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THE PLODDER.

Go where you will and you shall rub elbows with the slow-going fellows—men or women, boys or girls. They are commonly known as “plodders”. They are usually not very much alive to conditions intimately touching them. The ox is a typical plodder. Often the lash will stampede an ox and then there is no stopping him.

While we are not advocates of the lash for the plodder, we do hold to the idea that often some drastic measure is beneficial in breaking the trance into which he may have fallen. Some severe shock, the possibility of calamity, where nothing but action and energy will avoid a fatality, will often have a rousing influence on the sleepy one, to his own everlasting good.

It is the wide-awake fellow who gets the reward. By energy, alertness, clear vision and a good grasp of conditions he is enabled to forge ahead and accomplish things that are worth while. While we do not wholly condemn the plodder, we

do not approve of him or his methods. His case is not so bad as it might be, for his future will be of his own making. If he awakens to a realization of conditions as they are and decides that he will no longer be a plodder there is as much hope for him as for anybody.

Now, let every fellow consider his own case and determine for himself whether or not he is in a trance, and if he decides that he is, we admonish him, for his own good, to wake up and take another view of life and its many opportunities and possibilities.

KEEPING ROADS GOOD.

The people of Germany have many advanced ideas and methods well worthy of careful consideration.

One of the methods of constructing and keeping in repair public highways was mentioned in the report of an American consul, who says that in the province of Hanover there are about 7000 miles of roads, and the people have planted fruit trees all along both sides of these. The fruit is to be sold each year and the proceeds used on the roads.

Where the trees are bearing the income averaged nearly \$600 per mile the past season, and a little more than \$5000 was realized from the fruit sold from trees along one road.

The penalty for stealing the fruit from the public highways is severe, and but little trouble is experienced.

Watchmen with bicycles patrol the roads when the fruit is ripe, and this, with the cost of planting, keeping the trees in good condition and picking fruit, is all the expense the new method incurs. It is pronounced a very successful plan to raise money to keep good roads.