



**Better Country Highways.**

**M**AVING had considerable experience in road building as Commissioner of Highways, I want to say a word on how roads can be much improved before the great tidal wave of permanent improvement reaches us, for, although it is bound to come, we need not stand back, knee deep in the mud, waiting; and what is done in the way of draining—the first of importance—and grading, and otherwise clearing up the sides, will all be so much gained toward the final finish. I will give a little experience of how I make a good earth turnpike on a level piece.

First, I provided ample drainage, then, early in the spring, before the ground was thoroughly settled, I back-furrowed to the centre, then harrowed lengthwise and rolled, which process I repeated for the third time, the last time doing a very thorough job of finishing with harrow and roller.

Now, those that never tried it will be astonished to see how high these workings will make a road, and, contrary to the "expectations of some," this road settled down hard and smooth, and made a durable turnpike, and without a single pain or backache, as caused by the old scraper method then in use. Now, the modern wheel road machine would materially assist.

My purpose in writing this is particularly to deal with another phase of road improvement, suggested by articles often published, that is, in relation to convict labor in competition with outside labor. The person that is fortunate enough to keep out of jail has no just reason to complain. In the first place, the jail labor would be employed to a considerable extent, if outside, or not in jail, which, of course, would come in competition with industries in all branches, and when men have forfeited their liberty there is no good reason why they should be fed and clothed at the expense of the State, for the express purpose of giving the other part of the community markets for labor as well as produce. There is nothing fair about it. As the State is responsible for their keeping, it should be at liberty to use them to the best possible advantage, to compel them to help, at least, to earn their own living—a new experience to many, I think.

Then the effect on the convicts themselves is worth any sacrifice to outside labor, and it shows a selfish motive to even mention or bring up the question. Again, there is no person outside of jail in this country who wants a day's work who cannot get it, and at fair compensation. As a matter of fact, many commit petty offences for the express purpose of getting into jail, in order to get their winter's board. If they were compelled to break stone, saw wood or shovel snow in a chain gang I am sure many would prefer to board themselves. As I have said, it is a weak, selfish argument to be harping about the employment of convict labor as in damaging competition with outside employment—for the tax paid to support this idle class will more than offset the difference of being employed in jail or out.

Criminals, even, have some self-respect, and I think many a young man, if loaded into a wagon and carried to some distance and put to work ditching, or on other road work, where he would not be shielded from public gaze behind the bars, would resolve "If I live to get out of this, I will work out my own road tax as long as I live."—A. B. C., in the New York Tribune.

**Helping State Road Work.**

The annual report of Director Dodge, of the office of Public Road Inquiries, Agricultural Department, says that representatives of the office visited nearly all the States during the year and made scientific investigations regarding local condition, road materials, etc. Several State legislatures asked for and obtained assistance in framing new road laws. Farmers' organizations, farmers' institutes, business organizations, schools, colleges, etc., petitioned for co-operation and advice, and all of them were accommodated as far as the resources of the office permitted. Never before, says the report, has there been so much interest manifested in the subject of road building, and more actual work in that line was done last year than ever before. The object-lesson methods of teaching practical road building, carried on for several years, became so valuable and were so highly appreciated that there were many calls for their extension. To meet the constantly increasing demands for practical assistance and advice the director suggests the organization of two or three outfits of road building machinery, including rock crushers, screens, rollers, road graders, etc., to be used in illustrating actual road construction. The road materials would be cheerfully furnished by the local authorities, who would also contribute the common labor teams and fuel. This plan would make the expense of building experimental and sample roads very easy to be borne, and would enable the Government, with a small expenditure, to accomplish much practical benefit. The director asks that the appropriation for the purpose be increased to about \$1000 for each State and Territory.

Of the thirty-eight Sultans who have ruled the Ottoman Empire since the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, thirty-four have died violent deaths

**A NEW THEORY ABOUT CANCER.**

**Reasons Why Salt Plays an Important Part in Its Propagation.**

Recent experiments made with the Roentgen rays for the radical cure of cancer are attracting a good deal of attention in Europe, particularly in Paris, writes I. Saint Just. Dr. Hutchins, of South Carolina, was the first one to suggest this new method of treatment. Dr. John E. Gilman, of Chicago, followed in his footsteps and reported a series of fifty cases treated by him with favorable results at the Hahnemann Hospital. Two patients, it appears, were radically cured. Dr. Waldor, of New York City, lost no time in notifying his Paris colleagues, among them Dr. L. Cazet, who does not seem to be very enthusiastic on the subject.

The Parisian doctor, who is also an eminent writer, is far from condemning the use of X-rays in the treatment of cancer; he is afraid, however, that many patients will be disappointed. Even if a methodical application of the rays destroys the disease cells of an infected area, Dr. Cazet thinks that the final result is only to be compared with a surgical operation, the outcome of which is inevitably a relapse inside of a year. The reason of this is that cancer is a disease in which the whole organism is involved.

In the opinion of Dr. Cazet, the first thing to do is to investigate the true cause of the disease, and he calls public attention to the researches made by Dr. James Braitwaite and Professor Macfadyean, who claim that cancer is due to an excess of salt in the organism. These scientists base their opinion upon the fact that domestic animals easily contract the disease; the hog is the only one absolutely immune. On the other hand, animals not subjected to cancer in the wild state are affected by it as soon as they are domesticated. It is a well-known fact that domestic animals are very fond of salt, the hog alone refusing to partake of it. The conclusion, therefore, is that salt plays an important part in the production of cancer. In support of this contention Professor Macfadyean quotes the example of a hippopotamus fed on salt, which died of cancer at the London Zoological Garden.

