

The Norfolk Weekly News-Journal... THE HUSE PUBLISHING COMPANY...

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GOOD EARTH ROADS. Cheaper Than Other Highways and Easy to Build. GOOD DRAINAGE A NECESSITY

The lessons drawn from last week's primaries are as contrary as the sects of the christian religion.

One marked result of the airship business is to make a big increase in the supply of kindling wood.

A new graft hunt begins in New York, where the robbers are or should be in session night and day.

It would be putting a hobble skirt on Uncle Sam to elect a democratic congress and thereby create a deadlock.

Bob LaFollette won in Wisconsin all right, and it will take quite a high plug hat to hold his pompadour cut next winter.

The fellow who tried to inflame Teddy into the Ananias club at Fargo got his lodge dues paid for a free ride on the goat.

Secretary MacVeagh says the size of paper money should be reduced. It will come very hard to be so short of the long green.

Raw fruit should be washed, 'tis said. The small boy would be willing to do it with lemonade after the fruit has got down.

We are confident that by October 1 people will be enough rested from their vacations so that they can make regular office hours.

Just how does the Outlook get paid for the Roosevelt tour, when Teddy permits the dailies to scoop him regularly on his speeches?

San Francisco has raised \$17,000,000 to get the Panama fair, but they can hardly have seen the latest market quotations on senators.

A tipples hotel is making a big success in London. So it would everywhere. Only a few people like to pay two prices for everything.

We can foresee a phenomenal increase in the cost of living in five years, for aviation permits from the life insurance companies.

According to the taste of good cooks, the United States under The Hague decision gets a lemon to squeeze on its Newfoundland fish.

Champ Clark, if elected speaker, will drive a team of Missouri mules down Pennsylvania avenue. But how about the 396 mules of the house?

The daily hint from Paris is the kick out of doors administered to some reporter who asks when Abruzzi and Miss Elkins are to be married.

Hearst wants to tie up with Roosevelt, but it is doubtful if his life on the bowery enables the yellow kid to ride a bucking broncho.

John Moissan completed his Paris-London airship trip in three weeks. It usually takes that long for one to get up courage for the London fog.

Five out of twelve members of the committee have voted Mr. Ballinger out, but he will hardly have to sleep out of doors tonight until the whole committee acts.

There is a prevailing impression that some of these machines which Uncle Sam put into his legislation factory cost more than the hand work which they displaced.

After reading through the Newfoundland decision three times, we are unable to tell whether Sunday morning fish balls should be fried with pork or not.

An Englishman carries off aviation honors at the Harvard meet, but it is doubtful if he could make first base while a home run was being captured from over the right field fence.

Do you notice how the majority of the aviators of a year ago have given up flying for construction work, thus building up their own bank account at the expense of the surgeon's?

The man who buys an automobile to keep up with the social swim, will be down with the rest of the plikers in a year or two, as he sees the Gotoroxes sailing by in their aeroplanes.

After the colonel has the constitution properly amended, we have a few still more difficult propositions for him to tackle. One is the code of laws regarding the wearing of dress suits.

The census shows the cities are growing faster than ever. If we all swap the shovel and hoe to look at

Four men in every six use tobacco in civilized countries. Savages are not as hungry for it.

If Dr. Cook had buried himself instead of his records it would have caused less trouble.

It seems about as hard for Katherine Elkins to get married as for King Menelik to die.

The new comet was too late in flying; the campaign is too far advanced for it to cut much ice.

Handsome girls are seldom left. That is the reason so many men think they are just about right.

An old Scottish proverb says: "Give your tongue maid holidays then your head." Many people would do well to follow it more closely.

The women who wear tube skirts are not necessarily tubercular, but almost any man is willing to tell what he thinks they are.

A young housekeeper is authority for the statement that nothing will dissipate true love more quickly than the smell of boiling cabbage.

Wisconsin has nominated a dead man for attorney general. A little later it will be discovered that many who were nominated were dead ones.

Bob Evans has no use for airships in time of war. An up to date Dreadnaught on the ocean waves manned by Uncle Sam's sailor boys is good enough for Fighting Bob.

