

ROAD TAX

Yet It Is One That Everybody Pays—Figures to Appall Bad Roads Victims and Scare Tightwads of Every Name and Order.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, Nov. 10.—A real entry into the giant task of learning what steps may best be taken to uplift the farmers of the United States has been made by Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey and his associates on the president's country life commission. At the outset of their endeavor they have had it forced upon them that the crying need of the rural communities is better highways.

Following the naming of the commission by the president came floods of unsolicited letters to Washington. From every section of the United States these communications poured into the offices of the commission. It was found that 80 per cent of the writers mentioned the urgent need of model highways in the rural communities of the United States. Many complained that poor roads were almost entirely responsible for the lack of education among the children of farmers; that they had suffered and were suffering from the loss of property and the depreciation of the value of adjacent lands; in fact, that nearly all of the ills from which rural communities suffered could be directly traced to the impassable stretches which in many sections pass for roads.

If the farmers had any realization of the vast sums of money in which they are mulcted because of boggy stretches, called roads by courtesy, it would injure mud tax upon them. The county supervisor who dared vote against a prospective appropriation for the extension and maintenance of model highways would be no safer at a grange picnic than a plump, blonde missionary on a cannibal island.

Half Billion a Year for Road.

Incredible as it may seem to many, the actual road tax burden the farmers are forced to carry upon their already stooping shoulders is not less than half a billion dollars a year, due to the almost criminal condition of roads. Carefully established statistics prove that each ton hauled over the country roads of the United States costs the man who hauls it 13 cents more than the hauling of a ton costs the farmers of Europe, where good roads are appreciated and zealously maintained by far-seeing governments.

Investigations conducted by the office of public roads of the United States department of agriculture, by the industrial bureau of various railroads and by road associations have established the fact that the average cost of hauling per ton mile in America is 25 cents, while the average cost in Europe is 12 cents. In massing statistics, it is no more than fair to err on the side of conservatism. Therefore, the conservative to place the average cost of hauling in those countries at 12 cents. If that theory be granted, the loss to the American farmer must be large. Let us look, therefore, at one of the crop seasons, the year 1905-6 being the last for which statistics are obtainable.

Figures That Prove the Loss. Reports from the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture prove that 85,487,000,000 pounds of farm products were hauled in this country. Cotton, flaxseed, hemp, hops, oats, peanuts, rice, tobacco, wheat and wool were hauled from farms to shipping points. That enormous weight, 85,487,000,000 pounds, hauled from farms to mills, and from mills back to farms. Neither did it include all of the crops produced; the noticeable instances being truck products and fruits. Nor does it compute the cost of the products of forests and mines, nor the commodities which go from city to country. Divide that tonnage into tonnage, multiply that tonnage by 13 cents, and the figure, 11,113,310,000, proves to the farmer that he is not a far-sighted business man.

It has been further settled that the average length of haul of all farm products is 8.4 miles, so that sum may be again multiplied and the result will be a loss of \$1.17 for every ton hauled over our roads. On the products above mentioned it totals \$8,900,000, but large as is that sum, it is only a trifling percentage of the actual waste.

How to Save \$250,000,000. The report of the international commerce commission for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1908, shows that the railroads hauled 216,627,000 tons of freight originating on their respective roads. Of that, the products of the mines constituted 14.81 per cent, and manufactures 14.81 per cent. Exclude these from any consideration, and the theory that mine products and manufactures travel by rail is not by wagon, and there is left 32 per cent of agricultural, forest and miscellaneous products. A summing of 216,627,000 tons passing annually over country roads in wagons.

To simplify mathematics, figure the average haul of nine miles. The cost of a nine-mile haul at 25 cents a ton, the total cost of hauling would be \$506,560,000. Wiped out of that \$506,560,000 about 16 per cent of the products which may be delivered direct to railroads from point of origin, and giving no consideration to the vast tonnage of animal, barge and steamer first hauled to wharves in wagons, and there is left a total of half a billion dollars. The annual cost of hauling on country roads. Were the roads as good as those of Europe, the saving on that tonnage would be \$250,000,000.

Everybody Pays the Road Tax. It is not only the farmer who is forced to share the burden. Everybody has to share it—the city man and the city woman, as well as the country man and the country woman. The cost of the soft-boiled egg that Mrs. De Bullion pays for breakfast at the Rockaway hotel has its price established principally because of cost of transporting it from hen to hostess. The cost of the cream in the breakfast coffee rests not upon the labor of the cow, but upon the cost of transporting that cream from dairy farm to city. The cost of the roll rests not upon the baker, but upon the charge made for hauling the wheat from western fields, first to shipping point, thence to elevator, thence to mill, and thence to baker.

