

## RURAL ROADMAKING.

How Some Farmers Built a Good Highway Cheaply.

STONES FROM FIELDS USED.

Nothing Paid For Material—No Large Profit For a Contractor—Only Cost of the Road Was the Cost of Home Labor.

One fact people are slow to learn is that the soil nature made for growing plants in does not make a good road. Soil is decomposed or pulverized rock with some humus or vegetable matter. When this is wet it is mud; when very dry it is dust.

When soil is used for a road the most of the time it is in either one of these two conditions, but there are short periods when there is just the amount of moisture in the soil that makes it so compact as to be a firm road. For many years rural roadmaking has been some process of getting more soil into the road and the stones out. I can remember how under the supervision of the "path master" we used to work out the road tax by frawing soil in the road with a team and scraper and afterward throwing the stones from the roadbed into the ditch. The next year, after the soil had been flattened out by travel, the same soil was scraped into the center of the road again and the same stones thrown out. The last few years this work has been more cheaply or easily done with the road worker. This plan of roadmaking may give a fairly good country road, where heavy loads are seldom drawn, for two or three months in summer, but for the greater part of the year there is no firm, smooth roadbed, but mud, ruts and dust, says W. H. Jenkins of Sidney Center, N. Y., in Hoard's Dairyman. For the same reason that we need better school-houses and rural schools we need better country roads. Instituting stone or macadamized roads in agricultural localities is a most wise and farseeing policy, for it hastens the time of better agriculture and civilization and adds to the value of real estate.

Man always finds nature has anticipated his needs and is only waiting for him to work up to a point where he can use what she provides. He must learn to make his roads from the rock before the glacier has ground them into soil, not afterward. For many years in many sections the agriculturists have not known how to get rid of the stones on their fields or what use to make of outcropping ledges of rock that could be quarried. Now the modern machinery for making macadamized roads and the need of them and learning the uses of concrete will make these among their most valuable assets on the farm. As I am able to



OLD ROADMAKING METHOD RESULTS IN EITHER A MUD OR DUST ROADBED.

see it, the building of state roads by state funds does not best solve the problem of good roads for the farmer, but by the farmers co-operating with the state.

The local interest and effort are needed. Then they will get better roads at less cost. In many sections farmers are complaining about poor state roads. In one road district in New York two miles of macadamized road were built at a cost of \$1,300 per mile. One half of this amount was subscribed by the people living in the road district, and the state paid the other half. This road was built under the supervision of the town road commissioner, and the steam road crusher and other machinery owned by the town were used. No large profit was paid to a contractor. Nothing was paid for material. The only cost of the road was the cost of labor. I would call attention to the fact that the process of scientific road building as it was done in this instance is the reverse of that so long practiced by farmers. The soil they try to keep in the road is first all removed down to the bedrock or gravel, and when the grading is done the understratum of the roadbed is made of the common field stones one or two feet thick. Next quarry stone or refuse from the quarry is broken to make a layer several inches thick, then finished with a layer of hard crushed stone from the stone crusher and rolled with the steam roller.

I drove over this two years from the time it was built and can say it was in better condition than some state roads I have seen built at the same time. I have taken pains to talk with people living on this road and find them entirely satisfied with their investment and planning to build more of this road. I think on one mile of this road four farmers live on the average. The road cost them \$650 per mile, or about \$163 each. The interest on the investment is less than \$10, and I think all can see that no farmer can make a better investment. Here they have a roadbed that will last for many years, and the yearly road tax will keep it in repair. Farms have been cleaned of stone in providing material, work was provided for home labor, a road has been made in the right way, according to the principles of good road building, and the benefits that follow are beyond estimation.

## SEAWEED AS A FERTILIZER.

Its Value to Coast Farmers is Increasing.

Seaweed is a valuable fertilizer. The Irish peasants prefer it to manure, and the farmers of the Orkney Islands formerly let farmyard manure accumulate unused on account of its inferiority to seaweed as a fertilizer.

