Valley News Sylvan

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J. J. MINER, Manager.

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ROADS OF SAND-CLAY

HOW THESE HIGHWAYS ARE BUILT IN SOUTHERN STATES.

If Properly Constructed They Are Said to Be Good In All Sensons of the Year-Causes of Failure La Building Them.

It is a matter of common observation that here and there in the southern states are to be found stretches of sand-clay roads never known to be bad, says W. L. Spoon in the yearbook of the department of agriculture. This fact has led to a study of the reasons why such roads are always good. Numerous experiments have been made with varying results, but all indicate that the essentials to success in sandclay road building are puddling and saturation. What is meant by puddling or mixing may be clearly understood by any one familiar with the operations in the process of Mckmaking. The clay must be rendered homogeneous, and this can be done only by the addition of water during the process until the clay becomes plastic, like dough. The second essential is the addition of sand to the point of saturation, but not beyond.

No sand-clay road can satisfactorily withstand the severity of public travel without having first been reduced to a compact homogeneous mass of sand and clay. Each grain of sand should be in touch with other grains on all sides. Such a condition cannot be secured without the agency of water. 25 is useless to roll a dry sand-clay read before it has been rendered homogeneous by the puddling process and the grains of sand have been brought into contact, with only the interstices between them filled with clay as a binder. The first operation is mixing; the second is rolling as the mixture dries. This forces the particles of sand together, and any excess of clay tends to rise to the surface, rendering it sticky. This clay must in turn be sanded and the operations repeated uptil the surface has become hard and

Many fallures have been made in the building of sand-clay roads, and a few of the more common causes for these failures will be pointed out. The first cause of failure is the want of perfect drainage. The imperfections may in the cross sectional drainage the subgrade or roadbed. It is customary greater crown than is usually given to a macadam road, especially where the grade is above 3 per cent. The subject of side ditches should have more careful consideration than is usually given in case of macadam roads. If the subsoil upon which the road is built is clay it is important that the bottom of the side ditenes should be eighteen inches or more below the crown or middle of the traveled track. If, on the other hand, the land is rolling and the subsoil is sand of considerable depth, thus giving perfect natural drainage to the roadbed, little or no skie ditch will be required.

Terhans the most common error in drainage is the failure to drain properly and thoroughly all places where there are wet weather sorings. If necessary, the roadbed must be changed so as to locate it upon dry ground, as even the deepest side ditches practicable may fail to give relief where such springs exist. It is important to avoid deep cuts and to carefully consider all probable sources of trouble. The writer has often seen old roadbeds with water oozing from all parts during a raluv season in spite of sufficient side ditches, the water even rising in the center of a twenty foot roadbed and standing on the surface or slowly running along the wheel tracks to the nearest muchole. It should be remembered that water, beyond a very limited amount, adds nothing of value to the sand-clay road after it is completed. If water is always present, sand should be used without clay. Sand and water make a better road than sand and clay and water. In proof of this statement attention need only be called to the numerous places districts. Such fords are always com-

paratively solid. Another cause of failure is the want of thorough mixing. There may be a proper amount of sand, and clay may be placed upon the road, yet if it is not thoroughly puddled and mixed to saturation in every place the road is

loose sand, while others will become muddy in wet weather and hard in dry weather. Such variations may occur every few feet and even at the same place, one wheel track being in loose and the other in mud.

In northern sections frost is another cause of failure and one more difficult to dea! with than any heretofore mentioned. Frost is temporarily destructive to a sand-clay road, and for that reason the mixture must extend below the frost line if the road is built on a clay foundation. Freezing disintegrates the sand-clay composition and adelphia's. makes of it a soft, slushy mud, which however, repacks again after each heavy rain, although frequently leaving the road surface somewhat rough. Therefore in general practice it is necessary to make the sand-clay mixture of such a depth as to extend a few inches below the frost line.

Other causes of fallure are the improper selection of clay and the improper treatment of the clay used Ferruginous clays are the best, and chalky clays the poorest.

No read of any kind prove satisfactory unless drainage of the roadbed is carefully provided for, and especially is this tree of a sandclay road made of sedimentary clay and fine sand.

Road Briefs

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

If macadam roads are to be maintained at their best the sprinkling cart is a daily necessity.

The longer the delay in building good roads the greater the cost. Until produce is hauled to market it

isn't really produced. If the road is poor good horses and

good vehicles count for little. There is no word which should be so thoroughly impressed into the minds of all connected with the making of roads as the word "drainage"-thorough drain-

age, decp drainage. Dirt roads should be worked in the early summer and not in late summer or fall, but repairing should be in order at all seasons.

Human Progress on a Powder Cart. It sounds like a paradox to say that the enemy of Russia is the lest friend of the Russians. Japan makes no side ditches or the drainage of the bluff at fighting for the advancement of civilization. She is fighting for her to give to a sand-clay road a little own life and incidentally the survival of the yellow race. But her victories do not strike the Russian people. The bureaucracy of the empire is getting the hard knocks.

