

UNCLE SAM SHOULD BUILD MORE ROADS

Committee Points Out Great Advantages That Would Accrue to United States.

WANT NO "PORK BARREL."

Better, Cheaper, and Additional Transportation Facilities in the United States Must Benefit Every Inhabitant.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—That very great advantages would accrue to the United States from the construction of a system of model highways throughout the country, is the conclusion reached by the joint congressional committee on federal aid in the construction of postroads. The committee's chairman is ex-Senator Bourne of Oregon.

In its report the committee proposes the building of roads equal to European thoroughfares by co-operation of the national government, the states, counties and other local agencies.

While the committee refrains from any definite plan of action, it urges that Congress take some action at once.



JONATHAN BOURNE.

once. The principal conclusions presented by the report follow:

Congress should proceed at once to devise a broad, comprehensive plan for federal aid to the building of model roads.

The supervision of the government's highway building activities should be entrusted to a congressional commission, not an administrative bureau.

Care should be exercised that federal aid be scientific and effective and not degenerate into a "pork barrel" raid on the national treasury.

First class roads in this country would reduce the cost of living, improve business, and ameliorate educational and social conditions in rural communities.

Beside of the "pork barrel" in appropriating for good roads, is one of the chief warnings uttered by the committee. It is contended that the small portions of this sum received by each state, even in conjunction with local appropriations, would accomplish so little in actual road building that the appropriation really would amount to the dissipation of so much political "pork."

"In the first place," the committee says, "we believe that when the United States government undertakes so important a problem it should undertake it in a large way."

"Probably the chief fault of highway methods in the past has been that either from necessity imposed by lack of local finances or through shortsightedness highway construction and maintenance has been conducted in a small and haphazard way. The annual expenditures on any particular piece of road have been so slight as to barely cover reasonable maintenance, with the result that it is a common expression that highway funds have been largely dumped into mudholes."

From an economic standpoint, says the report, good roads constitute the most important question of government, now before the people.

"Better, cheaper, and additional transportation facilities in the United States must benefit every inhabitant and result in more development and greater productivity of our natural resources, meaning more and cheaper food and necessities of life," says the committee, which states that already gasoline propelled buses are competing on rural roads with interurban electric lines.

MICHIGAN NEWS

TWENTY ACRES OF LAND SLIP INTO LAKE

Big Slice Goes Into 40 Feet of Water Which Flows Over Spot Where Many Tourists Gathered.

Traverse City, Mich.—Twenty acres of land on Sleeping Bear Point, located between the lighthouse and Glen Haven, slipped into Lake Michigan and disappeared under 40 feet of water, which now flows over the place which has been a mecca for summer tourists for many years.

The tract disappeared ranged from 25 to 50 feet in height and in sinking into the lake was sheared off from the rest of the land as though cut with a knife. There was a fisherman's shanty 15 rods back from shore, and this and \$200 worth of fishing equipment were carried down, and the shore line is now located eight rods back of where the shanty stood.

Those who examined the place are unable to account for the slide, as the lake was calm at the time and a party of life savers at the station had passed over the land that disappeared less than half an hour before.

The mystery is still greater because the former depth of the water at the end of the point was only 20 feet, while now, where the land disappeared, there is 40 or more feet.

MISFORTUNES FALL HEAVILY ON SPLICER

Muskegon, Mich.—Henry Spicer's cattle are under quarantine because of "lumpy jaw," and he is unable as a result of the quarantine to dispose of 125 tons of hay to meet pressing payments on farm implements. He is also being sued for wages by Harry Field, a former employee. Monday Spicer saw his home burn to ground, with no insurance. The cause of the blaze is said to have been an overheated stove.

Spicer, a former Chicago business man, bought a 1,000-acre tract recently and was having good success until an inspector quarantined his cattle. With over \$5,000 invested in the farm and over half that amount in equipment, it appears to him that he will likely lose the property.

FIRES AT RABBIT: SHOOT HIS BROTHER.

Muskegon, Mich.—Shooting at a rabbit which his brother had started from his hole, Fred Rissena, living near Spring Lake, perhaps fatally wounded Henry Rissena, Monday afternoon, when he emptied both barrels of his shotgun, the shot tearing away part of the latter's head. The injured youth was brought to a hospital here.

