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GOOD ROADS PAY.

The interest in public road improvement still continues in a number of States and in all sections of the country, and nowhere more than in the Eastern and middle States.

It is an interesting fact that one of the subjects that first engaged the attention of the people in the United States and of the Congress of the United States was good roads.

The State of Virginia had entered upon a system of turnpikes to penetrate the various sections of the State, and at one time had a splendid system, some of which can yet be seen in the mountain sections in a comparatively good state of preservation.

One of the objections to the smaller States to forming the union was that Virginia with her immense domain which then extended to the Mississippi or the West and to the Lakes on the North would eventually be strong enough in Congress to rule the country.

To obviate this objection the State of Virginia agreed to cede to the United States all of her territory outside of the lines then drawn on condition that the Federal Government continue the system of road building which she had begun, the conclusion being that the cost could be met out of the receipts from sales of the lands donated.

The Government kept its agreement and hundreds of miles of splendid highways were built through Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Indiana and as far as St. Louis, connecting the agricultural districts with the Eastern markets, and these became the great highways of commerce over which millions of dollars worth of merchandise or produce was carried annually, some of them at some seasons resembling more a main business street of a large city than a country road.

At any hour of the day hundreds of wagons coming and going could be seen on them and thousands of cattle, sheep, hogs, etc., being driven. The work went on up to the introduction of railroads.

When the railroads came as competitors of the turnpikes, of course they lost their prestige, and interest in them waned, and in many sections they were allowed to go to wreck, which was a great mistake, as has since been discovered, and is now generally acknowledged.

THE WEEKLY STAR.

making is undoubtedly true, in a large measure, as regards other parts of the country.

It is well known that in the Empire State where, during the four years preceding 1900, \$270,000 had been expended on the Highways Act, the law to high way construction real estate has appreciated in value greatly, particularly in the sections immediately affected by the expenditure in question.

We quote this because we have frequently referred to the road building in New Jersey and how that State has been benefited by it. Indiana is another State whose wealth has been largely increased by road construction, and there are doubtless others.

The Japanese Governor of Formosa says if Uncle Sam wants to get rid of the Philippines Japan will take them if he will wait till she can raise the cash to ante up. She is rather hard up just now.

PEACE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The amnesty proclamation for the Philippines issued by the President on the Fourth of July substantially declares that the archipelago, with the exception of the Sulus, is pacified, and is now in a condition for the establishment of civil government.

But some how or another the killing went on until the American commanders resorted to the process of making "howling wildernesses" out of the provinces where the "insurrection" kept up a racket.

Whether President Roosevelt's amnesty proclamation will settle the business and put an end to the sporadic shooting and killing remains to be seen.

Some of the denizens of Shippensburg, Pa., would give two dollars and a half to catch up with a nice young man who went through those parts several weeks ago and sold their wives cucumber seeds at a nickel a piece which he guaranteed would produce cucumbers two feet long.

The suggestion by Gen. Burt that the United States sell the Philippines to Japan suggests the inquiry, could the United States guarantee undisputed possession?

NATIVES OF THE SOUTH.

According to the census of 1900 there are in the United States 15,758,818 persons who were born in the South, so that native Southerners constitute nearly one-fifth of the total population of the country.

This emigration has been going on for years, but in decreasing numbers for some years past, so that it is nothing new compared with what it was for some years after the war, when there was a rush to the West.

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Chicago is a fast town. The latest move there is a proposition to put breakfast cars on the street railways, so that early risers can eat their breakfasts on the way to work.

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Convention Held in Fayetteville Saturday Precipitated Congressional Controversy

Clark Endorsed for Chief Justice Unanimously—Walker and Connor Also Endorsed—Appeal Taken to Higher District Tribunal.

CLARK ENDORSED FOR CHIEF JUSTICE UNANIMOUSLY—WALKER AND CONNOR ALSO ENDORSED—APPEAL TAKEN TO HIGHER DISTRICT TRIBUNAL.

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WELL KNOWN CITIZEN PASSED AWAY FRIDAY.

Mr. John T. Platt, After Lingering Illness, Was Taken to His Reward—The Funeral Services Yesterday.

