By Williams

Plans for Federal Road System Involve Wasteful Duplication

From Chicago Journal of Commerce.

On the first day of the special session of congress, Representative Holaday, republican, of Illinois, introduced a bill providing that the federal government construct a national network of hard roads, at a cost of \$5,000,000,000. The \$5,000,000,000 would be collected from owners of automotive vehicles, partly through a federal license fee, and partly through a federal tax on gasoline.

If the bill in its major outlines is decidedly interesting, some of its comparatively minor provisions are not less so. The bill would impose upon the federal government, our central government at Washington, the duty of coming to the outskirts of New York, Boston, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Denver, Seattle, Oakland, New Orleans, Newark, Jersey City, Rochester, and every other sizeable city, and there providing at least a specified

number of roads of a specified width. The bill also seems to contemplate a national highway system as having some essential relation to the political structure of the country; the routes of the system would connect the capitals and the principal cities of every state with Washington. Why should concern be expressed for the capitals? Why should Springfield, Ill., be favored above Peoria, Ill., or Lansing, Mich., above Grand, Rapids, Mich., or Madison, Wis., above Oshkosh, Wis.? And why should the national capital, Washington, be favored above Baltimore or Pittsburg, each of which is much more populous and much more important economically?

Again, the bill authorizes and encourages the absorption of a large mileage of existing state and county roads into the new national system, the state or the county to be wholly reimbursed for the original cost of the road. Conceive what a rush there would be to unload state and county roads upon the federal treasury!

The Holaday bill is not needed. No bill authorizing a national system of roads is needed. Good roads are being developed as fast as the territory they serve can support them. Already there has been too much construction of concrete roads through red sand and forlorn stumps and marginal farm-land. Such a region manifestly cannot bear the expense; and so the expense is transferred to the whole state. But this transference does not make the road any the less uneconomical.

True enough, state aid is desirable when the new road will bestow its principal benefit on the through traffic; examples in point are the construction of an essential part of a main highway through a sparsely populated rural region, or the construction of wide roads at the rims of cities; but in most cases no roads are necessary beyond what the counties can afford to build out of their own resources. State aid, and the federal aid which has heretofore been supplied, have encouraged unnecessary construction. Every mile of road built means a mile of road that must be maintained at heavy cost. To build an unnecessary road is like building a railway line which the region cannot sustain. It merely adds to the fixed charges of the land and of the governmental bodies which must bear the burden of the bond issue and of the maintenance cost.

Arguments which are valid against much of the present state aid are doubly valid against an extension of the federal aid system. The federal aid in the past has been regarded as in some sort a recompense for the onerous tax which the federal government formerly imposed upon automotive vehicles. The condition of roads in the United States is so advanced that no extension of the federal aid is desirable. Assuredly the establishment of a \$5,000,000,000 national highway network, paid for by new federal license fees and a federal gasoline tax, is entirely uncalled for. The grandiose conception embodied in this bill will not be authorized by law at any time in the next few years if national opinion remains opposed to rash experi-

Inventory of Knowledge.

From Brooklyn Standard Union. The oldest learned society in the United States, the American Philosophical society of Philadelphia, has raised the question of the meaning and worth of knowledge. Through a committee of 42, drawn from all departments of education and thought, it seeks to take stock of our present intellectual equip-Especially, it desires to find whether the accumulation of scientific fact and formula has confused the fundamental problem, which is

the problem of living. In this search the committee will doubtless realize that the report nust be made in terms within the grasp of those for whose sake the solution is sought. The answer to the question, "Is life worth living?" must be in language understood by the questioner. Otherwise it is no

Happily it is the distinguishing

Like Father-

Father: Why were you kept in at Son: I didn't know where the Azores were.
Father: In the future just remember where you put things.

Q. My husband was John Hunter Smith, Jr., until the death of his father a short time ago. His mother is still living. He has dropped the Jr. What inscription should my visiting cards bear? D. D.

A. Your cards should read, Mrs. John Hunter Smith, His mother should have Sr. added to hers, or amie the Christian names

mark of vital truths that they are simple. This applies to every side of man's nature.

The Parthenon, now rebuilding upon the Acropolis at Athens, remains one of the masterpieces of architecture. Its chaste charm and impressiveness evoke the response of all beholders. The lines of the Gothis cathedral, with arches like the natural aisles of a forest, its buttresses following the lines of natural re-enforcement, are as beautiful to the peasant worshipers as to the imagination of the artist who created them.

In literature, the things that live in the hearts of mankind are such miracles of simplicity as Goethe's "Song of a Wanderer at Night" or Burns' "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonny Doone," or the story of Penelope with her embroidery frame, awaiting the return of Ulysses and ripping the stitches so as to postpone fulfillment of her

> Leave the Door Open. From Answers.

She: While you are asking daddy I'll play something jolly on the pi-

He: I shouldn't. Some people can't keep their feet still when they

Q Do ivy vines damage walls? H.

A. They do not injure walls. They cling by means of tiny vacuum cups on the ends of rootlike tendrils, which after the cups are securely attached, contract, drawing the ivy close to the surface of the wall. conditional promise to the suitors; or the death of Porthos in "The Three Musketeers," as he holds back the great rock to let his comrades through and is crushed be-cause, even for his giant strength, he finds the rock "too heavy—too

Mozart with his singing themes, Shubert as lyric as the birds, and Beethoven, who combined as no other simplicity with strength and directness with emotional depth, re-

directness with emotional depth, recently were voted among the preferred composers bp a far-flung radio audience that represented the musical tastes of the nation.

