

## OLD TIME TOLL GATE IS ALMOST A RELIC

Ashland Gravel the Only Main Highway in County to Use System.

### BOOSTS LAND VALUE

Good Road Is Good Investment—Stockholders Are Land Owners.

One mile southeast of Columbia on the main highway between Columbia and Jefferson City sits a little house "by the side of the road" known as the toll house. When this country was in its infancy, turnpikes and toll gates were no unusual thing. But in this day and age of motor cars and public enterprise the old toll gate is almost a relic.

We have all read that duty collected on travelers, vehicles, cattle and goods passing along public highways and over public bridges was toll. Our third readers told of such things. But Columbia has one of these interesting toll roads running from here to Ashland, and it is not unpopular. It is a thriving channel of traffic, a busy thoroughfare patronized by farmers with their loads of products, by joyriders and by travelers.

#### Stockholders Are Farmers

The Ashland gravel road is a part of the main road from Columbia to Jefferson City. The directors are Dr. A. J. Bass, president; D. A. Robnett, secretary; T. B. Hickman, Forest Hayden, L. D. Bass, J. S. Bedford and S. E. Lenoir. The road was built forty-three years ago. There are 100 stockholders. All the directors with the exception of Mr. Robnett, who lives in Columbia, and nearly all of the stockholders are farmers who live along the road.

Whenever there is an agitation to do away with the toll arrangement and make the traffic free to the public there always arises a protest from the farmers along the road. They say that land on the Ashland gravel sells for \$25 an acre higher than that land three miles back from the permanent road. They say if the road went out of the hands of private owners, it would not be kept up.

#### No Dividends for 11 Years

All of the money collected in tolls is turned back and put into improvement and upkeep. In the 11 years that W. E. Christian, keeper of the toll house, has been on the job, he says dividends have never been declared to his knowledge. Directors and stockholders pay the same as other passengers who drive over the road in vehicles of any sort.

Although the state law allows 4 cents a mile to be collected in tolls, which would amount to \$1.20 for a round trip to Ashland and back, the Ashland road corporation only collects 50 cents tax. On short drives 2 cents a mile is charged, as nearly as can be estimated, that is, for motor cars and double horse drawn vehicles. For other vehicles, one and a half cents a mile is collected and from horseback riders one cent a mile. Twenty head of cattle or horses driven over the gravel road to market cost the farmer 5 cents a mile.

#### Toll Keeper Raises Ponies.

Mr. Christian is paid a salary for his services. He lives in the little house winter and summer with his family, who raise a garden every year and keep Shetland ponies as a sideline. He oversees the upkeep of the road halfway to Ashland and in his absence from home, his wife takes his place as collector of tolls.

There is another toll gate at the south end of the road about two miles this side of Ashland. Passengers going through the full length of the road either way are given a ticket at one end of the road which passes them at the other toll house.

This is considerable trouble but those who use the road believe a good road is worth all its costs and are willing to be bothered with stopping to pay toll in order to have a reliable road that can be traveled any time of the year. Farmers living along the road call at the toll house about once in three months or at any convenient time to pay tolls which have accumulated against them.

#### Cost of Road Is High.

The road costs the farmers individual about \$25 to \$30 each every year. One farmer who lives two miles off the road is willing to pay double that amount if the road can be extended to his front gate. He leaves his car with a neighbor during the winter, two miles from home and walks the intervening distance in order to ride back and forth to town in his car. During part of the year the road between his farm and the gravel road is impassible with a car.

The only way to "get by" Mr. Christian, the keeper of the toll house, is to travel on the Ashland road at night after 9 o'clock, for Mr. Christian retires early and what traffic passes after that hour is of no concern to him.

#### Parsons to Open New Office.

Parsons' Studio will open a downstairs office in connection with their studio tomorrow. The new office furnishes a sample and show room on the ground floor. A complete line of kodak supplies will be kept. The office is connected with the upstairs studio by a colonial stairway.

### STUDENT HELP NOT VERY GOOD

Job at Shooting Birds Gets Most Eager Applicants.

"Wanted, Man to Shoot Birds on State Farm," read a poster on a bulletin board several days ago. Some twenty-five or thirty industrious students beat all known records in an attempt to get the job.

Large, husky lads who should have been out on the gridiron sought the privilege of lying in the field and getting paid for it.

But not all appeals for student labor are answered with the same enthusiasm. From all sides come entreaties for workers who are not afraid to work. In spite of the increased enrollment, there are few working students who come up to specifications.

Both the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. are hard put to it to find students to fill the jobs they have on their lists. And when the employers of student labor finally get men and women who profess a desire to work, they find that the student do not meet expectations and that more help is needed.

All this has come in spite of the fact that wages have made an attempt to keep pace with the increased cost of living. Students say that 25 cents an hour does not help them enough to warrant putting in all their spare time. They don't care about the past. "What we want is a living for us, not for the fellows that have graduated," said one student.

### CHRISTIAN MUSIC CLASS LARGE

Department Has 200 Students and 3 New Instructors.

A record enrollment is announced by Prof. H. H. Loudonback, director of the conservatory of music of Christian College. There are two hundred music students at Christian this year. Several new instructors and assistants have been employed and the regular instructors are teaching over-time.

Miss Kathryn M. Severson is the new director in voice. Miss Beatrice Lincoln is a new instructor in piano, and Miss Helen Harvey is the second assistant in piano.

