DRAGGING OF ROADS.

How to Get Them In Good Shape For Winter Hauling.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL SPRING.

Much Good Can Be Done by Grading Up In Summer and Fall For Work Later On-How to Make a Drag From Split Hickory Log.

On every farm where there is a mile or more of road, unless it has been made permanent by grading properly and macadamized or graveled, there ought to be a road drag. With such a tool at hand any farmer can with little time and trouble keep his farm roads in perfect condition.

Having a large farm and over two miles of roadway, I have found a homemade drag to be a most useful implement. Of course we can get along with poor roads on the farm, but if we are the sort of farmers who take pride in having things in the best shape we will certainly take pleasure in keeping our farm roads in good condition. And I may add that it takes so little time and trouble to run over



HOW DRAGGING IMPROVES A ROAD [From Good Roads Magazine, New York

a mile or two of road when the team is already hitched to the drag that I usually go through the outside gate and work up and down the public road in front of the farm when I drag the farm roads.

The longer I keep my drag and use it on my roads the more I appreciate it. Mine is of the red split log type. I made it of a ten foot section of a twelve inch bickory log, split in the middle, and on the front cutting edge nailed some heavy sheet iron. It works about as well as the metal ones, some

of which I see occasionally. I don't think it took me two hours to make my drag, though I did not make it strictly according to the reg ulation method as I have seen drags illustrated in farm papers. All of those seemed to have the two sections of log put together by having three large augur holes bored through them and round wooden bars about two inches in diameter put through to hold them parallel and rigid.

I did not have the large augur to bore holes big enough for stout wooden bars, so I merely sawed down into the upper edges of each half of the log at three places and split out the blocks, leaving a place into which I could put a piece of four inch scantling. I cut three pieces of scantling thirty-six inches long and fitted them into the cutout places and made them fast by driving spikes six inches long into them. The job seems to be as solid as those made by boring holes and putting the bars through. Some people make their drags of plank, and they do very well, but cost more and alleviate the difficulties and burdens will not stand hard usage so well as of the farmer's life, will stimulate the the regular split log drag.

There is not, of course, so great need of the drag in summer and fall as in winter and spring, but it is a much easier and pleasanter job to make it then, and, besides, if one drags his roads a few times in summer and gets them well graded up they will remain in good shape far better than if left just as the summer hauling has made them.

Moreover, on many farms there are wet places in the roads that cannot well be worked to advantage in winter and spring. If these are graded up and drained in the fall they will no doubt stay good all the time.

There is another use I have seen the drag put to that on some farms will come in very handy. Quite a good many cattle owners find it expedient to pen up their cattle at night in summer. As a rule, no straw or other bedding is thrown over the lot, and the manure remains on the ground and dries out and on sloping ground is often all washed away. I find that if I run the road drag over the cowpen occasionally I can scrape up several loads of the best kind of manure that is well worth collecting and hauling out to thin spots on the farm.

I say with emphasis there is no small job that a farm owner can more profitably devote a few hours to when he has some leisure time after the press of farm work is over than constructing a road drag.-Missouri Cor. Farm Prog-

Hard Dirt Roads.

Kansas perhaps has the best natural roads of any state in the Union. There is practically a highway on every section line. In three-fourths of the state the dirt roads ten months of the year are as level and hard as a floor.

of Using the Drag.

Supervisor Albert Groff of East Hempfield township, Lancaster county. Pa., writes about the drag as fol-

"First of all, road dragging smooths the roads. We have found that out since we have been using the drag. The second thing is that road dragging makes the roadbed firmer and enables it to shed water quicker than a road which has been undragged and neglected. This is another of our exdone at the right time is worth a lot more than dragging done in the thick dust. This latter dusty condition of the road is not the time to work on the road with a drag, but any other time will do, though the best time of all is right after a rain. When we first began to drag the township roads the neighbors, many of them, were skeptical. So were we. But as things went on the proof was demonstrated, and now we are beginning to wonder why we did not adopt it years ago.

"The principle of working up the soft, sticky mud of a clay or loam character means that it will grow hard when left to the rays of the sun, and it is this idea of working up a soft roadbed after every rain, of smearing over the entire road surface a thin layer of soft, pliable mud which will become dry and hard, that I now realize is giving us our solid roadbeds where the drag is working. Our supervisor board pays the farmers who drag the roads by their farms 35 cents per hour for their labor. We are planning to put more drags on our township roads very soon. We have forty-four miles of dirt roads in East Hempfield township, our assessed valuation is \$3.000.000, and our road tax is 2 mills."

BOWLDER FOUNDATION.

One of New England's Most Substantially Built Highways.

If you were to try to find the most substantially built road in New England it would not in all probability be necessary to go farther than Acton Center, Mass., to locate the one which would take first premium for solidity.

Just beyond the town was a considerable hill, but there is not as much of a climb there now as formerly, for it has been cut down very perceptibly.

