

The Loup City Northwestern

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LOUP CITY, NEBRASKA

FROM MANY POINTS

EVENTS OF THE DAY HELD TO A FEW LINES.

LATE EVENTS BOILED DOWN

Personal, Political, Foreign and Other Intelligence Interesting to the General Readers.

CONGRESS.

The senate has confirmed the nominations of Charles J. Neill, as commissioner of labor statistics; J. F. Armstrong of Juneau as governor of Alaska and H. M. Smith as commissioner of fisheries.

Ben C. Davis, confidential secretary to Secretary of State Bryan, was made chief clerk of the state department. Davis lived in Omaha after completing his course at Carthage college, Illinois. He was Mr. Bryan's secretary when the latter was in congress.

Better have a spoils system than an abused civil service system, was the declaration of Senator Overman of North Carolina in the senate when he asked Senator Pomerene, chairman of the civil service commission, when his resolution for investigating the service would be reported on.

In his maiden effort in the house Representative Barton, who succeeds former insurgent Norris in the house, severely criticised the demerits for passing the tariff bill in secret caucus. He scored the demerits as fathering a measure that was unjust to the farmer and the people as a whole.

GENERAL.

Robert G. Fowler, the American aviator, made a recent flight across the isthmus in a hydro-aeroplane with a passenger.

More than 200 Americans have left Cananea, Sonora, on special trains for the border. The refugees were thrown out of work by the partial closing down of the plants.

Governor A. O. Eberhart of Minnesota, has signed the minimum wage bill passed at the session of the legislature just closed, which provides for a commission and gives it power to investigate vice conditions in the state.

The joint commission of the Methodist Protestant church and the Church of the United Brethren of Christ, in session at Columbus, O., recently unanimously adopted a basis of union for the two churches, forming a new denomination, to be known as the United Protestant church.

To direct the attorney general to collect from the Missouri Pacific \$3,260,000, the outgrowth of financing by the government of the original rail between Hannibal and St. Joseph, Mo., a resolution was introduced by Representative Neely of Kansas.

The Chinese senate has rejected the five-power loan contract. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the former provisional president and other leaders have been calling personally on foreign firms and trying to purchase arms for their party to the amount of millions of dollars. They are conspiring to start another revolution, which would provoke foreign intervention and end China's independence.

Evidence of a determination to hurry completion of the Panama canal are seen in reports from the isthmus. The nine mammoth steam shovels digging at the Culebra cut have been put on twelve-hour shifts and working at such a rate would have the canal ready for ships through the most troublesome part of the canal by the time the locks are ready. While the last official estimates of the earliest date at which ships could pass through the canal has been some time in October, the rapid work may make it possible for ships to go through earlier.

The headquarters of the woman's social and political union, the militant suffragette party, situated in Kingsway, were raided by police, in search of evidence against the militant leaders. The police were commanded by Superintendent Pack Quinn, of Scotland Yard, who has been placed in charge of a department for dealing with the suffragettes. Miss Barbara Kerr, the secretary of the woman's social and political union; Misses Lake, Lennox and Barrett and Mrs. Saunders, the officials of the society, who were in charge of the offices at the time of the raid, were arrested, and a large quantity of documents was seized.

Immigration officials at Philadelphia were startled when Rudolph Gerzert, a German farmer, in reply to the question as to whether or not he had \$25, which is necessary before immigrants can land, carelessly pulled out of his pocket \$14,000.

In the later part of 1912 the cost of living in the United States was higher than any other time for twenty-three years. The bureau of labor statistics has issued a report on retail prices from 1890 to 1913. The lowest cost was reached in each of the geographical divisions and in the United States as a whole in 1895.

Land development enterprises which are not wilfully deceiving the public as to the value of farms they offer for sale, were assured recently that they need have no fear of unfavorable reports from the Department of Agriculture.

Five of the big hangars on Hempstead plains aviation field, where some of America's foremost aviators learned to fly, were destroyed by fire. Five aeroplanes were burned and several aviators and mechanics had narrow escapes when the buildings collapsed. The loss is estimated at \$25,000.

W. C. Patterson of Los Angeles, Cal., died at Naples.

Two men were burned to death and three fatally injured in a fire which partly destroyed the Hotley house, a three-story structure, at Oswego, New York.

Postmaster General Burleson has ordered that unpaid, misdirected, unmailed and unclaimed postal cards, as well as postcards deposited for local delivery be returned to sender.