So the city man, as well as the country man, is forced to bear a share of the unjust burden placed upon the community because our roads are what all products move are in such shameful condition that four horses on an American highway are unable to do one-half the work the one horse will do on a French highway.

To Make One Horse Equal 40. During the year 1906 it cost 3.8 cents per bushel to carry wheat from New York to Liverpool, a distance of 1,100 miles. It cost the American farmer 1.6 cents more to carry a bushel of wheat from his barn nine miles to the nearest place by wagon, because in many instances he spent a generous portion of the day stalling fence rails from his neighbor's grounds with which to pry his wagon out of the sloughs and ruts

with which miles of highways are cut up. It doesn't take a scientist with a budding forehead to appreciate the fact that all commodities may be hauled more economically over hard, smooth roads than over soft, bad roads, but it may interest many who do not know the reason why. Tests by eminent engineers prove that if a horse can barely draw a load, on a level road, of iron rails, it will require 1 1/2 horses to draw that same load on asphalt; 3 1/2 horses on the best Belgian block pavement; 7 on good cobblestone pavement; 13 on bad cobblestone; 20 on ordinary earth road, and 40 on a sandy road. The resistance in pounds per ton carried is stated as follows: On an earth road, 234 pounds; on a hard-rolled gravel road, 76 pounds; and on a hard, smooth macadam road, of 1000 feet, the velocity being the ordinary pace.

Would Save Horses and Harness.

It will thus be seen that were the roads to be in better condition, less could be hauled with much less power, and that would involve an enormous reduction in the number of draft animals, or a large increase in the number of marketable commodities. Inasmuch as the draft animals now in use on American farms comprise 23,500,000 horses, mules, worth \$4,433,697,000, there is no need for heavy mathematics to prove that the farmer might save a great billion in money if they were forced to buy but one quarter as many draft animals. The wear and tear on wagons and harness is also worthy of consideration, for heavy ruts and bad roads make the building of 500,000 farm wagons necessary each 12 months, and the cost spent on harness is so large that it would make a yawning chasm even in the bank roll of Mr. Rockefeller.

Good Roads Add to Farm Values.

One more argument in favor of better roads which the farmer must directly appreciate: That in the increased assessed valuation of his land, and the roads inevitably and immediately give greater value to the farming country than the roads. That statement is based upon solid figures gained after most careful research by the bureau of the census, by the office of public roads, by the agricultural bureau of 12 trunk line railroads, and by the bureau of statistics of the United States department of agriculture.

This increase has been variously estimated at from \$2 to \$3 an acre, and in 1906 there were \$38,617,774 acres of farm lands. Of that number 414,498,487 were considered improved. Again, to be conservative, consider merely that half of all farming country; give to it the very lowest possible increase in valuation, \$2 per acre, and the total gain in farm value would be \$828,996,000. Add that sum to the \$500,000,000 to be gained each year, and the aggregate benefit directly to the farmers would approach a billion and a half.

These are facts, and were the farmers far-seeing enough to take their 10,000,000 ballots in hand and storm the voting places of the country in the interest of better highways, and the giving of mortgages on farm property would in a short time become an incident in rural life, rather than a habit, as it is today.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS.

PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of hemorrhoids, piles, or hemorrhoids in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

Wrestling Thursday

Strangler Smith vs. Ed O'Connell, for coast championship, at Merrill's hall, Seventh and Oak streets. Admission \$1. Ring-side seats \$1.50.

25c Hosiery, 3 pairs for 50c

Your unrestricted choice of any 25c Ladies' Stockings in the house, for 19c, 3 pairs for 50c. This sale includes Lisle, Gauze, Ribbed and Mercerized Hose, in embroidered, lace, polka dot, white foot, etc., Hermsdorf, black, new blue, latest tans, pinks, red and fancy stripes. Exceptional bargains. 19¢ a pair or 3 pairs for 50c.

Children's Reg. 15c Hose

Children's Sanitary Black Stockings for boys and girls, fine and medium ribbed, full seamless, every size from 5 1/2 to 9 1/2. Stockings that always sell for 15c. Offered during this sale at 9¢—3 pairs for 25c.