Considering the testimony that Dr. Crippen's wife was poisoned, the doctor seems to have made good diagnosis in deciding that a sea voyage was necessary for his health.

Emperor William now has moved into his fifty-first palace, but until the taxpayers of Germany wake up to his destination, he will have to sleep out in the bush the other week.

The United States is trying to collect a little bill of six and a half millions from Cuba. If Cuba owes us six and one-half millions, how much is our bill against the Philippines?

Professor James' spirit is said to be talking, but it would seem as if it would get the pictures hung and carpets tacked down in the new tenement before writing many letters back here.

Several western governors marched out of the conservation congress. No modern politician is equipped for battle until he is a licensed chauffeur for a conservation movement of his own.

Mr. Gaynor seems to be booked to run for governor of New York. No man of his talents can be allowed to keep on hiring the school marms and running the road scraper for a little village like New York.

The United States loses the principal point on the Newfoundland fisheries case, but all the fish in dispute are not worth what an hour or two of war would cost had not arbitration come in to settle such disputes.

The Vermont republican majority of 1908 was whittled down nearly a half Tuesday, but the little raindrops were a more potent opponent than such vestiges of the democratic party as survive among the Green mountains.

Kaiser Wilhelm is having trouble with some of the progressive German women of his empire, who not only demand the vote but also insist that military conscription be extended to them. The spirit of the English suffragette is evidently contagious.

Young King Manuel of Portugal, not long since made a tour of Europe seeking a royal wife, but found none. Now it is advertised abroad that the poor boy king has scarcely a lease on his throne which may account for the shyness of the royal damsels.

Twenty students of Stanford university have agreed to subsist on dried apples indefinitely to enable the government experts to determine the effect on their health. It is to be hoped that they will indulge in water sparingly if they wish to survive the peculiar experiment.

Alaska has more gold than California and Colorado; more copper than Montana and Arizona; more coal than Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio; and more fish than all other American waters combined. This is a country well worth looking after. In this opinion we are supported by Messrs. Morgan and Guggenheim.

Very general regret is expressed all throughout the west that the government makes no provision for the families of forest rangers who lose their lives in fighting fire. A man who fights fire is quite as necessary to the protection of the public and quite as courageous as the soldier

THE ILLINOIS PRIMARY. In the Illinois primary election the democrats who voted for Lorimer are most all renominated and Lee O'Neill Brown, recently acquitted of bribery in connection with Lorimer's election, is named again for the state legislature. Would the primary reformers claim that this is vindication of the primary as a nominating system? Is it probable that Brown could have been nominated in a convention?

The funniest humor is the unintentional kind, the best comedy that which has never been rehearsed. For instance, a chautauqua lecturer reached his date at 7:30 and had to get his supper, shave and dress before 8:15. He dressed in great haste and failed to give the proper attention to his suspender buttons. The result was plainly visible to the audience as was also a bit of his dress shirt. His lecture was serious, dignified and beautiful and so appealed to his audience, that his ludicrous appearance passed without comment until at its close the manager announced that the next number would be given in two weeks by Dr. Robert McIntyre, his celebrated lecture on "Buttoned-Up People." And the speaker never knew why the audience received the announcement with shrieks of laughter.

THAT DYKE. Apparently the protection of the property of Norfolk business men from the danger of overflow in the Northfork is a matter of small concern to the city administration. Just at present water in the Northfork is being lowered at the milldam to put in a concrete reinforcement, and it has been previously pointed out that this would be an ideal time for the city to protect the business portion of the town by concrete reinforcement of the old and probably treacherous earth dyke. But the city administration hasn't deemed this of sufficient importance to be given consideration. At the rate the paving job was got under way, perhaps we may expect action on the dyke by 1913.

CONDEMNS DEMOCRATIC ACT. R. L. Metcalfe, associate editor of Bryan's Commoner and himself recently a candidate before the primaries for democratic nomination for the United States senate, has come out against Dahلمان, the democratic nominee for governor, on the ground that the republicans nominated Dahلمان.

Mr. Metcalfe, one of the leading democrats of the state, thus repudiates the primary law as enacted by the last democratic legislature and signed by a democratic governor. He brands as a fraud the law which the democrats gave us as an election reform method.

