

THE ROAD PROBLEM.

As "Uncle William" Sees It. Favors the Levying of an Additional Mill for Road Improvement.

Much has been said and published in print in regard to the road problem, by different men who have given much time and thought to this all-important subject. I realize the fact that the time is ripe and right here on us for a better system of road building, and I give my views as to what I think of the subject in question. While my idea perhaps will not meet the approbation of the majority of the tax payers of Laurens county, I will give it for what it is worth.

In the first place to begin with, who contributes the bulk of the pitiable sum of money we have towards maintaining the public roads? Is it not the poorer class of people in a large measure and the 18-year-old boys of both classes, white and colored? The commutation road tax is paid by an act of the legislature by all persons between the ages of 18 and 50. All male citizens between this age are required to pay \$1.50 tax for this purpose unless exempt by physical disability or otherwise. The man over 50 years of age is not required to pay anything. Although he may be the proud possessor of thousands of broad acres, scores of fat sleek mules, a thousand cattle browsing on his hills and meadows, numbers of wagons and teams traveling over the so-called roads of our county to and from the county seat hauling corn and hay to feed his stock, cussing the supervisor for neglect of duty in keeping the roads in better condition, when really the supervisor is doing all in his power with the means at hand to do with. You must remember the supervisor is not omnipotent. He cannot be everywhere at the same time. He cannot remove mountains by command or cause the streams to cease flowing. He must have the support of the people, their sympathy, their means. This is the remedy.

Now, how to get about it—Let there be a tax of say one mill on the assessed valuation of all taxable property put on every person owning property from the large land owner, banker, mill man, in fact everybody, rich or poor, high or low, even down to the poorest citizen in his humble cottage, who owns only \$10.00 worth of property and a hound and is kicked around when he goes to town. Some at this may frown but if they wish the roads crowned they must plunk the money down if the old hound is kicked around. A tax of one mill for road purposes would hardly be felt by any one. It would only amount to \$1.00 on persons paying on \$1,000 worth of property and only 10 cents on those paying on \$10.00 and so on as to the amount of his or her taxable property. The assessed valuation of taxable property of the county amounts to six million, nine hundred forty four thousand and three hundred eighty eight dollars (\$6,944,388). An extra levy of one mill on this would amount to six thousand, nine hundred dollars and forty-four cents. This amount supplemented to the commutation road tax fund would move several steep hills and fill up many low places on the public roads and no body hurt. Just think of it, only one mill extra, I believe we could stand two mills in order to get better roads. In a short while this burden, if a burden at all, could be shaken off and with the improvements made we could go back to the present system and perhaps get along without this extra amount as the work would be light and could be gone over more rapidly.

Give our supervisor the means and he will give you better roads. We know he is censured for not accomplishing what some men think he might or could do, but he has been doing all in his power with the means at his command. True, he could bankrupt the county by borrowing money, employing extra road help, buying more road machinery and more mules, but this would not be economy. Give him more money and you will see the result. Crooked roads made straight, rough roads made smooth, narrow roads made wider, long roads made shorter, hilly roads pulled down, in short a great change in roads will be brought about and our fair county be built up throughout the length and breadth of the rural districts. It will be the mall carriers' delight, the autos and motorcycles will traverse the county with all ease and everybody and all the balance of mankind that is born of a woman and otherwise. The beasts of burden and the way-faring man though a fool will not err therein as a sign post will be put at every cross road leading to every village and hamlet.

Whisper in the ears of our candidates for legislative honors, shake 'em up on the question of more money for public highways and less money and appropriations for things not pertinent to the common and average citizens. Get them interested; get interested yourselves; study the question; get busy, do something; do it right away

SERIOUS BLACKSBURG FIRE.

Probably \$100,000 Loss in Cherokee County Town—Partially Covered by Insurance.

Gaffney, May 31.—Fire which started at 3 o'clock this morning burned the business section of Blacksburg to the ground, 11 stores suffering from the flames at a loss which totals approximately \$100,000. While some estimate that the loss may not exceed \$75,000, the first figure is generally conceded to be nearer the actual loss.

Began at Early Hour.
The fire was discovered shortly before 3 o'clock in a building occupied by the White Front grocery on Main street. The alarm was given, but with absolutely no apparatus for fighting fire and a strong wind blowing, the property owners were helpless and stood by watching the buildings burn. While the fire was confined to one side of the street there was some hope entertained for saving a part of the business section, but when the strong wind fanned the flames across and the Iron City hotel building, the largest building in town, was ignited, all hope was given up.

The fire spread rapidly and in a few minutes the business part of the town was in ruins, five stores being burned on one side of the street and six on the other. When the walls of the hotel building collapsed the debris fell through the roof of the Bank of Blacksburg, completely demolishing the interior of the bank and tearing down the walls of this building.

Origin is Unknown.
Much speculation has been engaged in as to the origin of the fire. No plausible theory has yet been advanced, although rumor has it that it was the work of incendiaries. It is known that threats were made by negroes following a lynching which occurred in Blacksburg in March and some are said to have stated that "Blacksburg will soon go up in smoke."

The heaviest losers in the fire were: White Front grocery, merchandise total loss, insurance \$1,000; Iron City hotel, total loss, insurance \$3,000; Bell's drug store, total loss, building insurance, \$600; Bell's drug store, merchandise total loss, insurance, \$5,000; L. T. Ligon, merchandise, total loss, insurance, \$1,500; O. H. Sarrett, building total loss, no insurance; O. A. Osborne, total loss, building insurance, none; Allie Osborne, total loss, building insurance, none; A. H. Pollock, total loss, building insurance, none; A. H. Pollock, total loss, building insurance, none; Bank of Blacksburg, partial loss, insurance not known.

