

ESTABLISHED 1844
The Press and Banner
 ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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OUR FIFTY MILES.

The suggestion of the Columbia State that Abbeville County would obtain 50 miles of concrete roads of the system proposed to be built needs investigation.

These roads will cost for their construction about \$20,000 per mile, according to the estimates that we have seen. Therefore, the number of miles we are to receive will cost one million dollars.

It is not suggested that Abbeville will secure more miles than we pay for. If we secure roads costing one million dollars in the construction, we may safely assume that we will pay our part of the bill. That would be fair.

Do the people of Abbeville county desire to assume the payment of one million dollars for the purpose of building fifty miles of road? The assessed valuation of the property of this county is about six millions of dollars. The proposed roads, if bonds are issued, will put a first lien on the property of every man in the county for one-sixth of the present assessed value of such property. If your property is now assessed at three thousand dollars for taxation, you will be charged with the payment of five hundred dollars of these bonds, as well as with the payment of the annual interest on that amount, whether or not you, "Mr. Hester, of Hesterville," live within ten or fifteen miles of the proposed roads, which you will not do.

It is true that it is proposed to raise this money, which is first made a charge against your property, by a system of license taxes, which license taxes we approve of, if the bonds are issued, but the amount of money to be raised each year in Abbeville County for the repayment of these bonds, calculating according to our proportion of taxable property, will be \$50,000 of principal, as well as the annual interest at four and one-half per cent on one million of dollars which will be \$45,000. It is possible that we might collect of the principal only half the stated amount, and that these collections, with accumulated interest, would be sufficient to pay the principal on these bonds, but with this we would still be called upon to raise in this county each year \$70,000 in addition to the taxes which we are now paying. Is there a man in Abbeville County foolish enough to believe that we can raise any such sum of money out of the automobile owners of the county each year? If we cannot, then Mr. Tax-payer your property will bear the burden.

Then let us see again. If we are to obtain fifty miles of roads, costing one million dollars, and if we pay only forty-six per cent of the taxes of the state, does it not follow that there will be forty six times as many miles of road in the state as Abbeville has, costing forty-six times as much, and making a bonded indebtedness of forty-six millions of dollars instead of twenty-five millions. If Abbeville is to obtain fifty miles of roads, and the indebtedness is to be less than the forty-six millions, some county is to be deprived of the roads for which it pays, which we take it, The State would not consent to.

The annual interest at four and one-half per cent of forty-six millions of dollars is something over two millions of dollars, while the proposed license tax, at the figures suggested, would only raise, as we have seen it stated, about one million, four hundred thousand dollars, leaving something like seven hundred thousand dollars of interest, as well as all the

principal to be paid by somebody else, which somebody would be the taxpayers of the state.

The people in the city of Abbeville in addition to every conceivable license tax, are now paying forty-one mills in taxes for all purposes. We see that there is a great fuss in Columbia, where the State is printed, over the rate of taxation in that city, it being stated by some that it will take forty mills to pay the city expenses alone, while there are suggestions to put off the evil day by levying only twenty-five mills for this purpose and raising the balance of the money by a bond issue which somebody else will be expected to pay. In Atlanta the same question is up. All over the state in a little while a wail will go up about the heavy taxes which are to be collected by the Federal Government. The legislature now in session is being asked to create new commissions, and new government agencies, while the demands of existing institutions are greatly increased. From all of which we begin to fear that the day of private ownership of property is rapidly passing, and that before many years a man will hold property in trust for the public, and that in his hands it will be counted a liability rather than an asset.

In some places the heavy taxes already forbid the investment of money in legitimate enterprises and the time fast approaches, unless somebody calls a halt, when no more money will be for investment in the industries which really build up a community, but money will seek investment under cover where it will escape taxation altogether.

THE DIRT-DAUBERS VARIETY.

Some of the men about Abbeville who are willing to see this county assume an indebtedness of a million dollars to connect the town of Abbeville with Greenwood, Anderson and McCormick, by concrete roads, have evidently forgotten that some two years ago they were advising us that the kind of roads to build was of dirt-dauber variety. Native soil, they told us, with a thin covering of town chert would do the job. When we argued that the only roads which would serve the purposes sought were roads of permanent construction, and that we were unable at that time to build such roads on account of the enormous expenses, they said we were wrong, that the top-soil roads were the only desirables, and that it would be a waste of money to build any other kind, when these roads could be built at two thousand dollars per.