In painting, what picture has won the liking of the people all over the world as swiftly or has held it so long as Millet's "Angelus" with its two rugged figures bowing their two rugged figures bowing their heads over the field in which their day's work was done? How simple is the composition! How complete and poignant the message! And truth, as the Greeks insisted,

ought to be like beauty, direct and universal in its appeal. Indeed it always has been such. The quotation from St. Matthew that has been taken as a text is a memorable example. Another is the sentence of three words with which Christ announced Himself: "Lo.

We need not fear that the mere heaping up of specialized knowledge will ever change the language of the heart and conscience, which will be hereafter, as it always has been, in words of one syllable, as the saying is. Before the simplicity of faith and sincere desire mere knowledge is humbled.

Home "Night Clubs."

From Milwaukee Journal. Texas Guinan, acquitted by a New York jury on a prohibition charge, effervesces like a pitcher of Salon Royale gingerale: "Light up your life with a smile," she says. "Make your home a night club. Make your family your audience and play-Now that's an idea. Tex' tech-

nique would fit so perfectly into the great American home.

Mother, bedecked like a circus
performer, meets Dad at the coor
with a toothsome grin: "Hello, suck-

she says.

Dad responds with a merry: "You got me wrong, kid; I'm the big batter and yegg man from Chicago. They take Dad's hat and coat and give him a check. Junior collects a \$12 cover charge. Phyllis hands him a paper hat and a horn. Dinner is served-lobster, cream tart, coffee; an effervescent something in a pitcher; ice cubes in glasses; ginger ale at \$2 a bottle. The maid collects \$48.90, not including the tip.

Cheap at half the price. The family adjourns to the drawing room. Mother sits on the baby grand, Junior dashes off a chord or two and swings into "Alabama Moon." Phyllis tentatively kicks a pendant out of the chandelier, then gyrates, pivots and turns a hand spring. Dad tinkles the ice in his glass and yells: "Whoopee, baby, get hot! Get hot!"

So they are playmates, this happy American family. The night, alone outside in the dark and cold, slinks blackly by. A rosy fingered dawn blushes in the east. Mother's smile wanes; Junior's syncopating fingers falter like a car running out of gas, then linger over almost forgotten chords. Phyllis throws away her cigarets. Mother plops down from off the top of the piano. Dad tacks over from the davenport. They entwine arms around four shoulders.

"Now Junior," says Dad, "bear down with the barber shop tenor." Soulfully they sing: "Sweet A-d-o-line, Sweet A-d-o-line." And, as the day breaks, the happy family

totters off to bed.
Yes, it's a grea tidea. By all means, let's make every home into Q. When was the city of Montreal

founded? H. W. A. It was founded May 17, 1642.

Q. What became of Columbus' chains? P. A. L.

A. Columbus was carried back to Spain after his third voyage and during the trip, he was such a sor-rowful figure and the captain of the vessel had so much respect for him that he wanted to remove the chains but Columbus refused saying that they were put on by orders of Their Majesties and they must be removed the same way. Of course when he reached Spain and was ordered freed, his request that they be given him was granted and his grandson writes that they never left him. It was his dying request that they be buried with him and this was done

as a regulator

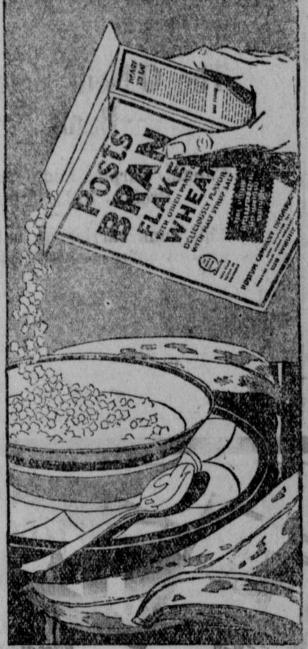
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Trace the Source of

Queen of Sheba's Gold The ruins of Zimbabwe in Mashonaland, southern Rhodesia, are interesting and extensive and but little is known of them, although it is more than possible that they have some important bearing on the early history of man, Accordingly an English expedition is about to investigate the ruins from a scientific standpoint. It is thought to be possible that they will find some explanation

of the source of the 120 talents of gold which the queen of Sheba presented to Solomon, and some of the other wealth of that time. The gold mines of Rhodesia were worked during an era corresponding to the reigns of those monarchs, and many relics found in the temples and other ruined buildings are distinctly Asiatic. Zimbabwe was the mythical "dead

city" of Sir Rider Haggard's "She." It also figures in his other novels. "Allan Quatermain," and "King Solomon's Mines." The natives regard it with superstitions fear. These facts have helped make it a city of mystery and conjecture.

The prices of cotton and linen have been doubled by the war. Lengthen their service by using Red Cross Ball Blue in the laundry. All grocers.-Adv.

Sardinia May Grow Cotton Cotton can be grown in Sardinia.

the Italian ministry of national economy has just proved by experiments which it considers encouraging. The yield on arid land selected for the experiment was about three quintals of cotton per acre. As Italy is engaged in a program of raising everything possible within its borders in order to decrease the amount of imports from abroad, it is implied that further attention will be given to the raising of cotton, of which Italy is a heavy buyer. (A metric quintal is about 220 pounds.)

The Only Way

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"There's a rumor that the gost has been retired in favor of the electric

Best escape from the alarm clock is to get into a business that doesn't

Within the Reach

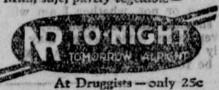
of every woman-health and strength. They're brought to you by Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which is sold by druggists. It will build up, strengthen and invigorate the "run-down," nervous, or delicate woman. One who has used it re-marked:—"I am well acquainted with Dr. Pierce's remedies. I know all about the 'Favorite Prescription' and the Golden Medical Discovery. These remedies saved me at a critical time in my life when I was beginning to

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