Mr. John Thomas Platt, one of Wilmington's best known and most highly esteemed citizens, passed away at his home in this city, No. 609 Green street, at 9:10 o'clock Friday night after an illness of more than a year with a complication of diseases.

Mr. Platt was born in Pottsville, Pa., June 15th, 1833, and was in the 70th year of his age. He removed to Wilmington in 1869 and had been a resident of this city ever since.

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WILMINGTON SCHOONER ABANDONED.

Ida C. Schoelcraft in Bad Condition Off Lookout—The Nimbus Sale.

BEAUFORT, N. C., July 8.—Wreckers have abandoned the schooner Ida C. Schoelcraft. She has five feet of water in her hold and is hogged high up on the beach.

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TWELVE KILLED, MANY INJURED.

Two Trolley Cars Wrecked on a Mountain Side Near Gloversville, New York.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., July 5.—The wreck of two trolley cars, which occurred on the Mountain Lake railroad late last night, caused the death of twelve persons. It is believed that several other victims will succumb to their injuries.

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SPIRITS TURPENTINE.

Whiteville Press: From reports received over the county for this week the farmers seem to be much encouraged over the prospect for good crops though rains are needed.

Laurinburg Exchange: The cotton lice, reported in our last issue to have been doing great damage to the cotton throughout this county, have almost disappeared, so we have been informed, and the fleecy staple is taking on new life.

Scotland Neck Commonwealth: After investigation by a number of persons who were present at the home of Mr. Sam Medford, who was found dead near his father's home more than two weeks ago, it was generally concluded that his death was not suicide.

Kinston Free Press: There's money in peach trees. Mr. H. Wooten sold \$10.15 from one tree in his yard yesterday. He has three other trees nearly as good. Mr. Travis Shining sold \$11.75 worth from one tree in his yard.

Pender Chronicle: The crate factory of Mr. Daniel Southard, located about a mile north of Weldon, was destroyed by fire on last Tuesday night. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is believed to have been the work of an incendiary. The loss will amount to several hundred dollars and was wholly unprotected by insurance.

Monroe Enquirer: Until recent years the farmers in this section never thought of raising an acre of beef for stock, in fact they thought that green cane was injurious to stock, but within the past six or seven years there has been a great change in their respect and now some of the best farmers in the county are raising large quantities of cane for stock.

Greenville Reflector: Tuesday the body of John Cutler, the last of the victims of the sinking of the tug boat below Washington, Friday night, was washed ashore about a mile from the scene of the wreck. There was a line tangled around Cutler's body and it was supposed that one who drifted by the schooner crying for help. The Captain of the schooner heard the cry and threw out the line but it was not caught. The body could have been saved but for the Captain losing his end in the darkness.

Monroe Enquirer: There has been a great deal of kicking against the ruling of the State Board of Equalization for taxation. The argument against listing cord wood is that there is such a great difference in the price of wood. The man who has a large amount of wood on hand has a hearing in habeas corpus proceedings here Thursday afternoon before Judge Walter Clark on the killing of Judge Pierce near Oklawaha on July 4. After hearing the evidence Judge Clark decided that it was a ballable case and required that Black give a bond of \$1,000, which was given.

Raleigh News and Observer: Tuesday night about 10 o'clock Miss Beulah Lamond, a young lady about 20 years of age, jumped into a well at her home in Durham. There is no doubt the act was caused by desperation on the young lady's part, by reason of cruel treatment at the hands of her sister, Mrs. Alice Link. Miss Lamond was rescued by a young man named Harry Anderson, who went down into the well and rescued her. She was taken to the top of the well and was tied under the arms with a rope and led under a distance of fifty feet to the water, where she was rescued by a young man named Harry Anderson. The well is sixty-five feet deep, with fifteen feet of water. The depth of the water undoubtedly broke the force of the fall.

Chicago Stock Yards: A Great Fire in Chicago Stock Yards. Swift & Co.'s Plant Destroyed—The Loss Estimated by Officials of the Company at \$500,000.

Meat Packing Industry: Combination of the Vast Interests of Chicago Companies—Jas. D. Rockefeller the Financier.