



Construction Ideas.

An excellent address by W. W. Crosby, county roads engineer of Baltimore County, was read before the Governor and lawmakers of South Carolina. The occasion was "South Carolina Legislature and Good Roads Day" at the Charleston Exposition. Mr. Crosby's subject, naturally, was the present condition and possibilities of the roads adjacent to this city. He pointed out the great advantages at the disposal of Baltimore Countians to the east and south in the use of oyster shells, than which no finer material exists for a smooth, hard roadbed. These advantages, he said, have been lost in a great measure by their application to the roads without the proper foundation.

Speaking of the "metal" used in the construction of the roads to the north and west of Baltimore, Mr. Crosby said the old methods in use from time immemorial of putting down a layer of stone as big as a man's head, then gradually working up to sizes of a man's hand, the whole to be left to take care of itself after a slight veneer of earth, form the hardest problem for the engineer of to-day. The settlement has been uneven, drainage problems have been ignored, and yet it is expected that the engineer can build up a roadbed on scientific principles with the same amount of funds as was annually allowed for practically letting matters shift for themselves.

Upon the earth roads, Mr. Crosby said, he has been able to do the best work this year. There was nothing to be undone before modern methods could be applied. Summing up the matter, Mr. Crosby believes that the difficulties to be encountered in putting the Baltimore County roads into much better condition are gradually being surmounted, and he believes that when things have advanced sufficiently to show the practical success of his theories the movement will develop much like the snowball—the larger it becomes, the faster it grows.

Mr. Crosby has had, and will have, a hard and thankless task for some time. It is hard to convince some that timeworn methods have been superseded by others, even when these others are plainly to their advantage. He is taking the right course, however, in making the most of the limited means at his disposal. The results are sure to be the best argument for the continuation of the common sense methods he is introducing.—Baltimore News.

The Automobile's Influence.

Somebody said once that the condition of a country's roads marked its civilization. In a measure this is, doubtless, true. Certainly the condition of a country's roads is a concrete illustration suggesting the state of civilization of that nation, and it is by a consideration of a number of such outward signs that an observer may arrive at a pretty accurate judgment of the place which this or that nation occupies in the world. When, therefore, the bicycle came into service, was legislated against, finally tolerated, and then found a necessity, the extraordinary movement towards better roads can be at least acknowledged as an advance in the right direction. And it only needs a little consideration by the historical method to show that automobiles are tending in the same direction as bicycles—only further in advance. We are just now getting to the "legislating against" period. Not many months or years hence the automobile will be "tolerated," and, before we know it, it will be "necessary." In the meantime automobiles cannot become general without long and good roads. Already somebody talks of an automobile road from San Francisco to New York. Already roads are actually being improved for the speedy vehicle. Why try to stop or check the new machine, therefore? It is all so small, when we consider what is inevitable to come! The automobile is going to stay. We shall have better and better roads, better service, better and cleaner cities, and fewer of those accidents now caused by the personal equation of the horse. It is all an advance of civilization, which neither should be nor can be successfully opposed.—Harper's Weekly.

Destructive Narrow Ties.

We spend millions of dollars every year in our municipalities for permanent pavements, and more millions in the country for better highways, and then permit the use of the destructive narrow tire. It is impossible to estimate the amount of annual damage to good pavements and good roads resulting from the use of narrow-tired vehicles. In the city trucks with heavy loads cut up and rut the pavements, making it necessary to expend in the aggregate throughout the country millions of dollars for repairs, and the same is true of rural conditions. It is high time that city and country united

their influence in advocating the adoption of State, county and municipal legislation which should provide for the equipment of all wagons with wide tires. The counties of Monroe and Ontario, of New York State, have recently adopted resolutions favoring such a measure, with a provision for a \$25 penalty for a breach of the ordinance. This is a matter which demands the immediate attention of municipal officers.—Municipal Journal and Engineer.

Superb Roads of Rome.

