FOR THE LONELY YOUNG MAN

When God Educates the Soul He Does It In Solitude.

A despatch from Brooklyn, N. Y., says: Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis preached from the following text: No man careth for my soul.

A year ago a young man came to the city to make his fortune. During all these months he has been working up to the limits of his strength, with long hours, little pay, slow climbing and at times sick with hope deferred. His home is a boarding house, his room a hall bedroom. On a Sunday night he writes a letter, describing himself as a bird beating its wings against an iron cage. In substance he says: "In the village at home I know every face and everybody knew me. Passing along the street everybody had a smile and a recognition. Here I am nobody—a mere drop in the river. My employer counts me a cog in the machine. You little know the loneliness of a young man in New York. Oh! I know what is meant by the words, 'No man careth for my soul.'"

Doubtless this youth stands for a great multitude in the city. These lonely ones throng our streets and

MARCH IN REGIMENTS.

But it is hard to root a transplanted tree and the loneliness is a part of the transplanting from country to city. But deeper still lies the fact that this loneliness indicates that this youth is now being received into the guild of Worthy Souls. All the great hours of life are lived alone. In death also the soul is alone and solitary. Alone, Paul writes: "I have no man of like faith with me." Solitary, every hero walks through the city. Alone, Galileo made his stand and went along his via dolorosa. Alone, Jesus Christ was tempted in the desert; alone, He suffered in Gethsemane. How pathetic was that midnight hour when He wakened His disciples, asking them if they could not watch with Him in His loneliness for a single hour. Alone, also, He hung upon His cross. When God educates the soul He does it in solitude. All the great crises are fought out in silence, when the angels of God and the soul meet and wrestle and self is defeated and God is victorious. In solitude comes self-reliance and the full knowledge of one's weakness and strength—full power to order one's life.

But over against that exclamation, "No man cares for my soul!" this youth should set Paul's word: "God cares for my soul." God cares! Oh, what a thought is that! In the power of that thought the leaders have gone dryshod across all seas, turned stones to angels' bread, made the rocks to gush in cooling streams. For these lonely ones the duty of the hour is to hope and trust in time and events and the resources of God's loving providence.

Put away care and anxiety and feverish fears. Live a trustful, tranquil life, meeting storm with calm, adversity with fortitude, and in the end you will conquer.

To this young man I say, do not waste your time with weak moaning as to being lonely. Wake up, work hard, work earnestly, work incessantly, and you will surely find happiness. You will get ahead. Join a church and enter with zeal into its uplifting work and you will soon make many new firm and lasting friends. In action you will have no room for brooding loneliness. Action will bring results. Results will bring both friends and prospects. These will bring contentment and so will your loneliness be banished forever.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, APRIL 2.

Lesson I. Jesus the Good Shepherd. Golden Text, John x., 11.

LESSON WORD STUDIES.

A Sequel.—The discourse of Jesus concerning himself as the Good Shepherd came as a sequel to His healing the man born blind (see lesson for March 19): The cure has been wrought on a Sabbath day, and had thus afforded to "the Jews" a pretext for violently antagonizing Jesus. When, therefore, the man whose sight had been restored courageously testified for his benefactor and refused to deny him, the Jews turned against this man also and cast him out of the synagogue, that is, excommunicated him. Jesus, hearing of this, sought out the man and encouraged him to cling in faith to the Son of God. At this point the Pharisees again intrude with their presence, whereupon Jesus takes the opportunity to declare that he alone and not the officers of a Jewish synagogue or anyone else, had power to admit to, or exclude from, the company of God's chosen people. This truth he clothes in the form of a parable, in which he speaks of a "door into the fold of the sheep" whereby all must enter who would find pasture (be saved). His parabolic teaching not being understood, he repeats its substance in plainer words.

Verse 7. Again—Jesus had shortly before spoken a parable intended to convey the same teaching concerning himself (verses 1-5), but in its parabolic form those, who heard him speak, had not understood that teaching (verse 6).