Refused permission to play accordian at a party, Joseph Conjun of Dayton, Pa., emptied his revolver into the guests, shooting four, three of whom will die. He then fled.

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The new city wells at Creighton, recently sunk by the construction company putting in the extension of the water system, were tested and proved satisfactory.

Former President William H. Taft, now Kent professor at Yale, has been engaged to deliver the Henry Ward Beecher lectures for the next college year in the department of political science at Amherst college.

In a letter to Milwaukee authorities recently, John Schrank, now confined in the Northern hospital for the insane near Oshkosh, Wis., asks to have sent to him the revolver he used in his attempt to assassinate Theodore Roosevelt last October.

Testifying for the defense in the trial of Arthur B. Smith, charged with the murder of his wife, Florence C. Smith, by poisoning, Dr. Ellis R. Schilling of Columbus, O., a pathologist, declared that Mrs. Smith's death was due to natural causes.

To provide adequate facilities for the movement of northwestern crops for the year 1913, approximately 20,000 units of rolling stock shortly will be placed in service by the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Omaha at a cost of \$25,000,000.

Mrs. John Knzuus, a bride of three days, is in a critical condition and may die, as a result of dancing too much at her wedding. The Polish custom of dancing with the bride for \$1 a dance is responsible. During the 23rd dance and with 233 silver dollars constituting the bride's dowry, Mrs. Knzuus collapsed and may not recover.

William B. Dingwall, an American citizen, owner of a foundry and director of the Santa Maria de la Paz Mining company, was killed by the rebels in their attack on Matehuala, state of San Luis Potosi, Dingwall, who is said to have been one of the wealthiest residents of the district, was killed when he refused to contribute to the revolution.

The great strike of working men in Belgium, to force the government to grant manhood suffrage, began quietly and at nightfall it was estimated that 200,000 men throughout the country had quit work. This number is at least 100,000 short of the socialist predictions and the clerical press calls the movement a "pitiable fiasco."

Henry Wedland and Alexander Drummond, young men of Brooklyn, N. Y., captured by R. I. Davison of Dayton, O., a Yale senior, at the point of a silver pencil, while ransacking his room in Vanderbilt hall, on the Yale campus, were in the city court charged with burglary. In the dim light of the room the burglars thought the pencil leveled at them by Davison as he entered was a pistol.

SPORT.

Pitcher "Bob" Smith has been released by the Chicago Americans to the Minneapolis American association team. He was purchased by Chicago from Boise, Idaho.

Bobby Wallace of the Browns was not in the opening game this year; which was the first time he had been out of a get-away battle in his seventeen years in the big leagues.

The New York club has sold Pitcher Paddy Green, the Holyoke recruit, to the Pittsburgh club of the National league, all cities excepting Pittsburgh having waived on him.

The Wisconsin assembly endorsed Hedding bill, which provides ten round no decision bouts to be held under strict supervision by the state commission. No bouts are permitted on Sunday.

Manager Jennings of the Tigers is using his southpaw pitcher, Bert Claus, every minute in the day pitching to batters in the hope that the Tigers may overcome their weakness against southpaws.

George Brooks, football coach of the University of Pennsylvania, in an effort to bring on drop kickers and punters for the red and blue eleven, has adopted the idea of competition in these branches among the undergraduates.

Catcher Peter Shields, former captain of the University of Mississippi base ball team, was released to the Portland, Ore., club by the Cleveland American league club, and Outfielder Charley Betts was released to the Beaumont club of the Texas league.

The midwestern polo championship has been awarded to the Ontonwaga club for the last week of June. Eight teams are expected to compete, two of these being from the army. Two will come from the St. Louis Country club, Kansas City and Cincinnati.

President Comisky of the Chicago Americans plans to increase the capacity of the South Side baseball park from 20,000 to 45,000 for the season of 1914. When the enlargement has been completed the White Sox park will have the largest capacity of any baseball park in the country.

Frank Gotch of Humboldt, world's champion wrestler, underwent a surgical operation for the removal of an excessive growth of bone in the nose. The operation was made necessary as a result of an injury received several years ago.

When Larry Lajoie enters the polo grounds on June 3 to play with the Naps against the Yankees it will be the first time since 1901, when he played there with the Phillies. Then Lajoie did some of his greatest hitting and he says he hopes they haven't changed the grounds so much that he can't repeat.

LAND BILL PASSED

PROGRESSIVES WIN POINT AFTER AN ALL NIGHT SESSION.

WILSON'S ADVICE UNHEEDED

Democrats Try to Tie Measure Up But Are Unable to Break Progressive Vote.

