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MAINTENANCE OF ROADS.

A Timely and Interesting Article on The Proper use of the Road Drag.

If you look at the ordinary country road after a shower you will see small puddles along the wheel ruts and sometimes larger pools. This water stays on the road surface because it cannot drain away into the side ditches. If you look closely you will see side ditches which have grown up with bushes and weeds in many cases, and which are so far from the traveled part of the road that the rain water does not drain into them. That part of the roadway where the wagons travel is called the traveled way. To prevent water from standing on the traveled way the road should be raised in the center and should slope gently into broad shallow ditches. It is then said to have a crown. If it is 10 feet from the center of the road to the side ditch, the surface at the side ditch should be at least 10 inches lower than it is at the center where the horses travel. The rain that falls on a road properly crowned will run quickly to the side and not soak into the surface or form pools. The side ditches for surface water should run parallel to the right of way, and should be open at every low point so that the water can run out of them into neighboring brooks or streams. If the ditches merely collect the water from the road surface and it can not run away, large pools will be formed along the roadside, which will gradually soak into the soil beneath the road and make it so soft that the wheels of wagons will cut through the road surface and soon destroy it.

Sometimes water runs from land along the road into the road and forms a little stream down the wheel tracks or in the middle where the horses travel. When driveways into farm yards are built across the side ditches they frequently form channels for water from the farm yard to run into the road. The pipes under driveways become filled with leaves or rubbish and the water can no longer run away. If the driveways that stop the ditch water were rebuilt so that no pipes were necessary and the ditch could be left open, much trouble from surface water would be stopped.

To keep a road smooth and crowned the best method is to drag it with a road drag. A road drag is made easily with two halves of a log which has been split. The log should be about 6 or 8 inches in thickness and about 6 or 8 feet long. The two halves of the log are set 3 feet apart with the smooth faces forward and upright. They are then fastened together with braces set in holes bored through the log. A pair of horses may be used to drag the road and are hitched to a chain fastened to the front half of the log. The road drag should move forward so that it slants across the road in such a way that a small amount of earth will slide past the smooth face of the log toward the center of the road, thus forming the crown. The edges of the logs will smooth out the ruts. The best way to drag is to begin at the side ditch and go up one side of the road, and then down the other. In the next trip the drag should be started a little nearer the center and the last trip over the road the drag may work close

SOME MORE BIG TREES IN IREDELL.

(Statesville Landmark.)

The California oak tree, which measured 23 feet and one inch in circumference and was exploited in Country Life as probably the largest oak tree in the world, was surpassed by the white oak on the McLaughlin farm near Statesville, which measures 30 feet in circumference at the ground. Now this record has been beaten, and right here in Iredele, too. Mr. C. H. Knox called at The Landmark office Saturday and told of a red oak tree in Cool Spring Township that measures 31 feet in circumference at the ground and 18 feet in circumference 12 feet from the ground. The tree is on the L. W. Knox place, now owned by Mrs. Ada Moore. The space covered by the branches measures 180 feet in one direction and 131 1/2 feet in another. On the same farm is a willow oak that measures 24 1/2 feet in circumference, which is larger than the California oak. A little later Mr. W. M. Nicholson came in to tell about a red oak tree that once stood on his mother's place in Bethany Township—the farm is now owned by Mr. J. P. Gryder—that measured 33 feet in circumference. The farm was originally owned by the Wassons and the mammoth tree was known far and wide as the Wasson oak. In later years the property fell into the hands of a man who did not value trees—alas! there are so many of that kind—and the tree was killed.

Home Of Prosperity.

(Charlotte Observer.)

A census of High Point recently completed gives that town a population of 11,560, a rise of 2,035 over the Government census of 1910. The local census is undoubtedly reasonably within bounds. We did not think High Point is laying claim to too much, but the fact we want to bring out is the character of the population—about one-half composed of wage-earners who are the best paid on the average of any similar workingmen anywhere. This means that the furniture factory pay-roll is a good thing for the mechanic to get on. There are other manufacturing industries in High Point, but the furniture factory predominates. High Point is distinctly a manufacturing center. It is a hive of industrial activity, and we doubt if there is another town in the entire country with so great a proportion of wage-earners. It is the home of prosperity.

Many a wife is distant because her husband is close.

to the center itself. Small ridges of earth will be thrown in the horse track and smeared by the round side of the log smoothly over the road. The smearing of the earth by the drag is called "puddling" and it tends to make the surface of the road smooth and water tight after the sun comes out. The road is always dragged after it has rained and not when it is dry. A good, strong pair of horses with a well-built drag can drag about 3 or 4 miles of road in a day, and it is the best way to maintain good roads. In every county some farmer along each 4 miles of road should own a drag and drag the road when it rains. He would always find the road in good condition when he goes to market.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Holds Important Meeting, Transacting Much Business of Vital Importance.

Much business of great importance was transacted at the July meeting of the Board, consisting of a two-days session, Monday and Tuesday.

