

Correspondence.

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC ROADS.

Corn Cracker Ridicules the Antiquated System Now in Force and Calls for a More Modern Plan.

As I have been very busy in the discharge of my duties as teacher of a public school, my correspondence to your columns has been neglected.

We are painfully aware of the fact that in this section, with one or two exceptions, we have no roads worthy of the name.

In the first place, it is not to be supposed that a man who never saw a good road is a past master in the art of laying off, building, or keeping one in good order.

Being road overseer and teaching school are the only two vocations where knowledge and experience count for nothing.

While every up-to-date farmer uses reapers, mowers, steam threshers, and disc plows and harrows, he pursues the same methods of working highways that were in use when wheat was out with a sickle.

Good schools and free rural delivery will do much to deliver us from our badge of illiteracy.

It is known to all men who ever saw a good road, that a horse can pull 2,000 pounds on a good road easier than 500 pounds on a bad one.

People can attend church and Sunday-school better, and do more hauling of produce to market than they do at present, were the highways better.

With two little mules and a narrow-tired wagon, I saw a man in No. 10 Township of Cleveland County, this winter, haul one-quarter of a cord of wood at a load when, with a better road, the same could have easily drawn a cord.

Now the foregoing are indisputable facts. Now are we to have better highways? Certainly not by the present system, for fifty years experience proves it a failure.

My suggestion is taxation and convict labor. If some one else has a better method, let him speak out in meeting.

outs up the roads most is exempt from road duty, and contributes nothing to their building or repair.

The poor man is liable to six days road service per annum. At 50 cents per day, for he boards himself, he gives his rich neighbor \$3 worth of toil and sweat for the princely benefaction of school tax.

At present we feed our convicts, bear the expense of their trials, and then send them to other counties. Let them stay here and work our roads all over the county.

I was in the good roads meeting in Shelby last Monday, and saw and heard much to make me thank God and take courage.

CLEVELAND CO., N. C.

NASH COUNTY ALLIANCE.

At our January meeting it was decided to have a basket picnic at our regular meeting in April.

Brethren, let's arouse ourselves a little, take a day off, talk of the good meetings we used to have, and I fully believe we will feel better and the Alliance will be made stronger.

Now, Mr. Editor, I will try to make my last the best by saying, please find enclosed \$2 which is to go on my subscription to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Yours fraternally, C. H. BAINES, Sec'y-Treas., Nash Co., Alliance.

ONE BOARD TO CONTROL ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS.

I notice that the most noteworthy reform that Hon. Leelle M. Shaw, the new Secretary of the Treasury, bought about as Governor of Iowa, was a change in the management of the State institutions, a change that it might be well for people in other States to consider.

"No sooner did he become Governor than he began reforms which have commanded the indorsement of all Iowans, whether Democrats or Republicans; among the most important being the institution of a Board of Control, supplanting separate bodies of trustees and commissioners which had previously managed—or mismanaged—the various charitable and penal institutions of the State.

This system doubtless has many advantages. The various large boards that control the educational and charitable institutions in this State are, I expect, more expensive and less efficient.

Perhaps a committee of three is not large enough, but there is no doubt that the Iowa plan is in many respects superior to that now in force in North Carolina.

FIVE LITTLE MINUTES are all the time Perry Davis' Painkiller needs to stop a stomach-ache, even when it is sharp enough to make a strong man groan.

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

LXVIII.

Brother Johnson, in Charity and Children, says:

"The grass begins to show signs of spring, and soon the butter milk will bring."

The man or woman who does not admire the green fields and meadows when the land is covered over with a carpet of grass, oats or wheat, has no love of the beautiful in Nature.

Now is a good time to plant WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPES. You need not be afraid to manure them too much.

The best melons we ever saw on poor land were planted among cotton. The fertilizer was drilled after the usual plan for cotton.

SELLING MELONS IN TOWN.

If you raise more melons than you need for home use carry some nice ones when you go to town.

TO HAVE THE MELONS COOL AND SALADABLE.

The best way to have them nice is to place a layer of straw 6 to 10 inches thick in a wagon body or wide bench about three feet high so that the air can circulate freely under the bench or wagon; then wet the straw thoroughly with clean water.

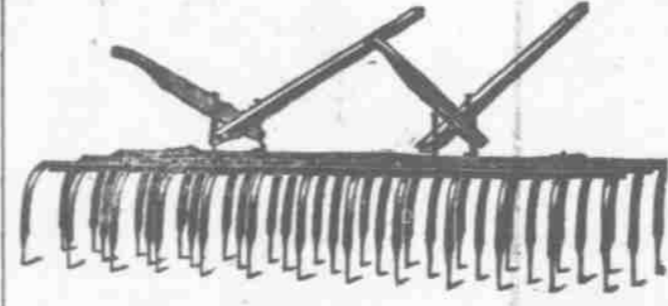
You see by placing them a few feet above the ground so that the heat of the ground cannot effect them and having the straw wet, the water evaporating cools anything very fast.

HARRY FARMER, Columbus Co., N. C.

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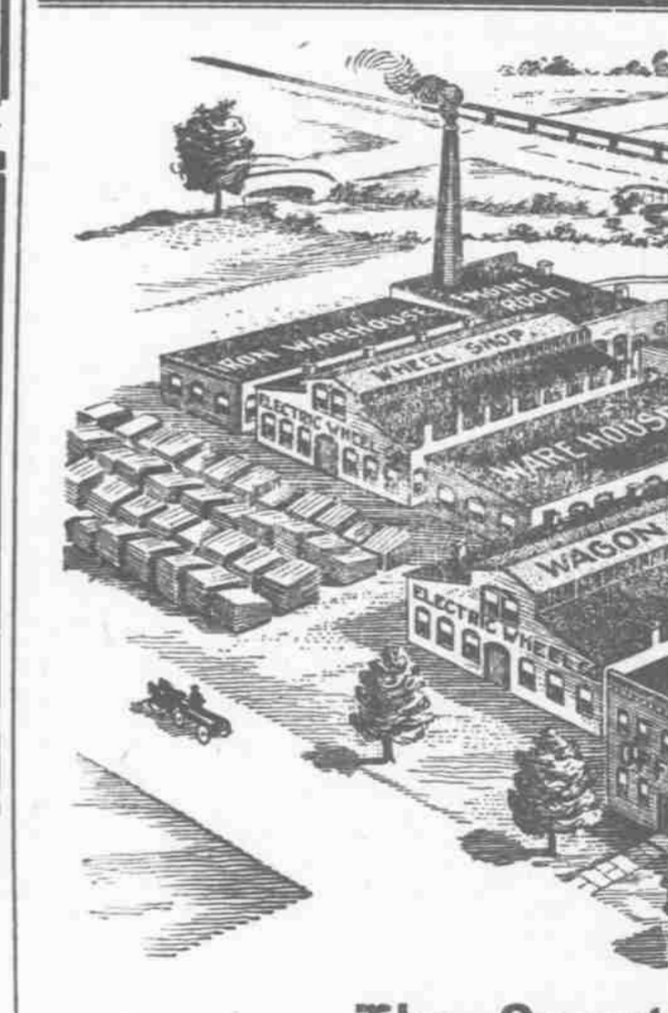
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