

# THE BOSSIER BANNER.

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## GOOD ROADS AND FARMERS

Town and Country Should Work For Better Highways.

### SCIENCE AND RURAL LIFE.

With the Improvement of Road Systems the Monotony of Farm Life Will Disappear and a New and Better Day Will Dawn For the Farmer.

With the advent of the auto and other motor driven vehicles has come the necessity both for the restoration of abandoned towns and wayside inns and neglected roads and for the creation of new towns and hotels and highways, says Edwin Boone Craighead in the New Northwest.

From every consideration for the public welfare, both the nation and the state, the farmer and the townsman should work together for the construction of a great system of national and state and community highways, connecting farms and towns and metropolitan cities and providing for a safe and rapid means of transportation alike for the husbandman, hurrying to town with the perishable products of farm and dairy and orchard, for the physician making haste to reach his country patient, for the children of consolidated rural schools, as well as for tourists bent on beholding the wonders and beauties of lakes and mountains. The making of good roads has again become a national necessity.

With the making of better roads dawns a new and better day for the farmer. "Back to the farm" has been for a generation past the cry of the statesman and the sociologist, but a vain cry it has been, for always in ever increasing numbers the children of the country keep pouring into the cities. Preaching alone will not turn

### WOMEN'S ROAD CREED.

Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs For Improved Highways.

It is not left to man alone to champion the cause of good roads, this being indicated by the interest taken in the subject at a recent meeting of the Iowa Federation of Women's clubs. This federation of women has adopted a good roads creed designed to advance the cause of improved highways. Following is the complete text of this creed:

I believe in good roads.  
I believe in systematic road work.  
I believe good roads will make better schools.

I believe good roads will make better living conditions in the town and in the country.

I believe the women of Iowa should enlist in the fight for better roads while we are here to use them.

I believe that the last \$50 spent upon the proper finishing of a road will do more good than any \$100 that preceded it.

I believe that no road should be built and allowed to take care of itself. There should be a system of road patrol.

I believe that the weeds should be cut along the roadside and will use every effort in my power to see that the proper road officials have this done if the landowner neglects to do it.

I believe no road work should be commenced that cannot be finished in better shape than it was when it was started.

I believe in building roads, not working them.

I believe in roads for women.

I will work for better roads for Iowa.

To much enthusiasm cannot be worked up on the subject of good roads. Road improvement is generally advocated as an economic necessity because it improves marketing facilities. That it is a social necessity is indicated by the interest taken by this body of women. It will be noted that the "road patrol" system is recommended. This plan of road improvement is rapidly coming into vogue. It means the placing of one individual in charge of a given mileage of road, furnishing him with drag and other road weapons. What we are now spending on roads in a hit or miss fashion would pay the cost of the patrol, and unquestionably if the new plan were tried but it would be a step in advance.

These women show their practical insight in preparing their creed when they refer to the weed question on the roadside. Their instinct for orderliness is shown here, and officers should be shrewd enough to pay the fair sex the compliment of giving heed to their wise suggestions.—Iowa Homestead.

### NEW YORK HIGHWAYS.

State Now Stands First in Good Roads Construction.

Its system of improved, concrete highways is New York state's greatest asset today, asserts ex-State Highway Commissioner John N. Carlisle in his annual report for 1914, just issued. Besides the direct value of the road system to residents, the improved highways, attracted nonresident motorists, tourists in great numbers, conservatively estimated at more than 250,000 cars, during the year, and millions of dollars were left in the state by these tourists.

The state now stands first in highway construction, having completed and accepted 863 miles of road last year and contracted for 1,148 miles, a large amount of which is now open to traffic. Fully half of the whole system of nearly 12,000 miles of state and county highways laid out for improvement under the \$100,000,000 bond issues has been completed. If extended in a single line the finished roads would reach from New York to San Francisco.

The policy of the department has been to construct only heavy substantial roads in the vicinity of large cities—either of brick or concrete or with a concrete base and where stone roads are designed to build them with very heavy base. Nearly ninety-four miles of concrete and more than eighty-one miles of brick roads were built last year. Just half of the total of 863 miles improved were of bituminous construction and 258 miles were water-bound macadam. The maintenance of the great system of macadam and bituminous roads is now considered the most intricate problem connected with the state highway work.

