

# Good Roads are an Absolute Necessity

By Joseph Hyde Pratt, in Charlotte Observer.

The absolute necessity of a system of good roads which will make it possible not only for every citizen of this State to market his produce at the least cost, but lessen the present enormous tax which each citizen who travels the highways of North Carolina now pays to bad roads, is being realized by all thoughtful citizens.

The North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey has collected data relating to road work in the State during 1911, and some of this data will be of interest and profit to those who are interested in studying and finding a solution for this problem.

Number of miles of public roads in the State, 48,235.

Number of miles of improved roads, macadam, sand-clay, gravel, or especially surfaced, 3,449.1-2.

Number of miles of improved road built during 1912, 1,092 1-2.

Amount of special tax collected for roads during 1911, \$1,466,354.

Amount of free labor, tax rate at \$1 a day a hand, and of convict labor, valued at cost of keeping and guarding convicts, \$916,008.

Value of bonds issued during 1911 for building roads, \$857,000.

Total amount spent in North Carolina during 1911, money and labor, \$8,239,357.

This money is spent, as a rule, by the county commissioners, but in special cases by township commissioners, county road commissioners or township road commissioners.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the present system of road maintenance, carried on in many counties by free labor, results in nothing of permanent value and seldom affords even temporary relief from bad conditions; so that the enormous amount expended for this purpose, at least \$800,000 per year, is practically thrown away.

It has been estimated that the present system of bad roads is annually costing the people, principally the farmers, over \$12,000,000 in increased cost of haulage over the normal cost of hauling a similar load over an improved road.

While such a condition cannot be immediately eliminated, yet it is felt by all thoughtful citizens that steps should be taken to gradually do away with this burdensome indirect tax, even if it is necessary to impose a direct tax, infinitely small in comparison.

The men selected for carrying on the road work in the majority of the counties are untrained for this kind of work. Technical skill is absolutely essential in road location, construction and maintenance. The idea has prevailed that anyone could build a road, and that the roads could be maintained by the poorly directed and desultory work of free labor. In a great many cases where roads have been built with money raised by bonds or special tax, they have not been properly built and have cost too much, principally because they were not built by trained and experienced road engineers.

A great many of the so-called public roads of the State were located by the Indians, or by sheep and cattle. For this reason a great many of the public roads, before being surfaced, should be re-located, as the location of a road is the permanent part of it, and once done right, it would never have to be done again. In road location it has been the experience in other States that better results can be obtained through State engineers. There is a tendency for the county engineer to be biased by local politics rather than controlled by the factors which should determine the location of a road.

Quite a number of counties have special road laws at the present time, and in most cases the provisions of these laws do not admit of systematic and effective road work. They were framed by men unversed in the art of road building, and hence the laws are not practical. The result is that there is a very great dissimilarity in the road laws of the various counties, and it is believed that if they were more homogeneous, much better and more economical results would be attained. By having a uniform road law applying to all the counties of the State, with just enough variations to adjust it to varying local conditions, it would be possible to work out a systematic method of road administration and construction which would insure more economical and efficient results to the State as a whole.

The result of the time honored but inefficient method, of free labor still exists in many of the counties. The minute a road is finished, maintenance should begin, or else it will not be very long before the surfacing will begin to break away and the road go to pieces. Other causes of lack of maintenance is inadequate appropriation for State aid in the form of engineering assistance and for testing road materials and leasing of State convicts to corporations, etc.

Suggested remedies are to have in each county a road commission, nonpolitical, the members to be chosen because of their integrity and business ability. Have a uniform county road law which would provide for the organization of the road force of the county on a business like basis, having a road superintendent whose ability for such an office would meet the State highway engineer, to whom he would be responsible for the quality of the work done. Such a superintendent should have under him supervisors, foremen, etc., such as are needed to carry on the county work efficiently. State aid to the counties in the form of engineering assistance. An appropriation of \$50,000 per year to the highway department of the State Geological and Economic Survey would be sufficient at the present time to meet the requirements from the counties for such assistance. The advantages of this form of State aid would be:

A better class of engineers than the individual county could afford to employ. A saving in engineer's expenses, as State engineers could do the engineering work for more than one county, whereas if each county employed its own engineer the total cost for such work in 100 counties would amount to at least \$150,000 per year, and without as good results. Each State engineer would be efficiently supervised, whereas the county engineer is responsible only to county authorities, and in most cases such authorities have not the expert knowledge which would make them capable judges of the work.

