

DRAGGING THE ROAD

A MISSOURI FARMER'S DEVICE FOR IMPROVING THE HIGHWAYS.

How D. Ward King invented His Road Drag—Highways Put in Excellent Condition and Maintained at Small Cost by the Plan.

Probably no invention for road improvement has been talked about and written about as much as the King road drag, and it has aroused great interest among the farmers throughout the country. In the following article from Farming will be found some new and interesting facts about this method of improving country highways at small cost:

Ten years ago a Missouri farmer who had grown tired of wading through a "slough of despond" every spring when the roads were soft, and who had seen his neighbors lose time, money and patience when their wagons were hub deep in the mire or their horses tugging and straining in their harness to get a half load to market, decided that there must be some remedy for this condition. One day in thinking it over he made the astonishing discovery that what made the roads muddy was mud, and that if the road was worked into such a shape that the water would drain off instead of sinking into the ground after every rain the roads would cease to be muddy.

He rigged up a homemade contrivance out of an old wooden pump stock that the frost had spoiled and an oak post. By means of three pieces of fence board he nailed these together so that they were held parallel to each other. Then he made a rough plank platform on which to stand and by means of wire hitched his team to this clumsy affair at such a point that it would drag along over the road with a slant of about forty-five degrees.

He began with the road that ran in front of his own farm. When it was at its worst he drove up and down from his own front gate to that of his nearest neighbor. Like a huge mason's trowel smoothing off mortar, it scraped along, cutting down the inequalities and rough places and filling up the wagon ruts. He kept at it, and, after a number of draggings, in place of the flat basin that had served as a water course for every storm to settle in, he had built up a road with a crown and surface that was smooth enough to shed water "like a duck's back." In



TWO PHOTOGRAPHS, SHOWING A ROAD BEFORE AND AFTER BEING DRAGGED.

short, he simply demonstrated the soundness of his major premise, "If I can get rid of the mud the roads will cease to be muddy." The device he made he called a "split log road drag." The man who had by such simple means worked such wonders with his road is D. Ward King of Maitland, Mo.

Even after having perfected the road drag the reason that it worked this wonder was not entirely clear to its inventor until he received inspiration from observing a bog wallow. He says: "One day I noticed that water was standing in one of these wallows long after the ground all about it had become dry. Probably I had many times before observed this fact, but not until now had it occurred to me to inquire into its cause. Examining the edges of the wallow, I was impressed with the fact that it was almost as hard as a piece of earthenware. Clearly this was because the wallowing of the hogs had mixed or 'puddled' the earth and the water together, forming a kind of cement which dried into a hard and practically waterproof surface."

The cost of making and operating this drag is so small and the idea that is embodied in it is so simple that the wonder of it is that its application has not already become universal. Roads can be worked up into an excellent condition and maintained at a cost of from \$3 to \$10 a mile. The dragging accomplishes a number of useful things. The most important one is that by giving it a smooth surface and a rounding shape it makes it possible for the road to shed water instead of absorbing it. Then, too, it kills the weeds and takes out the bumps at the sides of the culverts. It also destroys the old trail and thus prevents deep ruts being formed. The time to use the drag and the manner of its use are important. Until a road has been worked into some sort of shape the first dragging should be done when it is very wet or when it is

thawed on top during the early spring. After that the time to drag is after a rainstorm or wet spell when it begins to dry out.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB.

Summer Resort Society That Secures Clean Paths and Neat Beaches.

The neighborhood improvement club idea, so popular and successful in Chicago, has spread to the summer resort, says a Bay View (Mich.) special dispatch to the Chicago Post. The Bay View Cottagers' association has been doing for the country just what the local reform clubs do for the city. It has worked for clean paths and neat beaches. It has tried to encourage the summer colony to take care of the porches and to raise garden truck in an orderly manner.

Professor W. S. McGee of the Hyde Park High school of Chicago has been the leader of the garden cult. He first made people understand that a thriving garden could be located on the sandy soil of Bay View, and his success with sweet corn and peas has inspired a host of imitators. This movement has been one of the ideas encouraged by the Cottagers' association, and it is planned to offer prizes for the best amateur garden grown next season.

When the association held its final meeting reports were read on the year's work, and it was decided that the organization should not seek any official connection with the government of the community. President J. S. Osgood of St. Louis said that in his opinion the purposes of the association were best served by keeping it unofficial, like the neighborhood improvement clubs in Chicago and other cities.

The question of muddled skirts was raised by several of the woman cottagers. They complained that it was impossible to wear white skirts or white shoes because of the muddy crossings of the main Bay View thoroughfares. The association at once turned its attention to the map of the settlement, located the offending crossings and made formal recommendation to the Bay View authorities that repair work be done at once. The crossings were fixed up before night.

Another scheme launched by the cottagers for next year is the establishment of an information bureau. This will be entrusted with the duty of seeing that strangers find quarters at Bay View without the delay and confusion that has existed in past years. It will be a sort of home finding committee.