> Heretofore the bureaucracy of Russia has had its say and in a national crisis has crowned its rule with national defeat and disgrace. Democracy is now awake and cannot be silenced. The teachings of Russia's poets, novelists and philosophers are every day getting a wider circulation. The propaganda of educated men and women is carried on openly. The influence of the universities and the press is on the side of the people There may be destruction and chaos for a time, but after that will come reconstruction and the creation of a new civic force which will make for human progress.

Lengthening a Ship's Ears.

The electrical ears which are soon to find practical use on vessels of all descriptions are the application of a principle so simple and so well known that it is surprising that the device was not adopted before. The idea is based upon the well known fact that water is a superior sound transmitter. The new ears will detect the approach of a torpedo, the presence of rocks and shoals and the faroff fog bell.

Schoolboys have known time out of memory how sound travels under water. In fact submarine telegraphy in a small way is an old stunt of the swimming pond. All there is of it, vibrations set in motion under water where water crosses the roads in sandy are not so easily diffused nor held up as when set in motion in the air. The same of underground surface. The American Indian taught the pioneer to put his ear to the ground to detect the approach over the prairie or through the forest of a two footed or a four footed enemy. The air, as a rule, is not likely to withstand public travel. alive with cross currents of vibration. Some sections will break and become Below these manifestations are fewer. I delphia did.

WASHINGTON CHAT.

The Kaiser wants war, but not too much at a time.

Mr. Loomis denies that he is being sent abroad as a "horrible example."

It now develops that Panama has a yellow fever just like Phil-

It is believed that the "Colonels" of Georgia will one day outnumber the "LL. D's." of Massachusetts.

Mr. Roosevelt" can get a fat job fore it starts? in New York.

On its arrival in Washington, the "dove of Peace" should be in- he. His "wife" will not let him spected to make sure that it does fight any more, not wear spurs.

shot at Samar came from Borneo. Ever hear of the wild men of Borneo? He never dies.

Uncle Sam will not allow Coumbia to make Panama pay part of Columbia's debt as Uncle Sam has a deficit already.

As the Equitable matters have gotten beyond the "joke stage" Senator Depew's services have een dispensed with.

"Is Mr. Roosevelt sincere?" isks a New Yorker. He can find out by Asking Mr. Roosevelt. We won't run the risk.

The public is still waiting for Chauncy M. Depew to tell something about the Equitable that is amusing instead of pathetic.

One reason why ignorance is so common in Russia is that the zar will not allow the newspapers to print anything worth eading.

"Peace" is something with ment" to his vindication. which the czar has had so little experience, that he approaches discussion of it with natural lifference.

If the Panama canal were as leen as the hole it's made in the wouldn't have such a haigh has ahead of him the job of sepcoming to her.

Of course Gen. Milles will take pleasure" in acting as hairman of the reception comnittee, when President Roosevelt visits Massachusetts. Nit.

When the National Woman Suffrage Convention met in Oregon, Reed Smoot congratulated himself because he completed his cy. say? clone cellar the night before.

Iowa bank deposits have inreased \$15,000,000 within the past twelve months, showing that home.

Mrs. Nellie Shakesphere of St. Joseph, Mo., wants \$15,000 damiges because a man beat her. A man with nerve enough to beat a have a Carnegia Medal.

If Mr. Dalrimple were to express himself frankly about the possibilities of reform, he would probably suggest that the first thing Chicago ought to do is to hold a prayer meeting as Phila druggists, price 75e. Take Talk's

Not half so much life can come from radium and bullion as from mint juley. Ever try it?

Maybe Castro has an idea that if he likes this country he will annex it. You cannot guess Cassy.

If Oyama lands that other blow for which he is squaring off an armistice will hardly be necessary.

England has no fear of war with Germany in which "France" would have to do most of the fighting.

Cannot President Roosevelt ex-Anybody showing a card say- ert himself a little and bring the ing "I have been employed by Franco-German war to a close be-

> Jim Jeffries has at last met some one who is "mightier" than

Japan has fixed the "price" for Gen. Wood says the men he a plain, ordinary peace but if Russia wants any frills thrown in it must pay more.

> It will not require a telescope to see Gov. Folk when the democracy begins to look around for candidates for 1998.

> Another man sees the dawn of Russian freedom. Some men are seeing this so often that it is getting to be a habit with them.

> Gov. Folk's idea that it is a public official's duty to hit a grafter's head wherever he sees one is "going to grow" on this country.

> Now if the baseball parks were clever enough to disguise themselves as saloons they would be allowed to keep their side gates open on Sundays.

Of course if President Roosevelt can think of any more good points possessed by Secretary Morton, he can issue a "supple-

That convention of Indiana poets will be sustained by public sentiment if it adopts a plank "viewing with alarm" the work of the Indiana prose writers.

Paul Morton is said to enjoy United State's treasury France hard work. Considering that he arating some of the Equitable society's officials from their illegitmate profits.

> King Oscar of Norway and Sweden wishes to be known as one who strives to please, but he doesn't want to go through life. with only "half a crown" on his head. What would the neighbors

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