Verily, verily—A form of solemn emphasis with which Jesus introduces his repeated statement concerning himself (see also Work Studies, Lesson V., January 29). This formula is never used at the beginning, but in the middle of a discourse in confound truth, or to emphasize a reply, found truth, or to enkindle a reply. It is, moreover, peculiar to John, the synoptics using simply "Verily."

The door of the sheep.—The door used by the sheep, the only one whereby they may enter the fold.

8. All that came before me—Professing to be that which I re. ly am and to give to the sheep what I really give—impostors and false teachers.

Thieves and robbers—A thief ("kleptes") will steal secretly, using stealth, the robber plunders openly, using violence. The arrangement of the words is therefore climacteric. These false teachers were deceivers of the people, and where deception failed of its purpose they used violence, compelling the people by harsh measures to obey their precepts.

The sheep did not hear them—The true children of God (Israelites indeed, like Nathanael) were not governed by what they said.

9. Shall go in and out—Shall enjoy the truest freedom.

Find pasture—Shall not want (Psa. 23. 1).

10. Have it abundantly—Or have abundance.

11. The good shepherd—The admirable, competent, morally good, and noble shepherd.

Layeth down—Puts it aside, esteeming it of less value than that for which it is given up.

For—On behalf of.

12. Hireling—One who serves for pay.

Beholdeth—Discerneth or descrieth, ascertains by seeing.

Snatcheth—Probably at the time the "Authorized Version" was prepared the word catch, which it uses here, conveyed much the same meaning as does our word "snatch" at present. The meanings of words in a living or spoken language continually change, which fact is one great factor in making new versions of the Bible necessary from time to time. The snatching of one sheep would frighten and scatter the rest.

16. Other sheep I have—Not such as already believed on him, but would believe when they heard of him. These were his "by the Father's design and gift."

Not of this fold—Nor, indeed of any one other fold, but scattered. The fold here referred to is the Jewish nation, those not of this fold were the Gentiles.

One flock—Our common version does not observe the distinction between "fold" and "flock" as the Revised Version rightly does. The Greek words are different.

17. That I may take it again—In his death the good shepherd does not leave his sheep defenceless. He will take His life again, and this also for their sake. His power over life and death, together with his love, secures to those who are his sheep the life, freedom, and abundance which he had come to bring.

18. This commandment received I—The commandment to die and to rise again—at the time of incarnation. His voluntary surrender of his own life and glory with the Father preceded this commandment. While in the flesh Jesus subordinated himself to the Father and obeyed implicitly his bidding, thus becoming our example in perfect obedience.

THE PHOLOSOPHY OF WORK.

Man's Highest Dignity Lies in Honest Labor.

There is a growing tendency manifested in various ways to regard work as merely a means of reaching a state of idleness. The prevailing mental attitude seems to be that the only standard of success is riches, and that the only way to attain happiness is with the least possible exertion to become a man of leisure, and to be able to dawdle through life with nothing to do. It requires but little examination of the real basis of happiness, or knowledge of human nature and the conditions, under which we are placed where we are, to show the falseness of this position.

Man is constituted an active being, seeking expression of his character and tastes, and, if he would continue to exist and to progress, must labor. His highest dignity lies in honest, faithful labor, and through it alone can he find scope for the adequate expression of his individuality. When we linger in admiration before a great work of art, it is not so much for what is represented as because we recognize that the artist has put into it something of himself, showing us how some one who sees better than we has looked at something, and the loving, careful, painstaking toil he has bestowed in representing it. Nowhere does character come out more unmistakably than in the daily task, it matters not how trivial it may seem, and from no other source does there come so genuine satisfaction as from the consciousness of work well and thoroughly done. It matters not whether it is the painting of a picture, the preparation of a law case, the keeping of a set of books, the making of a pair of shoes, or the cooking of a dinner. Whoever does it in the best way with love for his work and honest devotion to it will get the best results and find his reward in it.

