

# BAD ROADS COSTLY.

Responsible For Hunger and Illiteracy in the United States.

## GREAT HANDICAP TO FARMERS

They Suffer Heavy Losses Getting Their Products to Market Over 100 Kept Roads—Land Values Advance With Improved Roadways.

Two hundred and fifty million dollars a year are wasted on bad roads in the United States. Added to loss on haul, the storage and extra food rates make the total expense \$1,000,000,000 a year. This means a tax of \$12.50 on every man, woman and child in the country. Corners in the grain markets are frequently the direct result of bad roads. In four bad road states 375,000 people out of 7,000,000 cannot read or



RURAL ROAD BEFORE IMPROVEMENT.

write. In four good road states out of 6,000,000 population there are 20,000 illiterates. Do good roads concern you? If you are one of the 30,000,000 people who live on farms in the United States it is a fairly safe guess that you know something about bad roads, even if you do not know and have never chanced to cross the 7 per cent of improved roads of the total 2,000,000 miles of highway in the United States. America's country roads are so notoriously bad that it costs more to haul a ton of wheat from farm to market than to ship that ton from New York to Liverpool. America's country roads are so bad that it costs the American farmer 23 cents to haul a ton when it costs the English or the Belgian or the French or the German farmer only from 7 to 9 cents for the same haul. You Mr. Town Man, and you, Mr. Farmer, pay for the unnecessary waste of those bad roads, the town man by extra cost of what he eats, the farmer by lessened profits on what he sells. The same reason explains why the town man pays \$1.25 in spring for potatoes which cost from 50 to 75 cents in the autumn.

The interstate commerce report shows that the railroads yearly haul 265,000,000 tons of farm produce and that the average haul from farm to market for the whole country is nine and a fraction miles. Put the cost of hauling at a round \$2 a ton for the nine miles and you have the cost of hauling farm produce at a round half billion dollars a year. Half that cost is waste, solely owing to bad roads.

The charge to haul wheat from New York to Liverpool, 3,100 miles, is 35 cents per bushel. The charge to haul a bushel of wheat from farm to market, 9.4 miles, is 5.11 cents. The storage on wheat at water fronts is 3 cents a bushel a year.

The results of bad roads are yearly tolls of \$12.50 against every person who eats farm produce. That yearly waste would build 200,000 miles of A1 macadam roads every year, basing the cost at the very highest average of \$5,000 a mile.

The beauty of the railroad scheme of things is when we need our wares—in this case, good roads—nature not only wipes out the deficit, but she puts a plus to the account where there used to be a minus. Supposing of the 2,000,000 miles of roads in the United States all were improved instead of only 7 per cent, what would be the result to farmer and consumer? First of all, the big deficit of wheat on hand, on storage, on (corners) pit is wiped out! The minus goes off the national scale and the plus comes on.

The good road makes the remotest farm right next to the market. A farm twenty miles from the market on an all the year round good road is nearer market than a farm seven miles away on a bad road. Truck farmers in New Jersey and Long Island can haul their produce to market, thirty miles, cheaper than they can ship by railroad, and that produce nets, according to well known averages, as follows:

Fruit, \$50 per acre; flowers, \$2,000 per acre; corn, \$8 per acre; wheat, \$7 per acre; oats, \$7 per acre; vegetables, \$42 per acre.

Out in the Dakotas and Minnesota and Manitoba farmers haul their product thirty and forty miles, but they can haul it only when the roads are dry in the early fall, and at that season the price is lowest. The farmer along the good road can command the best price by hauling only when the price is best, and he can also raise the produce that gives biggest net returns. If you would learn why a whole family can live, and live well, off an acre in Holland and Belgium and France when a family often falls to live well off 100 acres in America.

With good roads Dakota farmers who under present conditions drive so deep in gumbo mud during spring and market their crops when prices are the highest. Instead of selling

their wheat at 70 and 80 cents in the fall they could sell it at \$1 during the winter and in the spring. An additional price of even 25 cents a bushel would mean \$15,000,000 more in the pockets of the Minnesota farmers, a similar amount to the farmers of the Dakotas and to the wheat farmers of the Pacific coast.