Practically all of the democratic legislation save this has already been declared void by the supreme court. And now the leading democrats themselves condemn this one remaining act as a fraud.

What claim has the democratic party in Nebraska to further confidence in a legislative way?

CATTLE SHOW SEASON. The county fairs are now at their zenith of holiday making. The heavy orators of boards of trade and chambers of commerce and state legislators, when pleading for subscriptions and appropriations for these country festivals, set them forth in solemn and dignified light as a people's college, pondering upon the weightiest problems of agricultural science.

Perhaps they ought to be so. But the man who knows the real country knows that they perform many other services besides displaying the fattest cattle and the woolliest sheep.

Country life at its best tends to a dull routine. No one who has ever seen a bunch of farmers' wives and daughters at a cattle show, but must feel in sympathy with this high light of color and jollity amid the grey monotone of life on the back roads.

A festival like this, reuniting friends from different villages, teeming with all types of human life, alive with athletics and fakirs, spreading jollity and comradeship about the cross roads, has many values other than the display of economic progress.

BURKETT'S SPEECHES. Senator Burkett has made a number of noteworthy speeches in the Third congressional district of Nebraska this week. He has given utterance to ideas which must command at once the attention and the respect of the people of this state. His addresses have been clean cut and of so high a calibre as to deserve not only state, but national thought.

The senator has pointed out the need of political parties in order that the people may intelligently and effectively put into action the policies

which they desire; he has shown the benefit of the protective tariff system to the farmer, pointing out how idle factories in 1893 meant 8-cent corn; he has come to the defense of the new Payne-Aldrich tariff law, under which the government's revenues have increased by millions of dollars, under which our trade with the Philippines has increased 84 percent and which has been declared by no less personages than President Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt to be the best tariff law that has yet been enacted; he has shown how local interests conflict in the making of a tariff law so that no part of the country ever can be completely satisfied with any tariff law; but he likes the present one so much better than that of the democrats in 1893 when the country went to the poorhouse that he sees wisdom in continuing the republican party in power and giving the president a chance to work out his new tariff commission plan, which will revise one schedule at a time. The senator pointed out the great work that the government under the present administration is doing toward more scientific farming. In this Senator Burkett has played an important part.

THE TAFT LETTER. As the formally chosen head of the republican party, President Taft has accepted the mandates of the party at large, as expressed in the recent primaries and state conventions, and as a result has made it known that hereafter there shall be no difference, so far as federal patronage is concerned, between "progressive" republicans and "regular" republicans. All will be received and treated alike at the white house by the party's leader.

This conclusion was caused by the fact that in some states "regulars" have been nominated for congress, while in other states so-called "progressives" have been named by republican primaries. The president accepted these returns as showing that the republican party contained various shades of political belief, as a party, one shade being endorsed in one locality and another elsewhere. Therefore he accepts them all as republicans upon an equal footing and asks that, the primary battles having been fought, all factions bury the hatchet for the sake of the party's success at the fall elections. It is for the fall elections to determine, he says, whether or not the party is to renitiate or to perpetuate its bitter factionalism.

The president realizes the danger that in some localities the bitterness has been so keen that reunion is difficult, but even in those localities he believes it is possible and he urges all republicans, of whatever shade of belief, to get together for the party's stake in the coming vote.

The president is in the midst of his administration. Important legislation is pending. Without a republican congress, nothing of consequence can be done for the country in the way of legislation during the next two years. It behooves, therefore, the republican party to stand together and vote as republicans in the coming battle at the polls.

A COMPLIMENT TO TAFT. The meeting between President Taft and former President Roosevelt at New Haven, brought about at the request of Roosevelt as a means of giving him increased prestige in his New York fight against the old guard, was one of political significance in many ways. It was the second time the two men had met since Roosevelt left and Taft entered the white house. It was the first time they had met since Colonel Roosevelt had given out statements at Cyster Bay reflecting upon the president and declaring that the colonel might find it his pleasure to enter the race in 1912 for the presidency. In that statement Roosevelt had declared that Taft had "sold out to the old guard in New York for the sake of the 1912 delegation," and the president felt keenly this insinuation, proved to be untrue by the president's letter to Griscom outlining his attitude in detail as to the New York fight. The old cordiality, once so pronounced between these two statesmen, was lacking and that their relations can never again be the same, was apparent.