In every general county scheme for road work should be included a provision for constant maintenance, not only of the improved surfaced roads, macadam, sandclay, and gravel, but of all the dirt roads, through the constant and timely use of the split log drag. Do away with the free labor tax. Use all county convicts in a county chalong under the general supervision of the county road superintendent. Use all State convicts on a State road force to be employed in building links of State roads where the counties are not in a financial condition to build such links, as is portions of the

Central Highway. In such roads all the counties are more or less interested in seeing the road completed as a whole.

State aid to counties in connection with the issuance of bonds, the State to lend its credit to the county.

In brief the plan is this: The county as a rule has to pay five per cent on its bonds; the State can obtain money at four per cent. Let the county issue its bonds, and let them be taken over by the State at five per cent then let the State issue the same amount of bonds at 4 per cent and the difference in interest of 1 per cent which the county pays to the State in excess of what the State has to pay, will, when placed at compound interest, retire the bonds with the county's paying anything additional.

The sentiment of the progressive citizens of the State in regard to road improvement is embodied in the resolutions passed by the North Carolina Good Roads Association in its convention held at Charlotte, August 1 and 2, 1912. There were between 400 and 500 delegates from about 60 counties in the State in the convention which passed these resolutions and which were printed in the State papers at that time.

**Fit His Case Exactly.**  
"When father was sick about six years ago he read an advertisement of Chamberlain's Tablets in the papers that fit his case exactly," writes Miss Margaret Campbell of Ft. Smith, Ark. "He purchased a box of them and he has not been sick since. My sister had stomach trouble and was also benefited by them." For sale by all dealers.—Advertisement.

## Free Health Almanac.

The State Board of Health is just issuing a free health almanac for 1913. This marks a new departure in health literature for this state. The Almanac is intended to replace the time worn patent medicine almanac, it gives a lot of valuable information on the common diseases, minor ailments, and just such practical things about health and disease as every member of the family should know. Furthermore, it gives a list of the most important dates in the history of North Carolina, which has been especially compiled for this purpose. You want to miss the jokes and stories in this almanac, either. The two classes of people that need this Almanac are those who are sick and those who don't want to get sick. If that includes you, send a post-card to the State Board of Health at Raleigh and ask for a copy of the 1913 Health Almanac before they are all gone. Better do it today.

**NOTICE**  
Having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of John N. White, deceased, late of Alexander County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of December, 1913, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.  
ELLIE MAY WHITE, Administratrix of John N. White, deceased.

**NOTICE**  
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of W. P. Ingram, deceased, late of Alexander County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of December, 1913, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.  
G. F. INGRAM, Administrator of W. P. Ingram, deceased.

**NOTICE**  
Having qualified as Executor of the last will and testament of E. M. Stevenson, deceased, late of Alexander County, State of North Carolina, this is to notify all persons holding claims against the estate of said E. M. Stevenson, deceased, to present them to the undersigned Executor at Taylorsville, N. C. on or before the 14th day of January, 1914, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make prompt settlement.  
This the 18th day of December, 1913.  
C. G. VEILE, Executor of last will of E. M. Stevenson, deceased.

## HOW TO RESIST

### Chronic Coughs and Colds.

Strong, vigorous men and women hardly ever catch cold; it's only when the system is run down and vitality low that colds and coughs get a foothold.

Now isn't it reasonable that the right way to cure a cough is to build up your strength again?

Mrs. Olivia Farham, of East Durham, N. C., says: "I took Vinol for a chronic cough which had lasted two years, and the cough not only disappeared, but it built up my strength as well."

The reason Vinol is so efficacious in such cases is because it contains in a delicious concentrated form all the medicinal curative elements of cod liver oil, with tonic, blood-building iron added.

Chronic coughs and colds yield to Vinol because it builds up the weakened, run-down system.

You can get your money back any time if Vinol does not do all we say. Hollar Drug Co., Taylorsville, N. C.

### Fine Yadkin River Farm.

90 Acres, only 4 miles to Elkin. Very productive, 1500 bushel corn on bottom. Lot saw timber and cord wood Good market, church and school 1/2 mile Good 6 room house, [new] good barn, store and tenant house. This fine farm is cheap. For 30 days, only \$5100. Land worth \$100 acre. Address "OWNER" box 76, Taylorsville, N. C.