Sacramento, Cal.—The administration anti-alien land holding bill, drawn by Attorney General Webb, passed the senate by a vote of 36 to 2, after nearly ten hours of debate. The only negative votes were cast by Senators Cartwright, democrat, and Wright, republican.

The utility of Secretary Bryan's mission was shown in the vote of his own party. Nine of the ten democrats voted contrary to the advice which he brought from President Wilson, while not a single progressive yielded to his eloquence.

At the outset the majority leaders made it known that they would not permit another interruption of their plans under any circumstances and the word went forth that the body would be held in session all night, if necessary, in order to bring the bill to a final vote.

The only opposition was from Senator Wright, republican, and the democrats who sought in vain to break through the solid progressive front with a string of amendments that would tie up the bill until next week. Wearily the debate went on and wearily the amendments were voted down one by one.

In phraseology, the bill as redrafted by Attorney General Webb after many conferences with Governor Johnson and the administration floor leaders, omitted the words, "ineligible to citizenship," which are offensive to Japan, but those in charge of the bill repeatedly admitted in debate that the end sought was the same.

Provisions of Bill.

The principal provisions of the bill are as follows:

One—Aliens eligible to citizenship may acquire and hold land to the same extent as citizens.

Two—All other aliens are limited to the specific rights conferred upon them by the existing treaties between the United States and the nations of which such aliens are citizens or subjects.

In the case of the Japanese, the bill prohibits ownership of farming or agricultural lands while permitting them to own residences and factories, manufacturing and shops.

Three—Leases of agricultural lands by such aliens are permitted for a period of not exceeding three years. There is a question as to whether renewals would be lawful.

Four—Aliens ineligible to citizenship cannot inherit land. Upon the death of an alien landholder, his property shall be sold by the probate court and the proceeds distributed to his heirs.

The state specifically reserves its sovereign right to enact any and all laws in future with respect to the acquisition of real property by aliens.

McPherson Sells Timber Company.

Sheridan, Wyo.—A New Jersey syndicate headed by H. G. Harris and E. H. Cuthbert of Atlantic City, completed a deal whereby they bought the Big Horn Timber company, paying for it with other property adjacent, \$1,100,000.

The sale was made by Thomas B. McPherson of Omaha, president of the company. It is planned to operate the company continuously from now on.

One of the assets of the company is the Tongue river flume said to be the longest timber flume in the world. It runs from Wood Rock to the valley, a distance of about forty miles.

To Serve Twelve Years.

Fremont, Neb.—Al Prun was taken to the penitentiary at Lincoln. The supreme court recently overruled the motion for a new trial for Prun, who killed a saloon keeper at North Bend sixteen months ago. He was given a sentence of twelve years.

Legally Dead Man Found Living.

Topeka, Kan.—W. H. Caldwell, who disappeared from Hutchinson, Kan., in 1902, leaving a wife and three children, and was declared legally dead and his insurance money ordered paid, has been found in Berkeley, Cal., married again.

Carpenters Out.

Rochester, N. Y.—250 millmen, members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, struck when some of the contractors refused to sign a two-year agreement for a \$3 minimum.

28 Insurance Companies Will Stay.

Jefferson City, Mo.—Superintendent of Insurance Revelle announced thirty-eight fire insurance companies have notified him they would not leave the state on account of the Orr insurance law. Twenty-six mutual concerns have agreed not to leave.

Celebrate Victory of Manila Bay.

Washington.—Twenty-one of the surviving officers who fought under Admiral Dewey in the battle of Manila bay celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the famous battle here.

Say He Embezzled \$60,000.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Accused of having embezzled more than \$60,000 during a period covering six years, W. J. Ranney, chief clerk in the office of the auditor of the Santa Fe railroad here was arrested and lodged in the county jail.

Anti-Fight Bill Lost.

Sacramento, Cal.—The anti-prize fight bill, making the promotion of a prizefight in this state a felony and attendance at one a misdemeanor was defeated, 38 to 24, in the house.

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

Coming Events in Nebraska.

May 8 to 10—Annual Convention, Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Omaha.

May 20, 21 and 22—Thirty-seventh Encampment G. A. R., Fremont.

Judge Calvin Keller of Payette, Idaho, returned to Creighton, his former home, on a business trip.

The annual meet of the northeast Nebraska high school league will be held at Creighton on May 16.

The Hooper Commercial club has elected Glen Howard president; B. Monnich, vice president, and H. G. Meyer, secretary-treasurer.