New York farmers do not raise vegetables in quantities because until recently roads did not permit them to market such a perishable product in quantities. This holds good in New England. The same condition exists in the cow country and the grain country. Potatoes and onions your Dakota farmer can market in quantities. Therefore he raises them, but because bad roads cut him off from the market half the year he does not raise the more perishable vegetables. Vegetables he buys from California at fancy prices, another tax for bad roads. In fact, owing to bad roads, there have been seasons when New Yorkers were paying \$1 a bushel for their potatoes and western farmers were glad to sell them at 15 cents for pig feed and starch.

With access to market and best ruling prices, net returns increase and farm lands jump in value. It is an actual fact wherever good roads have gone land has increased in value from \$2 to \$9 an acre. In Jackson county, Ala., a bond issue of \$250,000 built 125 miles of macadam road. The selling price of land was \$6 to \$15 before the road was built. On the completion land values went up from \$15 to \$25.

The effect of good roads on school attendance needs no proof. In the five states having the best roads the average attendance is 77 per cent of enrollment. In the five states having the fewest good roads the attendance averages only 59 per cent.

With these figures on schools it is not surprising to find that ignorance and bad roads go together. In the four bad road states, with a total population of 7,000,000, are 375,000 men and women, white and native born, who can neither read nor write. In four good road states, with a population of 6,000,000, are only 20,000 illiterates.

The movement for good roads is so recent that it need not be retailed here. When colonists first came to America the roads followed buffalo trails and Indian wilderness paths. As farms became fenced roads ran along between boundaries without regard to the shortest distance or grade, and these were kept in order (or disorder) by statute labor—farmers turning out for a day once a year for a road picnic, filling in holes that ought to have been filled in months previously, tinkering and trifling away time with no special director. The results were what might have been expected. Men do not employ blacksmiths as doctors, and why should farmers be supposed to possess the technical knowledge of an engineer? During various wars two or three good roads were hacked through the wilderness across country, from New York up to Boston along the old post road, from the



THE SAME ROAD IMPROVED.

Cumberland mountains west to St. Louis, from Virginia up through Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh and when emigration began to roll westward from St. Louis to Oregon. With these exceptions the highways of the United States were a system of pig track trails. Then came the great railroad building era down to 1890 when public roads were forgotten in the expectation that railroads would supplant them, but as population grew the necessity for roads to link farms with market became daily more insistent—agree G. Lunt in Colliers.

Good Substitute For Macadam. One example of the road bureau's work will show its usefulness. Roads for the state of sticky gumbo soil have been almost a hopeless problem. There is a whole belt of such states along the south, and there is another belt along the Missouri where wheels sink hub deep and horses flounder to death in a mire more treacherous than quicksand. The road bureau discovered from many practical tests that by burning gumbo soil a rounded compact as macadam could be obtained at half the cost of macadam or at practically only the cost of labor and of fuel to do the burning. There is no longer any excuse for lethargy in road building through the gumbo states.

South to Build Highways. Eight hundred miles of improved roads are to be undertaken by the Southern Appalachian Good Roads association. Of these 300 miles are to be in North Carolina. Poor roads are said to cost that state \$10,000,000 a year. An enormous number of tourists go to the southern Appalachian region, but because of the poor quality of the highways in general they see but a small portion of it. The great system of roadways now proposed is planned to make that wonderful region one of the most attractive in all the world.

## The Jonesville Disaster.

The falling of the school building at Jonesville, which town is a suburb of Elkin, was one of the most appalling disasters that has ever happened in this section of the state. The editor of The News visited the building one day last week and the wonder is that more people were not injured. As it is about twenty persons were bruised and cut and burned so that they will keep their beds for a time, and many of them will be confined for weeks and be maimed for life. As many as a hundred were injured to that extent that they need a physician.

Below we give a list of those who were most seriously hurt. Mrs. Nancy Swain, 67 years old, thigh bone crushed from hip to knee and breast bone broken. No hope is entertained for her recovery.

Elector Luffman, 14 years old, back part of her skull fractured. She was carried to Charlotte where an operation was performed and some hopes are entertained for her recovery.

Mrs. Will Smith, 60 years old, leg broken and badly bruised about the body.

Minnie Burcham, 16 years old, both knee caps broken and buried from knees to feet.

A twelve year old boy named York was badly burned by falling on the stove and held there by people falling on him.

Floyd Waggoner, 60 years old, arm broken below the elbow.

