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## BETTER BUSINESS AND GOOD ROADS

Modern Methods of Building Are Now Essential.

### FARMER KING OF COUNTRY.

Yet Without Good Roads the Agricultural States Cannot Take Advantage of the Best Markets For His Produce at All Seasons of the Year.

The primary source of wealth in our agricultural states is the farm products. The margin of profit on farm products is largely affected by the relative distance to market and the conditions of the wagon roads. Without railroads the value of most farm land would not exceed one-quarter of what it is today. Wagon roads are the connecting links between the farms and the railroads, and with good roads the farmer can take advantage of the best market at all times. Every one that uses roads should be interested in having good roads. How can they be made? Shall we continue to make them by the primitive methods used by our forefathers, or shall we adopt modern methods?

Obsolete, impractical, inefficient and most expensive methods are in most places in use. Roadmaking in general has not kept pace with most other in-



A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF EARLY ROADMAKING IN THE USE OF PRACTICAL AND EFFICIENT LABOR SAVING DEVICES. The old way of working roads on a day too wet to plow corn or harvest, putting a few shovelfuls of earth in the middle of the road in heaps like a diminutive mountain range and leaving them to be leveled by the elements of nature and use, should be abandoned. Road work should be placed in the hands of competent workmen that work continuously during the suitable season with a practical power roadmaking equipment. With this ten times as much first class road can be made and finished as where old methods are used with the same amount of money. This plan works no hardship on the farmer. He is the king of the country and has enough to do on his farm without working roads.

A modern roadmaking outfit can be operated with three men at a cost of from \$15 to \$20 per day, says a writer in the Iowa Homestead, and will make a mile of finished road as smooth as a paved street. This includes the making of open ditches on the sides from one foot to four feet deep, at the pleasure of the operator.

Earth roads should have a slope each way from the center of about three-quarters of an inch to the foot on level or nearly level places; on hills it may be less. If depressions are left they hold water, and everything that touches these places makes them larger.

The supreme thing is to keep the roadbed dry, thus lessening the bad effects of frost and the cost of upkeep.

Scientific roadmaking preserves as much as possible the primitive condition of the ground—that is, in grading the road one should not plow it up like a field, but displace only what earth is necessary to bring the road to the proper grade and side slope. In observing these matters years are saved in making a perfect roadbed.

Earth roads are the most delightful of all roads when well graded and free from dust. All well graded roads can be wonderfully improved and the upkeep lessened one-half by covering the top with a coating of about two inches of sharp sand and clay in which may be mixed half crushed stone that will go through a one inch mesh. If sand and clay are used, mix in the proportion of 80 per cent of sand and 20 per cent of clay. If crushed stone is used, mix it half and half with the sand and clay mixture. This coating should be spread on and harrowed and rolled until it is thoroughly mixed and packed so as to fill all the voids, and then it will shed the water like a roof and keep your roadbed dry. In half an hour after a hard rain you will have a good road. This can be improved by sprinkling with a mixture made of crude petroleum in the proportion of one barrel of oil to three barrels of water emulsified with the soluble part or cream of clay.

A little sand improves an earth road somewhat, but when used alone it is too porous and soon washes into the ditches.

#### Merits of Macadam.

Macadam, in use for a century, is more universally used for country road paving than any other. It costs much less and is more easily repaired.

## TO REPAIR YOUR TERRACE LOOK FIRST AT THE SOIL

Brick and Stone Fragments Seriously Interfere With Sod's Growth.

When the residents of cities and suburbs are looking at their lawns with a view of repairing them for the winter and summer months it is well to examine the soil to a depth of from twelve to twenty-four inches to see if there are any bricks, tin cans, boards and other coarse building debris. The bureau of soils, United States department of agriculture, says in a farmers' bulletin that the reason that grass does not thrive well on the average city lawn is that the majority of them have a filler of this kind of rubbish, and of course grass will not grow on such infertile material.

In general a lawn should be beautiful, and it should be useful. Its beauty depends upon the contour of the land, the color and texture of the grass and the uniformity of the turf. The use of the lawn is to provide a suitable setting for architectural adornment and landscape planting.

Bricks, tin tins, boards and other coarse building debris found in nearly all small lawns in the city are very detrimental to the proper movement of soil fluid. The moisture moves downward until it encounters a brick, for instance, at a distance of three or four inches below the soil level. The water meets with no difficulty in getting to the edge of the brick and then goes nearly straight downward, thus leaving the soil immediately below the brick unsupplied from this new water influx.

Now, when the opposite movement of soil fluid begins the water moves upward until it encounters the brick, and the soil immediately above the brick, which has in the meantime dried out, remains unsupplied with moisture, so that the grass suffers and dries out.

A lawn soil should have a good supply of moisture at all times. It should be able to take care of excess during the wet season by drainage and during the dry season be able to supply stored up moisture from its depths. This adequate water supply is the principal factor in grass growth and the one most difficult to control in a poor soil. It is more important than any added fertilizer and cannot be compensated for by the addition of any amount or kind of chemical plant food.

A soil well adapted to lawns should consist of clay, silt, very fine sand, medium sand, coarse sand and fine gravel. It is this difference in the size of soil particles and in the proportions in which they are present in soils that has given rise to the different classes of agricultural soils, such as the clays, clay loams, sands and sandy loams.

Since the lawn is a permanent feature it is hardly possible to make the soil for the reception of the lawn too rich. Stable manure which has been thoroughly composted and rotted and which is as free as possible from detrimental weed seeds is undoubtedly the best material to use in producing the desired fertility of the soil. Forty to sixty loads of well decomposed stable manure are not too much to use upon an acre of land designed for the greenward.

In procuring seed for a lawn too great care cannot be exercised. Pure seed is the keynote to a clean lawn.

### CLEANLINESS AND HEALTH.

Co-operation Important in Obtaining First, Thus Insuring Latter.

Cleanliness, both personal and municipal, according to Dr. William F. Snow, secretary of the California board of health, is a matter for voluntary and intelligent co-operation rather than enforcement of law, except in flagrant cases. As a rule, it is difficult to show in specific cases that disagreeable sights, smells and sounds are directly the causes of disease. They are nuisances and are allies of disease because of the opportunities afforded various animal or vegetable carriers of disease. And just as it pays a railway company to spend large sums of money to keep its track clear of weeds so that loosened spikes may be easily detected or other conditions conducive to accident, so it will pay the people to spend money and personal effort in keeping their houses, yards and city clean and free from all removable rubbish as a measure in preventing the unrecognized approach of disease carriers.

Dr. Snow places in its right light the position of the people. The authorities can do no better health work than their constituents in the state of their hygienic education will support. The health condition of a community in a series of years is the measure of the health intelligence of the people. It is important for the people to know the truths of scientific investigation, and it is the duty of the authorities to circulate not what may be their own personal dogmas, but the established truths.

Make Parks of the Waste Places. Utilize the waste places in your city. Turn them into parks for the people. This is the advice of experts in "city beautiful" movements everywhere. Waste places serve no good purpose. They are frequently a danger and menace to the health and are always unpleasant to look upon. By transforming them into parks two good ends are attained. They no longer can be used as dumping grounds for refuse and become instead of real service as a recreation spot for the public. The cost of this transformation is negligible, and every community should consider the question and the benefits that will accrue.

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