

FARM NOTES OF INTEREST

New Forest Assistants and Their Work.

Washington, July 14.—Forty-seven young graduates of nine American Forest Schools have just received appointments as Forest Assistants in the United States Forest Service. But five of these appointees have been assigned to the Washington Office, the other forty-two receiving appointments in the six Administrative Districts in the West. These men have secured their appointments as a result of passing the regular Civil Service examination, which is the only avenue of employment as a forester under the government.

Forest Assistants are men who have completed their preliminary for the profession of forestry, as the graduates of law or medicine have completed theirs, and are ready to enter upon practical work. Until they have gained experience, however their positions are necessarily subordinate. They are at the foot of the ladder and must prove their fitness to mount higher. The government pays them \$1,000 a year at the start.

On the National Forests the Forest Assistant often acts as technical adviser to the Supervisors in charge, who are western men experienced in all practical matters, but usually without school training in the science of forestry. Or they may be assigned to the study of some particular problem which needs to be investigated in the interest of good forest management. As forestry means knowing how to get the most out of any given piece of forest land, it calls for studies and experiments, both scientific and practical, much like those which have to be made in the interest of good farm management, and the Forest Assistant is prepared to do valuable work along this line.

There is a growing interest in the profession of forestry now, and many young men are asking how to get into it, and what it promises. Gifford Pinchot, United States Forester, in an address to the graduating class in forestry at Harvard University this year said:

"The government and the country need men trained in the knowledge of forestry, and it offers opportunity to make a man's life loom large and to count much among the many phases of human endeavor. To be a good forester a man should combine something of the naturalist with a good deal of the business man. To know how to use the forest he must be able to study it. He must have, therefore, the power of observation, a fondness for nature, and the ability to penetrate her secrets. He must be resourceful, able to stand by himself, willing to undergo the privations of

rough life, and capable of commanding the respect of rough men, who who quickly recognize virility and genuineness of character, but will not tolerate pretense or the assumption of superiority. A forester should be sound in mind and body, and should make the fullest college preparations for the service. This service means a farre, vigorous life in the open air, and a clear, straight, fine, wholesome manly condition of life."

Good Roads Work in Mountain Counties.

During the month of August and the first week of September the work of the Highway Division of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey will be confined to the mountain section of the State.

On August 4th, there will commence a systematic study of the road conditions as they exist in the mountain counties. Addresses will be given in nearly all of these counties and meetings will be held with the county commissioners to discuss the ways and means for improving the condition of the roads. As far as possible, the public meetings will be in charge of the county commissioners, and will be addressed by the State Geologist and the Highway Engineer on the practical value of roads and how the county can obtain good roads. The following itinerary gives the dates and places at which the public meetings will be held:

- August 4. Meeting at Marshall, Madison County.
- August 7. Meeting at Burnsville, Yancey County.
- August 10. Meeting at Bakersville, Mitchell County.
- August 11. Meeting at Spruce Pine, Mitchell County.
- August 14. Meeting at Boone, Watauga County.
- August 16. Meeting at Lenior, Caldwell County.
- August 18. Meeting at Morganton, Burke County.
- August 19. Meeting at Marion, McDowell County.
- August 20. Meeting at Rutherfordton, Rutherford County.
- August 23. Meeting at Hendersonville, Henderson County.
- August 24. Meeting at Brevard, Transylvania County.
- August 26. Meeting at Waynesville, Haywood County.
- August 27. Meeting at Webster, Jackson County.
- August 30. Meeting at Franklin, Macon County.
- September 1. Meeting at Bryson City, Swain County.

September 2. Meeting at Murphy, Cherokee County.

September 4. Meeting at Columbus, Polk County.

Every one is cordially invited to attend these meetings, which, it is believed, will be full of interest to those who desire to obtain improved roads for their county. Those counties or townships which intend making any considerable improvement to a road or a portion of a road will be able to receive such information as may be desired by the board of county commissioners, both concerning the approximate cost and the best method of construction. In this way, estimates of the cost of properly grading, draining and surfacing a particular piece of road can be had, which will be of value to the county.

