

Good Roads.

Hon. E. C. Smith, Governor of Vermont, in his inaugural message to the legislature, said:—

"It is a curious fact that civilization and good roads go hand in hand; the higher the civilization the better the roads. This is true the world over. The United States has made enormous strides in other methods of transportation, but until recently has been singularly remiss in the matter of good highways. Our sister states are now fast realizing the incalculable benefits of them, not only as profitable highways for traffic but as civilizers and as advertisements to secure the patronage of summer tourists and vacation residents. They are spending millions of dollars in improving their highways. They are reaping the benefits in increase of summer population and of wealth. Vermont, with natural attractions rivalling any of our neighbors, cannot afford to delay vigorous progress in the one direction that will produce the greatest immediate and lasting benefit to us all."

Extracts from an address by Hon. W. W. Lynch, President of the District of Bedford Good Roads Association, at the annual meeting at Sweetsburg on January 6, 1899:

"I am rather disposed to think that we underrate the attractions which we possess to summer tourists, as well as the value which they would be to us; and in that connection there is no room to doubt that good roads are an important factor,

"If good roads helped to make the New Hampshire resorts the attractive spots they are to-day, is it not worth our while to make a supreme effort to do something to place our own section of the country in the same enviable position?

"It is a waste of time and energy to improve our roads if narrow tired waggons are to be permitted to cut them up while the ground is soft in the spring and the fall.

"Narrow tires on loaded waggons are, next to water, the most potent destroyers, and it is folly to talk of improving our roads so long as this destructive agency is permitted to do its work.

"Had the road tax of the District of Bedford since 1867 been wisely and judiciously expended all our main roads would be macadamized and all our other roads would to-day be first-class dirt and gravel roads. Now this covers a period of thirty-one years, within the recollection of most of us. Are we prepared to allow the same state of matters to go on for the next thirty years?"

A Pic-Nic at Eccles Hill.

We understand that it is the intention of the Missisquoi Historical Society to organize a picnic for Dominion Day at Eccles Hill.

The place and the time are very appropriate, and if the idea is carried out the event ought to attract a very large attendance. Apart from the historic interest cen-

tering in Eccles Hill, the parish of St. Armand East abounds in magnificent scenery, and is well worth visiting for that reason alone.

Would it not be a good idea for the society to extend a special invitation to all the remaining members of the militia and of the Dunham Home Guard who were called out in 1866 and 1870. Many of these are still in the flesh, and their presence would add to the charm of the occasion.

Mots and Dots.

This is the time of year when the cyclist says nasty things about road machines.

They say that Granby's millionaire citizen has made a pot of money in mining stocks. Well, why shouldn't he; isn't he a Miner?

No matter how a man may have suffered himself at the same thing, he can always enjoy watching another learning to ride a bicycle.

The Dominion will be thirty-two years in existence on July 1 this year. Time flies, but we have been doing big things in the meanwhile. Look at the national debt for instance.

Her Majesty was eighty years of age on the 24th of last month. For more than sixty years the day has been celebrated by her loyal citizens. It will be hard for us to get used to May without a Queen's Birthday.

Doukhobors, Galicians, Finns. What chances to acquire fame as linguists our children will have. But let the newcomers be welcomed. They are under the frost flag on earth, and out of the reach of the clutches of famine.

A peripatetic umbrella mender recently struck a Quebec town near the Vermont boundary line without being aware that he had passed out of the jurisdiction of that State, where, by the way, a law prohibiting the sale of liquor is in force. Being attended by a sort of consuming thirst he entered a drug store and inquired if he could purchase some brandy. He was asked what he wanted the brandy for, and explained that it was to be used only as an "internal" remedy for frozen feet. This was on a warm day in May.

The absurdities that even intelligent people commit in moments of excitement are very laughable sometimes. At a recent fire in a district of Bedford village where, at the time, the only means of fighting the flames was a volunteer bucket brigade, a line was formed from the river to the burning building. The volunteer at the river end of the line was a gentleman who had just donned a brand new pair of tan boots. As he filled the buckets and passed them to the man next in line, he repeatedly cautioned the latter not to spill the water on his new boots, being blissfully oblivious of the fact that he was standing in the river nearly up to his knees.

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