Ladies' 35c Gloves for 19c

A special purchase of 200 pairs of Ladies' Cashmere and Cashmerette Gloves, enables us to offer you a full 35c value at the special price of 19c. In all sizes, blacks or tans, the very glove for cold weather. 19c Regular 35c gloves during this sale at, pair..... 19c

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

Values to 25c 4 for 25c

Ladies' Waists at 79c

Regular \$1.25 to \$1.75

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

1000 Ladies' Turn-over Collars, plain and scalloped edges, made of fine lawns and swisses, heavily embroidered in scroll, floral and open work designs; full 25c values at, special, 4 for 25c

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

Here's a waist bargain. We offer 50 dozen Ladies' newest Waists, Flannel, Mercerized-Gingham and Poplins, in stripes, plaids, checks and polka dots; the very latest styles and tastefully trimmed, in light, dark and medium colors. Regular values up to \$1.75. 79c special at..... 79c

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

Finely Tailored, shapely skirts of good quality, all-wool Panama, corded, pleated, ornamental flounce trimmed with Skinner's satin and self-materials. Every garment cut full and thoroughly finished. In blacks, blues and browns; all sizes; sold during this sale only at..... \$3.98

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

Real French Voile Skirts, made in daintiest, good and smart model effects, in deep fast black, strictly man-tailored; some trimmed with wide and narrow Skinner's satin bands, others tulle silk, ornamented with large satin buttons; every skirt cut large and full; all sizes; worth \$10 to \$15; during this sale at..... \$7.50

Ladies' Turn-over Collars

Strictly Tailor-Made Skirts, of finest all-wool chiffon Panama, in latest navy blue, golden brown and deep black, newest designs of corded, sheath and plaited effects; trimmed artistically with silk bands and self-materials; some with newest buttons-down-front effect; every garment cut large and full and never sold for less than \$12.50; during this sale at..... \$6.75

SCHOOLS CAN SEPARATE RACES

United States Supreme Court Holds Negroes Can Be Barred.

(United Press Landed Wire.)

Washington, Nov. 10.—In deciding the case of Berea College versus the State of Kentucky favorable to the state, the supreme court of the United States yesterday held that the states of the union may constitutionally legislate to prevent the coeducation of the white and black races. The case was instituted to test the validity of the state law of 1904 prohibiting white and black children from attending the same school. The higher state court took the position that the white and black races are naturally antagonistic, and that the forced separation of the children of the two is in the line of preservation of peace. The opinion of the supreme court was handed down by Justice Brewer and affirmed the finding of both the Kentucky circuit court and the court of appeals. Justices Harlan and Day dissented.

Contestants Get Anxious.

The anxiety of contestants in the Eilers Counting Contest to learn whether they had been successful in winning one of the valuable prizes, has reached an acute stage. All day long telephone inquiries are pouring into Eilers Piano house, and every mail brings requests for definite information. Everything is being done to hurry the work as much as possible, and from present indications the winners will be announced by Thursday or Friday of this week.

Ferryboat Grounds.

(United Press Landed Wire.) San Francisco, Nov. 10.—The ferryboat Bay City, of the Southern Pacific railway, had a narrow escape from destruction on the shore of Yerba Buena island last night. The vessel has a broken propeller shaft and will not be in service for several days. The Bay City left her slip last night to tie up on the Oakland side of the bay. She reached the vicinity of Yerba Buena island, when the shaft snapped and she became helpless and began to drift with the tide. Fortunately there were no passengers aboard and the bay was smooth. A deckhand put off in a rowboat for the Southern Pacific pier and the ferryboat Piedmont was sent to the rescue.

WILD GIRL FLEES WITH SERPENTS

Oakland Theatre Loses Attractions Through Thrifty Couple's Marriage.

(United Press Landed Wire.)

Oakland, Cal., Nov. 10.—The police of the bay cities are looking for the "Australian Wild Girl" and a trunk full of snakes, both of which belonged to the Gem Theatre until yesterday. Despite the fact that this unusual combination would seem easy to find, no trace of the missing attractions has been found. "The wild girl" decided several days ago to try matrimony. She confided this to Leo Osborne, an attaché of the place, and the pair decided to try it together and were married by a justice of the peace. The manager of the show was pleased with the news of the marriage. After the marriage "the wild girl" did not show up at the theatre and then the loss of the snakes was discovered. The police believe that "the wild girl" has been turned into an snake charmer under the management of her husband.

CLIPS MILLIONS OFF EXPENSES

Japanese Budget Shows Ministry's Determination to Get Off the Toboggan.

(United Press Landed Wire.)

Tokyo, Nov. 10.—The financial department today announced the budget for the next year, aggregating \$258,560,000. This means that the curtailment of funds for military, naval and civil enterprises is \$84,000,000. The reduction is in line with the general policy of the new cabinet, which is making every endeavor to save money and carry the nation over the period of financial depression. There is still some objection to this policy but the conservative element strongly supports the government.

A HAIR'S BREADTH ESCAPE.

