



SUPERIOR RURAL ROAD WORK

Suggestions to Communities for the Construction and Maintenance of Country Highways.

That full value may be received for the money appropriated for road purposes and that the best results obtainable may be secured it is essential that the right man shall be placed in charge of road work. He should be selected not only because he actually knows more about good roads than any other person in the community, but also because he can get the best results from the money furnished. It is not sufficient, however, to let the matter rest with the appointment of a road overseer. He should receive the whole-hearted support of the community in the work. It should be seen to that under the conditions and with the money furnished the community is getting what it has a right to expect in the way of road improvement. It is well to remember that if for any reason an incompetent man is placed in charge of the work the responsibility for failure rests upon the community. There should be no other consideration, therefore, in selecting a road overseer than that of securing a man with the ability to perform the duties required. It should be realized that good roads have much to do with the prosperity of a community and that united action in the right direction is the surest and quickest way to secure them.

Where the road overseer has had but little experience in road work, or where some new and difficult problem is presented to the experienced man, the office of public roads and rural engineering of the U. S. department of agriculture when requested, will offer advice and suggestions for carrying on the work and how best to overcome the difficulties.

To secure a satisfactory road of any type, it is absolutely necessary to remember: First, drainage; second, drainage; and third, drainage. The earth road, properly cared for, will answer satisfactorily for the traffic of many rural sections that cannot afford the better types of roads; but the earth road must be well drained. After this fact is well understood, two other requirements may be taken up—the location of the road and the reduction of grades to a general average of 5 per cent.

With the exception of sandy roads, which are easiest for traveling when damp, all roads must have proper side ditches to carry away the surface water. In order to lead this surface water to the ditch, the road surface must have a crown, or rounded roof, highest in the center and sloping toward the side ditches. A very easy and satisfactory way to keep earth, clay, and gravel roads crowned, by the use of the split-log drag, is explained in Farmers' Bulletin 597, copies of which may be obtained upon application to the department.



An Improved Road in Pennsylvania.

After the road has been crowned and the crown is kept in condition by the wise use of the road drag, it should be seen to that ditches are kept free from weeds, etc., and that they are deep enough to carry off the water which runs into them. In most cases a wide, shallow ditch is best. Deep ditches are dangerous to traffic. At spaces of every few hundred feet along the roadway a culvert of some kind should be placed to carry away the water which has gathered in the ditches.

A road properly built generally will not have an average grade of more than 5 per cent. By "per cent of grade" is meant the number of feet the road rises or "climbs" for every 100 feet of its length.

Every Farmer Concerned.
The improvements of good roads and ditches is a matter which concerns every farmer who desires to increase the value of his land or the farm property of the community in which he resides as a whole.

Longevity in French Villages.
A remarkable record of longevity is to be found in some of the rural parishes of France. In the village of St. Thomas de la Fliche there have been only fourteen parish priests in three hundred years, the fourteenth being still in possession. The parish of St. Germain du Val, in Paris, has had only three pastors in one hundred years, while that of Givry en Argonne has had but five in 130 years.

The Wedding Ring.
The wedding ring is of foremost interest to the groom and a new wedding ring is to be had, called the "balance ring." This appears to be one solid ring, but is actually two, the joints being invisible, and whenever engraved, the ring is separated by inserting a pin in the inside pinhole, which separates the ring and the marking is done on the inside surface.

Never Comes Back.
The hair is one thing, according to a scientist, "that never comes back."
—Rochester Democrat.

DAIRY FACTS

RULES FOR FILLING A SILO

Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station Offers Some Excellent Suggestions on the Work.

To farmers who are filling silos this year for the first time, the Iowa agricultural experiment station offers these suggestions:

The corn should be cut when the kernels are dented, or when about a fourth of the husks and lower leaves are turning brown. It should be as near maturity as possible and yet contain enough moisture to insure fermentation.

Either a half-inch of three-quarter-inch cut is best because that length insures less waste and a larger pack of corn in the silo.

Slow filling makes it possible to pack the corn more thoroughly and get in a larger tonnage. With rapid filling the cost is less, but to fill to capacity the silage should be allowed to settle and then refill.

Corn should be uniformly packed in the silo and with good distribution of stalks and ears. If the sides are kept about two feet higher than the center, the silage wedges against the sides, keeps in the heat of fermentation and kills molds.

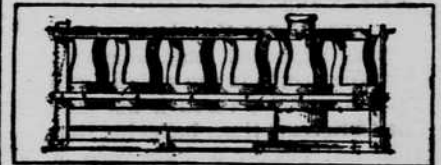
Water needs to be added when filling if the corn in the silo is not moist. Water must always be added when the corn is very ripe, when the corn is severely frozen before it is properly matured, or when filling late in the fall with shocked corn.

Keep the sides of the silo air-tight by filling cracks with soft clay, if the silo is wooden, or with cement if of masonry.

USEFUL MILK BOTTLE HOLDER

Corrugated Strips Riveted to Intermediate Frame Hold Narrow-Necked Vessels in Position.