No plans have as yet been made for replacing the burned buildings and it is not known whether or not all of them will be replaced.—The State.

Each age of our lives has its joys. Old people should be happy, and they will be if Chamberlain's Tablets are taken to strengthen the digestion and keep the bowels regular. These tablets are mild and gentle in their action and especially suitable for people of middle age and older. For sale by all Dealers.

WHITE TOWN RESOLUTIONS.

The following was received by The Advertiser from the headquarters of Hon. W. J. Talbert:

The people of White Town held a mass meeting last Saturday evening at which Ex-congressman W. J. Talbert was invited to make an address. Mr. G. S. Cartledge presided over the meeting, while Mr. Luther W. Ridehoover acted as secretary. Quite a number of people were present from the surrounding country.

After the address the following resolutions were read by the secretary and unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Preamble and resolutions of Mass meeting at White Town as follows:

Whereas it seems to us that the action of the late county convention at Edgefield was not a fair reflection of the sentiment of the county, and whereas it appears that our fellow citizen from the west side, Col. W. J. Talbert did not receive fair treatment.

Therefore be it resolved by the citizens of this community in mass meeting assembled,

1st. That we desire to put on record our high esteem for and our unbounded confidence in our distinguished fellow citizen above named, who was born and raised among us, and who has never been found wanting either in time of peace or war.

That we hereby heartily endorse his candidacy for the United States Senate and earnestly recommend him to the voters of his native county of Edgefield as well as to the whole people of the state of South Carolina as a man worthy and well qualified to fill the exalted position to which he is honestly aspiring.

—Edgefield Advertiser.

while the harvest is on and the laborers are few.

Your Uncle William.

FOR SALE!

Store and lot. Also nice new dwelling of Jno. M. Moore. Store near Laurens Mill. Good proposition—see us at once.

Splendid lot and three room House on Sullivan street opposite Mr. J. J. Pluss at a bargain.

Good House and lot on Martin Street.

Fine Farm known as Polly Franks place, four miles above Laurens, near Greenville and Laurens road. 100 acres worth the money we can sell it at.

Home Trust Co.

N. B. DIAL, President. C. H. ROPER, Sec. & Treas. LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA



STOCK MICHELIN TIRES

LOOK FOR THIS SIGN ON LEADING GARAGES

The superiority of Michelin Tires is recognized all over the World

You cannot know what a good tire is until you try a Michelin properly inflated

IN STOCK BY SWYGERT & TEAGUE

You can open an account here for One Dollar if you can't spare any more

THE BANK OF LAURENS
LAURENS, S. C.

"Cardui Cured Me"

For nearly ten years, at different times, Mrs. Mary Jinks of Treadway, Tenn., suffered with womanly troubles. She says: "At last, I took down and thought I would die. I could not sleep. I couldn't eat. I had pains all over. The doctors gave me up. I read that Cardui had helped so many, and I began to take it, and it cured me. Cardui saved my life! Now, I can do anything."

TAKE CARDUI The Woman's Tonic

If you are weak, tired, worn-out, or suffer from any of the pains peculiar to weak women, such as headache, backache, dragging-down feelings, pains in arm, side, hip or limbs, and other symptoms of womanly trouble, you should try Cardui, the woman's tonic. Prepared from perfectly harmless, vegetable ingredients, Cardui is the best remedy for you to use, as it can do you nothing but good. It contains no dangerous drugs. It has no bad after-effects. Ask your druggist. He sells and recommends Cardui.

Write to: Ladies' Advisory Dept., Chattanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn., for Special Instructions, and 64-page book, "Home Treatment for Women," sent free. J 64

CORTRIGHT METAL SHINGLES

Used in ever increasing quantities, because the roofs put on 26 years ago are as good as new to-day, and have never needed repairs.

Don't put on that roof until you see them.

OR BURN AS WOOD SHINGLES DO.

For sale by Local Dealers or Cortright Metal Roofing Company 50 N. 23rd, St., Philadelphia, Pa.



We Start with the Rough Log

We end with the finished product, and every operation is done by our own men in our own mills.

Sash, doors, blinds, screens, mouldings, columns, grilles, newel posts, shingles, lath, interior finish, etc.—everything in building material we furnish in both quantity and quality.

Complete house bills from architect's plans and builder's lists our specialty. Bring or mail in your specification. Get our estimate free.

"Buy of the Maker"

AUGUSTA LUMBER CO.
AUGUSTA, GA.

Special Round Trip

FROM

LAURENS

TO

Ashville, N. C.

Joint Shrine Meeting

June 9th, 10th, 11th. **\$3.50**

Final Limit June 15th

To Washington, D. C., \$15.20. Tickets on sale June 5th and 7th with final limit June 12th. Purchases may secure an extension of the final limit to and including July 12th, 1912, upon payment fee of \$1.00 per ticket.

To Augusta, Ga., \$4.05. Tickets on sale June 16th and 17th from limit June 24th.

To Knoxville, Tenn., account Summer School \$7.40. Tickets on sale June 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 29, July 6, 7 and 13th. Tickets limited 15th days. Purcher may secure an extension of the final limit to and including Sept. 30th, 1912 upon payment fee of \$1.00 per ticket.

Week End and Summer Excursion Rates now on to the Mountain and Seashore resorts.

F. J. NELSON, Ticket Agent.