Hotel Inspector Ackerman has appointed F. W. Brown, jr., of Lincoln assistant hotel inspector and Miss Cecilia Snapp, stenographer.

Governor Morehead and Henry Gerdes, a member of the state board of control, contracted for the purchase of 200 acres of land located near the state industrial school at Kearney.

William O. Southwick, vice president of the First National bank at Friend and interested in banking at Tobilas, Cordova and Beaver Crossing, died of heart failure.

General Hall has chosen the points for mobilization of the National guard battalions next August. Points chosen are: Elk City, Wahoo, Hooper, Fremont, Greenwood, Louisville, Memphis and Gretna.

Copies of the code insurance bill, enacted into law at the late session of the legislature, will not be published and distributed by Auditor Howard. The latter was asked by a clerk if he would attend to this formality and he replied with much heat that he "certainly would not."

The York Gas company has announced that on and after May 1 it will make a cut in the price of gas to consumers. The price heretofore charged has been \$1.80 per 1,000 feet. The new rate will be \$1.60 per 1,000 feet, with a discount of 7 cents, making the price \$1.53 for consumers.

A bronze medal, believed by experts to be genuine, that was presented by the continental army to George Washington upon his retirement as commander-in-chief, has come into possession of Mrs. Mary Stoddard, a well-known Fremont woman who has one of the rarest collections of relics in the country.

Ralph, the 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Buchanan, caught his left hand in a piece of twine dangling from a shaft in the York Brick and Tile Co.'s plant. He was picked up and whirled through space at the rate of 160 revolutions a minute. His left arm was badly wrenched from the socket and his feet badly bruised.

A petition is being circulated among the residents of Pickrel, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors, asking that the village be incorporated. The town is located on the old sheep ranch of Pickrel Bros., after whom the town is named. William Pickrel at present owns one of the largest ostrich farms in the world near Phoenix, Ariz.

In the federal court the Elkhorn River Drainage district, with headquarters at Fremont, was given judgment against the Bankers Surety company of Cleveland, O., in the amount of \$14,850. The suit was brought to obtain liquidated damages at the rate of \$30 a day for delay of the Standard Drainage company in completing its contract for the work of straightening the Elkhorn river.

Rev. Rodney L. McQuary of Tecumseh, pastor of the Christian church, has been honored by receiving what is known as a working scholarship to Yale university. The university issues a few such scholarships each year. The recipient is supposed to exchange time for the favor, and Rev. Mr. McQuary will devote six hours per week doing religious work in the slums of New Haven.

Clarence Cain, accused of complicity in the hide robbery case at Beatrice a short time ago, was taken to the state penitentiary by Sheriff Schick to resume his sentence. He was paroled a few months ago. Cain was sentenced on March 5 to an indeterminate term of from five to seven years for burglarizing the Klein store. He was in prison about nine months, when he was paroled on good behavior, and only three months after this time he was arrested and charged with stealing hides. He was never tried on this charge.

The Wymore Independent Telephone company, which organized at Wymore a few months ago to oppose the Bell interests, has dissolved, and the money furnished for the enterprise by the various stockholders has been returned to them.

Attorney J. A. Singhaus at an advertisement of real estate to be sold to the George Miller estate, sold a twenty-acre piece of land two miles northeast of Oakland at the record price of \$270 per acre. The piece was without any improvements, but went to a party to complete his square quarter section farm.

An automobile containing five tourists from Lincoln, Neb., was struck by an electric train near Venice, Cal., and one was notably fatally injured. The engine of the automobile "died" on the crossing and the train struck it at full speed.

John Mead, a traveling salesman, and Mrs. Metzke, whose parents reside in Exeter, Neb., were found fatally wounded in a rooming house at Fairbury by other roomers who heard the report of the gun. They had been living together at the rooming house as husband and wife for about three weeks.

Heart failure caused the sudden death of Perry Emery, a Gage county pioneer, at his home in Beatrice. He was assisting with the house cleaning and while at work fell to the floor unconscious. He died almost instantly.

The recent rains at Table Rock have put the ground in fine shape and winter wheat never looked more promising than at the present. The early fruit trees are in full bloom and fruit prospects are encouraging, with the sole exception perhaps of peaches, which are not liable to be an abundant crop.

SHIP BAD CATTLE

DR. BOSTROM INVESTIGATES PLAN ALONG THE BORDER.

SOUGHT LAW TO PREVENT THIS

Department Must Use Extreme Vigilance to Prevent Such Attempts From Being Successful.