TO INTEREST BOYS.

How a Town's Young Folks Were Enlisted For Civic Improvement.

In a letter to the American Civic association Rev. R. S. Kellerman, president of the Civic Improvement club of Bradford, Pa., tells this interesting story:

"The Bradford idea of interesting children, especially boys, in municipal matters started on one of the unpaved streets of the city. The president of the Civic Improvement club went out personally with a rake and began to clean up the rubbish. A neighbor boy saw him and came out with his rake. Then others came out. The president asked one of the boys if he had a mattock or a pick, saying that the stones that stuck up ought to be got out. There were five boys out at this suggestion with picks and rakes, working and sweating like Trojans. In a day or two the street was cleaned up nicely. The city teams came and carted the rubbish off. When it was all completed the president wrote an account of it, including in it the names of the five boys, and it was published in the daily papers.

"From this one example the thing has spread to other parts of the city. The president reports all new work, including the names of the boys, and gives it to the press, which is glad to get it and seconds every move that is made. Observation shows that boys like to do things and like to see their names in print. They will respond if suitable calls are made on them. Naturally active, they will turn their talents to good account in public undertakings if they are properly aided and encouraged."

Love For the Beautiful.

Let us learn to love and appreciate the beauty which we see around us every day. There are beautiful things everywhere. Some of us see them some do not. It all depends upon our education. A beautiful flower may grow by the wayside. One person may pass it by and not even see it, or he may trample it under foot and call it an ugly weed. Another may see the very same flower and as he looks upon it marvel at its beauty and recognize the handwork of God. One of these persons has no love for the beautiful in his soul, and the other has. That is the only difference. Some people will tell you that it is not practical to care for beautiful things, but it is practical. Life sweeter and more beautiful. It will give you the health and the happiness that is yours by loving the beautiful things that are around you.

The Southern Pacific is pushing it's work as rapidly as men can be secured. The new steel bridge over Elk creek has been completed and work has begun on the Pass creek bridge. The steel gang on the Drain-Cooks Bay road is at it with a vim. The steam shovels will soon be at work on the big cut west of town.—Gardner Gazette.

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EVERYTHING AS ADVERTISED OR A LITTLE BETTER

MEN WHO SUCCEED ARE THE WORKERS

But the Mere Getting of Riches is a Narrow Conception of Life.

In this day of commercialism and money getting, the following under the caption "Men Who Succeed," from the Financial Bulletin, of Denver, Colo., is timely and well worth remembering:

"It has been said that it is the discernment of the opportunity that makes successful men. Some men are particularly well poised in these qualities and are alert to grasp opportunities when they are presented—indeed they create them. They are fearless, assertive, positive; while others hesitate, are fearful of results and make no special effort to see beyond a narrow horizon. They do not real-

ize, perhaps that it is exercise of the mental qualities that produces activity and these grow and develop only as we persist in the work we desire to accomplish.

"The sordid, gross man believes his environment governs his life, and he makes little or no effort to free himself from these conditions. The mentally weak man likewise believes he has an affliction peculiar to himself, and he does not try to secure release from his mental attitude. It is very real to both of them and they believe in the conditions so thoroughly that their lives are lived on a dead level in keeping with what they believe to be inevitable. They are averse to the labor that is necessary to acquire success, and they would resent any attempt to arouse them from their lethargy.

"The successful man of the times in any profession or business career, and in social, religious and educational affairs, is the man who has studiously cultivated mental poise. He care-

fully chooses his course and allows no condition to impede his progress, such men are indefatigable workers—they do not recognize defeat. A knock-down is merely taken as an incentive to greater exertion. If they are broad-minded men they see only conditions to be overcome—not persons. The reward of riches to such characters is merely the by-product of their labors. They have ideals which they keep ever in view, as the sculptor works to his model. Men of this stamp are found in every walk in life. They may be successful in trades or professions, or their ideals may be found in a desire for great knowledge.

"The demands of today are for men of this latter type, and the true foundation of it all is character building. Those who have acquired great wealth say it does not satisfy—there is still something wanting. What is it? Every man will some day ask himself this question. In the eager strife for wealth he may forget it for a time, but it will not down. To be

successful in our undertakings is not only desirable, but necessary, for we are gauged largely by what we accomplish. But the mere getting of riches as the sole aim of life is after all but a narrow conception.

"The development of public sentiment towards the demand for moral rectitude is growing rapidly. We are seeing more clearly the need for clean men and clean methods. A few years ago the modern educator continually held before his pupil, as the ideal to attain to, the man who had acquired great wealth by his own effort. No questions were asked as to how he had succeeded, but the dollar-getting habit was the doctrine of the school men. These things are rapidly changing, and the rich men themselves are setting the pace. They are calling attention to the fact that the mere dollar within itself has no lasting value—it is a medium of exchange for the things desired.

"Solomon said: 'Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting, go understanding.'