The old condition was far from pleasing to Augustus Conant, who lives but a short distance from the foot of the hill. He informed the town that if the hill could be cut down and slightly relocated he would put in the necessary foundation for a first class road, the town to put on the finishing touches, and his proposition was readily accepted by the

For the new basis of the new highway Mr. Conant had carted to the spot many loads of field stones and innumerable bowlders, large and small. Some of them weighed several tons, and it is asserted that there is not in all probability another road in the United States which can boast of such a foundation as the one which was constructed to the liking of the town's. benefactor. In some parts of the road it has a solid stone foundation of several feet.

TAFT ON NEED OF ROADS.

The Movement Is General and of Great Value, Says the President.

President Taft has indicated his interest in good roads, the latest expression being elicited in connection with a movement for better highways in Virginia, this taking shape in an immediate plan for a road from the national capital to Richmond. In a letter on the subject the President says:

"I regard this as part of the general good roads movement in the country. and I have pleasure in saying that there is no movement that I know of that will have a more direct effect to traffic and add to the general happiness of the people more than the establishment of good roads.

"I do not think that because this may have been stimulated by people using automobiles it is to be frowned upon, for, while persons using automobiles are by no means the most important in the community, the fact that their sharp interest has focused the attention of the public on the movement entitles them to credit.

"I have no doubt that within the authority which is his the secretary of agriculture will be glad to assist by recommendation and practical advice the methods to be pursued in good road building in Virginia."

Scheme to Improve Roads. Under a new arrangement to systematically improve the roads of Atchison county, Kan., each trustee will be required to have his township of road dragged after every hard rain. It is estimated that a mile of road can be dragged once at a cost of 50 cents and that the cost of keeping each mile in good condition during a year will be \$5. The new law calls for a special

> Drag, Brother, Drag! If your road is soft or rough, Drag, brother, drag. Once or twice will be enough. Drag, brother, drag. Wheels won't sink into a rut Every time you strike a cut.

tax levy to create a road fund.

Drag, prother, drag.

'Twon't take long to fix your road. Drag, prother, drag. If you'd pull a bigger load. Drag, brother, drag. It means dollars in the end, Saved on teams, my friend, So to this your best ear lend-Drag, brother, drag.

-Pawpaw (Mich.) Bazoo.

Teams won't worry if you'll but

ROAD DRAGGING EXPERIENCES NEW SHORT STORIES

Effect Was Lacking.

"That was a lame and impotent conclusion," said Senator Aldrich of an opponent's tariff speech. "It failed of effect like old Elisha Grey's adventure

"At a package party one winter night in the village the guests re galed one another with weird and frightening adventures that had be periences. The third thing we have fallen them in lonely churchyards shown has been that a little dragging | They told of meeting with highway men in deserted lanes, encounters is lonely houses with desperate burglars

> "Vain old Elisha Grey, after an hou or so of this, got jealous of the inter est and awe that the adventure stories



"I LANDED HIM A GOOD UN ON THE JAW.

of the men about him stirred up. So interrupting a burglar yarn quite rudely, he piped in his high quaver:

"'I ain't never been molested but wunst, ladies an' gents. I was hurryin' to hum from the gin'ral store at the time. It was late at night-close on 10, I guess—an' jest as I was passin' the doctor's-it was dark an' lonesome, I tell ye-why, a soft spoken young feller steps up an' asts me fur a match. So I up with my fist an landed him a good un on the jaw an' hiked out o' that just as fast as my legs 'ud carry me.'

"Old Elisha, looking around for a display of shuddering admiration, was very much disgusted indeed to find the end of his story greeted with a roar of

Would Split the Ticket.

Homer Cummings, the Connecticut member of the Democratic national committee, who was in charge of the eastern speakers' bureau in the 1908 campaign, is a rattling good story teller, and one day at the Hoffman House, with Senator Culberson, Colonel Johnson of the Houston Post, Representative John Wesley Gaines of Tennessee and several other well known Democrats as listeners, he told of a Celtic friend of his in Stamford who came to him some years before in a presidential campaign and said: "Homer, I'm going to try voting the

Republican ticket this year.' "Well, now, that's a surprise, Jerry for I thought you were a rock ribbed Democrat," said Cummings.

"And I am," said Jerry, "but I like Jim Blaine, for he's part Irish, so I want to do what I can for him. I'm going to vote for Blaine all right; but," whispering as he got close up to Mr. Cummings' ear, "I'm going to cut the divvle out of Logan.'

Dax Nerve.

"The nerve of that," said De Wolf Hopper, discussing an actor's conduct, "reminds me of Dax. It is real Dax

"Abroad," he went on, "a man can enter a luxurious cafe, write a dozen letters, look over the expensive illustrated weeklies, play chess, bridge or checkers-in short, spend the entire evening delightfully-all for the price of a glass of beer. Many people do this abroad. The cafe proprietors don't mind.

"Once, in Bayonne, though, I saw a cafe proprietor flush with anger. I was at the time of the Fete Dieu, and three Dax chaps stalked into his place. selected a fine table by a window. rapped for a waiter and when the man came said:

"'Fetch us a pitcher of ice water and the dominos."