BANDS OF MERCY.

Juvenile Humane Movement in the Schools.

In various parts of the Province Bands of Mercy have been formed in the public schools and among little groups of children owing to the extensive educational work carried on by the Toronto Humane Society. This is regarded by the promoters of humane work as the beginning of an extensive organization among children for the protection of animals and the development of kindly feelings towards both man and animal. The mode of procedure in forming a band is very simple. The children are told about the work, and if they wish to join they sign their names to the following pledge:—

"I will try to be kind to all harmless living creatures, and try to protect them from cruel usage."

SIGNING THE ROLL.

They then decide upon a name for their band and elect a president, secretary-treasurer and a committee of five. Meetings are held every fortnight or as often as the band desires, and the children give recitations, or relate incidents of how they tried to prevent animals being abused during the preceding week.

The great underlying principle of the Band of Mercy is to develop kindness and thoughtfulness in children. Besides protecting animals, they may devise schemes for giving pleasure to the poor and the sick. They will learn to carry flowers to the sick bedside, to collect money by means of small entertainments to pay the rent of some poor old woman, or to aid the Children's Aid Society. In this way selfishness is gradually crowded out, the little one goes about with a bright face and becomes a veritable household sunbeam. Mother need not go upstairs to fetch something because nimble feet are waiting to do her bidding. Father does not call for his slippers, because a little thoughtful angel has placed them by his chair. Thus the Band of Mercy becomes a blessing to the home and the community, and the cruel vindictive spirit is supplanted by a feeling of universal brotherhood.

At the meetings the children enliven proceedings by singing a number of hymns, specially adapted for the movement.

One of the bands recently formed has adopted the name "Inasmuch," taken from the well-known Scriptural verse:—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." The children have already shown their great interest in the work. A few days ago, after hearing about the cruelty of the tight check-rein, a little girl declined going for a drive with her father until he loosened the check-rein. The father had not given the subject any thought, but when his little girl spoke of it he willingly consented to loosen the rein. In another instance some little girls noticed a boy carrying chickens with their heads hanging down and they tried hard to persuade him to carry them upright.

The movement is worthy of encouragement from teachers and trustees. It cannot do harm—it may do untold good.—J. J. Kelso, Toronto.

LARD.

This is the time of the year to make up the lard needed for the summer. The quality is better than that made in warm weather and if properly prepared will keep all right. The labor is not great and when one considers the quality as compared with what is sold in the stores under the title of "Pure Leaf Lard" it will be a surprise to any one who has never before tried it, what a difference there is. By the leaf when the butcher has a fresh supply on hand—rinse in cold water if there are any signs of dust. Cut in strips the size of a finger. Put in a porcelain or iron kettle, sprinkle a tablespoon of salt to about six pounds; add one-fourth cup of water to moisten the bottom of the kettle and place in a slow oven. The encircling heat will try it out better than using the top of the stove. When the scraps are a golden brown, pour through a wire sieve that is covered with a piece of cheese cloth. After the free fat runs through, gather up the ends of the cloth and with a spoon press out the remaining fat. Another advantage in using the oven is that there is very little odor.

THEN HE WENT HOME.

"Mother," he said, "has ever since I can remember been warning me against the danger of marrying in haste."

"Well," she answered, with a sudden show of spirit, "I suppose she thought she would keep you forever to herself if you didn't marry in haste, for certainly no girl would be likely to marry you except in that way."

The Home

SELECTED RECIPES.

Corned Beef Hash.—Mix equal quantities of chopped cold corned beef and minced cold, boiled potatoes. Season with pepper. Melt one tablespoonful of fat skimmed from the beef water, and when hot turn in the hash. Over the top pour just enough of the corned beef water to barely moisten, spread with a second spoonful of the salt fat, cover and stand where the hash will slowly cook and brown on the bottom. Roll like an omelet and turn out on a heated platter. A recipe known as Delmonico's, calls for one-half of a cupful of thin cream for each quart of well-seasoned hash. The pan is greased, the hash turned in and placed on the fire, where it will slowly heat. The milk is then poured over, the mixture stirred once, then placed in a very hot oven for twenty minutes.