There are upper and lower rectangular frames to a milk bottle case, recently patented by a young San Francisco inventor. Corner angles unite the two frames, and intermedi-



Milk Bottle Holder.

ate frame is secured to the corner angles. A longitudinal bar is riveted to the middle frame near the center. Corrugated strips are riveted to the intermediate frame and the longitudinal bar, these holding the milk bottles in place by acting as side supports. Various deviations of the main idea are covered with three other patents.

Daily sells for less.

SERIOUS DISEASE OF CALF

White Scours Usually Appear Within Two or Three Days After and Are Often Fatal.

White scours, or calf cholera, come on so soon after birth that often the calves are dead before they are considered to be seriously sick.

This disease usually appears within two or three days after the calf is dropped. Seldom do any cases develop after the calf is two or three months old.

The symptoms are usually failure to eat, the calf lying down much of the time, the eyes grow dull, and a peculiar pasty white excretion is noticeable. The calf often dies within 24 hours. Only immediate attention will save it.

The disease is usually contracted by infection through the navel cord. Prevention is better than cure.

HORSE LABOR IS NECESSARY

Many Important Factors Can Be Controlled by Manager in Making Dairy Farming Successful.

Horse labor is a necessary item on the dairy farm and should command much attention from the manager. If its efficiency drops the profits of the farm are decreased, and the profits from the cows must bear a loss in the horse-labor item. It is seen then that successful dairying is not making a success with cows alone, but profitably combining a number of factors. Man, labor and crop yields per acre are other important factors that can be controlled to a considerable extent by the manager.

Pastor's Merited Rebuke.
When Samuel S. Colber was preaching in an old log schoolhouse in Johnson county, Missouri, in 1852, his congregation was quite small. One Sunday all were sitting at the desks forward near the pulcheton floor. The sermon was monotonous and the old log seats had no backs. Observing the sleepy, downcast look of the congregation, the minister woke them up by shouting: "Hush, heaven is not under the floor!"

Have You Noticed These?
An inventor in America has earned the thanks of all who have been seeking after a really sanitary form of kissing. In certain parts of that great country, when young ladies go to parties and places where they kiss, they are provided with a sterilized ivory ring, mounted on a silver handle. This is interposed between the kisser and the kissee, and the resulting sensation is known as "pasteurized pleasure," or "germless joy."—London Answers.

Work Worth Cultivating.
The art of selling is a very important one, and should not be neglected by any young man who intends to go into business, even if he does not expect to be a salesman. He will certainly have to sell his own services, and that is one of the hardest tasks that any young man can undertake.—Dean Johnson, New York University.

Chase's for fresh groceries.

AND THE REINDEER CAME.

What They Brought Up to the Home of the Little Rich Girl.

"An—an" the teacher said, "lisped the baby of the rich, "there was reindeer hitched to sleighs full of dolls and toys and things, running over tops of houses on the night before Christmas."
"Yes," the proud father answered, "the teacher was right. They drove over your house last night, and Santa Claus unloaded a whole Christmas tree full of things for you."
They carried the little rich girl down the wide marble stairway to the oak paneled library on the first floor. There, between stained glass windows, was a ceiling high Christmas tree, glowing with toy crowns. Snettland ponies, fairies with jeweled clothes and knobby parcels in delicate wrappings, concealed in the evergreen branches. Some one turned a switch, which lighted the tree.

A tiny box hung far out on a green branch, which the rich baby's father detached and opened. The baby bent over it with an uncomprehending look. It contained gold pieces. Left to her self, she went up to the miniature house and doll family within her reach under the tree. There was the doll mother hovering over bisque children, who sat in tiny baby chairs. The house had curtains, carpets, a kitchen, real stairs and a nursery. The baby stood before it in wonderment.

Then she spied prancing reindeer attached to a toy sleigh, the back of which was filled with games, with ducks which bobbed their heads while they said "Quack," and little doll go-carts, which had lace covers and sun shades.

The morning or the afternoon of Christmas day and many other mornings and afternoons were not long enough for the baby to examine and play with all the toys and gifts which that stalwart tree held for her.
"An—an" the teacher said, "added the rich baby, "that sometimes the reindeer and the sleigh stopped for only a minute at a chimney, to leave one toy, an' sometimes—sometimes he did not stop at all."—New York Evening Post.

A Happy Tree.
"Oh, look at me!"
"Bang the Christmas tree—
A jolly young evergreen—
"I'm dressed up here
For a show, that's clear,
And I'm anxious to be seen.
To grow in a wood
Is very good—
Of air you've a trifle more—
But I declare
It cannot compare
To a block of the parlor floor!
You may stand in the cold
Till a century old,
Not a blossom to speak of comes,
But here in an hour
I'm all in flower
With mittens and dolls and drums,
I know so well—
And aren't to tell—
So much that I'm like to burst;
There's a mystery hung
Or a secret swung
On each branch from last to first.
How I'd love to shout
All my feelings out!
But I daren't even cough;
And just the half
Of a great big laugh
Would shake all my candles off.
So I have to hide
All the fun inside
Till I'm full as I can be.
Whatever folks say,
I'm king of the day!"
Bang the jolly Christmas tree.
—Youth's Companion.

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