

THE BIG STONE GAP POST.

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State Highway System Will Help Wise County.

The report of the Legislative Road Committee, recommending a system of State Highways covering 3500 miles of the principal roads in the State, and connecting practically every county seat in the State with the larger cities, has met with general approval throughout the State. The road from the Lee County line through Big Stone Gap and Norton to Saint Paul, about 45 miles, is embraced in the State system. The Pacific route through the county will be selected by the State Highway Commissioner.

The plan proposed is for the State to take over and complete the construction of the State Highways, and to maintain them as constructed, entirely with State funds, under State supervision, without help from the counties, thus leaving all county funds for other roads and purposes. A further system of County roads is proposed, to embrace the main county roads not in the State system, and to be constructed and maintained under county supervision, with State and County funds.

It is proposed to increase the automobile license tax from 40 to 50 cents per horse power, and to use the automobile license funds for the maintenance of the State system, by the State, and the balance, so far as needed, to be used in the maintenance of the County System, by the counties, the counties being required to contribute an equal amount on the county systems; and the residue to be used in constructing the State System. Other local roads, known as Class C roads, to be constructed and maintained entirely by the Counties.

This plan is good. The State Highway Commission constructs and maintains the State Roads, with State funds entirely. The State helps the counties with funds to construct and maintain the County Roads, but the counties do the work without State Supervision. The State approves the roads to be included in the County System.

The result in Wise County will be as follows: The County with State aid, has graded all and macadamized 30 of the 44 miles of State Road through the county. The State will macadamize the remaining 14 miles at a cost of about \$70,000.00.

The state will at once take over the 30 miles of macadam road and maintain the same and the balance will be maintained by the state as constructed. This will cost from \$300.00 to \$400.00 per mile per year, or about \$16,000.00 per year. In addition

the state will aid Wise County in constructing and maintaining other principal roads in the county.

Estimating the assessed valuation of Wise County, exclusive of railroads, at \$13,000,000, the tax payers of Wise County will pay in return \$13,000.00 per year under the 10 cent levy, and while the State maintenance of the State Road will go on forever, it is estimated that the entire State system will be constructed in 10 years when the 10 cent levy will be taken off.

How may Wise County expect the state to spend \$70,000.00 in completing the construction of the State Road and \$16,000.00 per year, forever, to maintain the same, and pay only \$13,000.00 per year for 10 years in return? Because of the \$1,277,000 produced each year by the 10 cent levy, the cities, towns and corporations will pay approximately \$850,000 and the counties only \$427,000. Richmond alone will pay \$208,000 per year, or \$2,080,000 in 10 years. In addition the State road will construct the unfinished links in the roads in other counties in which Wise county citizens are especially interested, and one of the first to be completed is the road from Hansonville to Abingdon, as it is already under construction.

Every tax payer in Wise County should immediately write to Hon. Roland E. Chase and Senator J. M. Goodloe, Richmond, Va., to vote and work for the State Road plans, and 10 cent levy, in addition to the regular appropriations for roads, and to take all the able-bodied convicts out of the penitentiary and put them on road work.

Damaging Flood

Destroys Valuable Property in Big Stone Gap and Territory.

As the result of a continual downpour of rain Sunday night and the melting of a heavy snow on the ground Big Stone Gap and surrounding section experienced the most damaging flood in its history. Both forks of Powell's River rose out of their banks during the early morning hours at a phenomenal rate spreading a sheet of water five and six feet deep over the lowlands in town, causing many families to move from their homes, which were finally surrounded entirely by water. At three o'clock Monday morning several teams and wagons were pressed into service to remove household goods from homes located in Plat 3. Cadet, which is located a short distance below where both forks of the river come together appears to have suffered the greatest damage in the way of flooded homes and store buildings, none of which, however, were washed away. The L. & N. Railroad tracks were covered with three feet of water, while the depot was completely surrounded. Every family located between the railroad track and the river had to leave their homes early in the morning, some of which barely escaped in time. The river completely covered the large bottom where the Tanary and Extract plants are located and rose up to the windows in the office building. Their damages said to be heavy, amounting to several thousand dollars. The L. & N. Passenger train No. 21 arrived at a point about one mile

below this place and finding the tract was flooded by several feet of water, returned to Pennington Gap. All traffic on the L. & N. and Southern Railroads were at a standstill for thirty six hours and telephone and telegraph wires were down in all directions.