### State Control of Local Roads.

The realization has become quite general that in order to render maximum service state highway departments should be given some measure of control over the construction and maintenance of local roads. For this class of roads an amount exceeding \$100,000,000 is expended annually, with comparatively little result to show in the form of improved road mileage for this great outlay. The state of Iowa has met this situation by placing all the road work in the state under the direction of the state highway department.

Traffic is increasing so rapidly as to cause excessive wear upon the roads, especially in the vicinity of congested centers of population. This results in a heavy annual maintenance cost, averaging in the large eastern states not less than \$750 per mile per annum. Many experiments have been made in the effort to devise types of road which can be maintained at relatively low cost. Thus far, aside from the cheaper forms of construction, the states are depending upon the various forms of bituminous macadam, concrete and vitrified brick road.—Year Book, United States Department of Agriculture.

### MYSTERY OF THE MIND.

One of the Great Riddles That Science Cannot Solve.

Mind is the great unsolved mystery of science. No clew has been discovered as to what mind is, and yet scientists are ever striving to find some clew that will enable them to solve this greatest of all mysteries.

A San Francisco correspondent asks the question: "Since our state of temperament is subject to change from normal into several different conditions, as sad, glad, angry, happy, excited, etc., is it the body that controls the mind or mind that controls the body?"

This is an important question. In neurological laboratories there have been made in recent years extensive researches. People have been tested by delicate recording electrical instruments. Questions have been asked and statements made to these persons and the action of mind on body detected by the apparatus. Increased heart action or decreased nervous tension, pulse, respiration, aspects of the face, eyes, lips—these and many more effects have been studied and results recorded in many books.

These are of great interest to detectives, courts and physicians. Conversely, stimulation of nerves by electricity, by irritating drugs, mechanical impacts and the like have been made in all manner of ways. The facts are that mind has a decided influence on brain, nerves, heart and vital organs through the nerves. Any manipulation of the body, nerves and circulatory systems really produces a reflex action on the mind.

### HOW TO SHAKE HANDS.

Get the Grip First, According to a Mercantile Recipe.

We have found that when you approach the person to shake hands if you will get the grip on their hand before they have time to grip yours you have gained an advantage. The hand should be slipped well into or over the hand of the person you want to shake with—that is, push the thumb and forefinger of your hand well into the thumb and forefinger of the person with whom you are shaking. Do it rather quickly, and the instant you feel that your hand is in place bring the grip into play instantly. Don't grip the hand hard enough to cause pain to the person with whom you are shaking, but yet give him a good, firm grip. After you have practiced a little you can tell just about how hard you can squeeze without hurting the other person.

Before your hands touch be sure that you are looking the other person square in the eye. Don't wait until you have hold of his hand, but watch his eye instantly, and if you will watch the eye of the other one very closely you will notice that when you bring the grip into play you can see a response in the features of the other person.

Then it is a good idea immediately when you feel your hand touch the other person to place your left hand on his elbow, not below the elbow, but back of it, so as to be able to pull his arm, as it were, toward yours. Don't pull very hard, but just be firm about it. Take hold of the elbow joint with just a little firmness. Of course these things are all done practically at the same time, and it will take a little practice for you to be able to do this and get the best results.—Merchants' Trade Review.

### The Changing Sky.

One of the most surprising results of the cross motion of the fixed stars, as projected on the background of the sky, is the gradual falling to pieces of the familiar constellations. The stars are moving in all sorts of directions, some faster and some slower, and the inevitable consequence must be that in a few centuries the whole face of the heavens will be so changed that if we could come back again to our earthly life we should not recognize them. Of course a very long period of time will be required to produce a very great transformation.

### Buried With Dolls.

In the Chinese morose one of the strange sights is a number of life size dolls which are buried to accompany the corpse as their servants to the next world. They are doubtless a relic of the time when human beings were thus buried as companions of the deceased.—Exchange.

### Her Ruling Passion.

"She intended to refuse him, but she is such a lover of bargains that she could not."  
"How was that?"  
"He looked so cheap when she turned him down that she snapped him up."  
—Houston Post.

### One More Disappointment.

"Poor old Meyer is dead, I see. He led a life full of disappointments."  
"How glad he would have been to see his name in print!"—Fliegende Blätter.