Lincoln.—Dr. Bostrom, state veterinarian, was at Fairbury, where he examined about fifty head of cattle which had been placed under quarantine. These cattle were shipped from Elgin, Ill., and are of the Holstein breed. They were first shipped to Concordia, Kan., via St. Louis and from Concordia shipped to Fairbury. This aroused the suspicions of the State Board of Veterinarians with the result that Dr. Bostrom and an assistant tested the cattle and found them afflicted with tuberculosis. The herd was ordered under quarantine.

It was to prevent such conditions as this that the State Board of Veterinarians tried to have passed a bill which would prevent shipments of this kind. This bunch of cattle was shipped in under health certificate of a veterinarian, whom it is claimed was either ignorant or negligent. In shipping from one state to another, the railroad companies are compelled to take the certificate of a veterinarian as to the health of the cattle and under a law such as it was sought to pass at the late session of the legislature, any veterinarian guilty of an act of this kind would be deprived of his right to practice in the state.

After the examinations and tests have been completed at Fairbury there will be some interesting disclosures for the public, according to information given out at the office of the state veterinarian.

No Appointments Yet.

Lincoln.—According to a statement made by Governor Morehead no appointments have yet been made for the new advisory board of control, although the name named for the regular board of control, Henry Gerdes, Judge Kennedy and Judge Holcomb, will be named.

According to the governor's statement, Judge Holcomb cannot take up the duties until after the fifth of next month, while Judge Kennedy has several cases before him to be disposed of as judge of the district court of Douglas county, but the governor expects Gerdes to be on the job very shortly and will go ahead with the arrangements of getting things in shape so that the board can get to work as soon as all of them get here.

"We have not as yet found quarters for the board," said the governor, "but we hope to locate them somewhere on the first floor of the state house as to accommodate Judge Holcomb as much as possible on account of his physical condition."

Inspectors Have Conference.

Lincoln.—Oil inspectors and food inspectors, now under one general department head, held a conference and school with Food Commissioner Harman. The men had their duties outlined anew under the provisions of the law consolidating the two departments. It is probable that the inspectors will not be confined strictly to congressional districts as they have in the past, but that trips will be made in accordance with a plan promulgated by Commissioner Harman looking to the accomplishment of more work at less expense and in less time than formerly.

Flaw in Compensation Act.

Lincoln.—Representative Richardson of Lancaster has found some defect in the workmen's compensation law passed by the recent legislature, and while he will not divulge just what the trouble is, he showed enough agitation over the matter in his anxiety to get hold of the attorney general to leave the impression that the defect must be serious. As soon as Chief Clerk Richmond of the house was informed of the trouble, he at once got in communication with Guy Cramer of Omaha, one of the chief workers for a compensation act during the session, and with Omaha attorneys, whom it is claimed have also discovered defects in the bill which may render the law unconstitutional.

Apply for State Aid Bridges.

Lincoln.—Applications have been filed in the office of the state engineer for four state aid bridges. The applications cover one over the Elkhorn in Dodge county, 250 feet long to cost \$14,000; one over the Republican in Furnas county, 300 feet long to cost \$20,000, and two over the Platte in Merrick county, one 825 feet long to cost \$50,000, and the other 465 feet long to cost \$19,000.

Trust Company Files Articles.

Lincoln.—The First Trust company filed with the state auditor an application to organize under the laws of the state and accompanied the application with a certified check for \$10,000. The company is incorporated for \$25,000, fully paid up. The directors are Cornelius Bradley, William F. Mason and Carl C. Carlson. The \$10,000 deposited with the state will remain as security until such time as the company has secured sufficient securities to the auditor to cover the required amount.

Defect in Old Law Cured by New Act.

Lincoln.—The new stallion registration law is practically a re-enactment of the law of 1911 excepting that it names as the registration board the governor, state treasurer and commissioner of public lands and buildings. These are all executive officers as named in the constitution and cures the defect in the old law as found by the supreme court. The new law provides that all 1913 inspections made and certificates issued by the old board are hereby legalized and approved.

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

GOOD COUNTRY ROADS

Narrow-Tired Wagon Is Most Destructive Agent.

Highways Also Have Been Ruined by Wrong Method of Working—Different System of Supervision Is Advocated.

Good country roads are ruined in many ways, some of which must be laid at the doors of the officials in charge, and some we can only hold the farmers themselves responsible for. Good roads are ruined by weather, water and wanton neglect. Man is the chief destructive agent and we must pay some attention to him and his ways, says the Western Farmer.

