

**GOOD ROAD NOTES.**

Editor The Ranch: An object-lesson road built under the supervision of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been completed at Morgantown, West Virginia. This being the first work of the kind done in the state, its completion was celebrated by the holding of a good roads convention. There was a good attendance of representative citizens from all parts of the state, addresses were delivered by a number of prominent men, and it is believed that substantial progress toward general improvement of the highways has been made. Perhaps the most significant feature of the convention's work was the unanimity and enthusiasm with which it endorsed both national and state aid.

The Washington Post in a leading editorial condemns both national and state aid as paternalistic. It says that "the duty of road building attaches solely to the communities immediately concerned." This is a narrow view. The same view applied to education would make the local communities pay all the expenses of the schools; yet state aid to education is the rule, not the exception. If the Post's contention is right, the local community should be required to establish its own postoffice and hire its postmaster and mail carriers. In fact, nearly everything the state and national governments are doing for the people would be condemned as paternalism viewed from the same standpoint.

But the Post's ideas are not all so absurd as the one quoted above. In the same issue it has the following to say concerning convict labor:

"In the building of good roads lies the solution of the convict problem. The convicts we have always with us. The crop is constant as it is abundant. Why not use them to construct enduring turnpikes instead of cooping them up in prison shops or leasing them out to private speculators in human flesh and blood? In the one case we put criminals in competition with honest labor. In the other, we traffic in scandal, cruelty and demoralization. Were the able-bodied convicts throughout the country employed upon the public roads as we suggest, we should have within ten years as excellent highways as those of France, Germany or England. Moreover, it would be a legitimate employment that would operate injury to none and benefit to all."

W. C. BROWNLOW,  
Member of Congress.

**RENTING A DAIRY FARM.**

In reply to an inquirer as to what the custom is in renting dairy farms as to the proportion of the proceeds that should go to the renter and the landlord, Mr. Colon C. Lillie gives the following suggestions:

I wish there were more well defined customs in this country about renting farms. In the old countries they have well established customs, and they are seldom deviated from, but our country is hardly old enough for that yet. We are coming to it, however, and we need some unwritten law on the subject. If we had some well defined customs there would not be so much dissatisfaction between owner and renter.

In general it may be stated that the land draws one-third and the labor one-third. That is, if the tenant furnishes the cows and all other stock and does the labor he gets two-thirds the crops or receipts from the farm. If the owner furnishes everything,

teams, tools, cows, the tenant doing the labor only, then the owner gets two-thirds of the receipts and the renter one-third for his labor. Sometimes the owner furnishes the cows, or in some instances half of them, and the renter furnishes teams and tools; then each takes half the proceeds.

In each instance the stock is fed from the individual products, i. e., each furnishes feed in proportion to his receipts, and if extra feed, such as bran, cottonseed meal, etc., is purchased, each must furnish in proportion to his share of the proceeds. If the former gets two-thirds of the proceeds, then he pays for two-thirds of the feed purchased. If the renter receives one-half, then he pays for one-half the purchased food, and so on. Of course there are many little details that the owner and renter must agree upon and all should be put in the contract. The owner usually pays the money tax and the renter the road or highway tax. In repairing fences and buildings the owner usually furnishes the necessary material and the renter does the labor. If new buildings are constructed the owner does all, as these will be permanent improvements and will add to the value of the farm. The renter must do all the labor, not only in putting in the crop and harvesting it, but he must market it as well.

I am glad this question of keeping cows on rented farms is being discussed. It is the only correct way of farming in general: we can't keep our land in good condition unless livestock is a part of the farming. Dairying is the only form of livestock husbandry that brings a satisfactory, uniform cash income the year round. It gives the tenant cash to do business with and to live on and it gives the owner cash also. When we come to rent our farms we should insist that a certain number of cows be kept on them. It is best for the farms and their owners as well as for the tenants.

**A BOSS PAPER.**

The Ranch:

The Ranch is a boss, wide-awake, up-to-date agricultural journal, and its editor is a dandy, bright and good looking.

There! If this is pleasant enough to bring a Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, fire it along.

Yours truly,

W. M. SCOTT.

Kiona, Wash.

An Eastern Oregon paper tells of a college boy who came out from the East to work on a sheep ranch. He was an athlete and the champion sprinter of his school but he didn't know much about ranching. He was sent out the first day to herd the sheep. When the rancher asked him how he had got along he said all right except he had done a big lot of running to keep the lambs in the flock. "I kept them there," he said, "but Lord, it make me run."

"Lambs?" said the rancher in astonishment, "there are no lambs at this time of year." "Well, there are lots of them," said the new shepherd stubbornly, "you just come out and see." Very curious to know what it all meant, the rancher went with the herder to the pasture. As they went along two jack rabbits jumped out. "There!" shouted the herder, "there's two of 'em now, they must have got out since I went to supper."

**THE FARMER THAT IS DIFFERENT.**

We have all read of "The Man with the Hoe," he doesn't belong here—his home is on the other side of the big pond. We know how to wield the hoe all right—but we seldom do it, because we know a better, more rapid and economical system of cultivation. We hoe chiefly in the corners, and in the small truck patches.

The American farmer is different; he is the man who reads; who leans on the printing press more often than he does on the hoe. He studies books, and reads agricultural papers, and farms up-to-date. He buys tested seeds, raises pure-bred stock, is kind to his wife, and sends his children to school. He deals justly with his neighbor, and stands out for equity for all.

The American farmer is not a clod-breaker—he pulverizes with a roller, and he considers the comfort of his team.

This is the ideal American farmer—the farmer that is different from the farmers of the other parts of the earth.

This is the farmer that you cannot down—he is shrewd enough to get within the folds of co-operation, and public spirited enough to reach out a helping hand to the fellow on the outside, to assist him up and in also.

This farmer is not alone; his kind is multiplying every day, and ahead of him and his fellows the glorious dawn of equity is breaking—the light is growing stronger; and out there at the front there is a genial glow of the sun of prosperity; glorious results wrought by the activity and unselfish devotion to a good cause, by the farmer that is different.—Henry Burns Geer.

"Let me tell you that it is infinitely better to have correct notions of life and no degree than a degree with unsound ideas of life. And let me tell you also that there are and always will be plenty of men trained on the farms and in the shops and the offices and the market places, rather than in the schools, who understand the factors of living better than many of the men who receive degrees ever will. How can this be? It is not so obscure if one will think about it."—President Draper.

Secretary Wilson, who is a practical statesman, volunteers the suggestion that the way to provide the people of India with three meals a day, in place of one meal, is to teach them to raise beans and peas to go along with their rice.

The Gail Borden condensery at Auburn will begin operations August 3d. The trust starts off by offering \$1.15 per 100 for milk, the same as being paid by the Kent plant, with no charge for hauling, which means a slight advance over the price at Kent.

**AUCTION SALE OF HEREFORDS.**

Note the advertisement of E. J. Conrad & Sons, La Grande, Ore.

These cattle will be offered in good condition, Mr. Conrad writes. The yearling heifers are the best lot we ever bred. The bulls are a fine lot of one and two-year-olds.

E. J. CONRAD.

Every farmer in the Northwest should be a subscriber to The Ranch. Now fifty cents a year.