The seaweed that is brought ashore or drifts there is dried and burned, and the ashes are spread over the land. The ashes contain a good proportion of potash and phosphates, and some kinds of weed also yield nitrates. These three substances are the life of vegetation, and for this reason the ashes of seaweed are an ideal food for crops.

Some years ago a French sea captain attempted to organize a company to send ships to the Sargasso sea, where they could easily collect big cargoes of drift weed and bring it to France to be burned for the fertilizing ashes. Capitalists told him, however, that they did not think it would pay to carry the weed so far, and the money was not raised.

It is asserted by some authorities that the great deposits of nitrate of soda which are sent from Chile to all parts of Europe and the United States to be spread over the farm lands were formed by the decay of huge masses of seaweed when the land was sunk under the sea. Undecomposed parts of seaweed, it is said, are still found there.

The attention of the Cape Colony government was recently called to the fact that very large quantities of seaweed are constantly being washed ashore along the northwest coast, and at last accounts the government had sent for samples of the weed to determine its value as a fertilizer.

Sir Humphry Davy was one of the first to recommend seaweed as a fertilizer about a century ago. For generations the inhabitants of the Channel Islands have gained a fair living by collecting and burning the weed and selling the ashes as manure. These ashes are also largely used in the British Isles and along the Norwegian and French coasts.

The publications of the United States agricultural department say that the use of seaweed as a fertilizer is increasing in this country, that for long stretches of the New England coast the weed is utilized by the farmers for fifteen to twenty miles inland and that it is especially favored for the stimulation of clover fields. Rye beach is almost always strewn with the weed, and few lands ever show so luxuriant growth of red clover as those in the neighborhood of this beach.

The seaweed thrown up on the shores in the neighborhood of Cape Town has long been regarded as an expensive nuisance. The city government has for years been paying teamsters to collect the stuff, haul it away and bury it. The amount of weed thus disposed of has been about 1,500 tons a year.

The city authorities have now seen a new light and are spreading the news among the farmers that the weed is a very valuable fertilizer.

### Concrete Watering Places.

It is the opinion of a correspondent of the Country Gentleman that there is an excellent chance to combine utility and beauty in the erection of attractive and permanent watering places in village streets and along country roads. The old moss covered tub, half buried in a bank of ferns and wild flowers, presents a picturesque appearance no doubt, but in a short time the hoops of the tub



UTILITY AND BEAUTY COMBINED.

give way, the staves fall in, and a long interval may elapse before the watering place is in commission.

The first requisite is, of course, a supply of running water. Then a substantial stone foundation should be laid below the frost line—an iron supply pipe as well as a waste pipe being brought up through this foundation. On this foundation can be erected as simple or as elaborate a design as one may desire. A mold of rough boards can easily be set up for any rectangular shape, the boards being held in place by crosswise strips nailed to the upper edges. The boards can be raised as the work goes on.

## Miss Markland's Method.

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Miss Markland never ran up against stone walls. If she wished to go where the path was difficult she smiled, and, presto, there were flowers for her to step on. If it was necessary to plan she could plan admirably. Indeed, she was very resourceful.

Miss Markland was looking for a husband. Not that she was devoid of offers. Indeed, her main business in life seemed to be to avoid proposals. She felt that it was time for her to marry, and she had not met the man she wanted. She scouted those she had been brought up with. Most girls do. She went abroad and met many foreigners, none of whom appealed to her. At last in France she found the man she wanted in an American, a little pale faced, spectacled, red headed creature entirely unlike the host of suitors she had declined.

Professor Mikleman was an archaeologist. It may be thought that Miss Markland wanted him on account of the idealty of the work that absorbed him. Not at all. She was not ideal or intellectual and considered the professor a mere digger. The reason she coveted him was because she had no attraction for him, while a hip bone 2,000 years old, a piece of broken pottery, a coin so worn that only the nose of some dead barbarian king could be discovered on it, were enough to make him dance in wild delight. Miss Markland, tactful, sympathetic, ingenious, instead of quarreling with Professor Mikleman because he preferred these things to her, resolved to win him through her successful rivals.

