

True economy in expenditure for street improvement is seldom understood in towns, and still more rarely is it put in practice. Streets are constructed and maintained by large amounts annually appropriated from the general funds, but the appropriations are sub-divided and scattered over the street area in such small sums that the work performed, lacking the uniformity and unity so necessary to strong and durable results, is quickly absorbed by the mud. Fifty dollars is spent in an endeavor to cover water with gravel, with the result that the money is lost sight of within a year; whereas a proper amount spent in underdraining and carrying the water away would accomplish results that would be of benefit for a quarter of century.

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### GOOD ROADS IDEAS.



**D**AKE the tire wider and the road better. Many farmers' clubs are expressing themselves in favor of broad tires and convict labor on highways. Produce don't produce until it is marketed. The report of Prof. H. L. Waters, dean of the State Agricultural College, on the result of tests made by the difference in draft of wide and narrow-tired wheels, states that "by using the wide tires an average of 53 pounds of draft is saved. A horse is computed to exert a pull of 150 pounds for ten hours per day, travelling at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles per hour. On this basis the wide tires save slightly more than one-third of the exertion of the horse."

An Illinois farmer who has paid \$1,200 road tax on the highways adjoining his farm, says they are no better now than they were years ago. It's the same way most everywhere. Real progress and not temporary tinkering is what we should demand. Roads are the veins and arteries of commerce. The better they are the better the trade circulation.

In Holland, where they have the best roads in the world, it is said that a farmer will haul, with a team of large dogs, as heavy a load as can be drawn over a bad road with a team of horses. This reminds us how dog-gone bad our roads are.

This country has 1,300,000 miles of common roads. This would encircle the globe fifty times, or go to the moon more than five times. But if most of them would go there just once and not come back, earth would be just about as happy.—New York Farmer.

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**A French** gardener accomplished the unprecedented feat of raising asparagus in October. The Czar had a bunch of it for his dinner on October 6, and the price of it was 90 francs, or 60 cents for each stalk.