Reports from different sections in Wise County say that many county bridges and culverts were washed away and that the damage to pike roads will reach \$50,000, this being a very conservative estimate, and may reach a much larger figure. The pike between here and Appalachia in some sections was washed entirely away and road traffic between the two towns will not be resumed for some time. It is also damaged to the extent of about \$8,000 within the corporate limits of this town.

All day Monday sightseers by hundreds gathered on the river banks and went into the Gap above town to watch the swift torrent race over the large bowlders, which presented a scene equal to the whirlpool of Niagara Falls. Old settlers claim this was the largest flood to visit this section since the year of 1840, when all the low land in Plat 3 was entirely covered by water. No loss of life has been reported but it is learned that towns north of here were greatly damaged and the output of coal at the different mines will be delayed for several days.

KEEP UP THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

It is regrettable to observe that in many localities, because of the war, there is already evidences of a lack of public spirit and push in the matter of necessary public utilities. There is a tendency to put off till a later day, needed improvements on the plea of the high cost of labor and material.

This is a great mistake, and the town or section of country that is enticed into it will wake up in the near future to find itself out of the running from a business point of view. It is very true that labor is scarce and material high, but neither of these is as expensive as is neglect of the material interests of the community.

A county needs a bridge across a stream, but because of the added cost refuses to build. As a result, the people of the community are put to unnecessary trouble and expense entirely out of proportion to the unadvised cost. A pike road should be repaired, but the war interferes and the road is left to grow worse and worse, with the result that a good road goes down in mud and will have to be entirely rebuilt in the future.

Every business man or manufacturer knows the keen foresight necessary to keep any business up to the standard of the times. He knows that constant vigilance is necessary to prevent deterioration and decay. The business man who relaxes on maintenance because of a slight increase in the cost of repairs, is the man who must sooner or later make the acquaintance of the sheriff.

Just so with the people's business. The community that keeps up with the demands of the times, even though it does require greater effort and an added outlay in expense, is the community that when the heavy demands of the times, are made upon its facilities is able to meet them.

There is, also, the added reason that if we wait until times grow better we may have to wait a very long time indeed. The prospects of lower prices on the necessities of life are, in the dim and distant future. The scarcity of labor, instead of

relaxing, is almost sure to intensify for some time to come.

In view of these facts, it is incumbent upon those charged with the conduct of the people's business to see that all public utilities are kept up to the highest point of efficiency. The time may come in the future when we may be compelled to neglect them to some extent. But that time is not here yet, and until it does come we should strain every nerve in the effort to place our country in the first rank of efficiency as the country is already being put to a very severe test, and the test will grow harder and harder as the war drags on. The only way we can successfully meet this test is by keeping ourselves and our facilities up to the top notch.

Lime, Legumes, Livestock.

In no other year in the history of this country have lime, legumes and livestock been of such vital importance to farmers as they will be in this year of 1918.

The scarcity of fertilizer and the high price which will be demanded for such fertilizer as can be had, makes it imperative that the farmer employ every means in conserving his soil fertility, and increase crop production by other methods than the use of commercial fertilizer. Lime legumes and livestock combined, fill the conditions of soil conservation and farm prosperity.

Ground limestone or burnt lime can be had in sufficient quantities for farm purposes at reasonable prices. It should be ordered now and spread on the land during the winter where it will improve the physical and mechanical condition of the soil sweeten it, act as a solvent of plant food already in the soil, making it available for the growth of plants and the reproduction of bacteria, which, in connection with legumes, gather nitrogen from the air and makes it available for use as plant food.

The legumes are host plants for nitrogen fixing bacteria, and as such, are invaluable for soil improvement, as well as supplying stock feed, which will largely eliminate the use and cost of expensive concentrates, such as cottonseed meal, oil cake, gluten, etc.

