

STATUTE LABOR SYSTEM IS OBSOLETE

Modern Roadways Must Be Built and Maintained by Modern Methods.—Some Impressions Gained at the Road Meeting Here Last Week.

The meeting of township officials and roadmakers in the Public Library on Wednesday last week was all too briefly referred to in our last issue. This was caused by the lack of time and space at our disposal. This week we shall endeavor to continue more fully the article on a matter that is, we think, of great importance to every municipality in the province today—the cheapest method of making roadways that will stand up under the conditions modern traffic conditions demand.

As an introduction, it may be pointed out that it would appear that those townships which have elected to retain their statute labor system to maintain their roads are not acting in the best interests of their community. Under present-day traffic requirements, this system is entirely inadequate to fulfill the needs of the travelling public. It is true that the main arteries carrying the through or tourist traffic are becoming pretty generally improved under the Provincial Highway and County Road systems. Outside of these roads, however, every township municipality has many miles of road for which they are entirely responsible. There are many miles of these roads, especially those leading to market centres, butter or cheese factories within the townships that are called upon to carry as heavy, if not heavier traffic than some of the county roads, but as their importance is purely local, they cannot well be incorporated in an organized county or inter-county systems.

In view of these facts, the Provincial Government has seen fit to increase the government subsidy on township work from twenty to thirty per cent, and that on the salary of a competent superintendent, from forty to fifty per cent. It would appear to be false economy on the part of any municipality not to avail themselves of this assistance. The government, we understand, has definitely withdrawn their assistance and co-operation from those municipalities which are operating under the statute labor system.

We understand also that these townships which are taking advantage of government aid are free to avail themselves of the advice and assistance of the district engineers from the Department of Public Highways in their township undertakings. The experience and counsel of these men who are moving about continually through the various municipalities throughout the province, should be a valuable asset to have at their disposal free of charge. There are several defects in the principle of statute labor as a means of attending to the road needs of a community which present themselves forcibly to the mind of the average observer.

There is no uniformity either in the method of carrying out the work or in the supervision. With fifty or sixty pathmasters in charge of as many beats, you are more than likely to find as many different methods of going about the job. It is an expensive method of doing the work. Any one who has taken the opportunity to observe the average statute labor gang at work will at once remark the absence of any systematic supervision of the work. The gravel is dumped promiscuously, and if the work is grading, more than likely the soils from the side of the road are heaped up in the centre of the driving space and left for traffic and weather to level down.

An honest day's work is not as a general rule obtained from the workers. The average pathmaster is not going to antagonize his neighbor with whom he is working for the sake of getting an extra load of gravel or a full ten-hour day from every man on the job. If this pathmaster were a contractor, he would see that such were the case, otherwise the laborer would not be tolerated on the work. The same would apply if the work were in charge of a capable foreman or superintendent. He would demand a full day's work for a day's pay. The men would not be "working for the King," an expression commonly used for the performance of statute labor, but would be working for a certain wage per hour or per day and would be required to perform service to that value.

The work is usually performed at the convenience of the farmers, regardless of whether it is the time most suitable for the performance of the work. Probably at a time when the road is most in need of attention, no one is available or responsible for taking care of it and condition of the road and the comfort and convenience of those using it are entirely neglected. It prevents the undertaking of any systematic plan of improvement. The work is too much scattered, and practically only what may be termed emergent situations in the way of improvement can be taken care of. No progress in the general betterment of the roads can be made. In fact, under present-day conditions, it would appear that many roads, if left entirely dependent on statute labor for their upkeep, would deteriorate instead of improve.

While The Chronicle does not pretend to know all about roads and their building, we think the above impressions, gleaned from listening to the address of Mr. Hawes at the meeting here last week, as well as from other sources, are well worthy of consideration. Mr. Hawes is the District Engineer of Municipal Roads and will likely be in charge of the

work in this neighborhood during the coming summer. He is a practical road man, and his address was filled with good suggestions as to the building and maintenance of roads. During the season, he will be a frequent visitor through this section in his tour of inspection, and there is no doubt that his advice, as well as that of his department, will be a valuable help in the work being done in this section of Ontario. While we have no fault to find with municipalities that voted on and retained the statute labor system, or with those who have as yet taken no action in the matter, the present governmental system looks like the proper one to us. We predict that the next few years will see statute labor abolished throughout all of Ontario. Roadbuilding and maintenance costs too much money today to allow the work to be done in a haphazard manner, and the only way in which the back roads of the townships can be placed in shape for present day demands is by a proper system of workmanship supervised by men who have made a study of the country's requirements and who thoroughly understand their work.