Apple Pan Cakes.—Pare, core and chop rather fine, two medium-sized sour apples. Take one cup thick sweet milk, one even tablespoonful sugar, a pinch of salt, two eggs. Beat together with one rounding teaspoon soda, add one cup flour; then add another cup flour and the apples, also one rounded and one even teaspoon cream tartar. Mix and add more flour if needed, as the mixture should be quite firm, but not hard enough to mold. Dip the dough up with a spoon in lumps not larger than half of a small egg, and cook them in hot lard the same as doughnuts. Eat warm, with maple syrup or any favorite sweet pudding sauce. The pancakes are also good cold.

Fish Chowder.—In the kettle in which the chowder is to be made, fry five slices of pork to a delicate brown. Remove and chop rather thin. Place on top of this a layer of fresh cod cut into two inch pieces. Over this spread a thin covering of finely chopped onions, sprinkle with pepper, a bit of parsley, a very little summer savory, and cover with common crackers that have been split and soaked a few moments. Next put in more of the chopped pork and continue in the same order until the fish is all used, having soaked buttered crackers on the top. Cover with cold water and stew very gently for about one hour. If the water boils down out of sight carefully add a little more from the teakettle. Dish out with a skimmer and thicken the liquid with one tablespoonful flour and one of melted butter stirred together (this proportion is suitable for about four pounds fish). Boil up and add one cup hot milk if desired.

Sausage with Apple Sauce.—Pare six good sized apples make a syrup of one cup of sugar and one of water. Pare and core the apples, and slice them into rings about three-fourths of an inch thick. Place the rings, a few at a time, into the hot syrup, which should be in a shallow saucepan, to allow the pieces to be turned frequently while cooking. Fry the sausage crisp, pile in centre of plate, and arrange the apple rings around it, one ring overlapping the other, and serve hot. Apple cooked in this way make a nice dessert served cold with cream, either plain or whipped.

Baked Mackerel.—After two fish have been thoroughly freshened by soaking in fresh water six hours, rinse them and wipe dry then squeeze lemon juice over the flesh side. Lay the fish on a fish tin laid in a baking pan, cover with a thick dressing made of bread crumbs seasoned with minced parsley, pepper, salt, bits of butter and the thin yellow rind of a lemon; put the other fish on this dressing and baste with melted butter and hot water. When well browned, remove to a hot platter without disturbing the layers and cover the top with bread crumbs moistened with butter, and brown. Garnish with parsley.

Stuffed Beefsteak.—Stuffed beefsteak, or "mock duck," makes a welcome variety in the bill of fare. Use two or three pounds of thick steak from the upper side of the round. Cut a "pocket" in it, or else roll the stuffing in it and bind with string, securing the ends so the contents will not burst out. Season a cupful of breadcrumbs, with salt, pepper, butter and a little chopped onion. Have ready a shallow broad-bottomed pot in which a slice of pork or bacon and a little beef suet have been fried crisp. Lay in the roll and turn till well browned. Add half a pint of water and a little salt, cover closely and let it simmer slowly for two hours; add more water if likely to dry out. When done take off the string and lay the meat on a hot platter. Thicken the gravy with browned flour and add a teaspoonful of catsup, or Worcester sauce, and pour over.

LAUNDRY HINTS.

Make your iron holder of asbestos cloth.

Table salt in the starch will help the ironing.

A little borax in the last rinsing water will make handkerchiefs easier to iron and look better when done.

A useful thing to remember is that the iron will not stick to the clothes if the starch used has been mixed with soapy water.

Rub the irons with a cloth soaked in kerosene to prevent scorching. Frequent rubbing on sandpaper will keep the irons from sticking.