The present cost of nitrogen in the form of nitrate of soda is around 33 cents per pound. If your crop of legumes should leave as much as 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre in the soil which was taken from the air your natural resources have been augmented by more than \$16. Legumes grow to perfection only where land has been properly limed.

Livestock is necessary to complete the farm manufacturing plant. It is this factory which converts the hay, stover, forage and grain produced on the farm into finished animal products which are put on the market as such. By selling from the farm only the finished products of the farm factory, returning all the waste to the land, the fertility of the farm can be kept up and the net returns will invariably be greater than if only the raw products were sold.

Remember that lime, legumes, livestock will increase the fertility of your bank account and make you successful and prosperous farmer.—The Southern Planter.

U. S. Court.

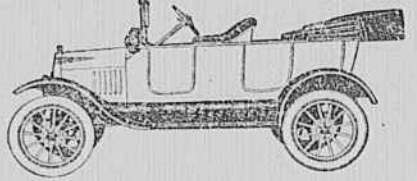
United States Court did not convene here until Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock on account of the late arrival of Judge McDowell, who was delayed on account of the flood. The grand jury finished their work Tuesday afternoon turning in about twenty indictments and court will not last over three or four days.

Ford

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

More and more the enclosed motor car grows strong in popular favor. It's natural, especially with Ford cars, which are busy running every day of the year—winter and summer the Ford serves faithfully and profitably. So for a real genuine family car there is nothing equal to the Ford Sedan at \$695 f. o. b. Detroit. Seats five. Large doors, plate glass sliding windows, silk curtains, deeply upholstered seats, latest type ventilating windshield—a car of refined luxury with the everlastingly reliable Ford chassis. Come in and know more about this superior car.

Mineral Motor Company
BIG STONE GAP, VA.



QUALITY ABOVE PRICE

Are Judged

by particular buyers for their food value rather than prices. Well informed housewives know that tough stringy meat is dear at al-

most any price. They know that

The Quality of Meat

is determined by the nutrition it contains. Question: When you can get both quality and price from us, is there any good reason why we should not have your trade?

Hisel's Meat Market

In Polly Building. Big Stone Gap, Virginia

South-West Insurance Agency

Incorporated
Fire, Life, Accident and Casualty Insurance, Fidelity and Other Bonds
Real Estate and Commission Brokers.
Office in Intermont Building. BIG STONE GAP, VA.

Sores On His Face And Neck

Cancer Sores Broke Out But Farmer Tells How For Many Years He Has Kept Them Banished Easily.

"I suffered from cancerous sores breaking out on my face, neck, and ears for many years, and having used Acid Iron Mineral Ointment for pretty nearly seven years I want to recommend it as the best thing for such troubles. It has kept the sores banished from me," writes G. S. McCutchen, a well known farmer of Ramsey, W. Va.

This A-I-M Ointment as it is called costs but 25c a jar and is the best, strongest, and quickest healing ointment for the purpose of healing skin eruptions, sores, piles, etc. Get a jar today.

Acid Iron Mineral for sale by Ayers Drug Company, Kelly Drug Company, R. E. Kennedy and all other good stores.

BANKRUPT NOTICE

In The District Court of the United States for the Western District of Virginia In Bankruptcy.

In the matter of E. W. Culbertson Bankrupt

IN BANKRUPTCY.
To the creditors of E. W. Culbertson of Appalachia in the county of Wise, and district aforesaid, a bankrupt.

Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of January A. D. 1918, the said E. W. Culbertson was duly adjudicated bankrupt; and that the first meeting of his creditors will be held at My Office, in Norton, Va., on the 9th day of February, A. D. 1918, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at which time the said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

John Roberts, Referee in Bankruptcy.
This January 26th, 1918. Norton, Va.

LEWIS' Hawaiians

The Big Musical Event of the Year.

6 People 6

Usual Pictures

In Conjunction

Prices 20 and 30 cents

Special Attraction

Amuzu Theatre

TONIGHT

Rev. J. M. Smith will fill his regular appointment next Sunday as follows: Presbyterian Church 11 a. m., Oregon 3:30 p. m., Olinger 7:00 p. m. The congregation of the Baptist Church will unite with the Presbyterian Church in the morning service. A cordial invitation to all to attend these services.