The Boy Scouts' Column

EDITED BY GREEN PLUME

Hikes
The outdoor enthusiasts of the Troop have again commenced the weekly hikes. Troop Leader Ted Clark, Scouts Ernest Neaves, Royden Connor, Eric Clark and Thomas Brown built a very fine flag-pole at the Troop Camp on Mr. John McGowan's property. The pole is about twenty feet high and was made of two cedars spliced. A signalling competition was the feature of last Saturday's hike. Scouts Wallace McGowan and Clifford Moon were the winners. The Troop then got busy with supper. Some of the mothers of the Troop would be very much surprised if they knew how adept their young hopefuls are becoming with a skillet.

Good Friday Hike
The Good Friday overnight hike is off. The weather has been cold, and it is likely that some of the Troop would come back with colic and flu. Instead the S.M. is planning a big day at the Rocky. Look this over and don't fail to be there: 9:30. Assemble at S. M.'s office. 9:45. Inspection. 9:50. Move off for the Rocky. 10:50. Arrive at Camp and rest 15 minutes. 11:35. Flag Raid (Owls vs. Beavers). 11:50. Prepare dinner. Each fellow must have something to cook. Bring flour, soda and salt for 'twist', vegetables and meat for Hunters' Stew, or meat and "spuds". 1:00. Signalling instruction. Bring flags. 2:00. Smugglers over the border (Owls vs. Beavers). 3:00. Bridge-building, by the S. M. and T. L. 4:30. Home, Sweet Home.

If this looks good to you, be on hand. Full uniform and equipment, pots and frying pans, matches and grub. Let's go.

Camp
With the fine spring days and good weather, a Boy Scout's thoughts just naturally turn to the joys of camp. Everybody is beginning to think of White Cloud again. The S.M. and the biggest part of the Troop will be on hand again. In fact, the S.M. is seriously considering getting in a few extra 'licks' by going to the Gilwell Training Camp at Ebor Park—near Brantford—in June. It is our ambition to have the biggest and best Troop in camp this year.

Weekly Meetings
The weekly meetings are coming along a little better. Some more enthusiasm is trickling into them, and it is encouraging to the S.M. to see the increased interest.

Inspection
Every fellow in the Troop is urged to be out in full war-paint on Wednesday, April 15th, when the Field Secretary of the Provincial Association will be in Town to inspect the Troop. Mr. Edgar T. Jones has had wide experience in Scout work, and has seen a lot of Troops. So turn out in full uniform and show some "pep." The Scoutmaster wishes to say he wants any fellow who possibly can to order his uniform immediately—if not sooner—so that the Troop will present a more "uniform" appearance on inspection night.

And That's That
There were three of them—An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman; and they had been discussing the relative values of their respective nationalities. "Well, well," said the Englishman, who was bent on an amicable solution of the question, "I'm proud of being an Englishman, but if I were not an Englishman, I would—well, I would be an Irishman." "And sure," replied the Irishman, quite ready to return the compliment. "If I were not an Irishman, I would be an Englishman." "And now, what would you be if you were not a Scotsman?" continued the Englishman, addressing the Scot. "What would I be if I were not a Scotsman?" repeated the latter. "Weel, if I were a Scotsman—ah, I would be just dem weel ashamed o' myself!"

One-half the world doesn't care a hang about the other half's scandals.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS CANADA'S CHILD IMMIGRANTS

O. T. A. Amendments
(Stratford Beacon-Herald)
The Ontario Government's proposals for the amendment of the Ontario Temperance Act have been announced. They contain nothing that could now be regarded as sensational, the people having become long since accustomed to the idea of stronger beer. The government persists in regarding this stronger beer as a non-intoxicant. His Mr. Nickle, attorney-general, while explaining the proposals, declared that the government in authorizing the stronger beer was respecting the O. T. A. for the increase in alcoholic content from 2 1/2 per cent proof to 4 1/2 per cent did not render the new beer intoxicating. Nevertheless the intention is to restrict the sale of the 4 1/2 beer in a way that the sale of the 2 1/2 per cent stuff is not restricted. It must not be sold to people under the age of 18 years, and it must not be sold in hotel bars. It may also be sold by clubs, restaurants and cafeterias for consumption on the premises. It may also be sold by grocery stores, but for delivery only and not by the glass. It does not appear that it will make much difference, so far as the effect is concerned, whether the beer is swallowed at a table in a hotel or at a bar; but, no doubt, the government wants to keep itself free from even the suspicion of doing anything that might lead to the restoration of the old-time bar.