In connection with these meetings the State Geologist will try and have the counties and townships co-operate in the construction of improved roads, so that the good roads constructed in one county may connect with those in another, thus making it possible to travel from one county to another over a system of improved roads. In the location of such roads the services of the Highway Engineer of the Survey will be available.

In order to bring this matter to a definite head and, if possible, to have a more uniform construction of improved roads, the counties will be requested to appoint delegates to attend a Good Roads Convention, to be held in Asheville, October 6th and 7th, 1909.

At this convention an attempt will be made to devise ways and means such as will make possible the construction of several hundred miles of improved roads through the mountain counties of the Southern Appalachian region. Full information regarding the Good Roads Convention will be sent out later, together with a list of the speakers.

Not only is the construction of improved macadam and gravel road of importance to the counties in the southern Appalachian region, but also of just as much importance is the betterment of the common public road. That nearly every dirt road in the mountains is capable of being improved will be granted by all who travel over them. This problem of improving the ordinary dirt roads of the mountains and rendering them more efficient is not a very difficult one to solve. It means that if road improvement is to be accomplished, we must have a just and equitable system of taxation for road building purposes. I do not believe it is possible to make any practical improvement in the common public road by the labor method of taxation, but a direct tax must be levied to raise the funds necessary to pay the labor for the improvement of the road. In some instances it may be found practicable to have a method of taxation supplemented perhaps by a labor tax. The most equitable tax is a certain amount on the hundred dollars' worth of property and also so much on the poll, as every one receives some benefit directly or indirectly from the improvement of the roads, on matter what trade or profession he may follow or whether he owns any property or not. He should, therefore, pay at least a poll tax for good roads work. It is a well established fact that the dirt road will have to be the main road for a considerable portion of the counties for a great many years to come, but, if these are constructed right and used in connection with macadam or gravel roads, they will be satisfactory.

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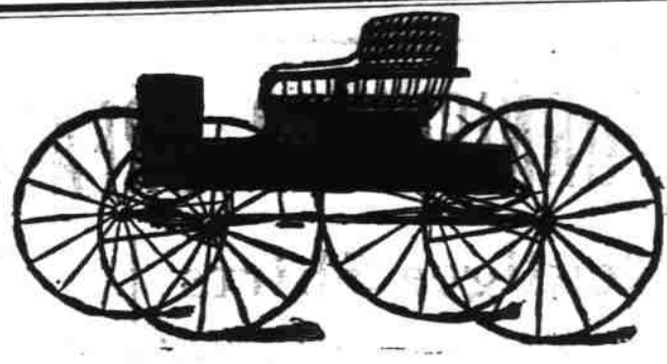
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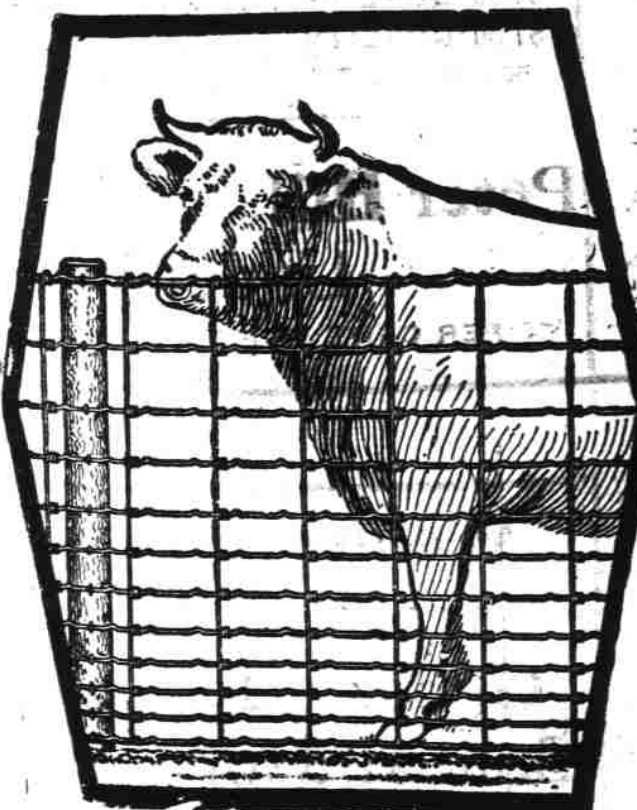
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