

THE STAYTON MAIL

By E. D. ALEXANDER.

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IMPROVING A ROAD

HOW AN INDIANA DISTRICT BUILT A GOOD HIGHWAY.

Stone Crusher Purchased and Entering Farmers Worked Together. Good Example to Follow Everywhere—Keeping Roads in Order.

As good a macadamized road as is found in Indiana is the Pleasant View road, in Dearborn county, between Aurora and Mount Tabor, says a writer in the Rural New Yorker. This road is far better than the toll pike, which runs parallel with and one mile north of the macadamized road. At one time the former was almost impassable during the winter and spring months on account of the mud. The older men say that they have seen the time when the only way they could reach town in the spring was by horseback. Now there are travel and hauling the year round.

For a great number of years the township through which this road runs, containing fourteen square miles, was divided into fourteen road districts, with the same number of supervisors, each of whom drew a yearly salary of from \$25 to \$45. Thus the various roads were under so many different managements that there could be no system in working them to accomplish the greatest good. There being plenty of stone on some of the farms in the township, there was no good reason why there should not be good roads. Finally a few enterprising citizens prevailed upon the trustee in 1895 to buy a stone crusher, to redistrict the township into four road districts and to levy a road tax to the full extent of

the law, which was 40 cents on \$100, of which amount 10 cents was to be paid in money. Nearly the whole of Pleasant View road fell in one district. From this time came the greatest improvement in this road.

H. D. Tufts was appointed supervisor. Every one was anxious to have good roads and realized that even with this extra tax alone they could not be built and maintained. The supervisor and five other men were the most interested and agreed to donate their part of the work on the road each year besides their tax until it was completed. These six men worked to accomplish the greatest good and were always ready at the call of the supervisor. These men alone have donated \$15,000. The supervisor told every man in the district that if he would haul out free of cost to the district a large pile of stone near the road he would use the tax to crush and put the stone on the public road wherever the giver might designate. This encouraged donations, as every one wanted a good road through his farm. The farmers who owned farms along the road and would not give any work were compelled to work their tax out by hand and never allowed to work their teams.

Each spring the amount of road that will be stoned in the fall is thrown up with a grader drawn by six horses. The center of the roadbed is well rounded, forming a gradual slope toward the ditches on each side. The travel in the summer wears the grading smooth and hard, so there is a good foundation upon which to spread the stone.

After harvest, when the farmers are not busy, the stone crusher is set in a convenient place, and macadamizing the road commences. The stones are usually hauled direct from the field unless they are given and thrown on to the crusher, when they are run through

and the crushed stone elevated into the wagon underneath the elevator. A small pile of stone is piled out close to the crusher so as to have a reserve in case the teams that are hauling fail to get to the crusher of time. In this way the crusher need not stop to wait for stone. It requires four good men to feed it, and there have been crushed 100 perches per day of ten hours.

The crushed stone is hauled in stone beds that hold one and a quarter perches. All beds used for this purpose are the same size, as different sized loads are apt to make an uneven road, for it is difficult to get them properly spread to prevent low places where the small loads are placed. All the travel is forced upon the crushed stone by placing obstructions along the side of the road. In a short time the roadbed is packed and worn smooth.

One of the essentials in keeping a road in repair is to keep it well rounded, so to allow the water to run off after each rain. This is accomplished by running a grader over the road. As soon as the newly crushed stones are packed the grader is run along each side, and all loose stones are thrown back into the road. Again, before spring the road is gone over, and all loose stones are thrown into the road, and the two ridges between the center and the wheel tracks are cut off and thrown into the low place in the center that has been worn by the one horse traveling in the middle of the road. The grader is used at least once each year, cutting off all high places and filling in the depressions. The road will now pack and cement together and make a road as smooth and easy to travel over as a floor. This piece of road has been macadamized seven years. The building of this road cost about \$1,000 a mile, \$600 being tax and \$400 in donation.

Political Economy.
"Children," asked the school committee man, "what is political economy?"
"Political economy," answered the precocious son of the district boss, "is getting men to vote for you as cheap as you can."—Green Bag.

Hardened.
Pretty Niece—Uncle Henry, I think every old bachelor ought to be taxed at least \$500 a year.
Bachelor Uncle—Well, Myrtle, that would be cheaper than marrying.—Chicago Tribune.