DIES AT AGE OF 99

Adrian, Mich.—Mrs. Clotilda Land, of Hudson, near here, is dead at the advanced age of 99 years. She was the mother of Judge Victor H. Lane, professor of law at the University of Michigan and for many years a prominent lawyer in this city.

Other brothers, O. B. Lane, of Pittsford, Hillsdale county, and Willis, of Hudson, survive.

ATTEMPTS TO KILL SELF

Bay City, Mich.—Henry Reutter, aged 65, laborer, attempted to kill himself by slashing his wrists with a razor. He was taken to a Bay City hospital, where it is said, he will recover. He left a note indicating he was despondent because of illness. He had a bank book showing over \$600 in a savings bank.

FINDS KIN AFTER 25 YEARS

Muskegon, Mich.—Through the efforts of Congressman James C. McLaughlin, J. B. Rouse, of Muskegon Heights, has located his brother, George Rouse, an Alaskan miner, whom he has not seen in a quarter of a century.

OVERCOME BY FUMES

Flint, Mich.—James Beatty, 40 years old, was overcome by fumes in a varnish works, where he was employed.

MAN IS FOUND DEAD: FALL IS BLAMED

Port Huron, Mich.—John Pringle, employed by E. P. Brown, a coal dealer of Marysville, was killed while at work unloading a car of coal near the Morton Salt Plant, near Marysville.

The exact cause of Pringle's death is not yet known, but it is believed he fell from the car into the wagon, sustaining injuries which caused his death in a few moments. As there were no witnesses to the accident, it could not be learned how Pringle came to his death. Coroner Hill has started an investigation.

Kalamazoo.—Mrs. Amy Heaton, of Augusta, failed to get a divorce from her mail-order husband, Ryan Heaton, Judge George V. Weimer refused to grant the decree, declaring the woman had failed to show proper grounds. Mrs. Heaton at one time had her husband placed in jail on a capias, stating that he intended to leave the state with his property. Recently the man was said to have lost his savings through the failure of an eastern concern.

Owosso.—Mrs. Alexander Young 70, who died Monday, leaves an aged

she cared tenderly for three years. husband, who is blind and for whom Young will probably accept the balance of his life with his son, Frank, of Benton, Washington.

Saginaw.—Dr. Charles L. Grube, 45, died in Pontiac asylum. He was a well-known druggist and was formerly health officer here. During Saginaw's smallpox epidemic, four years ago, he worked night and day for two months and shortly after his mind became affected.

Kalamazoo.—Numerous gifts sent to inmates of the Kalamazoo State hospital were stolen by John Savidge, an attendant, he has admitted to officers. When taken before the municipal judge Savidge pleaded guilty to the thefts and was released on probation. This was his first offense.

Bessemer.—The Castle mine, near Wakefield, in this county, which has been closed since October, resumes operations with the opening of the new year, with about 100 men employed. Indications point to a general resumption of mining along the whole Gogebic range in the near future.

Marshall.—While making a delivery, Leroy Van Geisen, proprietor of the City delivery, was thrown out of his sleigh on a stone pile when his team ran away. He suffered a compound fracture of the left leg and his face was badly cut. The accident is serious, as he is just 70 years of age.

Hillsdale.—Wisconsin attorneys were here taking the deposition of Ira W. Piper, of Pittsford, in a \$10,000 suit brought by Dr. George Pugh, of Kenosha, Wis., against the T. S. Express Co. of this city. In August, 1912, Piper was driving an express wagon in Kenosha, which collided with Dr. Pugh's auto. The rear of the wagon went through the windshield and penetrated Mrs. Pugh's heart, killing her instantly.

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Kalamazoo.—Protest to the filling of the will of John H. Hoffman, former steward of the Kalamazoo state hospital, was made in probate court by a daughter, Mrs. George Foote, of this city. The property, valued at about \$15,000, was mostly left to a son in Chicago. Mrs. Foote declares that at the time the will was drawn her father was in a weak mental condition, and that undue influence was used when he drafted the document.

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