

COUNTY ROAD REPAIRS.

Editor The Ranch:

Your article upon the above subject in your issue of August 14 contained much truth, and the concluding recommendation was excellent. I sincerely wish the latter part would be carefully considered by our county people and acted upon at the next road district meeting in each precinct in the state, especially in this (my) district.

As an exhibition of what can be done in the "way" of expending the county funds, and how it is done, I believe this district is unequalled, and if there are any students in the "road construction department" at Pullman who possibly can see this district, the time would not be wasted, and the experience gained would be valuable.

The road material is "dumped" out of the wagon bed, it is then carefully piled up to a ridge in the center, the width of the dump is about four feet, and about two feet high. The wheel track is just on the edge of the dump and a single horse walks on the pile, when he cannot dodge it, it being the special duty of the horse, if he can, to level it down under his feet, but as to how the material is to get levelled into the wagon track is left for speculation and a bet.

The "material" is about three-quarters mud and one-quarter large boulders and in a day or so, it is on an equality with the existing 5 inches of dust, the remains of the last repair, and in a few weeks from now will be about 8 inches of mud and slurry and so continue until about May next.

Should it be necessary to walk on the road this winter, it is of the first importance to get a pair of long gum boots, otherwise your boots will be full of mud.

It may be a good thing for us that we shall have a "Good Road Convention" in October to explain how to make and how to repair our county roads, but it seems to me, that one of the first essentials to that desirable end would be: 1st, to leave politics entirely out of the convention; 2nd to find some supervisor that has some little idea of what is necessary to be done in the repair, and 3rd that has sense enough not to waste all the money in hauling mud and boulders on to a road when good, clear river gravel can be obtained at half the distance of the other.

The farmer himself applies the whip to his own back and feels the smart of it every time he supports the present system, and he inflicts extra taxation upon himself for no benefit every time he supports any candidate for supervisor who has no qualification for the office.

The United States government recognizes these facts and has a traveling exhibition now going all over this country to demonstrate how to repair roads, and with said exhibition gives some plain instructions upon the first principles of road construction.

And yet if these instructions are not worthy of attention or are to be made subservient to some "political job" every election what is the use of wasting the cost and the time?

The amount of money wasted each year in King county alone in road repair is sufficient, if expended under practical and competent road engineers to do double the amount of work and of a quality that would be beneficial, instead of adding to the amount of mud and misery already existing every winter. If we county people desire to have good roads at a reason-

able cost, the first thing to do, is to act intelligently and seek for supervisors that are competent, and if there are none in the district, apply for assistance as a business man would do.

JAMES HART.

Christopher, Wash.



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Of M. C. Nason & Co., commission merchants, Seattle. Mr. Nason is an energetic business man. He is also president of the Seattle Humane society and has himself the authority of special officer. He is particularly active in exercising his power in preventing cruelty and abuses of the trucking teams of Western avenue. Also the position gives him considerable additional social prestige.

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Editor The Ranch: The Fair Board is desirous of having as many representatives of the press attend our fair as possible. Can you not give us a visit during our fair, Sept. 24, 25, 26 and 27?

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M. HORAN.

The editor will certainly be there, and will be glad to meet all our old Wenatchee friends.

Creamery picnics are now being held in parts of the northwest. These picnics are held under the direction of the creamery managers in some cases and in other under the auspices of and association of the creamery patrons. The people that attend the picnics include the patrons and their families and other farmers who wish to come. The result must be beneficial, as the creamery business is then talked over most thoroughly. This getting together is a good thing under any name. It is easier to get an attendance at a picnic than at almost anything else. One of the distinguishing features of such an assemblage is the informality that exists.

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