How to Build Roads at Low Cost.
A stone crushing plant has been installed by the borough of Park Ridge, N. J., and more than two miles of macadamizing, grading and construction of walks has been authorized without bonding the borough. The town residents are being employed to do the work.

Curing an Insane Patient.

A patient entered the consulting room, walking backward, under the delusion that his head had got a twist round and that his face was turned the wrong way. Instead of laughing at him, as expected, the doctor entered into the case with the greatest gravity, tapping his patient's head, his eyes, looking into his throat and ears and sympathizing with him. The patient was at once won over and placed the utmost confidence in the doctor's assurance that a complete cure would be effected in a few days, voluntarily expressing the greatest care in carrying out the medical directions, which consisted in elaborate notions to keep the patient occupied.

A day or two afterward the doctor met him with a surprised and congratulated him. "On what?" asked the patient, "Judge for yourself," replied the doctor, handing him a mirror. The man surveyed his corrugated countenance intently for a few seconds, when with the dawn of conviction there stole a grin into his stern features. Thanking the doctor, he skipped out of the room in a frenzy of delight.—London Tit-Bits.

Marvels of Memory.

A postal clerk in a civil service examination did not make a single error in properly sorting 42,000 test postal cards, each representing a post office in a certain territory assigned. This was done at the rate of thirty-three and one-half cards a minute. "Far more noteworthy," thinks American Medicine, "is the memory of an expert piano player, who will play an entire season's concerts without a note of printed music before him. His memory is so perfect that hundreds of thousands of notes must be at the orderly and instant disposal of the will, and this is combined with a multiplicity of synchronous recollections of timbre, tempo, expression, etc. The mystery is at present past the hinting of any explanation, and this fact is as beautiful as it is appalling. It shows us how far we are from any real science of psychology."

Legends About the Moon.

"In Ceylon," says a historian, "it is said that as Sakyamuni was one day wandering half starved in the forest a pious hare met him and offered itself to be slain and cooked for dinner, whereupon the holy Buddha set it on high in the moon that future generations of men might see it and marvel at its piety."

In the Samoan islands these dark patches are supposed to be portions of a woman's figure. A certain woman was once hammering something with a mallet when the moon arose, looking so much like a breadfruit that the woman asked it to come down and allow her child to eat off a piece of it, but

the moon, enraged at the insult, gobbled up woman, mallet and child, and ~~there in the moon's belly~~ may still behold them.

English Street Names.

The English towns have more distinctive and interesting names for their streets than American towns, in most of which many streets are simply numbered. London's Cheapside and Aldwych are more than matched by oddities many times stranger. Bootham is a street in York and Botchergate in Carlisle. Norwich is assertive of class distinctions in its Gentleman's walk, and Strawsbury may stand almost at the head of a list of peculiarities with its street labeled Dogpole, which may or may not be related to Newcastle's Dogleap Stairs; but, then, Newcastle has Pudding Chare, and what may that signify?

Put a big white apron on any woman who is good natured and she will look motherly.—Athens Globe.

People cannot arrest the flight of time, yet they are often asked to stop a minute.

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CHRISTMAS Will Soon Be Here!

And everybody will expect a present of some kind. Even though small, costing but a few pennies, it will not be forgotten soon.

She would appreciate a pair of Xmas Slippers.

Ladies Blue Nullifier Slippers, \$1.50 value for 90c
Ladies warm sole slippers, 1.25 " " 90c
Ladies Fur Trimmed U P Slippers, 1.50 value, \$1
" Oriental trimmed Slippers, Louis covered heels, \$1.75 values for \$1 00

An Xmas Present He Would Like.
Gentlemen wine opera Slippers, reg. \$2.50 for 1.90
" tan monkey skin slippers 1.00
" velvet embroidered slippers 50c

Children's Xmas Slippers
Red felt fur trimmed Slippers, 50c per pair.
Large sizes, 75c and 90c.

Xmas Suspenders in Fancy Boxes.
A suit of Clothing for the Boy.

Did you ever think how appropriate a pair of Blankets would be for Xmas.
We have them from 45c to \$10.00 per pair.

Santa Never Makes Mistakes.
He has been known to make presents of Rugs, Carpets and Tapestry Portieres.

Black Dress Goods Was Never Known to be wrong for Xmas.
Can be had at 20c to \$3.00 the yard.
A nice line of Novelty Dress Goods in white and colors.

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