No more essential to her maintenance were the soldiers of Rome than were her superb roads. Like a huge spider, Rome the magnificent sat at the centre of things, weaving the net of her destiny along the threads of the highways radiating from her.—Ada Langworthy Collier, Dubuque, Iowa.

The Ends Sought.

Good roads, kept good through the use of wide tires, well marked with signboards and used by all with regard for the safety of all—those are the ends to be sought.

QUEENSLAND CUISINE.

Methods of the Aborigines in Procuring and Eating Their Food.

A bulletin, prepared by Dr. Roth, dealing with the search, capture and preparation of food by the aborigines of Queensland, affords some interesting reading. In cookery and the care of the table—if one may be permitted to use the expression—the aboriginal displays a width of choice which, if not attractive to civilized palates, has at least the merit of variety. For meats, they employ roasting, baking and broiling, and Dr. Roth has seen grilling practiced at Atherton and Cooktown. Roasting is perhaps the simplest and easiest method, the meat being just thrown upon the ashes, while in baking the use of hot stones is resorted to. Boiling is done in a bark trough, or more usually in a large shell, and for grilling a grid of crossed sticks is formed.

Clay from the ant hills is used to "fill up" when no other edible substance is available, and apparently a white clay (a form of kaolin) is considered rather as a delicacy. After being dug out of the earth it is carefully pounded and sifted, so as to render it quite smooth and free from grit. It is next placed in a bark trough, and by the addition of water worked into a stiff paste. This paste is then made into a cake, placed in the sun for six or eight days, eventually wrapped in leaves, buried in the ashes and a hot fire made over it. When it is cool, it is ready for eating and is devoured with a gusto. Green ants, as well as their larvae, are eaten as food, as well as medicine, in some localities. Great ingenuity is displayed in the capture of fish, for which several methods are employed. Transfixion with the feet is common on some portions of the Georgina and other creeks, while muddying the water with the feet and then hitting the fish as they come to the surface is a common procedure everywhere. The practice of "poisoning" the water by special plants and capturing the fish as they come to the surface is also fairly common.—London News.

Licking Envelopes.

The task of "licking" 50,000 long envelopes is one which confronts the United States Pension Office once every three months, says the Helena Daily Record. At one time this was a Herculean undertaking, but the inventive genius of man has now made it easy.

By means of an electric automatic sealer the envelopes containing the check and voucher which are sent to 50,000 pensioners each quarter, are "licked" and sealed at the rate of 25,000 a day. This daily capacity is not reached, however, as not so many envelopes are ever ready at one time. The daily run during the quarter's pay is from 8,000 to 10,000.

This machine, which "licks" and seals envelopes as fast as they can be fed into it, is simple in design. The envelope is fed, flap open. It passes between two rolls, the under one of which is dampened by an automatic fountain. In its passage through another set of rolls the flap is dexterously turned over by means of a small catch, and a third roll presses it firmly in place.

All this is done in the twinkling of an eye, as fast as the operator can drop the envelopes into position to be caught by the first rolls. The machine, which is equipped with an electric attachment, is longer than a typewriter, but not so bulky. It also has a foot power attachment.

A Prince-Mechanic.

The progressive Japanese have taken hints from the United States before, but it is interesting to know that a member of the royal family of Japan is employed in one of the big railroad repair shops at Altoona, Pa. Prince Yamamoto came to this country last fall, and expects to remain five years, learning all he can of our railroad systems, when he will return to Japan and put his United States ideas into practice. The Prince desires particularly to familiarize himself with locomotive building and practical railroad work.

EDUCATIONAL GRAND RALLY

Campaign For Better School Buildings Inaugurated.

Charlotte Observer.

Greensboro, Special.—North Carolina school teachers have held a number of meetings to plan their work and agitate the subject of public education, but an educational meeting composed of other professions and active business men is something unique in this State. Yet it is just such a gathering that Greensboro is now entertaining. And it is an earnest, active, thinking, working body of people. If a meaning is sought, it is to be found in the fact that there is an awakening in educational matters, a public school revival, in the Old North State. Nothing else could have brought about the great educational conference now in session in this city.