Any good dirt road can be ruined in a short time by hauling heavy loads over it in narrow tired wagons. The common one and three-fourth-inch tire does more harm to country roads than any other destructive agent. We wonder why the farmers will continue buying these wheels when a broad tire—say four-inch—will make rather than destroy good roads. The broad tired wagon pulls easier and that should be sufficient reason why the change should be made.

It seems a waste of money to make a dirt road hard and smooth, dragged at the proper time and all that, and then have a lot of men haul big loads of grain, hay, wood or what not over it just after a rain and their narrow tires cutting away in it. Of course they all keep in the one track so each succeeding tire cuts a little deeper. If another rain comes before the ruts are dragged full then the whole road goes to pieces. There should be a tax or some legal penalty against the narrow tired wagon. We are not pleading for low wheels, though we believe in them, but we do urge every one to buy wide tires. The old wheels can be made over and wide tires put on at a slight cost.

Roads have been ruined by the mile by the wrong method of working. The old system of working out the road tax under a supervisor or road boss is wrong. It never yet has made a good stretch of road. It never will. The practice of tearing up the road in the fall after harvest—because that's the only time he can get farmers to work—plowing the sodded sides up and scalping the whole conglomeration of sods, stones and clods into the middle of the road is the worst system that ever can be practiced. The season is wrong, the system is wrong and the road is bad all winter and next spring.

Who has not seen brush piled in soft places, gravel dumped in mud holes, and even sand put in chuck holes by these road bosses? It's a sure way to make a bad road worse. Who has not seen dense groves of tall willows pile the road full of snow which made a mud hole exist there for weeks after the rest of the road was dry? What is the remedy? A different system of road supervision. Remove the office from politics, get men who have studied or will study road building and keep them as long as they are efficient. Pay road tax in cash and let this skilled road boss hire his men. He should keep the same men all the time. They become more efficient all the time.

FOR MORE IMPROVED ROADS

Much Valuable Assistance Rendered by Office of Public Roads—Perishable Products Wasted.

Many of the model highway laws in various states have been prepared under the advice of the road experts of the department of agriculture, and all the data and statistics of the office of public roads are at the disposal of the legislatures.

In the last bulletin of the office of public roads it was stated that at the close of 1909, 8.66 per cent. of the roads in the United States were improved. This represents a gain in the total road mileage improved for the five-year period, 1904-1909, of 1.52 per cent., or, in other words, the percentage of improved roads has increased during this period from 7.14 to 8.66 per cent.

In the three years that have elapsed since then, it is roughly estimated that the percentage of improved roads has gone well beyond 9 per cent., and possibly close to 10 per cent. It is estimated that if 20 per cent. of the public highways were improved—each highway being selected and improved with a view to the proportionate traffic upon it—a high degree of efficiency in highway transportation would be reached. It is figured that millions of dollars would be saved annually in the transportation of crops, the wear and tear on horses and vehicles, and in the minimizing of the waste in truck farming. Where roads are bad, the farmers frequently find it impossible to get their products to the shipping points and thus perishable products are wasted, perceptibly increasing the cost of living.

In the five years preceding March, 1912, the office of public roads of the department of agriculture has built 215 object-lesson roads; in all, about 300 miles of road 15 feet wide, and by expert advice aided in the formulation of more than 650 model country road systems, resulting in most instances in beneficial reforms. It has also assisted 26 states in effecting equitable state-aid plans. The secretary looks forward to the coming year as promising better results than at any time in the history of the movement for improved highways.



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IF HE WERE A RELATIVE

Observance of Colored Man Really Offered Some Good Ideas for Worthy Reflection.

An official of one of the departments at Washington says that while going to his luncheon one afternoon he saw a military funeral passing down Pennsylvania avenue. As the pageant passed the official was standing on the curb, hat in hand, and noting with interest the reversed arms, the flag-draped coffin, and the riderless horse behind some one touched him on the elbow and said: "I hope you'll excuse me, boss, but would you mind tell me whether the dead soldier was anything to you?"

"Why, no," answered the official, smiling in spite of himself, as he turned and beheld a solemn looking darky of perhaps sixty years of age.

"Excuse me again, boss," continued the negro, "but you kinder looked that sorry I thought maybe he was something to you."

"He was a brave soldier," answered the official.

The darky said nothing for a moment. Finally, with a sigh, he added: "Wouldn't it be gran', boss, mournin' fer a man like that, s'posin' he was something to you?"

Easy.