

CONVICTS BUILD ROADS.**Employment of Prisoners on a Texas County's Highways.**

There seems to be no reason why states, counties or cities should support in idleness those who have broken the law, and especially those who are serving but a short term in some minor institution, says the Municipal Journal and Engineer. Organized labor has made strenuous efforts to prevent the employment of convicts in the manufacture of goods that will compete with free labor, but there is a way by which convicts may be employed to advantage and at the same time not compete with free laborers. The man who is serving a term of months or a year is a different proposition from one who is sent to the state penitentiary for a term.

Dallas county, Tex., has been using these short term men on its roads, and they are returning to the county more than it costs to support them. An act of the legislature in 1886 authorized the building of roads by the labor of county convicts. The county of Dallas is divided into four districts, each one in charge of a special road commissioner. The act provides that roads are to be constructed as nearly as possible east, west, north and south from the city. When these roads have been constructed, the act provides further that four other roads are to be built to the border of the county as nearly midway between the first ones as is practicable. Then there are to be others between the roads already built, and in the end Dallas is to have a series of roads that will converge toward the city.

All convicts who are physically able to perform labor must work on the county roads. The work is to be under the supervision of a competent superintendent, and the work done must be of the best quality. Each of the con-



TEXAN CONVICTS AT WORK.

vict camps on the public roads is in charge of a superintendent and four guards, and the average number of men in each camp is fifteen. These men are supplied with clothing and food and are credited, with 50 cents for each day they are held in imprisonment, this amount going toward the canceling of their fines and the costs of the case.

In addition they are allowed 10 percent for good behavior while on the work. This work has done a great deal toward reducing the number of "hoboes" that heretofore were wont to frequent the district. "Hoboes" are not given to work and during the winter months are glad to be sent up for short terms in some jail, where they can receive shelter and, to them, a good living until summer comes again. Working on the roads is not to their liking, so they now give Dallas and its vicinity a wide berth.

FREE FROM DUST.**Highways Rendered Dustless In France by Use of Tar.**

A recent official report of the department of bridges and roads in France shows the continuance of the good results obtained in rendering roads free from dust by coating the surface with tar.

The engineer for the Seine and Marne departments reports that after an unsuccessful trial of a mixture of oil and petroleum a coating of tar was in the summer of 1902 laid down on seven different lengths of road. After carefully observing these during a period of twelve months he finds that dust and mud have wholly disappeared, and the cost of maintenance of the roads has been considerably reduced.

Further comparing the previous outfit on the roads with that of those with tarred surface, he says: "It appears that the tarring method requires no greater outlay and at the same time very considerably improves the condition of the roadway. In less than two lengths of the Chausse National were coated with tar in June and August of 1902."

Both these experiments have been entirely successful, the road now being covered with an elastic skin, while the sound of foot passengers' tread is muffled, and horses and draft oxen require only one-half the effort they put forth before. The noise and vibration caused by vehicular traffic are much reduced, and neither dust nor mud is formed on the tarred surface."

A FARMER'S LOSS.

An illustration of the cost of bad roads to the agricultural portion of the country may be had in an example recently witnessed in Texas. A crop of onions raised by irrigation at Caruso Springs was being hauled forty miles to the nearest station on the International and Great Northern railroad, where it was delivered at 15 cents per pound. As the yield was 25,000 pounds to the acre this crop was worth \$375 at the station, but to place it there the charge was 50 cents per 100 pounds, or \$13 per ton, or per acre's yield \$125, causing a net loss to the farmer of 25 per cent.

Mrs. L. S. Adams.
OF GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS.
Neglected Colds.
Every part of the mucous membrane, the nose, throat, ears, head and lungs, etc., are subjected to disease and blight from neglected colds. Hallard's Horehound Syrup is a pleasant and effective remedy. 25c, 50c, \$1.00. W. Akendrick, Valley Mills, Texas, writes: "I have used Hallard's Horehound Syrup for coughs and throat troubles; it is a pleasant and most effective remedy."

HOME IMPROVEMENT.**How to Beautify a Fence With Flowers and Vines.**

In considering the grounds of a country home one feature is only too often neglected—namely, the fence, says the Brooklyn Eagle. The fence, far from being a destruction, as it is so frequently to the beauty of the place, may be made one of its chief attractions. The memory of a fence bordering the grounds of a plain little cottage of suburban Boston still haunts the writer, though seen many years ago. It was a low wall of graystone, the top of which was completely covered with ivy. All summer long this wall was a mass of brilliant bloom and a joy to every passerby. No matter how uncompromisingly ugly the fence is, it may be transformed by the exercise of artistic taste be transformed into a thing of beauty.