The first session of the conference, held at the State Normal and Industrial College Thursday night, showed there was no lack of enthusiasm or interest in the subject that brought the educators and others together. Every word spoken was a plea for better and higher things for the public schools of North Carolina. Nothing was said of the universities or colleges, or even of the high schools or graded schools; it was the neglected and poorly equipped "free schools" in the rural districts that claimed the attention and thought of all. And while the picture held up was of necessity a dark one, a spirit of optimism pervaded the utterances of those who portrayed conditions as they exist.

The meeting was under the auspices of the Women's Association for the Betterment of the Public School Houses of North Carolina, an organization recently formed among the 400 young women of the State Normal and Industrial College. Miss Laura Kirby, of Raleigh, president of the association, opened the meeting in a few words of welcome to the visitors. She expressed the hope that the association would be able to accomplish great things for North Carolina and asked the county superintendents and others present to offer suggestions of lines of work to be followed.

Miss Annie Kizer, of Salisbury, explained that the object of the association was to unite the women citizens of North Carolina in a movement that would result in improving and beautifying the public school houses of the State. While it was a woman's organization, she explained that the help of the men was desired that the influence of the movement should be felt in every rural school district in North Carolina.

Miss Carrie Sparger, of Mt. Airy, stated that the first step of the association would be to send letters to the women school teachers of the State in an effort to enlist their support and co-operation in the movement. In order to facilitate the work, it was stated that the State would be divided into ten districts, each to be under the supervision of a vice president of the central association. County associations would be organized, and through these efforts would be made to secure volunteer committees to look after the school houses in every district.

Superintendent Charles L. Coon, of the Salisbury graded schools, made a very bright and effective speech in explaining the condition of the average school house in North Carolina and in impressing the need of just the kind of work it is proposed to accomplish through the association recently formed at the State Normal College. Superintendent Coon laid down the proposition that the question of education in North Carolina is a question of religion and stated that when he preached this doctrine he remembered that the people of North Carolina believed in a hell of fire and brimstone. "If there is a hell for the man in North Carolina who gets drunk and beats his wife," he said "there is surely a hell for the men and women who don't educate their children, but permit them to grow up for the chancery and the penitentiary. If folks can build churches in North Carolina, why can't they build school houses? It is a strange proceeding to leave a child to just grow up until he or she reaches manhood or womanhood and then hold a revival over him or her." By way of emphasizing his remarks, Mr. Coon said the people in Salisbury, some time ago, built a tabernacle at an expense of \$300 and sent off and got an evangelist to conduct a revival meeting. The evangelist preached six days and was paid \$640. It was said that he converted 40 people but an actual count showed that 25 of them went back to sin and wickedness. While the people of Salisbury were doing this, their graded school building was in a state of dilapidation and there was pressing need of money to add to the equipment and pay teachers, but nobody said anything about raising the price of the tabernacle for the school.

As an example of just what many public schools in North Carolina are, Mr. Coon told of a school seven miles from Salisbury. The district had a total population of 153, and out of this there were nine white men over 40 years of age who could neither read nor write. The wives of four of these men were in the same plight. There was a school population of 59 and the number of pupils enrolled was 49, the average daily attendance during the term being 25. The term, which closed a few days ago, continued for 86 days. The school was taught by a farmer in the neighborhood for the meager salary of \$25 a month. He had no special training for the work and his general education lacked a good deal of being extensive. The school was conducted

in a shabbily constructed hut, although in the district there were two neat church buildings. This school, Mr. Coon said, was like unto a great many others in North Carolina. He argued that the conditions and surroundings must be improved before any perceptible improvement in the educational standard of the people can be noted.