The meeting was barren of results, so far as it concerned any change of attitude upon the part of the president toward the New York fight. He has felt that New York is not his state and that any fight within that state is to be fought for itself. In his letter a few days ago he made it clear that republicans will all look alike to him in the future, "progressives" and "regulars," and he could not with consistency bring the power of his great office to mix up in a squabble for control of the New York state convention. The president has made it clear that he is in sympathy with a movement looking toward primary nominations for congressmen and state legislators, but he is not ready to admit the advisability of doing away with the convention system on state officers. He understands that both Governor Hughes and the former president are in accord with his views on this subject, and if results in certain instances in Nebraska and Illinois may be taken as a criterion, the president shows una-

dererated wisdom in this attitude. But while the conference did not result in anything definite regarding the New York situation, the very request for a conference coming from Roosevelt, with the idea of gaining moral advantage from such a meeting, was a compliment to Taft and must have been appreciated by him, as was stated in the Associated Press dispatches, inasmuch as he had reason to feel previously that his administration and its very existence was being ignored.

That Colonel Roosevelt is regarded as an active candidate for 1912 was indicated in the dispatch, which said that the colonel let a hint drop that after the New York convention, there will be "something doing." President Taft's attitude regarding 1912 is that he is willing to run if the party desires it and thinks that he can be elected; but that he is at present occupied with carrying out the party's platform pledges, and that he is not out hunting delegates.

AROUND TOWN. And a week ago we had to have a furnace fire.

Norfolk could stand two new depots without crying its eyes out.

It took long enough to get started, but Norfolk is really paving.

You couldn't very much blame a straw hat for coming back this sort of weather.

You can always tell it by looking at her when a woman has been to the hair dresser.

A Norfolk boy has saved up more than \$20 from what he's been paid for caddyng on the golf links this summer.

Is there any odor on earth to be compared with that which rises from the back yard of a country hotel in the summer time?

The chorus girl on the "Miss Nobody From Starland" billboards, is some looker when compared to those bloomer baseballists.

A few years ago the hitching post problem was a serious one in every town in the agricultural district. Now it's a matter of garages.

Wouldn't it scald you that a library board meeting would have to be called for the very hour when the board members, for the sake of health and long life, ought to be out playing golf? That's what it is to have a library board president who has grown old.

A Norfolk woman who recently went east, took off her hair puffs on the Pullman car, because it was so hot. She laid the hair in the seat, and while she was out of the seat for a moment the porter tossed the hair out of the window. Moral: You should give the porter a tip about hair puffs before you put 'em down.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS. Did you ever hear a polite bride and groom joke that was funny?

What has become of the old-fashioned woman who went "calling?"

Lots of people probably say of you: "I'd hate to have his disposition."

A sunny disposition is like anything else; it can be overdone.

Even their enemies must admit that the progressive are progressing.

Some dead beats manage to line a lot of good people up in their defense.

There is one thing a woman has the most perfect confidence in; her "taste."

One can get a lot of comfort out of an old overcoat when he can't afford a new one.

A man should not brag about how few baths he takes, or how small his laundry bill is.

When you try to act smart, people say, "He's putting that on," but it's real with T. R.

The biggest failure in town is said to have broken the hearts of three unusually nice Atchison girls.

When an attempt at suicide fails, do you think the big bookkeeper charges it up to profit or to loss?

The fact that everyone makes mistakes doesn't particularly recommend them.

A man cuts just about as much figure at his wedding as he does when his first baby is born.

An Atchison gossip denies that she gossips; she says she is simply a student of human nature.

Some men defame themselves just to hear their wives say: "Now you know that isn't true, dearest."

You know what is happening to a man when he complains bitterly of the injustice of gossip; he's getting a dose.

The men who stand for the conservation of natural resources—do not seem willing to apply the same theory to talk.

There is a colored man on North Third street we are very proud of; we like to walk by his house, and point

to him with pride; he runs his women folks.