They filled up on city gasoline, drove to Greenville, and swallowed an Ottaray sandwich, drank a little Paris Mountain dew, were put to sleep by some of the Greenville County Good Roads' orators, rode over "the finest ever" (while asleep) at the rate of forty miles an hour, and came home as the only qualified experts on road building.

It seems now, however, that the tune has taken a turn. If the top-soil argument was sound, why do these people now argue that we should build roads costing twenty thousand dollars per mile? If these experts have been shown, within the brief space of two years, to be poor advisers of the people, why should they not now keep silent?

IF ABBEVILLE WERE ROADLESS

Were two or three highways built in Abbeville County connecting the town of Abbeville with Greenwood, McCormick, and Anderson, wherein would the Abbeville man residing ten or 15 miles from one of these roads be benefited? That is the inquiry of the Abbeville Press and Banner.

Would the Press and Banner be content if all the steam railroads ran around, instead of through, Abbeville County? Do Abbeville men residing ten miles from a steam railroad derive no advantage from railroad transportation facilities?

Are the steam railroads worthless to any man or to the average man of Abbeville County?

How much would the price of Abbeville cotton be affected if every bale of it had to be hauled 50 miles to a railroad station?

Were a system of concrete highways to be constructed as planned, Abbeville would have not less than one forty-sixth of the total mileage, and that would be nearer 40 or 50

miles than 15, which is The Press and Banner's guess. Moreover, it is certain that the Abbeville roads would so link with other county roads that Abbeville would have quick and cheap communication with Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Augusta, Ga.

A steam railroad is a highway limited to operation by great companies or the government on which only their vehicles can travel. A paved public road is a highway over which any man's vehicle can travel and upon which operation is as cheap for passengers and for certain kinds of freight as is that of the steam railroad companies.

Mr. Hester, of Hesterville, Abbeville County, living ten miles from a steam railway and from a paved highway, would gain at least as much from the one as from the other.

Meanwhile, road building in Abbeville would not cease with the construction of a State highway system. That would be the important beginning. The counties would proceed systematically and rapidly, we think, to build other roads leading into it.

We suppose that Abbeville County could and would get along somehow with a system of cow-paths, such as the forefathers of the Abbevillians had a century and a half ago. As related to the gasoline propelled vehicle, the roads of Abbeville and of the other counties are no better today than the cow-paths were to the ox-carts of a former time. However, the jolting to pieces of an ox-cart over a woodland trail caused the loss of \$25, not of \$500 or \$2,500, in two or three years.—The State.

WANTS

HIDES—The high prices we pay for hides and the good weight will enable all our old hide customers around Abbeville to box and ship green cow and horse hides by express direct to us at Athens, Ga., over the Seaboard. Write name on post card for tags and quotations. Green hides 17c. per lb. Mule and horse hides, \$3.50 each. Mr. H. BRUCE FANT, now at Athens with Athens Hide Co., wholesale dealers. 2-21-2mo. Pd.

FOR RENT—Two furnished upstairs rooms, on Mill Street. Phone No. 77-3 rings. 2-21-2tc.

WANTED—Some good Live Dealers and Prospects for Alamo Electric Lighting Plants for country homes for Abbeville County. ALAMO LIGHTING SALES CO. P. O. Box 507, 2-14-4t. Spartanburg, S. C.

WANTED—A lady bookkeeper, Abbeville lady preferred. Work not hard. Apply in writing. E. F. ARNOLD, Abbeville, S. C. 2-18-3t. Pd.

AUTOMOBILE DEALER WANTED: The Overland-Piedmont Company is the distributor for the entire Overland and Willys-Knight line in upper South Carolina. We wish a live, energetic, hustling dealer for Abbeville County. Address Overland-Piedmont Co., Spartanburg, S. C. 1-31-4tc

FOR SALE, REAL ESTATE:—310 acres in McCormick county, 12 miles from Abbeville. This farm can be divided into three tracts of about 100 acres. Will sell all or part. \$15.00 per acre for the whole tract or \$17.50 if divided. S. H. ROSENBERG. 1-24-tf.

FOR SALE:—Vacant lot on Magazine street, opposite Richard Sondley, between Flynn's and McDonal'd's. This lot is a beauty. 100 by 250 feet. Price, \$1000.00. S. H. ROSENBERG. 1-24-tf

FOR SALE:—Millions hardy frost-proof Cabbage Plants, now till May any variety, \$2.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$1.50. Prompt delivery. Enterprise Truck Farm. Georgetown, S. C. 1-21-till April 1.

FOR SALE:—House and lot near the square. Apply to T. G. or W. H. WHITE. 12-31-tf

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