There are nine members of Christian's music faculty. Lessons are given in pipe organ, cello, double bass, wind and band instruments. The symphony orchestra, has thirty members. The orchestra will give a program before the Christmas holidays. Professor Loudonback will give his first recital of the year within three weeks at a Sunday afternoon program in the college auditorium. Student recitals will begin in November and will be held after dinner once a week.

### PRICES WILL REMAIN HIGH

Silk Manufacturer Here Last Week Blames Labor Conditions.

Will prices be lower in the spring? The representative of a big eastern silk mill, who was in Columbia last week, says that they will not. He says that the merchants who are waiting until spring to buy their goods are unwise.

During the past year the wages in his mill have been increased eight times and only last week the working hours were reduced from fifty-four to forty hours a week. It is also nearly impossible to get skilled workmen for the mills. He points out that these conditions, coupled with the fact that the output of the mill is sold six months in advance, assure no reduction for at least two years.

### M. U. GIRLS LEARNING TO SWIM

Students Are Being Instructed in Christian College Pool.

About sixty University girls were learning to swim in the Christian College pool one evening recently. Miss Helen Gath and Miss Dorothy Mumford instructed classes there Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 until 9 o'clock. The first meetings of the class were held last week. There are two sections, with about thirty girls in each.

"Put your face in the water," "Keep your knees straight," and "Kick your heels," are orders which ring out above the splashing water. The class is a five-week course.

### TO BE Y. M. C. A. DIRECTOR.

Vernon Nash, Former Student, Takes Position.

Vernon Nash, former University student and winner of the Rhodes Scholarship in 1916, has been made publicity director for the Kansas City Y. M. C. A. He is to take charge of the Y. M. C. A. publication.

After leaving Missouri, Nash entered the University of Oxford but soon volunteered for Y. M. C. A. work in the British army. He recently returned to Kansas City from German East Africa and India.

### AMERICAN LEGION PLANS MADE

Local Post to Be Named for First University Man Killed in France.

Eighteen former soldiers met Tuesday afternoon in the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, and elected George A. Wieda as chairman of a temporary organization, which will take steps to secure a charter for a post of the American Legion at Columbia.

It will be possibly two weeks before a charter is granted. The men voted to name the post after the first University of Missouri man killed on the field of battle.

### Prof. Journey Lectures at Keytesville.

Prof. R. C. Journey delivered two lectures on "School of Citizenship" at Keytesville, Tuesday.

## CLOTHING PRICES TO REACH LIMIT IN 1920

That Is Prediction of Columbia Clothiers, According to Recent Canvass.

### DEMAND IS GREAT

Unrestricted Exports Given as Main Reason for Increased Costs.

That highest prices for clothing and shoes, will come to Columbia during the spring and summer of 1920, is the prediction made by Columbia clothiers and shoe retailers, according to an Evening Missourian canvass completed today. Unrestricted export of clothing, cattle, leather and shoes to all foreign countries is the reason, so local merchants say for the increasing prices.

Higher labor costs are placed second in the list of reasons for the price-booming. Customers, whether citizens of Columbia or farmers in Boone County, are not complaining of the high prices now being charged for wearing apparel. The salesmen in the East Broadway stores say that everyone seems to have plenty of money and is willing to spend it. They do not think that the still higher prices of next spring will decrease the demand.

Buyers are purchasing only enough stock to tide their store over from season to season. Although they do not expect a drop in prices before next summer or fall they say they are "afraid of the government." They explain this by pointing out that, should the government put an embargo on wearing apparel, European competition would no longer hold the American prices up to the European market.

#### Is Against An Embargo.

One prominent merchant expressed the hope that such an embargo would not be made because it would close world-trade against the United States and anchor the empty ships of the Merchant Marine in American harbors. He admitted that the embargo would, by lowering prices, make his volume of business larger and his profits bigger, but insisted that the American merchant should be willing to sacrifice that much in aiding the United States in securing its share of world trade.

Local shoe retailers are nearly unanimous in the belief that highest prices in their lines will come next summer. They assert that, while leather prices have reached the peak, shoes, which must be made up of

material purchased many months before the date of sale, can not reach top-prices until two or three seasons later. Many shrewd buyers are aware of this fact and the fall sale of summer shoes in Columbia is unprecedented. One shoe clerk in telling of the sales of four and five pairs of shoes to individual customers, said people were hoarding shoes. He added that, invariably, only the best shoes were purchased by the "shoe-hoarders." Negroes, he said, were splurging themselves to the best in the store.

#### Need 3 Times as Much Capital.

Three times as much capital is needed today to stock the shelves of

a shoe store as was required three years ago, was the statement made by another salesman. He added that the greater profit made on each pair of shoes paid for the increased outlay for stock.

"I'm staying in business today," said one merchant, "because I believe that, when social and industrial conditions get back to normal, we merchants will again be able to sell people what they want at prices they can afford to pay. The wholesale market will be stabilized. We retailers will feel firm ground under our feet. But just now we're going ahead in the dark."

### LOEB WILL SPEAK IN ST. LOUIS

Will Address Equal Suffrage Committee Next Week.

Dean Isidor Loeb will leave next week for St. Louis, to attend the last convention of the State Equal Suffrage Committee of Missouri. Dean Loeb will speak on "Presidential Suffrage" Friday morning, October 17, at the convention.

### Kerner Will Speak at Y. M. C. A.

Dr. R. J. Kerner will speak before the Menorah Society this evening at 8 o'clock in Room A of the Y. M. C. A. Building. His subject will be "The Jews in the New Europe". The meeting will be open to visitors.



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# HALL THEATRE

**TONIGHT AND SATURDAY**

**MATINEE SATURDAY 3 p. m.**

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