Old Sol Cannot Wilt Uncle Joe. Speaker Cannon, although past seventy-three years old, stood the tariff grind with less wear and tear than any member of the house over which he presides. While seven-eighths of the members of the house were away at summer resorts and watering places, Uncle Joe remained in Washington

and dared the hot sun to do his worst. He lost none of his fondness for jokes. "Why is it that the house always has a blind chaplain?" he was asked by a visitor who dropped in at the speaker's rooms one day near the end

of the session. "It's a case of necessity," he said confidentially, "because if the chaplain could see the fellows he has to pray for he'd throw up his job."-Cineinnati Commercial Tribune.

READY TO FIGHT.

Twas Lucky the Humorous Little Man Made Good His Escape.

The big man with the fiery look or his face had been struggling with the car window for twenty minutes. Suddenly it came down on him and held him a prisoner. With much fuming and wriggling he finally released him-

"Confound that blasted window!" he thundered, almost exploding with rage. "I feel like I could chew it up in bits, glass and all."

It was then that the humorous little man in the next seat touched him on the arm.

"My friend," he said, with a merry twinkle in his eyes, "don't be so angry with the window. Why, that window likes you. In fact, it is really affection-

"What! Are you joshing me? The window affectionate?"

"Certainly, sir. Didn't it fall on your

And then the humorous little man ranished toward the smoker.-Chicago

Gratitude.

She came back from the ocean with the sparkle in her eyes and the tan on her cheeks.

"Well, well!" said the pale little man, who had been laboring in the hot, stuffy office. "You are looking fine. I'll wager you didn't worry about me one second while you were down there." "No, dear," she teased as she count-

ed her souvenir shells, "that is just the reason I went away."

"What reason?" "Why, to keep from worrying about

And he, poor married man, had been sending the weekly checks.-St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

As to That.

Interrupting her husband's mutterings, the fair young wife says:

"Before we were married you would have been delighted to button my dress for me.'

husband retorts: "Huh! Before we were married you would have called the police if I had

offered to do such a thing!"-New York Life.

One For Pa.

Ostend-Pa, didn't you say gossip was a poor thing at all times? Pa-I did, my son.

Ostend-Well, I should think it would be right the opposite Pa-And why?

Ostend-Well, don't they say gossip gains currency?—Los Angeles Times.

She Took a Pair.

"How much are these shoes?" asked the lady who had the reputation of being a keen shopper.

"Those shoes are not for sale," replied the salesman, who had something of a reputation too. "We're giving them away with every pair of shoe laces at \$3.50."-Judge.

A Heartbreaking Job.

"What's making Swubbs look so wretchedly careworn the last few

"Oh, he won a dollar prize in a joke contest three months since, and he's trying to incubate another side splitter."-Lippincott's Magazine.

Only a Void.

Bertie-Here's anothan great chess playah whose brain has gone wrong. I am glad I nevah took up the deuced

Jane-But in your case, Bertie, I'm quite sure there would be nothing to go wrong.-Smart Set.

Our Public Schools.

Schoolteacher - Who can make a sentence using the word "indisposition?"

Tough Pupil (assuming a pugilistic pose) - When youse wants to fight youse stand in dis position!-Town Topics.

His Ambition.

"So you're saving up to buy an airship? You're quite an ambitious little boy."

"Yes'm. I wants ter fly over Jimmie Jones' yard an' drop bricks on to him!" -St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Getting a Hair Cut.



Sure to Do It. "He is such a lazy man that he took to manufacturing fans as the easiest way of making a living."

"The easiest way?" "Sure. Isn't it certain to raise the wind?"-Baltimore American.

He Told Her Again. She-Tell me once more that I am an angel fallen from heaven. . He-All right, but it's a pity you fell

He Spouts. "He is a fountain of information." "Fountain? More like an artesian

well."-Philadelphia North American.

on your nose.

CITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Congregational - Sunday school at 10 a. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. The public is cordially invited to these services.

EPISCOPAL-Preaching services at St. Alban's church at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. All are welcome to these services.

E. R. EARLE, Rector.

CATHOLIC-Order of services: Mass. 8 a. m. Mass and sermon, 10:00 a. m Evening service at 8 o'clock. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday. WM. J. KIRWIN, O. M. I.

METHODIST-Sunday school at 10 a.m. Sermons by pastor at 11 and 8. Class at 12. Junior League at 3. Epworth

League at 6:45. Prayer meeting, Wed-

nesday night at 7:45. M. B. CARMAN, Pastor.

BAPTIST-Sunday school at 10 a. m Preaching service at 11:00 a. m. Even ing service at 8:00. B. Y. P. U. at 7 p. m. A most cordial invitation is extended to all to worship with us,

E. Burton, Pastor.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN - Regular German preaching services in frame building of East Ward every Sunday morning at 10:00. All Germans cordially invited. REV. WM. BRUEGGEMAN.

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nue-Services, Sunday at 11 a. m., and Wednesday at 8 p. m. Reading Room open all the time. Science literature on sale. Subject for next Sunday, "Matter."

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