One of the proposed amendments would reduce the number of prescriptions for which a doctor may issue in a month from 50 to 30. Theoretically this proposal is open to the objection that the government is undertaking to branch out into the practice of medicine. According to the O. T. A., no intoxicating liquor—except native wines—can be legally sold except for medicinal purposes. But if the liquor is required for medicinal purposes, should not the doctor be allowed to be the judge of how much is needed? As a matter of fact, however, the government takes no ground that there is far too much drinking of strong liquors in the province and that far too much of the potent stuff sent out from the dispensaries is used for beverage, rather than medicinal purposes. The government's proposal of a remedy is to offer stronger beer in the hope that it will take the place of a good deal of the whisky now consumed; to restrict the issuing of doctors' prescriptions and to discourage and penalize the bootlegger that he may become disgraced and quit the business. Compulsory prison sentences are provided for the bootlegger, in addition to fines. The government has taken strong ground on the necessity for suppressing illicit traffic, and in this matter, at any rate, it will have the sympathy and support of public opinion.

Curious Changes
(Stratford Beacon-Herald)
It is pointed out that the 12th of July will come on the eleventh this year, and the Orangemen will walk on the eleven. It may be interesting to note that if it hadn't been for a Pope of Rome, Pope Gregory XIII, the Orangemen might be walking on July 1st. As a matter of fact, the Battle of the Boyne was fought on July 1st. What says the old ballad? "July the first in Old Bridge town, there was fought a grievous battle." And the anniversary would naturally still be July the first, if Pope Gregory had not come along with his reformed calendar, putting the clock on 11 days, so that the first became the 12th. It may be even more interesting to consider that if it had not been for another Pope of Rome, the one who helped King William to win the battle of the Boyne, the Orangemen might not be walking at all; there might even be no Orangemen. But, of course, it is too late to do anything about it now.

PLUMS FOR CANADA
"Comparatively few people get good plums to eat, especially in the fresh condition, and the export trade in plums, whatever it may be in the future, is practically nothing at the present time," writes W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist. "The plum has not been as profitable to grow in Canada as some other fruits," continues Mr. Macoun. "But with a careful selection of varieties and good care, it will be found to give fairly good returns. In those parts of Canada where the European plums do not succeed, the improved native and American varieties have been found very profitable."

A new bulletin by W. T. Macoun, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is now in the press and will very shortly be ready for distribution. This bulletin deals with every phase of plum culture and, among other valuable features, gives a complete list of the varieties recommended for the different parts of Canada, from Prince Edward Island in the east to British Columbia in the west. There is also a description of the varieties included in the list just mentioned. This bulletin, entitled "Plum Culture," (No. 45, New Series) which is perhaps the most complete of its kind yet issued by the department, will be sent free on application to Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Not What She Wanted
A negro woman of mammoth proportions and inky complexion was in an automobile accident. She was transported to the hospital, where she soon regained consciousness. The doctor, seeking to comfort her a bit, said to her: "You will undoubtedly be able to obtain a considerable amount of damages, Mrs. Johnson." "Damages!" said Mrs. Johnson. "What Ah want wif damages? Ah got enough damages now. What Ah wants is repairs."


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AIM TO GET HALF-BILLION FROM TOURISTS

(Financial Post)
The tremendous possibilities of the tourist traffic as a Canadian industry are illustrated by the fact that the centre of population for automobiles in the United States is in close proximity to the Canadian border. According to information compiled by the Canadian Department of the Interior, 6,680,000 automobiles, or 43 per cent of the total number of pleasure cars owned in the United States, are owned in states bordering on the Great Lakes, while 7,370,000 or 47.5 per cent are in states contiguous to Canada.

These facts are astounding! They mean that Canada has at her very doors probably 30,000,000 potential tourists, an increasingly large number of whom will visit us annually if we take the proper steps to develop this industry. In the past, we have had no definite national policy in this connection. Separate municipalities, principally near the borders, have endeavored to attract tourists. Apart from these uncoordinated attempts, nothing serious has been done.

It has been estimated by the National Parks Board that the tourist trade brought \$136,000,000 into the country in 1923. A press dispatch states that the industry was worth more than \$200,000,000 to France last year. What we want is our rightful share of the tourist business and if the figure for France is correct, we should aim at, at least three times this amount.

