

CORRESPONDENCE

GOOD ROADS CONVENTION AT ST. LOUIS.

National Aid Likely to be the Principal Subject of Discussion.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Several weeks ago arrangements were completed for assembling in St. Louis on April 27 the greatest good roads convention ever held. It is proposed to make it not only national but international in character. Judging from the selection of delegates already made in many States, it looks as if the convention will be made up of representative men from all parts of the country.

Undoubtedly the principal subject for discussion will be that of National aid as outlined in the bill introduced in the last Congress by Representative Brownlow. The friends of that measure will go to the convention "loaded to the muzzle" with arguments in its defense. Among the arguments which will they offer with the greatest confidence, the following may be noted:

1. The Government aided in the building of many of the great railroads, especially in the West by grants of enormous areas of land and otherwise. Yet these roads are without exception owned by private individuals and corporations, and operated solely for private gain. How much more necessary and proper then for the Government to aid and encourage the building of highways which are public property for the use and benefit of the people?

2. The Government annually appropriates many millions of dollars for the improvement of rivers and harbors to facilitate commerce. But these appropriations are of necessity very unequally distributed, a few States receiving the greater part, and many others receiving none whatever. But the improvement of the public highways is just as important to commerce, and a National appropriation for that purpose could be so distributed as to give each State its proper share.

3. Money appropriated by Congress for other purposes only accomplish results commensurate with the amount spent; but money appropriated to aid and encourage road improvement would accomplish vastly more, because States and counties could only secure the benefit of this aid by contributing proportional sums. A National appropriation for this purpose would serve as a universal stimulus to road improvement.

4. The free delivery of mail in the rural districts must always remain limited to those communities which, by reason of their wealth or favorable natural conditions, are able to have good roads. Other communities whose people are equally deserving, and whose contributions help to maintain the whole postal system, are deprived of the blessings of free delivery because of their poverty or because natural conditions make road improvement difficult and expensive. Here is a grave injustice which can

be remedied in one of the two ways: Either (1) the whole scheme of rural free delivery must be abandoned because it cannot be carried out with equal justice to all the people, or (2) the National Government must lend a hand to help the less favored communities improve their roads, thus making universal rural free delivery possible. The fathers of the Republic provided for just such a contingency as this when they empowered Congress to establish post-offices and post-roads.

These and similar arguments will be put forward with a great deal of zeal and enthusiasm by the advocates of National aid. As several State Conventions have already endorsed this scheme, it will not be surprising if the St. Louis Convention also approves it.

B. P. W.
Washington, D. C., April 4, 1903.

Sampson County Farmers' Alliance.

We hope to have a representative from every sub Alliance in the county at South River the second Thursday in April. Every farmer that is a friend to the Alliance will get something good to feast on if he will go and help us on in our work. We are doing some business through the Alliance at our sub, and saving more money than it takes to pay our dues. We should do more, and we are determined to do more in the future.

—Remember the day and place of county meeting: second Thursday in April at South River.

J. A. TURLINGTON,
Secretary.

Columbus County Alliance.

The following is the program for the next quarterly meeting of Columbus County Alliance to be held at Chadbourn, Thursday, April 9:

1. Organized Effort.—J. C. Bain, leading.
2. Law-Abiding in Public Instruction.—F. T. Wooten, leading.
3. Intense Farming and Literature.—H. Wyche, leading.

The general public is invited to participate. One-half hour allotted to each subject and to the basket about the same. The opening may vary to suit the train arrivals, but eleven o'clock is the usual hour.

J. R. BALDWIN,
Committee.

[Chadbourn paper please copy.]

CURED SWEENEY, AND ENLARGEMENT OF HUMAN FOOT.

Cottonwood, Ala., Feb. 17, 1903.
The Lawrence-Williams Co., Cleveland, O.:

The GOMBAULT'S CAUSTIC BALSAM ordered of you in November, 1902, cured my mule of sweeney. September 30, 1902, one of my little boys hurt one of his feet. It was so slightly hurt we paid no attention to it at first. In a few days the foot inflamed and I had to call a physician. After a month or six weeks his foot seemed to be well except it was about one-fourth larger than the other, and it seemed to be an enlargement of the bone. Commenced to use the Balsam, and to-day, I am happy to say, his foot is all O. K.—P. H. FRETHER.

One Town's Tribute to the Standard Oil Trust.

Statesville folks are experiencing the beauties of the Standard Oil trust these days. Some time ago the Standard raised the price of oil two cents a gallon. This necessitated an increase in the retail price by the merchants, and a gallon of kerosene now costs eighteen cents instead of fifteen cents as heretofore.

It is estimated that about 1,500 gallons of kerosene are sold by the Statesville merchants weekly; and the increase in price means that the consumers of oil in Statesville pay \$50 a week, about \$1,600 a year more revenue to the Standard Oil trust. It is easy to see how Rockefeller can give millions to education. But it will be a long time before North Carolina will ever get as much back from him as he is squeezing out of her people every week now by levying the additional tribute of two cents a gallon, for it will amount probably to over \$300,000 annually.—Statesville Mascot.

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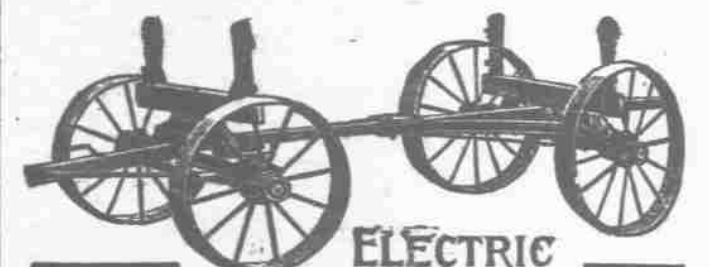
pale and your blood is thin. Your doctor says you are threatened with a nervous breakdown. He orders this grand old family medicine.

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