### The Seven Seas.

The seven seas are the north and the south Atlantic, the north and the south Pacific and the Indian, Arctic and Antarctic oceans.

### RED DESERT OF WYOMING.

Its Sand Dunes, Color Effects and Sheep Pastures.

West of Creston is obtained the first comprehensive view of the Red desert of Wyoming. A few miles north of the railroad track is a great stretch of sand dunes, which extends a hundred miles, from Green river to North Platte river. The dunes, many of them more than a hundred feet high, are constantly traveling with the prevailing winds in a general easterly direction. If a few camels and an Arab or two were added to the scene the spectator could easily imagine himself in the Sahara desert. Frequent mirages, endless variety of feature and wonderful coloring make the desert far from the monotonous stretch it may seem to be at first glance.

As the name suggests, the dominant colors are red—russet, brick red and vermilion—but there is every tone of gray and brown, with not a few shades of green, purple and yellow. Unlike the colors of an eastern American landscape, those of the Red desert are not dependent on the season, for there is little vegetation to hide the coloring of the rocks and soil.

Despite the sparsity of vegetable growth the Red desert of Wyoming is a winter sheep range. The scattered "bunch grass," which looks so meager and dry, is, in fact, excellent forage, curing into hay where it grew and having a high nutritive value. In summer, when the desert is dry and the water holes are few, the sheep are herded in the mountains, where water is abundant and grass is green and tender.

The earlier snows, falling first in the higher mountains and extending weak by week to lower altitudes, drive the flocks into the rough fall range between the mountains and the desert. Here they are held until the snow falls on the desert itself, but with the first heavy snowfall they are driven from the foothills to spend the winter in the open, where they find pasture in the spaces cleared of snow by the winds. The winds are not tempered here, but neither is the lamb shorn, and Wyoming winter winds make heavy wool when shearing time comes.—Argonaut.

### FRIDAY HAPPENINGS.

They Register Many Important Events in American History.

Are you a good American and do you look on Friday as an unlucky day? You are not superstitious and are quite sure that one day is just like another as far as national significance is concerned? No doubt that is true, and yet the importance of Friday in American history, as it has been worked out, makes an almost convincing showing for itself. We have not forgotten that Columbus discovered the new world on Friday, Oct. 12, 1492. Did you know that he also set sail on the sixth day of the week, that he started on his return voyage on that day and that he reached Palos on another Friday? In addition to six vital points in the Columbus exploration, which were marked by Fridays, that day was carried over into our national experiences with England.

Bob's commission from Henry VIII, bears the date of Friday. On that day of the week the Mayflower landed, and on a much earlier Friday the town of St. Augustine was founded. One G. Washington was born on Friday, and that day marked the seizing of Bunker Hill, the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, the discovery of Arnold's treason and the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. This was in 1781, almost five long years after John Adams made the famous motion in the Continental congress that "the United States are and ought to be independent." That declaration was made on Friday, the 7th of July, 1776, three days after the actual drawing up of the Declaration of Independence and six years after the Boston massacre, which precipitated the Revolution.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### The First Anthracite Coal.

When the first two tons of anthracite coal were taken into Philadelphia in 1803 the good people of that city, so the records state, "tried to burn the stuff, but at length, disgusted, they broke it up and made a walk of it." Fourteen years later Colonel George Shoemaker sold eight or ten wagon loads of it in the same city, but warrants were soon issued for his arrest for taking money under false pretenses.

### All but the Cover.

"Did you hear about Scribbles? The police caught him walking out of a hotel writing room with about \$10 worth of the hotel stationery under his coat."  
"What did he have to say for himself?"  
"Said he was gathering material for a novel."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### In No Hurry.

Henrietta—How long was Estina married to Archie?  
Pauline—Only about a year.  
"Do you think she will remarry him?"  
"Not soon. She told me she didn't know him well enough to marry him a second time."—Judge.

### Easy Marks.

The postoffice department tells us that over \$100,000,000 a year is lost in the United States through "wildcat" schemes promulgated through the mails alone. And this is only one channel of fraud.—Merle Crowell in American Magazine.

### Will Bear Watching.

"Why are you so suspicious of him?"  
"He has taken pains to tell me at least a dozen times within the past day or two that he is my friend."—Houston Chronicle.