Some of the features which would build up a half-billion dollar tourist industry in Canada are more widespread and business-like advertising in the United States; further development of the present tourist camps; improvement of roads leading to our inland resorts, and the provision of more habitable hotels in many of these places; some method of dealing with profiteers who thrive on overcharging tourists, thus discouraging their return.

ORIGIN OF COLORS

It is interesting to note that colors are the result of much complicated chemistry, and are also furnished by nature in various forms. The color we have come to know as "khaki" originates from matter supplied by the cuttlefish. From this fish we also get sepia. Prussian blue is made by fusing horses' hoofs and other refuse animal-matter with impure potassium carbonate. Turkey red is made from the madder-plant, which grows in Hindustan, and India yellow comes from the camel. Carmine, crimson, scarlet and crimson like are among the fine colors furnished by the cochineal insects. The yellow sap of a tree of Siam produces gamboge.

TROUBLE-SAVERS

Caster oil can be rendered quite tasteless by heating it up with the white of an egg.

A little rice placed in the salt jar will absorb damp and keep the salt from becoming lumpy.

Black silk may be cleaned by sponging the dirty parts with the water in which potatoes have been boiled.

Sausagepans and frying-pans in which onions have been cooked should be boiled out with tea-leaves and soda water.

Before applying polish to a grate or stove that has burned red on top through overheating, rub well with a cut lemon.

A fish bone may often be removed from the throat by swallowing a piece of crust or an unbeaten egg.

Worthy of His Hire

The plumber worked and the helper stood helplessly looking on. He was learning the business. This was his first day.

"Say," he inquired, "do you charge for my time?"

"Certainly, you idiot," came the reply.

"But I haven't done anything."

The plumber, to fill in the hour, had been looking long at the finished job with a lighted candle. Handling the two inches of it that were still unburned to the helper, he said, witheringly:

"Here, if you gotta be so darned conscientious, blow that out."

NEW HOSIERY AND GLOVES FOR EASTER

Men's Fine Shirts, (collars attached).

Men's Fine Shirts, (without collars).

Men's Work Shirts

NEW CHAMBRAYS

White Beans, @ per lb....8c

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New Cheese

GRANT'S DURHAM


SUCCESSFUL CROPS

SEED is the vital factor in the whole crop process. Successful crops can come only from clean, vigorous seed.

The selection of the seed best suited for your locality may mean the difference between a good and a bad crop.

Make full use of the free advisory services of your nearest agricultural college. They can help you to avoid mistakes.

Write to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa for a list of "300 Hints to Better Farming."



The Royal Bank of Canada

Durham Branch - J. A. Rowland, Manager



The B... H... The

Note: Dr. Scholten's columns as will be a public print. Person accompanied by self-Dr. W. J. Scholten, M.D.

Water is still the best, it is the one that takes its place. This is the water composition of the body.

As a necessity of life, water is important with any sleep. It is necessary for ridding of almost every part of the body. The chemical actions occurring within it take place in a medium. It is the medium through which eliminated through the skin. It is an important constituent of the digestive helps to prevent constipation its evaporation from the plays an important role in regulation of the body. Of course, everyone drinks. But there are many people who do not drink enough of it. Some people who drink water. It may be possible to work the kidneys by drinking much water. But there is not very many who themselves in this way.

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HEALTH

Early Symptom

Mrs. E. M. S. inquires about the early symptoms.

Reply

The very early symptom of cancer are usually not noticed. They are caused by conditions which are not noticed. Small round areas on the skin which increase in size, which are sore, and which have to bleed easily—may be Lumps which slowly increase in size, and bleeding from membranes of body or due to cancer. Cancer the internal organs on cause symptoms when with the function of always easy. The safe rule to follow is a physician who lumps, sores, bleeding symptoms that cannot be counted for, appear in the treatment of cancer upon the removal of the growth before it has. If examination shows it is not cancerous, relieved to know it.

Yes, Both

Mrs. K. F. asks: "Is it possible the habit of taking can hardly get along"

Reply

Cases of poisoning, veronal, either in excess or over a prolonged have been reported. Veronal is regarded

MOUNTAIN MOVING ACROSS

Colorado Treated to 2,000 Feet High

"A moving mountain about 2,000 feet high across Rio Haca Rifle and Meeker, Colorado. With a wave-like side of the mountain from its original base towards the west, the previous day, a distance of seventy-