Three ounces of borax and two pounds of sliced white bar soap dissolved in two quarts of hot water will make a splendid lather for washing clothes.

TO RENEW CANE CHAIRS.

If the seats have become limp and stretched, so that they sink in the centre, they may be made as good as new, if none of the strips of cane are broken, by washing them well in hot water and then placing them in current of air to dry. This causes the cane to tighten up, and when dry the seat will be quite flat as when first woven.

THINGS TO KNOW.

That two potatoes grated in a basin of warm water give better results than soap in washing delicate flannel or woollen goods, ribbons, etc.?

That piano keys can be cleaned, as if any old ivory, by being rubbed with muslin dipped in alcohol? If very yellow, use a piece of flannel moistened with cologne water.

That a little thin cold starch rubbed over windows and mirrors and then wiped off with a soft cloth is an easy way of producing most shining results.

That oily water can be cleared by adding a few spoonfuls of cornmeal.

That lamp wicks should be soaked in vinegar before being used. That if the surface of a lamp seems oily, a little cornstarch rubbed on and then wiped off will remove the oiliness. That if lamp wicks are kept turned down when the lamps are not in use the surface of lamps will not become oily.

That hot milk is even better than boiling water to take out fruit stains.

That cloves or salt sprinkled on a pantry shelf will rid it of ants.

CHOOSING FOWLS.

See that the spurs are short, and that they have not been cut or pared to deceive the buyer. The comb of a cock should be bright red. Black-legged fowls are to be preferred for roasting, white legs for boiling.

35TH ANNUAL REPORT OF

The Mutual Life

ASSURANCE CO., of Canada,

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

INCOME.

Premiums	$1,373,364 69
Interest and rents	351,944 21
	$1,725,308 90

DISBURSEMENTS.

Death Claims	$ 220,304 50
Matured Endowments	152,053 00
Purchased Policies	52,394 54
Surplus	83,183 40
Annuities	8,679 90
Expenses, Taxes, etc.	300,807 00
Balance	899,886 56
	$1,725,308 90

ASSETS.

Mortgages	$3,760,617 53
Debentures and Bonds	2,897,496 42
Loans on Policies	888,492 41
Loans on Stocks	7,000 00
Liens on Policies	31,161 25
Real Estate	68,285 53
Cash in Banks	136,728 03
Cash at Head Office	4,317 18
Due and Deferred Premiums (net)	266,713 94
Interest due and accrued	159,718 16
	$8,220,530 45

LIABILITIES.

Reserve, 4, 3½ and 3 per cent	$7,355,172 24
Reserve on lapsed Policies liable to receive or surrender	1,967 10
Death Claims unadjusted	28,066 00
Present value of Death Claims payable in instalments	31,722 82
Premiums paid in advance	15,023 96
Amount due for medical fees	5,847 50
Credit Ledger Balances	11,257 96
Net surplus over all liabilities on Company's Valuation Standard	772,072 87
	$8,220,530 45

Net Surplus over all Liabilities on Government Standard of Valuation $1,049,400.71

Audited and found correct.

J. M. SCULLY, F.C.A., Auditor. GEO. WEGENAST, Manager.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Your Directors have pleasure in submitting their 35th Annual Report showing the transactions for the year, and the Financial standing of the Company as at December 31st, 1904. The business of 1904 was most gratifying in all respects, large gains having been made in Income, Assets and Surplus.

INSURANCE ACCOUNT.—The volume of new business exceeds that of any former year, being 3,452 Policies for $5,048,168, all of which, except $30,000, was written within the Dominion. The total assurance now in force is $40,476,970.58 under 27,742 policies, the net addition for the year being $2,889,119. While many of our native Companies are seeking business abroad, some of them in distant parts of the world, it is thought by our Directors that good Canadian business is preferable to foreign business, which is secured with less certainty as to its quality, and at excessive cost.

INCOME.—The total income was $1,725,308.90, being $1,373,364.69 for premiums, and $351,944.21 for interest. The gain over 1903 was $164,238.87.