Is there not one man in the world in the wrong? We have ever met one.

When a man consents to act as a policeman he always believes he will be chief within a year; probably within six months.

An Atchison man keeps clean, but hates the trouble, and says the joy of living will never be complete for him until someone invents a capsule which will give the bath.

Don't tell us people pay no attention to gossip. Republicans wanting more power, gossiped about those who have it. And after the matter is all ironed out, it will be found that the gossip has cost the country nearly as much as the war-breeding Panama canal.

An Atchison man who visited Kansas City yesterday found the people down there raving about Maryland crawdads, which they regard as a great delicacy. The Atchison man tried them, and says he would as soon eat the big bugs found lying around a street electric light at night.

From the talk you hear of the importance of college education, you would think that a college graduate would go through the world like a roaring lion, able to devour all opposition. But look at the school teachers; they have been to school forever, yet no one fears them except that they can detect slips in grammar. With all their book learning, some of them are just able to make a living.

"Usually I don't tell about the trials of my business, but I did today, to Alois Philipp, the fiddler. Fiddlers have so little to do that I thought Mr. Philipp would appreciate my troubles, and the long hours I am compelled to work. But, greatly to my surprise, he tried to comfort me by telling me of his hard work and of his trials! 'If I received pay for what I really do,' he said, 'I would get \$300 a week.'"—Parson Twine.

Years ago, Atchison people put all their stories "on" Colonel Everest, a well known lawyer. This is one told on him: He had a client who was guilty of murder, and Everest had no hope of acquitting him. Managing to get a friend on the jury, he said to him: "Bill, hold out for manslaughter; never give in." The jury was out two days, and finally brought in a verdict of manslaughter, and Colonel Everest was much pleased. His friend on the jury, meeting him later, said: "I had a terrible time bringing the others around to my way of thinking, the other eleven insisted on acquittal, but I held out, as you told me, and we finally won."

HOW OLD IS THE EARTH? The Latest Guess of Scientists is Between 55 and 70 Million Years. New York, Sept. 21.—Geologists and physicists have differed for many years in their estimates of the geological age of the earth. As a rule geologists have placed their estimates at 200 million years, while the physicists deduced, principally from thermodynamic conditions, the comparatively short age of 20 million or 30 million years. Prof. Frank Wigglesworth Clarke and George F. Becker of the United States geological survey are the latest scientists to estimate the age of the earth. They say its age is "not more than 70 million nor below 55 million years."

This estimate has received official sanction through its publication by the Smithsonian institution. Professor Clarke presents his deductions from a chemical standpoint and reviews parts of the world. His thesis on the subject is entitled "A Preliminary Study of Chemical Denudation." Mr. Becker writes on the subject more from the philosopher's point of view and the title of his paper is "The Age of the Earth."

The reason why scientific men rarely have agreed as to the time our planet has been in existence is because each man has drawn his deductions from facts obtained by research work in his own particular scientific branch of knowledge.

The more recent men have given their opinion of the age of the earth as follows: Lord Kelvin, in 1862, 20 million to 400 million years with a probable 98 million years; Clarence King and Carl Barus, in 1893, 24 million years; Lord Kelvin, in 1897, revised his figures from 20 million to 40 million years; De Lapparent, in 1890, 67 million to 90 million years; Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian institution, in 1893, maximum age, 70 million years; J. Joly, in 1899, age of the ocean, 80 million to 90 million years; W. J. Sollas, in 1909, age of the ocean, 80 million to 150 million years.

Some time ago Strutt deduced from the proportion of helium found in thorium ores, a lower limit of 240 million years for the age of the earth. The same physicist has recently attempted to determine by direct experiment the rate at which helium is generated in thorite and pitchblende. He found that the quantity of helium produced by 400 grams of thorite in seven weeks was certainly less than 2x16x8 cubic centimeters. From this it follows that one gram of thorite generates less than 3.7x10x8 cubic centimeters of helium a year. Hence at least 240 million years must be allowed for the accumulation of the nine cubic centimeters of helium which are actually found in each gram of freshly mined thorite. And this would leave the question of the earth's age as much of a mystery as ever.