## FOR SALE.

80 acre farm one mile west of Sulphur Springs. About 45 acres in cultivation, balance in pasture and wood land. Fine tobacco land. Good orchard Good 8 room house and one 3 room tenant house, good barn, one tobacco barn and pack house. Place is well watered by well, spring and branches. This is a good healthy place and will be sold at a bargain.

40 acres one mile west of Hiddenite fronting the main public road. About 12 acres in cultivation, balance in pasture and wood land. 2 room log house crib and stable. This place is elegantly located and the land lies well. Some good timber. Price right for quick sale.

Call on or write  
W. J. MATHESON, Real Estate Statesville, N. C.

## Re-Sale of Land.

By virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Alexander county, in a special proceeding entitled F. L. Fry and others vs. Catherine Fry and others, the undersigned, will on Saturday the 1st day of February, 1913, at Pierce Bowman's store in Wittenburg township, Alexander county, between the hours of 12 m. and 3 p. m., re-sell for cash to the highest bidder, the following tract of land to wit: Adjoining the lands of D. A. Fry and others bounded as follows to wit: Beginning on a rock W. M. Helmer's corner and runs South 32 poles to a rock, said Helmer's corner thence east 117 poles to a rock, thence North 32 poles to a post oak bush and an old pine stump, thence west 117 poles to the beginning, thence North 15 1/2 poles to a rock, thence west 72 poles to a rock in J. D. Icenhou's line thence south 151 1/2 poles to a rock, thence east 79 poles to the beginning, containing 31 acres more or less. This sale is made for the purpose of division among the tenants in common. This December the 31st 1912.  
F. L. FRY, Commissioner.

## NOTICE.

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a Mortgage Deed Executed by I. N. Smith and S. E. Smith, his wife, to C. M. Foster and transferred and assigned to G. M. Austin, the undersigned, administrator of G. F. Austin, deceased, will on the 20th day of January 1913, at public auction, sell for cash to the highest bidder, at the court house door in Taylorsville, N. C. at 2 o'clock, P. M. the following real estate described in said Mortgage as follows, to wit:  
It being known as our home place, and being the place on which we now live containing 32 acres more or less, and adjoining the land of P. H. Mason, J. F. Foard and W. N. Fowler (col). Said sale is made to satisfy the debt secured by said mortgage together with interest and cost. This the 17th day of December 1912.  
C. M. FOSTER, Mortgagee.  
Mrs. Julia Austin, Administratrix of G. M. Austin, deceased assignee.

## Notice to Non-residents

North Carolina, Alexander County. In the Superior Court—Before the Clerk.  
Mary E. Goodin Admrx of S. H. Goodin deceased  
VS.  
Jos Goodin and others, Heirs at Law.  
The defendants Thomas Goodin, John Lackey, Alice Lackey, Mattie Hampton, and V. J. Hill, and all other defendants whose names are not known, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced before The Clerk of the Superior Court of Alexander County to make assets to pay debts of S. H. Goodin deceased; and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the said Clerk in Taylorsville, N. C. on the 25th day of January, 1913, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 19th day of December, 1912.  
A. M. MATHESON, Clerk of the Superior Court.

There's a **BULL DOG** Gasoline Engine For Every Farm Need—1 1/2 to 12 H. P.

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R. O. DEITZ, Manager,  
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HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR RAW FURS AND HIDES  
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**The Tariff Taken Off Of FURNITURE.**

I buy furniture in car lots and pay cash when it arrives. I give my customers the benefit of this tariff which other dealers pay on time prices.

I carry a full line of Bed Room suits, Side Boards, Hall Racks, Kitchen Safes, Single and folding Lounges, Carpets, Matting, Rugs and almost anything kept in a house furnishing store.

If interested in a Piano or Organ I can save you money in buying one. I handle the Artistic Kreiter Piano and Shipman Organ.

I carry a complete line of Coffins Caskets and burial Robes and have bought a nice Hearse to be used in Taylorsville and surrounding country. Charges for Hearse in Taylorsville \$5.00. In the country in proportion to the distance traveled.

Will handle dried fruit in exchange for furniture or anything in my line.

Soliciting your future patronage.  
I am yours for trade,

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