## CLOTHES IN CHINA

Where Women Wear Trousers and Men Are Clad in Skirts.

### A CURIOUS FASHION IN HAIR.

The Feminine Head is Decorated With a Stiff Cushion That Demands Constant Ventilation to Be Bearable. Vogue of the Ear Ticker.

Even though I came to China knowing that they did things backward, there are some customs here that I just can't get used to. One is seeing women wearing trousers. There are more women wearing trousers in China than there are people in the United States—men, women and children. I suppose there is no reason why things shouldn't be thus, but it will always seem to me that the pants are on the wrong side of the house.

The women look like clothespins. Their bodies are the same size all the way down, and their feet are so tiny that they go bobbing along for all the world like jointed clothespins. The women shave their foreheads, with the timber line almost at the top of their heads, so that the little patch of face below looks as if it were trembling under threat of an impending snowslide.

Their hair is pulled and keyed back as though for musical purposes. At the back of the head a Chinese woman wears a cushion of false hair, so dressed as to show her rank, so that a person skilled in the language of the hair can read her history, can tell her present plans and her future ambitions. A person up on hair can tell at a glance whether or not she is married; if so, how many children she has, and if a widow, if she is willing to open correspondence with a desirable party of about forty-five—object, matrimony.

In this cushion a Chinese woman carries her head scratcher. Her hair dressing is a preparation made of slippery elm. The person needing it can run out to the corner and wait until the carpenter takes a plane and shaves off a few curls. This the Chinese lady steps into a thick, gummy smear, pours it on her head and uses it to stiffen her hair.

This layer makes the top of her head hot, so that every odd moment when she isn't anything else to do she gets down under the mess and lets in some air with a darling needle. Her favorite time for doing this is at the theater. When the performance begins to drag she gets out her darling needle and improves the shining hour by making a rift in the roof as she looks around over the audience, lightly gossiping about who are there, what they are wearing and how awful they look.

Men in China wear skirts. Their skirts are in a garment that reaches from their shoulders to their shins and looks like a nightgown worn by a Cape Cod deacon. It has a tasty slit up each side, so that on muddy crossings the twinkle of masculine ankles may be seen. When they want to catch a car they have to gather up their skirts in the good old fashioned feminine way.

Under their skirts they wear a pair of drawers fastened at the ankles with a bandage, with the ends tucked in. When a Chinaman has an important letter or note to carry he tucks the leg of his drawers, stuffs it in and puts the bandage back. The bandage works loose, so that when he reaches his destination the note is usually gone.

The only pockets a Chinaman has are in his shirt waist, which he wears under his skirt, so that when he wants to get a dime he has to unbutton one side and slip in a hand. Even though a Chinaman wears skirts he has not yet learned about the First National bank.

The Chinese are a great nation to think of the handy little things—things that no other people in the world could possibly think of. You can run out to the street almost any time and buy an ear ticker. Men make a living peddling around selling them. An ear ticker is a little puff of cotton on the end of a stick and is meant to combine both business and pleasure—the business of cleaning the ear and the pleasure of the tickling sensation.

It is not an easy life, for the peddler has to be constantly on the watch against tricky people who come up, sample his ticklers, give their ears a couple of good tickles, tell the man that they don't like his brand of ticker and go on their way.

The peddler's ingenuity has developed a way of polishing up the ticker so that the next possible purchaser may not know that the ticker has been weighed and found wanting by carrying along a little bowl of white powder. After a ticker has been sampled and declined he dabs the end into the bowl, and it is bright and fresh looking as if it were new. If you want to buy one you couldn't tell for the life of you but that it was a new one—until you had used it a time or two—Homer Croy in Leslie's Weekly.

### Varnished His Own Coffin.

Tommaso Salvini was one of those men who take a grim satisfaction in making preparations for their own interment. He assisted in varnishing his own coffin, a magnificent walnut one, destined to be inclosed in a solid block of marble, with the curt inscription, "Tommaso Salvini, Nineteenth Century Actor." In the same way his countryman, D'Annunzio, has constructed his own tomb.—London Standard.

Success doesn't "happen." It is organized, pre-empted, captured by consecrated common sense.—Willard.