DISBURSEMENTS.—The payments to Policyholders amounted to $524,615.34, and consisted of Death Claims, $220,301.50, Endowments, $160,053; Purchased Policies, $52,394.54; Surplus, $83,183.40, and Annuities, $8,679.90. The claims by death were exceptionally light, being $51,404 less then last year, and only 41 per cent. of the amount expected.

THE EXPENSES AND TAXES were $300,807, being 17.4 per cent. of the total income, or about 1 per cent. less than in 1903.

ASSETS.—The cash assets are $7,794,098.35, and the total assets $8,220,530.45, showing gains of $905,450.05 and $937,372.05, respectively. The funds are being invested in the same classes of securities as heretofore, principally in Mortgage loans on farms and city properties, Bonds and Municipal Debentures. The latter are taken into account at their book value or cost, which is considerably below their market value. The demand for money was active during the year, at better rates than for some years past, resulting in a slight advance in the rate of interest earned, viz., 5.09 per cent. Payments on Mortgages for interest and instalments of principal were well met, though in the case of our Manitoba loans they were not quite as satisfactory as in former years, due to the partial failure of the wheat crop. The interest and rents overdue at the close of the year were but a small portion of the receipts, being only $13,740.19, most of which has since been paid.

LIABILITIES.—The liabilities were again computed on the Combined Experience Table with 4 per cent. interest for all business up to January 1st, 1900. From that date to January 1st, 1903, on the Institute of Actuaries' Table with 3½ per cent., and thereafter on the same Table with 3 per cent.

SURPLUS.—After making provision for all liabilities the surplus on our own standard is $772,072.87, being an increase of $170,020.20 over 1903, and this after distributing amongst Policyholders $83,183.40. On the Government standard of reserves, namely, 4½ per cent. on business to January 1st, 1900, and 3½ per cent. thereafter, our Surplus is $1,049,400.71. The earnings for the year were $254,103.60.

On behalf of the Board.

ROBERT MELVIN, President.

The various reports having been adopted, the retiring directors, Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, A. Hoskin, Esq., K.C., Hon. Mr. Justice Garrow and E. L. Clement, Esq., K.C., were unanimously re-elected. After a number of able and thoughtful addresses had been made by members of the Board, prominent Policyholders, the Manager, the agents and others, the meeting adjourned.

The Directors met subsequently and re-elected Mr. Robert Melvin President; Mr. Alfred Hoskin, K.C., First Vice-President; and the Hon. Mr. Justice Britton, Second Vice-President, of the Company for the ensuing year.

(Booklets containing full report, comprising lists of death and endowment claims paid, of securities held, and other interesting and instructive particulars are being issued and will in due course be distributed among policyholders and intending insurants.)

Waterloo, March 2, 1905.

W. H. RIDDELL, Secretary.

PRINCE'S TOUR OF INDIA.

Tiger Shooting and Motoring Among the Amusements.

The London Chronicle publishes the following:—When the Prince and Princess of Wales visit India next November it is probable that they will proceed to Bombay, in a liner specially chartered for the purpose. Several places will be stopped at on the outward and homeward voyages.

The Prince's suite will not be a large one, but several members of the household will accompany the party; the military officials being supplied by the Indian army. Probably one or two native chiefs will be attached to the suite of A. D. C.'s during the tour, the details of which will be arranged by Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener.

Motoring, tiger-shooting and inspections will be arranged, and the programme, which, it is understood, will include a number of brilliant functions in Calcutta next Christmas, will conclude with a royal review.

DRINKING WATER FROM CARTS.

A novel mode of distributing pure water has been commenced at Lincoln, England. In view of the typhoid scourge the corporation have fitted water-carts, with pipes and taps. Water is carted from ten miles away, and carts located at different places for people to help themselves. In addition to the Newark daily supply of 10,000 gallons, Gainsborough has offered up to a hundred thousand gallons daily if it can be dealt with. The total number of case is now 692 and the deaths sixty.