The sixth term and 12th year of the useful services of M. G. Shearer having expired, Mr. E. B. Bush was welcomed as the new member.

The remaining members parted with Mr. Shearer with reluctance, after having been most agreeably associated with him during the twelve years of the formative period of the Educational Awakening in Caldwell. Mr. Shearer during this long period of service proved not only efficient, faithful and progressive, but has all the way through carefully watched the finances of the educational system of Caldwell. The Board parts with him with sorrow, but realizes it still has in Mr. Bush a man of energy and ability, and one who has the good of the public schools at heart.

Y. D. Moore was re-elected County Superintendent for 4 of the time, as heretofore. The Board hopes in the near future to employ a superintendent for the entire time.

Following are a few gleanings from the superintendent's report: Total value of school property, \$58,875; 6 new houses built during the year and 26 repaired with public and private cost of \$5,960; 78 school districts 37 having less than 65 census; 82 different schools taught, 70 with one teacher, 13 with two or more teachers. Nine teach the first 4 grades only. Average term in days, 86; Average for local tax schools 140 days; 47 Libraries in the county, with 4176 volumes; 7 local-tax districts in the county, 3 under special acts. Number of solvent polls is placed at 2500, insolvent, 235; total poll tax \$2.15; for schools, \$1.65; entire school fund from county, state, local tax, and private donations, \$27,814.18. (Full Financial report will appear in next week's paper.)

School Committeemen were appointed for the county, and the following attendance officer for each township: Lenoir, W. L. Swanson; Lower Creek, Russell Shuford; Kings Creek, H. G. Barlow; Little River, F. M. Whitner; Lovelady, C. G. Houck; North Catawba, W. M. Smith; Hudson, Monroe Sullivan; Johns River, A. T. Sudderth; Yadkin Valley, R. H. Pipes; Patterson, G. A. McCall; Globe, J. L. Gragg; Wilson's Creek, Vernon Crisp.

County Superintendent will get out announcements as soon as possible to all the committeemen of their appointments and the time and place of meeting in each township for election of teachers. These meetings must begin as early as 15th of this month.

Y. D. MOORE, Co. Supt.

Jails Her as a Common Scold.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 8.—Mrs. Annie Chanano, dubbed the "woman with the serpent tongue," who lives at 128 North Georgia avenue, was taken before Recorder Keffer today, charged by her neighbors with being a "common scold." Twenty appeared against her.

The court sent her to jail and said that if upon further investigation he verifies some of the stories told by her accusers he will banish the woman from the city.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.

The Second Infantry, North Carolina National Guard, are in encampment at Morehead City, having assembled at Camp Glenn Tuesday, and it will remain there for eight days.

Robert Scott, colored, of Nash county, shot and killed a negro named Carey Silver Sunday afternoon. The parties were said to have been drinking heavily at the time of the shooting.

Early Tuesday morning W. H. Hodges, a carpenter, who lives near Wilmington, shot his wife as he was pursuing another man, whom he alleges he found at his home. His wife soon died from the effects of the wound.

A. D. Watts, collector of internal revenue for the western district of North Carolina will come from Washington to Statesville either tomorrow or Monday and take the oath of office. His headquarters will be at Statesville.

The safe in the law offices of Bellamy and Bellamy of Wilmington was robbed of \$990 in cash some time between Sunday morning and Monday morning. Officers are working on the case but so far no arrests have been made.

John Dobson, a farmer, aged 50, residing near Central, S. C., died on Tuesday from wounds received in a pistol duel with his seventeen year old son. It is said that the boy attempted to aid his mother, whom Dobson had been mistreating.

Will Ferrell and Jack Temple, well known young men of Kinston, miraculously escaped death, when an automobile in which they were riding turned a complete somersault down a 14 foot embankment on one of the county roads near the city.

Fire, early Monday morning, was discovered in the store building occupied by the Mount Olive Clothing and Furnishing Company of Mount Olive, and before it had been extinguished practically the entire stock of goods had been destroyed, entailing a loss of \$12,000.

While swimming in a log pond, on the property of the Waynesville Lumber Company, John Dean, who has been employed by the lumber company for the past several months, was drowned Monday afternoon. The deceased was 24 years old and was a native of Copperhill, Tenn.

Joseph F. Tayloe of Wilmington has been appointed chief clerk of the senate finance committee by Senator Simmons. Mr. Tayloe will assume his new duties at once, relieving Col. A. D. Watts, who was recently appointed collector of internal revenue of the Western North Carolina district.

Walter H. Page, American Ambassador in London, is still on the payroll of Doubleday, Page and Co., at the salary he received as editor of the World's Work. The salary of \$35000 a year, which he receives from the firm, of which he is a member, is said to have made it possible for him to accept the ambassadorship. His salary as ambassador is \$17,500 a year.

John D. Rockefeller made Andrew Carnegie disgorge. So wrong in John D.—Andrew never harmed a hair on John's head.

THE WOMAN VOTER.