Do you know that every time you have a cough or cold and let it run on thinking it will just cure itself you are inviting pneumonia, consumption or some other pulmonary trouble? Don't risk it. Put your lungs back in perfect health and stop that cough with Ballard's Horehound Syrup. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle.

A. B. Steinbach & Co.



MESSRS. A. B. STEINBACH & CO., Portland, Oregon.

GENTLEMEN:—We take pleasure in informing you that, we have appointed you our sole agents for the distribution of men's, women's, misses' and boys' Holeproof Hosiery in Portland, Or. We have taken this step, feeling that through means of your splendid opportunities and facilities, you will be in a position to do the line full justice and we feel confident that we shall be splendidly represented in your city. Hoping that you will avail yourselves of all the means at your disposal to acquaint the residents of Portland with the fact that you have been appointed our authorized agents, we remain with best wishes for your continued success,

Yours very truly,
HOLEPROOF HOSIERY COMPANY.

Edw. Jewell

THE BEE HIVE

LABOWITZ BROS. 169-171-173 Third St., Near Yamhill

OUR PRE-HOLIDAY SALE opened last week. We are simply offering special bargains to move goods quickly. WE MUST HAVE ROOM for our holiday display. To get it, we are pushing forward the GREATEST VALUES that have ever been offered in Portland. Make a visit to the BEE HIVE and you will see values waiting FOR YOU that are not found anywhere in the city. The BEE HIVE stands for GOOD VALUES always, and during this PRE-HOLIDAY SALE is giving you the BIGGEST VALUES YOU EVER RECEIVED.

A Tremendous Value in Ladies' Silk Costumes

Values to \$30.00—Now



\$8.85

This feature of our sale should crowd our store. We offer a special lot of 100 beautifully tailored Princess costumes, made of fine heavy silks, some plain colors, others stripes; yokes are square, round and V-shape; many with lace trimmings outlined with Persian satin; some are jumper effects, others with long and medium sleeves to correspond. The skirts cling gracefully, pleated, gored effects, ideal styles for street wear. One look at this splendid lot of dresses will convince you of their extra fine value, and at such a tremendously low price of \$8.85 they will sell very quickly.

Here Are Three Splendid Skirt Bargains

We Make All Alterations FREE on These Skirts

Be on hand early tomorrow morning to avail yourself of this splendid skirt-buying opportunity. You cannot afford to miss these attractive garments at the prices we offer them.



\$7.00 to \$8.50 Panama Skirts for \$3.98

\$10 to \$15 French Voile Skirts for \$7.50

\$12.50 Chiffon Panama Skirts for Only \$6.75

Clark's O. N. T. Spool Cotton

7 Spools for 25c

Clark's famous O. N. T. Spool Cotton that sells everywhere for 5c per spool, we offer as a special feature at 7 spools for 25c. You can have black or white, for hand or machine, an unheard-of bargain during this sale at 7 spools for..... 25c

Genuine Heatherbloom Petticoats

\$2.50 Values Now \$1.19



Every woman knows Heatherbloom, its excellent quality; cannot be told from black taffeta in rustle and appearance, but wears infinitely longer. We offer HEATHERBLOOM Petticoats, with label on each, hand large and full, with 12-inch shirred flounce and dust ruffle; a value that has never been exceeded, full \$2.50 values, during the sale at,..... \$1.19

Genuine Hydegrade Petticoats

Values to \$2.00 Now 97c

When HYDEGRADE label is sewed on a garment, it's a certainty that for material it has no equal. HYDEGRADE looks like silk but wears better and longer. We offer HYDEGRADE Petticoats, with label on each band, every garment made full, some shirred, others with 12-inch ruffle, embroidered with deep scalloped edge; also wide dust ruffle. A 97c good value at \$2, during this sale at..... 97c

Another Shipment Just Arrived

\$30 and \$35 Ladies' Suits Special Price of \$16.85



These handsome suits are made of Fancy All-Wool Mixture Cloths, the coats 39 inches long, new directoire collar, embroidered with satin tie, new patch pockets and sleeves trimmed with satin buttons and silk braid, lined throughout with Belding's guaranteed satin; the new gored skirt trimmed with fancy satin buttons and braid to match. A \$30 suit for..... \$16.85

We also offer a regular \$35 Ladies' Suit made of excellent quality hard twisted, fancy worsted, latest fall shades of blue and green, lined throughout with Belding's satin guaranteed for two seasons; cost \$35; latest mannish effect collar, trimmed with Skinner's satin, self-buttons on back, sleeves and pockets; skirt extra wide, full flaring, with fold and pleat down front, button trimmed; regular \$35 suit at..... \$16.85