A picket fence is about as difficult a subject in this respect as it is possible to have, yet the owner of a country home in New York state has made hers the envy of all her neighbors. This is what she did to bring about the desired end: At the base of the fence along its entire length the ground was spaded and set with a variety of plants, large and small, the selection being made with a view of keeping something blooming the season through. About six inches from the top the inside of the fence was fitted with board shelves, and on these were placed at intervals jars of plants, including geraniums, begonias, verbenas and other house plants, as well as ferns.

Vines should not be overlooked as aids in beautifying the fence. For back yard fences the prime old fashioned hollyhocks, when set in close rows, become a highly decorative feature.

TO IMPROVE STREETS.**A Society Organized to Plant Trees in Chicago.**

The Chicago Tree Planting society was organized recently to plant trees in the streets of Chicago. With the election of officers it was announced that one of the first works the society would undertake would be a fight on the gas and smoke nuisance, to be urged along new lines.

Then will come the planting of trees in the slum districts, the distribution of literature that will educate the people in tree planting and the starting of a movement to have the care and sometimes the planting of trees in streets placed in the hands of the park boards.

"Chicago has practically 1,100 miles of 'treeless streets,'" said George E. Hooker, the secretary of the organization, "and the planting of trees in them is an immense task. Gas and smoke are the greatest enemies of tree growth we have. One of our first duties will be to get after the smoke nuisance from a new angle."

Many thousand pamphlets telling the kinds of trees that will grow here and how to care for them, as well as urging their planting, are to be circulated in an effort to get people to plant trees in front of their homes. Officers of Improvement associations are to be asked to co-operate with the society in the tree planting plans, and residents of the same block will be urged to unite in their tree planting efforts so as to secure uniformity. Citizens are also to be instructed in the art of pruning trees properly.—Chicago Chronicle.

BUILD UP THE TOWN.**The Value to a Community of an Improvement Association.**

An improvement association is an organization that should have the confidence and support of every citizen of the town which it is working to improve.

It is easy to make laws for the beautifying of a town, but their enforcement is more difficult. Officials, while zealous of enforcing laws and ordinances to them seemingly more important, are sometimes lax in the enforcement of the little details that go to make the town more beautiful. It is these organizations that bring these little details to the notice of the officials.

The members of an improvement association are men and women high up in the social and business affairs of the town, and yet they do not hesitate to devote their time and energy to the betterment of conditions of their fellow men, wholly without thought of monetary advantage.

Stately and attractive shade trees, well kept lawns, styles of architecture embodying artistic designs, and well kept streets are those little details that make a good town to live in, and it is for those that the improvement association is laboring.

Every man and woman aiding the improvement association in this cause is doing a work that will be of far more than pecuniary reward.

Flowers for Windows.
Not the least of the many good influences exerted by the town improvement societies is illustrated in the appearance of flower boxes before the windows of dwellings in many towns. A box hung from the window ledge costs little and can be kept filled with blossoming plants at a very slight expense and with only such pains as will be well repaid in pleasure. To the passer-by in the street such window gardens are all gain and they help greatly to beautify the town.

Look After the Schoolhouses.
When the schools close for the summer the quondam town will take advantage of the occasion to repaint and repair and get things ready for the fall and winter. Nothing hurts the looks of a town more than a dingy looking schoolhouse. It gives strangers the idea that the cause of education is secondary in that place.

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What is Life?
In the last analysis nobody knows, but we do know that it is under strict law. Abuse that law even slightly, and pain results. Irregular living means derangement of the organs, resulting in constipation, headache or liver trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills quickly redounds this. It's gentle, yet thorough. Only 25c at National Drug Store and Grants Pass Pharmacy.

Plump cheeks, flushed with the soft glow of health and a pure complexion, make all women beautiful. Take a small dose of Herbine after each meal; it will prevent constipation and help digest what you have eaten. Mrs. Wm. M. Sprout, Middlefield, Texas, writes, May 21, 1904: "We have used Herbine in our family for eight years, and found it the best medicine we ever used for constipation, bilious fever and malaria." For sale by Model Drug Store.

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"I thank Dr. Pierce for the kind advice he gave when I wrote to him."

"I am thankful to the friend who first recommended your medicines," writes Mrs. Annie M. Brock, of Smithfield, Fayette Co., Pa. "We have a twelve pound baby, three weeks old, who has been suffering from a severe cold before hay fever and the time was only one hour and a half. There are five children, and the doctor said he could not cure her child for three days, and never was able to do any work for about two months afterwards. Now we take one of my sister's to get a "Pain Balm" and it cures him in a few days. We have had two cases of hay fever since, and the doctor said he could not cure them for three days, and never was able to do any work for about two months afterwards. Now we take one of my sister's to get a "Pain Balm" and it cures him in a few days. We have had two cases of hay fever since, and the doctor said he could not cure them for three days, and never was able to do any work for about two months afterwards. 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