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A TALE WITH A MORAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

Why a Drummer Cut a Town Off Why the City Resident Gains as His Visiting List.

EYE OPENER FOR A FARMER. LAD ROADS AFFECT MARKET.

Thought He Had Been Getting Bargains by Buying From Mail Order House. The Drummer Gave Him Something to Think About.

Half a dozen men sat in the office of the hotel in a town of the middle west. Any discerning eye that is accustomed to the observation of persons in the average town could have picked out the local merchant, the editor, the doctor and the farmer. The hotel clerk, who sat around the big stove with the others, was identified by the pen behind his ear. The other man, as anybody could see, was a drummer for a city house.

"Yes, it's pretty tough," the drummer was saying as he glanced at the farmer. "Times are good, and yet trade seems to be falling off in some places, and land around here, for instance, is not worth so much as it might be. Your town is running down at the heel, you might say. You all know I've been making this place for ten years, but I've got to cut it out. This is my last trip. Nothing doing any more."

"I reckon Bob's right, boys," said the merchant, looking blue. "We're certainly sorry he's going to quit making this town, but business is business. Eight or ten years ago I used to buy a bill of goods every time he came round that made him happy enough to dance a jig-ch, Bob?"

"You sure did, Jim," replied the drummer; "but this time my order book shows just \$27.50. The other two fellows didn't order a blooming thing. That's not worth the stop over,

"What's the matter with you fellows, Mr. Wilson?" the farmer inquired, with a glance at the merchant. As he spoke he took from his pockets a pipe, a package of tobacco and a box of matches. He proceeded to fill and light his pipe, puffing away comfortably.

"Gimme a light, Mr. Hines, will you?" the merchant requested. "My pipe's gone out; that's what's the matter with me just now." He took the proffered box of matches.

Extracting a match, he struck it on the prepared surface of the box. Very handy matches," he remarked.

"Where do you buy 'em?" The farmer looked a little shame-Inced.

"Why, 1-I bought that box in Chicago.

"Ab, I didn't know you'd made a trip to the city," said the merchant, puffing placidly.

"Well, to tell the truth, I haven't," admitted the farmer. "You see, it was this way: My women folks are great hands for reading these here catalogues and things. I happened to run across a match bargain in a catalogue, and so I sent to Chicago and got six boxesa whole package-for a dime."

"Very nice," said the merchant calmly, while Bob, the drummer, winked sly ly at him. "Yes, very nice matches, but I happen to have the same kind in stock, six boxes for 12 cents. Your stamp cost you 2 cents, and then there ere the stationery and the trouble of writing. So you didn't get much of a bargain after all. Mr. Hines."

"I reckon I didn't, Mr. Wilson," admitted the former, "but I didn't knowyou kept 'em."

"No, because you don't come around to the store like you used to I hap pen to order these matches from Bob Rhodes here."

me today you still had ten dozen of the last order on hand, you remember I think I'll smoke a little myself, Mr. Himm, if you'll kindly stake me for a pipeful of the weed."

The farmer handed over his tobacco The drummer read the label as he opened the package "Buy this by muil, tou?" he asked

"Well, you" said the farmer "You

"Yes, I see: Cost you See its a pack. nge besides the postage, the standberr and the trouble. Mr. Wisson keeps this great extent, because and people who live here and herenbours and since West of flour mill, near R. R. track
Thraing, Scroll Work Stair Work, Band
Sawing Labourt Work, Wood Pulleys, Saw
Riling and gumming, Repairing all kinds
Prices right big city to those brue and order houses and Mr Wilson I was after investments been such all the first town of the comme has an analysis Get your tonsorial work done at some your was well and boat IRA TOMPKINS' Showing the Address and Theorem Constitution of the Constitution of the

had been all the Courter office.

Much as the Farmer.

Products That Would Reach the Cities if the Highways Wers Good Are Held Back and Go Into the Hands of the Speculator.

physical condition. This s more apparent in our country roads then almost any other, says the Motor The system of road building has been faulty as well as costly. \$12 a ton. Much expense has been put upon the common roads year after year, and still there are sensons when most roads are in an unit condition for general from \$5 to \$80 per acre. purposes. This is not the fault of purose, but of mode of treatment. Much of course is due to the newness of the country and the constant demand for labor and cost in making farms, building bridges and otherwise attending to what may properly be regarded of prime importance. As the country adfor good roads becomes more insistent

A few thoughts upon this subject may not be amiss: "If the common roads of the country were brought to a condition that would enable farmers to market their products at all seasons of the year, the rost of living in town and city would be greatly lessened, and discontent among laboring people and the operatives of industrial cerns would largely decrease if it did not entirely disappear. Why and how are the two questions which must be answered

"Present road conditions compel farmers to rush their products to market as soon as harvested and when roads are at their best, since by waiting a convenient time they may not get there at all because of bad roads. This naturally congests the market, foreing low prices, to the great detriment of the producer and without appreciable benefit to the consumer, because the average family in town or city buys only in small quantities at one time, say a day's or a week's supply. What is the result?

The speculator, finding prices low and knowing that in a little while the bad roads season will be on, when competing products will be kept from the trade centers, buys up the surplus and stores it away for the day of ne cessity, when he can demand and receive his own price for his holdingsthe stuff for which men toil, which they are compelled to have at whatever cost. And when the citizen in towns the mechanic and operative of shops and factory-is forced in winter and spring to pay exorbitant prices for those articles of household accessity which went begging for buyers at low prices the preceding fall he figures the increased cost of living in comparison and grows restless and discontented The resident of the city is the gainer by good roads just as much as the

Missouri and Good Roads

There are 125,000 miles of roads in Missourf. On 10 per cent of the mile age, however, is carried 90 per cent of business transported. used breef course upon the main next eled highways, says the Motor Yews The cost of good rouds was estimated at the Chillicothe convention differe ly by different speakers: Larrady distincts imaginin In someonly at acid in the various localities. Unon Boone country came a report that gravel reads "You mean you used to order 'em." were under reastruct in at \$1.500 a corrected the drummer, "but you told mile. This was a concernative estimore. After a dirt road had been put in west gradest condition it could be hept by good condition it was demonstrated by the use of the drag a practically assumed expenses. It is not to be wondered at therefore, with its demain) for a new constitution and to the Mahing of good engineers in the convention adopted a reads to week transmit owns but one or a same brand for 10 copies I say he throwing is below up the emillectus keeps it. He thread will it to any communical with other contents in

Short May a pair at the Photo unit Music thuse Saturday afternoon, Minch 30 All popular music reBig and Sure Profit in

FRUIT RAISING In Rogue River Valley

In Eismann Bros, orchard an 18 year old Newton tree bore this last season 3712 boxes of marketable apples. In the orchard of L. L. Bennett, president of the Medford Fruit Growers Union, a 15 year old Newton tree bore 33 boxes this last season of the apples. The Grants Pass of the apples. The Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union got \$1.79 a box net on their shipment of Newton ap-ples to New York this last season The Grants other trees in the above orchards bore from 10 to 30 boxes each and as there are from 54 to 60 trees to the acre, the In many respects there is a certain value of the erop per acre would amount of crudeness in the different phases of our physical condition. This grow and put apples on the car the profit on an orchard will beat the average gold mine and far ahead of wheat at 90 cents a bushel or hay at

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