

Practical Talks and Plain Precepts for Farmers.

Edited for the Farmer readers of the MONITOR by an Anna Polla Valley Agriculturist

A PLEA FOR BETTER ROADS.

We have been faithfully following up the question for five years in the hope of awakening or eliciting public sentiment in this direction, and we do not mean to give it up yet. It is only by getting the feelings of the farmer thoroughly aroused to the necessity of better road systems that such legislation as will tend to their improvement will be demanded and obtained.

We believe the time is propitious for our agricultural agitation to take up an important factor of our agricultural progress, the improvement of our highways. This is a subject of paramount importance to the farmer population of our country. The system practiced today in our rural districts has a decided status from the private system of colonization road making. It is a common practice to give the road a middle of the road and leave water, with out a run, to soak through the road, and to frustrate the possibility of eastern side of the river in the southern portion of Carolina.

In every other line in agriculture we are making praiseworthy attempts to keep in pace with the "forward march of progress and civilization." In road making there seems to be prevalent a spirit of inertia that is not the natural reaction of our people. We have not measured the importance of this work with our usual keen perception. Today particularly in districts not accessible to railroads, the condition of our roads affects largely in the ultimate profits of our business. The surplus products of our farms have to be transported to market centers. To have this transport of our produce made by a system of larger roads with less friction of our teams and rolling stock, our pleasure and comfort is a means of luxury and modern convenience. We have taken a tremendous stride from the old cart to the modern phaeton with its gilded trimmings, gewgaws, upholstery and cushions. Without a good road bed all this expense so far as meeting our agricultural needs is concerned is rendered nil. In changing the present condition to a system of better roads there need not be any additional expense to our people. By a careful study of this subject, and making the necessary systems have been practically demonstrated. I am satisfied that with no greater expenditure of money than in five years we can have a perfect system of highways.

Not long since we chanced to visit the home of a friend who was engaged in the suburban telephone line and the possibility of such a service came home to me as a very striking matter. My horse stood still to a post on the roadside while our party were waiting for the truck in the barn. The good wife of the house came out and warmly greeted us. She was very cordial and hospitable. We hastened out, placed our rig inside and went out to catch the train. They were not in sight, nor was any noise in evidence. At least one of the party was moved about the team in question, and in a moment after a hill not far away and was caught by a man. He was very much surprised. The engine was explained by the fact that the horse had been sent to the barn. The man who was driving the horse was very much surprised. He was very much surprised. He was very much surprised.

Considering any system of improvement we must well present conditions. In the present condition of our highways, full of ruts, water standing in ditches at their ends, and the distance between the centre and ditch to hold the water to the centre. When the water is standing in the ditches, it is a nuisance to the farmer. It is a nuisance to the farmer. It is a nuisance to the farmer.

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A MOTHER'S SOLDIER BOY.

"I am sure that most women do not appreciate the influence they have over their children in their homes."

"It was a return volunteer from London who spoke to me, and who looked into the earnest young face and noticed the flash of the clear, gray eyes. He felt that this boy knew whereof he spoke."

"Tell me about it," I urged. "I know you have something to relate that is worth hearing."

"It is said that Abbot Lawrence was a woman and a soldier. He was doing a personal favor. He was economical and at the same time liberal in his style of doing things, throwing in an odd quarter of a yard of cloth, the odd shilling in change. When he gained a customer he kept him."

"One night, in Manila, several of us boys had plans for a 'jolly lark.' Of course it was against regulations, and had to be on the sly. As I was standing in the street, I saw a man pass a house and heard a woman singing as she put her child to bed. The song was one that my mother had often sung to us children at home, and it seemed as if I were hearing her again."

"I staggered against the wall and felt myself grow weak all over. The man lay before me, and I saw a boy at home with my two brothers. What had come over me? I felt as if I were back in my mother's arms, and I felt as if I were back in my mother's arms, and I felt as if I were back in my mother's arms."

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THE BONDAGE OF GOOD MANNERS.

It has been said that no one can escape the bondage of good manners. The fater may be silent, but they are as strong as those that wheel the earth along in its orbit. And while all must obey its laws, those laws furnish a currency with which, if the beggar pleases himself, he is better off in all the markets of the world than the prince who has it not.

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THE HOUSEHOLD.

"Come on, let's have a good romp."

"No, I can't, I'm dressed for the afternoon."

"This is a bit of ten years ago for a minute, when they returned to the sand pile and the girl in the smart dress went her way."

"The poor little peacock girl has learned of the old lesson from her mother of not patronizing a certain dressmaker in that city, and the impossibility of wearing anything from any other establishment."

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