Reuben Ball, 18 years old, jaw bone dislocated and badly bruised about the face.

Marvin Chestevens, 22 years old, ankle crushed.

Will Shugart, 30 years old, foot and ankle badly sprained.

Mrs. Whitt, 60 years old, leg broken.

Prof. A. H. Wolf, graduate of Chapel Hill and principal of a school in Wake county, leg broken above the ankle. Prof. Wolf was on his way to spend Christmas with his father, Esq. W. H. Wolf of Union Hill and stopped over night at Elkin and went over to attend the school exercises. It will be weeks before he will be able to return to his school. He is at his father's home.

Many others were hurt as badly as some we have mentioned, but it was out of the question to get the names of all those who were painfully injured.

## LAND FOR SALE.

I have 58 acres of land for sale one mile from Zephyr lying on the waters of Mitchell's river and in 3 miles of the Elkin and Alleghany railroad and in 2 miles of the new school, Mountain Park. One tenant house, one tobacco barn and one orchard. The place is well watered. 20 acres cleared the balance in wood land. Well timbered in white pine, hickory, white oak, Texas to suit the purchaser with \$100 down. For further information, write or see me.

H. H. Cockerham, Route 1, Rusk, N. C.

## IF YOUR STOVE SMOKES let us send you a sample of our specially prepared anthracite coal for stoves. We will also come and show you how to burn this coal to best advantage. We know it will please you. Why pay more than we charge. Other coals of best grade at lowest prices. Phone 23, 125 or 129.

C. A. Shelton.

# The Love Letters of a Confederate General

WE begin in the November issue a series of real love letters written over fifty years ago by one of our national heroes to his sweetheart during the period of '61 to '65. This great general will go down to posterity as having accomplished one of the most brilliant feats of arms in the history of the world. He was as great a lover as he was a general, therefore these letters combine authentic history and exquisite romance. They sound a human note that no other work of literature has done in a decade; in its war, it is romance, it is history, it is literature. You simply can't afford to miss this wonderful series—so timely a story of the Civil War now published for the first time and containing all the freshness of a contemporary happening. These letters will grip you hard, and hold your interest from first to last. Fill out the coupon and send it now before you forget it.

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## HEALTH INSURANCE

The man who insures his life is wise for his family.

The man who insures his health is wise both for his family and himself.

You may insure health by guarding it. It is worth guarding.

At the first attack of disease, which generally approaches through the LIVER and manifests itself in innumerable ways TAKE

# Tutt's Pills

And save your health.

Like a Woman's Mind. It has been said that the reply of a child is very much akin to a woman's mind; you never quite know what turn it is going to take. It is frequently degenerate, says The Strand. A small girl was drawing a picture "out of her head." "What are you drawing?" asked her mother. "God," replied the child, simply.

"But you can't draw God," protested the mother. "because you have never seen Him, and no one has ever seen Him, and no one knows what He is like."

The small child licked her pencil and put on another touch. "They will know when I've finished it," she said.

## His Stomach Troubles Over.

Mr. Dyspeptic, would you not like to feel that your stomach troubles were over, that you could eat any kind of food you desired without injury? That may seem so unlikely to you that you do not even hope for an ending of your trouble, but permit us to assure you that it is not altogether impossible. If others can be cured permanently, and thousands have been, why not you? John R. Barker, of Battle Creek, Mich., is one of them. He says, "I was troubled with heartburn, indigestion, and liver complaint until I used Chamberlain's Tablets, then my trouble was over." Sold by All Dealers.

## RED CEDAR SHINGLES

Not perfect, but nearer perfection than any heretofore produced.



T. B. McCargo, Jr. Phone 178

County Union Meeting.

The Surry County Farmers Union will hold their quarterly meeting at Dobson Thursday night and Friday Jan. 2nd and 3rd, 1913. Officers for the coming year will be elected at this meeting, besides other important business. See that your local is represented. Fraternally, Dec. 16, 1912. J. M. Brinkley.

# NOTHING EQUALS S.S.S. FOR OLD SORES

Nothing equals S. S. S. as a cure for Old Sores, because nothing equals it as a blood purifier. The source and supply of every chronic sore is impure blood; the circulation is infected with germs and morbid accumulations which are being constantly deposited into the open place. This causes ulceration and inflammation of the flesh tissues and produces a condition upon which salves, washes, lotions, etc., can have no curative effects.