Mr. Coon was followed by Prof. J. M. Smith, of Elon College, who gave his experience in dealing with some of the country schools. He spoke of the great necessity for improving the school houses and their surroundings and urged that some definite plan be adopted for carrying on the work.

State Superintendent Joyner spoke eloquently of the education outlook in North Carolina and expressed the belief that a brighter day was dawning. He gave it as his opinion that the three most important questions in connection with the public school problem in North Carolina were: Improvement of the school house, consolidation of school districts, and an increase in the public school fund by local taxation. He declared that the rural school problem was today the great unsettled problem in North Carolina.

The meeting was thrown open for an informal discussion and the students of the college were requested to ask questions in connection with any point in regard to the public schools upon which they wished information. Quite a number of the young women availed themselves of the opportunity, asking interesting and pertinent questions, which were answered by Superintendent Joyner, ex-Superintendent Mebane and the county superintendents present.

The conference conducted by State Superintendent Joyner, in the Grand Opera House this morning, was well attended. The consolidation of school districts to the end that better schools and stronger teachers may be secured was the principal subject considered. In arguing for the consolidation of districts, Mr. Joyner called attention to the fact that 57 per cent. of the public school districts in North Carolina have a school population of less than 65, the minimum prescribed by law. He thought the districts in most counties could be reduced by one-half to very good advantage. He said the people of North Carolina had shouted themselves hoarse about their great material resources and had left their intellectual resources to perish. "To my mind," he said, "this is the most serious side of this stupendous problem, and unless we go to work and build up the rural schools, a few generations more will find the county districts of North Carolina filled with the poorest sort of peasant population, made up of negroes and what is commonly known as 'white trash.'"

Mr. C. E. Henderson, of Caswell county, spoke feelingly of the difficulties under which the schools of his county were operated. For the past 25 years, he said, they had been going down hill, with the result that many of the best people in the county had moved to the towns to secure educational advantages for their children. He said the school funds of Caswell amounted to only 94 cents for each child.

Mr. J. W. Umstead, a member of the board of education of Durham county, made a strong plea for the consolidation of the districts, as he thought this the only way of improving the schools and getting the best results. He gave his observations of some of the schools in his county and deprecated the tendency to often squander what little money was available for school purposes. He thought the proper solution of the country school problem would do much to stop the influx of the country people to the towns. Mr. Umstead's speech was one of the most earnest and practical made and was highly complimented.

Superintendent Long, of Alamance explained that many districts in his county had been depopulated by the people moving to the mills and told of the difficulties encountered in consolidating the schools. Alamance has better school buildings than the average county.

Superintendent James, of Madison, spoke of the work that had been done in his county in consolidating the districts. It appears that Madison is far ahead of most of the counties in the central and eastern portions of the State in this respect.

Superintendent Massey, of Durham where much has been done in the way of consolidation, told how he and the members of the board of education went about the work. He first converted the members of the board to the theory, after which they went to work on the district committee and the patrons of the schools. The result has been most gratifying. Several districts have been consolidated and a number of new and comfortable school houses erected. This has greatly increased the enrollment and attendance. The schools in Durham now run from six and a half to nine months on a per capita of \$3.

Superintendent Coon, of the Salisbury schools, brought up the question as to the best method of employing teachers. The consensus of opinion appeared to be that this duty should devolve upon the county board of education instead of the township or district committees.

During the discussion the fact was brought out that the average value of school houses in North Carolina, including grounds and equipment, is \$177.50. Mr. F. C. Abbott, of Charlotte, took this as a text for a few remarks on his recent proposition to the business men of the State for the betterment of the school houses.

Governor Aycock and Superintendent Ray, of the Institution for the Blind, at Raleigh, also made brief addresses.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At this afternoon's session the question of libraries in connection with the rural schools was taken up. Superintendent Massey, of Durham county, where every white school is equipped

with a library, told how the work was done. He said there was nothing to prevent any superintendent from placing a library in every school in his county, if he would only put forth the proper effort. There are between 4,000 and 5,000 volumes in the Durham county school libraries.

