"The great disadvantage of a dirt road is that it will hold water and is easily cut into ruts and holes. During the winter months of alternate freezing and thawing it is practically impassable to keep a waterlogged dirt road in possible condition for traveling. On the other hand, the stone road, having a surface that is practically impervious to water, will remain hard and firm even in bad weather. The stone road is therefore strong at the point where the dirt road is weak, but in like manner the latter is strong where the former is weak. In good weather no one cares to use a stone road for pleasure driving. The dirt road is noiseless and the dust that rises from it is not usually so unpleasant as that which rises from a macadam highway.

"One of the advantages of such a road as is being described that will readily occur to every practical roadmaker is that it is less expensive to keep in repair than the road which is constructed entirely of stone or entirely of dirt. It is well understood that a dirt road wears fastest in winter, while under the usual conditions the largest wear on a stone road occurs during the summer months. It is principally used in the winter when it is in the best condition to withstand the action of traffic. While the dirt road is most largely used during the summer months, when travel has the least effect upon it. The wear on each kind of material is thus reduced to a minimum.

"It will therefore be seen that for many sections the cheapest and most convenient highway is that which has both a stone and an earth track. The width of the stone portion will depend upon the width of the entire roadway, and need not in any case be over twelve feet wide and ordinarily it need not be over eight feet in width. It will be best to bear in mind, however, that the combination dirt and stone road is only practical on a reasonably wide thoroughfare. Narrow country roads must, necessarily, be either all dirt or all stone. On a road of from twenty to

twenty-four feet in width the stone track can be constructed on one side. On a road of over twenty-four feet in width the stone track can be placed in the middle, with a dirt drive on either side. The stone portion should be constructed exactly in the manner that a macadam or telford highway is usually built. The trench should first be excavated to the required depth and proper width. The stone is then placed in this trench in courses and thoroughly rolled. Care should be exercised in the matter of the drainage of the entire roadbed. It may be argued that as the stone will not wear as fast as the dirt some difficulty will be experienced in keeping the dirt portion of the roadway on a level with the stone track. This objection, however, is more fanciful than real, as experience has demonstrated that the teams using the highways are constantly pulling from one side to the other, and this serves the double purpose of keeping the dirt well joined to the stone track and of maintaining the level of the roadway."

CANADIAN ROCK ROAD.

One That Was as Good as New After Twenty-five Years' Wear.

"Speaking about rock roads," said Thomas Johnson of Macon, Mo., to a Kansas City Star reporter, "I remember an old Canadian road built by my father in 1856. He took the contract from the municipality of St. Catherine to build a three mile road through a town that would outlast anything hitherto constructed in that country. He began by grading an oval base about as they do now. Then he took cobblestones averaging six inches long and three or four inches wide and set them on end on the roadbed, very close together. Then a man would go over the stones with a hammer and knock off the sharp points that extended too high.

"The next course was what they called metal. This was fine pieces of stone which would go through a ring an inch and a half in diameter. An inspector went over the work with such a ring and threw out all pieces which would not pass through. This metal was evenly distributed over the cobblestones and rolled with a 700 pound roller. The final course was gravel. This was much finer than the metal and filled every crack. It was then well rolled. When so treated the surface of the road was as smooth and hard as could be. The road was something of a novelty up in Canada in those days. There was a great deal of heavy hauling through St. Catherine, and many previous attempts had been made to secure a permanent roadway through town.

ROADMAKING MACHINE.

Maisee Man's Description of One He Has Used With Success.

L. E. Moore of Sebuc, Me., describes as follows in Farm Progress a machine that he has successfully used in making good roads. He says: "Take two hardwood planks 2 by 10 inches and 9 feet long. Taper the points so the hind end will spread five feet. Then take a 2 by 4 joist and place two-thirds the way back and spike. Cover with four inch boards, leaving one inch space between. Then take three inch steel and face both sides, allowing it to extend one inch



SUGAR CANE SIRUP.

Results of Two Years' Experiments in Georgia.

Dr. H. W. Wiley of the bureau of chemistry at Washington has made a report on ten experiments that have been under way in the culture of sugar cane and its manufacture into table sirup at Waycross and Cairo, Ga., of the principal problems presented for solution. Dr. Wiley notes first the agricultural problem. This relates to the character of the soil on which the canes are grown in the regions of the south Atlantic and the gulf, where the climate is favorable to the production of sugar cane. The soil of these localities, as is well known, is composed largely of sand, and the native forest which once covered them was almost exclusively of pine. The pine tree is one which grows with perhaps less drain upon the elements of the soil than almost any other forest growth. The quantity of organic material, however, which the pine tree deposits upon the soil is perhaps less than that of almost any other forest growth; hence it happens that the virgin soil of these regions is not only deficient in the mineral elements of the plant food, owing to the fact that they are consumed chiefly of siliceous material, but also in material of organic origin—namely, humus. The natural fertility which these soils have when first cultivated is therefore rapidly exhausted by the ordinary system of cropping which has been practiced. It is a fact which has been established by observation and experiment that soils which are somewhat deficient in fertility produce crops of exceptionally fine texture and character. This is due probably to the fact that an overabundance of plant food forces a plant to a somewhat coarse as well as vigorous growth, thus modifying to a certain extent the quality and flavor of its food products which grow upon it. 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