The nature of the soil and the facilities for drainage are so varied that it is impossible to lay down any one rule or method of roadmaking. At some places nothing but macadam will do, but there are many, many other places where the earth roads can be made equally good. In fact, in places where the soil is just right—that is, porous enough to let the water through and yet tenacious enough to pack and not become dusty—the drainage naturally good the earth road is the very best that can be made. And most soils will in a large degree take on the qualities necessary for good roadmaking after good drainage is effected.—J. G. Hoosher in Good Roads Advocate.

Secretary Knox For Good Roads. Secretary Knox believes that the congestion of population in great cities is caused in large part by the lack of good roads in this country. He told the house committee on foreign affairs that the reason France is the richest agricultural country in the world is because she has had good roads so long. He said: "The agricultural population of France does not have to spend its money in repairing vehicles and their harness every winter. I think it has improved the attractiveness of rural life. I think it has caused the population to remain on the soil more than in any other country. You do not find that tendency to urban population in France and England that you do in this country."

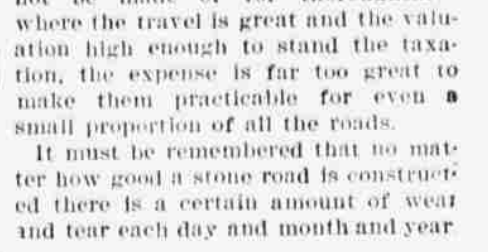
Use of a Drag on Gravelly Roads. In soils full of loose stones or even small boulders the drag has done good service. The loose stones are drawn into a windrow down the center of the road, while the earth is deposited around the boulders in such a way that the surface is leveled. The loose stones in the center of the road should of course be removed. Where there is a large proportion of small stones or gravel the drag will keep down the inequalities in the surface.

People have put this and that together, and discovered that a girl who lately went east to study painting, really went to study the millinery business.

It is One of the Principal Points in Making a Good Dirt Roadway—They Are Preferred in Many Sections of the United States.

Long ago I became convinced that if we were to have good roads in our day and generation we must seek some other methods of doing the work and some other material than macadam. For while stone roads have and perhaps always will have an adaptation for certain districts on account of the lack of facilities for good drainage, which is one of the principal points in the construction of earth roads, or where the character of the soil is such that good earth roads cannot be made or for thoroughfares where the travel is great and the valuation high enough to stand the taxation, the expense is far too great to make them practicable for even a small proportion of all the roads.

It must be remembered that no matter how good a stone road is constructed there is a certain amount of wear and tear each day and month and year



From Good Roads Magazine, New York. A TYPICAL RURAL EARTH ROAD.

The amount of this wear has been found by experience to be from one-fourth to one-half inch a year. Others have figured it at only two-thirds of a cubic yard per year.

We also have the experience of city street making. With all their great valuation to tax cities have found it burdensome to keep up good paved or macadamized streets.

Mind, I am not speaking against macadamized roads. They are, so far as our knowledge of roadmaking now goes, the one thing for thoroughfares or other places where the valuation will afford them without burdensome taxation. And many of such places throughout the United States prefer the well built dirt road. What we want is good roads now, and the question is how to make them with what money is available, and I think it is the wrong policy for a township that has only from \$2,000 to \$10,000 a year to spend on roads to lay it all out on a mile or two of stone road when by the right methods good earth roads could be kept up over the whole township with the same money or less.

The solution of this, I am convinced, is in learning how to make earth roads. I believe that by proper methods of roadmaking the earth roads, especially in places where the nature of the soil and the facilities for good drainage are favorable, can be made and kept as good as or better on the average than the stone road and at but a fraction of the cost.

The nature of the soil and the facilities for drainage are so varied that it is impossible to lay down any one rule or method of roadmaking. At some places nothing but macadam will do, but there are many, many other places where the earth roads can be made equally good. In fact, in places where the soil is just right—that is, porous enough to let the water through and yet tenacious enough to pack and not become dusty—the drainage naturally good the earth road is the very best that can be made. And most soils will in a large degree take on the qualities necessary for good roadmaking after good drainage is effected.—J. G. Hoosher in Good Roads Advocate.

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