Prof. Edwin Mims, of Trinity College, and a member of the library committee of the State Literary and Historical Society, spoke briefly on the benefits to be derived from libraries, especially in the rural districts.

State Superintendent Joyner stated that between 250 and 300 of the libraries made possible by the last Legislature had been established. He said that applications for libraries were now being received at the rate of about one a day.

IN CONGRESS.

Detailed Doings of Our National Lawmakers.

HOUSE.

Eighty-fourth Day—The House passed the Sundry civil appropriation bill. This is the eighth regular annual supply bill which has passed at this session. Only a few unimportant amendments were attached to it.

After it was disposed of the debate upon the revenue cutter bill was resumed. Messrs. Sulzer, of New York; Bellamy, of North Carolina; Ryan, of New York, and Goldfogle, of New York, spoke for the measure, and Messrs. Loud, Call and Crumpacker, of Indiana, against it.

The items relating to national parks led to some discussion, and Mr. Maddox, of Georgia, congratulated the committee on appropriations for incorporating in the bill the direction to the Secretary of War to submit to the next Congress a plan for the consolidation of the existing commissions in charge of the several national parks.

Mr. Parker, of New Jersey, raised the point of order against this provision, insisting that this subject was properly under the jurisdiction of the military affairs committee. This point of order was sustained, whereupon Mr. Cannon offered the following provision applying to the appropriations for national park commissions and it was adopted:

"No portion of the foregoing sums for national military parks shall be used during the fiscal year 1902 for the payment of more than one commission for service in connection with each of said parks under the direction of the Secretary of War, nor shall more than 10 per cent of the same for either of said parks be expended for the salaries of clerks or other employes."

The appropriation for the defense of the suits before the Spanish treaty claims commission was increased from \$60,000 to \$112,000. The bill was then passed. The revenue cutter bill was taken up for discussion and at 4:55 p. m., the House adjourned.

SENATE.

Eighty-fourth Day—Discussion of the oleomargarine bill in the Senate was enlivened by two or three bright colloquies between Senators. Mr. Bailey, of Texas, concluded his speech in opposition to the measure. He was followed by Depew, of New York, who in the course of his remarks, matched his wit with that of Mr. Bailey on the subject of the American girl. The sallies of the two Senators were greeted with shouts of laughter.

Bills were passed providing that session of the United States District Court shall be held at Winston, N. C., on the second Monday of July and January of each year; authorizing the construction of a traffic bridge across the Savannah river from the mainland within the corporate limits of Savannah to Hutchinson's Island, in Chatham county, Ga.; to extend the time for presentation of claims to reimburse the Governors of State and Territories for expenses incurred by them in aiding the United States to raise and organize an army in the war with Spain to January 1, 1903, and 71 private pension bills. Consideration was then resumed of the oleomargarine bill.

Mr. Bailey conceded the right of Congress to enact the proposed bill as a revenue measure and every Senator who supported the measure to raise revenue was entirely within his conscience and his oath of office, but if any Senator should vote for it to suppress the oleomargarine industry he would "do violence to his sense of duty and to his obligations of office." He declared that the purpose of the bill was not to raise revenue. He maintained that the proposed bill contained a palpable, and even wicked violation of the constitution in the placing of a tax upon the article manufactured and sold within a State. Mr. Bailey sharply arraigned the creameries and cheese factories of the country, the owners of which he said, were the real backers of the legislation proposed. He could understand, he said, the Republican policy of protection of industries, but this new policy to legislate for the destruction of industries was entirely incomprehensible to him.

In the pending measure, Mr. Bailey said in conclusion, the majority in Congress was endeavoring to settle a contention among competing manufacturers.

The coloring of oleomargarine to resemble butter, said Mr. Bailey, might be an innocent fraud, but was no more reprehensible than the artificial attractions which our wives and daughters utilize to make themselves pleasing to the eye.