The blood must be purified of all infectious matter before the circulation can nourish the flesh tissues and stimulate them to the healthy condition necessary to heal the sore. S. S. S. heals old sores by going down to the fountain-head of the trouble and driving out the germs and morbid matters which are keeping the ulcer open. Then the healing begins, all discharge ceases, the inflammation leaves, new tissue and healthy flesh are formed, and soon the ulcer is well. You are not wasting time when you use S. S. S., but you are giving yourself the benefit of the very best treatment for old sores. Book on Sores and Ulcers and medical advice free to all who write and request same. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

I was afflicted with a sore on my face of four years' standing. It was a small pimple at first but it gradually grew larger and worse in every way until I became alarmed about it and consulted several physicians. They all treated me, but the sore continued to grow worse. I saw S. S. S. advertised and commenced its use, and after taking it a while I was completely cured. My blood is now pure and healthy from the effect of S. S. S., and there has not been any sign of the sore since S. S. S. cured it. West Union, Ohio THOS. OWEN.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MOUNT AIRY

The Oldest and Largest Bank in Surry County

Has Been Established for Twenty Years and Has Half a Million Dollars available for the Accommodation of its Customers

Geo. D. Fawcett, President. C. L. Hanks, Vice-President. A. G. Trotter Vice-President. T. G. Fawcett, Cashier.

# CORTRIGHT METAL SHINGLES STORM PROOF

1 They interlock and overlap each other in such a way that the hardest driving rain or snow cannot sift under them. Won't pulsate or rattle in wind-storms. They're also fire-proof, will last as long as the building, and never need repairs.

# Sick Women

When shown positive and reliable proof that a certain remedy had cured many cases of female ills, wouldn't any sensible woman conclude that the same remedy would also benefit her if suffering with the same trouble?

Here are five letters from southern women which prove the efficiency of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

LETTER FROM VIRGINIA. Billston, Va.—"I feel it my duty to express my thanks to you and your great medicine. I was a sufferer from female troubles and had been confined in bed over one third of my time for ten months. I could not do my housework and had fainting spells so that my husband could not leave me alone for five minutes at a time. Now I owe my health to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier. Whenever I was a sufferer again I want to tell her what these medicines have done for me and I will always speak a good word for them."—Mrs. ROBERT BLANKENSHIP, Billston, Montgomery Co., Va.

LETTER FROM LOUISIANA. New Orleans, La.—"I was passing through the Chicago of Life and before I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was troubled with hot flashes, weak and dizzy feelings, headache and irregularity. I would get up in the morning feeling tired out and not fit to do anything. Since I have been taking your Compound and Blood Purifier I feel all right. Your medicines are worth their weight in gold."—Mrs. GASTON BLODGETT, 1541 Polynnia St., New Orleans, La.

LETTER FROM FLORIDA. Wauchula, Fla.—"Some time ago I wrote to you giving you my symptoms, headache, backache, bearing-down, and discomfort in walking, caused by female troubles. I got two bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and a package of Sanative Wash and that was all I used to make me a well woman. I am satisfied that if I had done like a good many women, and had not taken your remedies, I would have been a great sufferer. But I started in time with the right medicine and got well. It did not cost very much either. I feel that you are a friend to all women and I would rather use your remedies than have a doctor."—Mrs. MATTIE HODGSON, Box 496, Wauchula, Florida.

LETTER FROM WEST VIRGINIA. Martinsburg, W. Va.—"I am glad to say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done wonders for my mother, daughter and myself. I have told dozens of people about it and my daughter says that when she hears a girl complaining with cramps, she tells her to take your Compound."—Mrs. MARY A. HOCKENBERRY, 713 N. 3rd St., Martinsburg, W. Va.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM VIRGINIA. Newport News, Va.—"About five years ago I was troubled with such pains and bloating every month that I would have to go to bed. A friend told me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I soon found relief. The medicine strengthened me in every way and my doctor approved of my taking it. I will be glad if my testimony will help some one who is suffering from female weakness."—Mrs. W. J. BLAYTON, 1029 Hampton Ave., Newport News, Va.

Why don't you try this reliable remedy?