When you find a man overzealous about the faults of his neighbors wait until the dust settles and you will find the holes in his own coat.

WHAT GOOD ROADS MEAN.

A NECESSITY IN WELL-REGULATED COMMUNITIES.

The Question Is One That Should Be Considered By Every Farmer.

A new country that is steadily pushing its way to the front can afford to neglect its public highways. Development succeeds development with such rapidity that the farmers and road users in general do not realize the exact condition of affairs till heavy demands are made upon the road bed and then, if the weather is such as to make the highways impassible, there is probably no other thing that is of such vital importance to the farming community as good roads. They are the home market between country and town, determine the relative value of every farmer, and are an economic factor in the working of any rural community. They are unrivalled in importance.

The one great drawback to good roads is the fact that they are really the subjects of legislation, as such are pulled through a maze of delay and graft and red tape. The working out of the matter is too much every man's business—there being everywhere a lack of

PERSONAL INTEREST

The working out of the matter is considered a state duty and is generally performed as such. There is a lack of skill and in the performance of the labor is done. Here a shovelful, there a scraper load, yonder a few scratches, everything temporary and tentative, and only under the most favorable conditions.

The first step towards reform is a state of affairs is in awakening an earnest and urgent interest in good roads. Each farmer and land owner must be made to feel a personal interest in not only his own part of the branch of the public highway, but in every road in his community as well. There should be a premium, born largely, of course, through necessity, that has for its final object a road that can be travelled over at any season of the year and in any kind of weather.

Careful and judicious management of both funds and work is absolutely necessary to obtain the best results. Skilled overseers, men who understand thoroughly the problem of road construction, materials, soils, drainage, etc., should be in control, and every man's labor should be calculated with due regard for dollars and cents and the work accomplished. Modern road machinery exists in abundance and is of such a nature that if used, the heaviest demands that may be made upon it. Road graders, steel scrapers, ploughs, rollers, rock crushers all go to make up a outfit of machinery that is complete in every detail.

THE MODERN ROAD GRADER attached to a traction engine constitutes an outfit of steel and iron that no soil can resist. Then again the engine can be used to turn a stone crusher that converts the hard stones from off the farm fields into just the best kind of road dressing. "Bumps of nature" are not, thanks to the crusher, rather they may become part of a beautiful highway.

The road question is one which should be carefully considered by every farmer. It affects him vitally, and generally at such a time when the vital effects can be felt in terms of dollars and cents. Every shovelful of dirt misplaced on the public highway is just so much out of his pocket and money. All this will result ultimately in a hard load, a ruffled temper and a loss of valuable time.

WILY CHINESE EMPRESS.

Little Gifts Presented to Her Her Last Birthday.

The Empress Dowager of China, anxious to the celebration of her birthday anniversary, acted contrary to her usual custom and would not accept presents from Ministers and high officials of the provinces, owing to the suffering and poverty-stricken condition of the country," writes the Peking correspondent of the London Daily Mail.

Her Majesty even went so far as to refuse to allow certain members of the Foreign Legations in Peking to send her presents, because she had forbidden her Ministers to send her presents, she could not allow her outside friends to do so.

As a matter of fact, the wily Empress Dowager purchased solely for the edification of the Chinese "man in the street," not for the guidance of those whom they were apparently addressed.

Men who had been commissioned to buy gifts, the Empress seized this opportunity, the Empress Dowager received on her birthday anniversary a number of precious stones, pearls, bronzes, jade, mechanical toys, enamels, and other valuable articles. The Minister and high officials presented them at their respective audiences. Her Majesty has spent within the palace grounds at least $10,000,000 within a year. Certain officials who had contributed to only $25,000 were promoted to the Imperial Black List and "Red" tapes were cast aside.

One man who obtained special favor presenting her, among other things, with a large quantity of [illegible], or sausage, which proved as good as promised. Certainly in the Shanghai Taotai