Moreover, it has been observed that the savages who use little or no salt in their diet are practically free from the disease. In connection with this Dr. Cazet remarks that cancer is more prevalent among the rich indulging in meat diet than among the poor, and meat is never eaten without being highly seasoned with salt. It may be added, also, that cancer in the majority of cases attacks the digestive organs, among them the stomach, the pylorus and the liver. The conclusion of the Parisian doctor is that the abuse of salt should be avoided in eating. As to the X-rays, he admits that they may revolutionize medical as well as electrical science.—New York News.

**WORDS OF WISDOM.**

I do not know of any way so sure of making others happy as of being so one's self.—Sir Arthur Helps.

To speak of one's self is as difficult as walking on a tight rope. One requires such wonderful balance and so much circumspection not to fall in doing so.—Mrs. Sidney Lear.

Let it be happiness this day to add to the happiness of those around us, to comfort some sorrow, to relieve some want, to add some strength to our neighbor's virtue.—Channing.

The true democratic idea is, not that every man shall be on a level with every other man, but that every man shall be what God made him, without let or hindrance.—H. W. Beecher.

All which happens through the whole world happens through hope. No husbandman would sow a grain of corn if he did not hope it would spring up and bring forth the ear. How much more we are helped on by hope in the way of eternal life!—Martin Luther.

It is true that love cannot be forced, that it cannot be made to order, that we cannot love because we ought to or even because we want. But we can bring ourselves into the presence of the lovable. We can enter into friendship through the door of discipleship. We can learn love through service.—Hugh Black.

**Rich Gifts That Embarrassed.**  
The funniest thing I ever heard of has happened in a family of moderate means, but whose daughter is a young person of aulding ambition. She was engaged to a very nice young man, who was equally impecunious, and they would often bewail their lot at not being able to be married and receive a quantity of "numerous and costly" presents. The time arrived, however, not very long ago, when the wedding came off, and to this young lady's astonishment her friends sent bridal gifts that in name, at least, equaled millionaires.

There was a yacht, and a house, an automobile, which is one of the "new" offerings in smart society, a chest of silver, and, last but not least, a diamond tiara. But alas, all these coveted objects were toys! With them, however, had been forwarded many a useful and pretty souvenir, so the bride does not know whether to laugh or to cry at her wishes having been gratified at the expense of her sense of humor. The practical joke, at any rate, made much fun, and to my mind is a good satire on the opulent displays at fashionable weddings.—Boston Herald.

Abernethy declared that the best time to eat was, for a rich man, when he could get appetite, and for a poor man, when he could get food.

**OUR BUDGET OF HUMOR.**

**In the Museum.**

The woman he loved was cold and calm, "Your heart is stone," said he; And she didn't deny the charge, because The Ossified Girl was she. —Cincinnati Observer.

**Accounted For.**  
Jerrold—"He is just wild over golf."  
Harold—"That so? Who is the girl?" —Puck.

**A Poor Rule, Etc.**  
Lulu—"Fred says I look just as I did fifteen years ago."  
Ethel—"Fred is right—fifteen years ago you looked just as you do now." —Judge.

**His Fall.**  
Customer—"I understand that your chef has been discharged."  
Waiter—"Yes, sir. He has gone to a place where they call him a cook." —Judge.

**Letting Him Down Easy.**  
She—"Now, dear, break the news of our engagement gently to papa."  
He—"How shall I start in?"  
She—"Oh! You might begin by saying that I have just died!" —Puck.

**Unbiased.**  
"I trust," said one practical politician, "that you will approach the election in an absolutely unbiased spirit."  
"I shall," answered the other. "I have received equal amounts of money from both sides." —Washington Star.

**Feminine Suspicion.**  
"Miss Dimplemore says that you are very clever," said the young woman.  
"Indeed!" rejoined Miss Cayenne calmly. "Did she say it by way of intimating that I am not good looking or to suggest that I am unamiable?" —Washington Star.

**Willie and Birthdays.**  
Teacher—"Why were you not at school yesterday?"  
Willie Green—"It was my birthday."  
Teacher—"I don't stay at home on my birthday."  
Willie Green—"Well, I guess you've got used to 'em." —Philadelphia Record.

**The Modern Duel.**

Small Man—"Yes, sir, he's a contemptible scoundrel, and I told him so!"  
Big Man—"Did he knock you down?"  
Small Man—"No; I told him—er—through the telephone." —London Sketch.

**A Protest.**

"Things never seem properly adjusted in this world," said the careless young man.  
"I have observed time and again that the people with the most expensive tastes almost invariably have the least money to meet them." —Washington Star.

**Ambition.**

She—"What is your dearest wish, Mr. Noodlekins?"  
He—"Ah, let me see! Oh, yes, I wish my man could evah learn to lay out the trowsers I want to wear in the mornin', without my being bothered by having to choose from foh oh five paths. It's so exasperating." —Chicago Record-Herald.

**Pat on Guard.**

"Yes," said the fairy prince, "you may have whatever you want for a present."  
"I will choose," said the fortunate person, "either a wife or an automobile."  
"How foolish!" exclaimed the fairy prince. "Why do you not select something that you can manage?" —Judge.

**Imposture.**

It nettled me to have the fellow speak of the science of medicine as a barefaced imposture.  
"Sacre!" I cried, for I had been educated abroad. "Is it that you do not know the most successful imposters among doctors are precisely those who wear big whiskers?"  
I could see that he quailed, now, as why should he not? —Puck.

**Lost His Appetite.**

"What made that man at the last table leave?" asked the proprietor of the restaurant.  
"It was this way, sir," answered the waiter. "He came in and asked for sausage, and I told him we were out, but if he would wait a little while we would have some."  
"Well?"  
"Then I went out in the kitchen and accidentally stepped on the dog's tail, sir, and the dog began to howl like he was being killed, sir, and—"  
"I see," interrupted the proprietor. —Indianapolis Sun.

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