Professor Mikleman's work at the time was hunting for a town of the ancient Gauls, Nelodunum, in what had been the province of the Senones. It was but a short distance from Paris, which city the professor made his headquarters. Miss Markland manifested an interest in the work and formed a party to visit it. She found the professor bossing a gang of men who were making holes in the ground at points designated by their employer, who spent his leisure time studying maps, books in the Latin language and copious memoranda. Though the digging had gone on a month, nothing had been found but the jawbone of a woman, which the professor pronounced Gallic.

The professor was getting discouraged. Miss Markland sympathized with him. She asked him what kind of things he hoped to find. He told her that the Romans had campaigned in the province and it had become Roman. He therefore looked for Roman articles, such as armor, weapons, pottery, coins. That was all Miss Markland wanted to know.

The party, all except Professor Mikleman, returned to Paris. Miss Markland wrote the professor encouraging him to dig on. She knew he was brave and would not give up. He did give up and came back to Paris. Miss Markland induced him to revise his work pertaining to the location of Nelodunum. He consented and spent a month in the Paris libraries. He found a new record indicating that the town lay several hundred yards from where he had been digging. He was about to hurry again to his work when Miss Markland persuaded him to guide a party to some of his other excavations. He consented.

The day before the departure Miss Markland received several boxes by express. Their arrival was announced to her when Professor Mikleman was with her. He looked curious, whereupon she told him they contained tombstones that she had ordered for her family lot in a cemetery in America.

On the return to Paris after a ten days' absence examining Professor Mikleman's excavations he announced that he was going to dig for Nelodunum on the new site. Miss Markland persuaded him to consult with other eminent excavators, and this further delayed him. When he was ready to proceed Miss Markland induced her brother, who was a graduate of an American university and a great scholar, to take an interest in the matter, and the two went with the professor to the spot to be excavated. He ordered several holes dug when Miss Markland suggested digging on a spot near where some one had driven in a peg. The professor did not notice the peg, for Miss Markland was standing on it. The workmen went down six feet and brought up a Roman helmet, a piece of broken statuary and half a dozen arrows in quick succession.

The professor was much excited. A number of coins, mostly Roman; an earthen pitcher, a greave and a Roman short sword came next.

The professor was in ecstasies. The next article was evidently quite large, for the workmen were obliged to dig about it. Finally they got it out. When the professor saw it he danced about, crying, "The head of a ram!" and, not knowing what he did, threw his arms about Miss Markland's neck. It was some time before she could quiet him sufficiently for him to explain that the ram's head was a Roman weapon for battering walls.

Well, Professor Mikleman, though he found articles only within a limited region, became famous for correcting noted excavators as to the location of Nelodunum. He attributed his success to Miss Markland and told her he could not possibly live without her.

Shortly before the wedding Miss Markland paid two bills—one to Giovanni Cultimart, a relic dealer, for four boxes of relics, the other to Jean Gautier, contractor, for burying the articles. SALLIE MENDUM.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COOS.

Geo. P. Topping, Plaintiff,  
VS.  
D. E. Mills, Defendant.  
ACTION AT LAW.

To D. E. Mills the above named defendant:  
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:

You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action on or before the last day of the time prescribed in the order for the publication of this summons, which prescribed time is six (6) weeks, the last day of which time will be Thursday, the 4th day of March 1909.

And if you fail to so appear and answer said complaint by the said time, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for a judgement against you for the sum of \$100 as set up in plaintiff's said complaint together with the costs, and disbursements of this action, and for an order of said Court for a disposition of the money or sale of property attached in this action.

This summons is published in the Bandon Recorder, a weekly newspaper published in Coos County Oregon, for six consecutive weeks, beginning January 21st 1909, and ending March 4, 1909, by order of publication made by the Hon. John F. Hall, County Judge of Coos County, at Chambers in Coquille, Oregon on the 28 day of December, 1908.

GEO. P. TOPPING,  
Attorney for Plaintiff.



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