(Springfield, Ill., Dispatch.)

One million six hundred thousand women today become voters in this State, Governor Dunne having signed the suffrage bill passed by the Legislature to become effective July 1. This means that Illinois' voting strength is approximately doubled, the total vote in the last presidential election being 1,446,193. Celebrations of the suffrage victory are being held throughout the State today. The praises of the 1913 Legislature and Governor Dunne are being sung wherever women gather. Mrs. Dunne, the wife of the Governor, herself a suffrage leader, is coming in for her share of recognition. Mrs. Dunne has shown intense interest in the outcome of the struggle for the ballot, which has been won after a half-century of effort. Among other women whose names are heard in celebrations today are Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, Mrs. Sherman M. Booth, Mrs. Antoinette Funk all suffrage campaigners who worked here for a week to get the bill passed. They, together with Mrs. Dunne, were present when the Governor signed the bill here on Thursday.

S. A. L. Freight Goes Into River.

Petersburg, Va., July 7.—A freight train on the Seaboard Air Line railway was wrecked at an early hour this morning at Nottoway river bridge, twenty miles from Petersburg, and some eight or ten loaded freight cars were thrown from the bridge into the river, while a number of other cars which did not leave the bridge were badly wrecked. A portion of the bridge was also broken. What caused the wreck cannot be ascertained.

The only person said to have been injured was Edward Saint-sing, of Raleigh, N. C. He was riding in an empty freight car and had his leg broken. The injured man was brought to this city and taken to Petersburg hospital for treatment by Dr. H. A. Burke.

Today trains on this road have been running only as far as McKenney, but it is expected to have the track open for through travel some time tonight.

Charlotte Wireman Instantly Killed.

Charlotte, July 7.—Grady Dearmand, of the trouble department of the Charlotte Power company, was instantly killed at 3 o'clock this afternoon while making wire connections at the smelting works of the North Carolina Partridge Company, a new industry recently located near the city pumping station. He was standing on a short ladder and was at work on the wires when he toppled over backward. He was picked up dead, two burned fingers on the right hand showing that he had caught hold of a live wire of 2,300 volts, which brought about his death.

Thomas Watson, one of our leading stock dealers, drove out of Watauga a few days since to the railroad at Shouns, Tenn., a flock of nearly 1,000 lambs, for which he paid 7 cts. per pound, the lightest ones weighing 60 pounds each. This, perhaps, is the largest shipment of lambs ever made from the eastern part of the county, and has certainly left quite a lot of cash in the pockets of our farmers.—Watauga Democrat.

COUNTY CORRESPONDENTS

Items From Our Regular Correspondents and Neighboring County Papers.

KINGS CREEK ITEMS.

We are having quite a dry spell. Gardens are suffering for rain. Corn is looking fine, but needs a shower.

I think everybody in our community took in the Fourth at Lenoir, and everybody reports a fine time. Plenty of good things to eat and drink, and the people are loud in their praise of the treatment of Lenoir, and we want to see another fourth come.

Mrs. Robert Livingston and two daughters of West Va., are visiting their people here for sometime.

A crowd of young people from Kings Creek took in Grandin last Sunday, and were very much pleased with the new town.

Mrs. Mary Dula visited Mrs. Peter Pennell last Sunday.

Misses Grace and Eva Hass entertained quite a crowd of young people last Sunday.

Mrs. Herman Brookshire of Lenoir has been visiting on Kings Creek.

Miss Edna Barlow who has been spending some time with her people here, returned to Grandin last Sunday.

X. Y. Z.

July, 10th 1913.

Fight At A Church.

Tahlequah, Okla., July 6.—Henry Sanders was shot and killed and his father, Matthews Sanders, a former sheriff of Cherokee county, was stabbed and probably fatally injured at Dykes chapel, a country church, five miles south of here today as the result of a difference with Henry and Will Johnson, members of the church, over the management of a Sunday school class. The Johnsons fled.

The disagreement arose during the services. The principles left the building, the audience following, but when the congregation reached the scene the tragedy had been enacted. Young Sanders died in a few minutes and his father, suffering from several knife wounds, was lying on the ground.

Sturgis, Ky., Almost Destroyed By Fire.

Nashville, Tenn., July 6.—A special says Sturgis, Ky., a town of about 2,000 people on the Illinois Central railroad 40 miles south of Evansville, Ind., was practically destroyed by fire tonight. The fire started at 8:45 o'clock tonight in S. E. Graves' drug store. At 11 o'clock all the business houses were in ashes and about 20 dwelling houses had been destroyed, and the fire was still raging. The town has no water works and the people are fighting the flames with a bucket brigade. The last message from Sturgis stated that the whole town was doomed. The Illinois Central railroad has sent an engine to Sturgis to help fight the flames. It is estimated the property loss will reach \$250,000 or more. The Illinois Central railroad was threatened at 11 o'clock tonight.

Street car steps are to be lowered in New York. There's many a rip between the foot and the step.