

National and State-Auto-Highways

Gunston, Fairfax Co., Va.

Dear Mr. Owen:

I have given your bill and accompanying documents as much study as I could in the pressure of work here. It is a grand enterprise, worthy of the age and in line with the aspirations of its best minds. The methods by which it is to be realized seem practical and wise. The thing now is to secure adoption. The first step is a propaganda to make it known and to work up a public sentiment. Among the many men who are striving to build up better conditions and to have better ways of doing things there should be some one or more who might achieve immortality thus. * * *

As ever, your friend,

EDWARD DANIELS.

This proposition of good road building is a live question, and will continue to be a matter of much concern to all the people of this country until it is settled, and settled right. * * * *

Good roads have made the glory of the nations of the past, and good roads will add to our greater glory and make us all that we hope to be,—the most beneficent power that ever blessed humanity.

HON. WILLIAM SULZER.

My experience with the American people has convinced me that the greater the undertaking the greater the interest.* * * *

It is the part of wisdom to adopt, not a jumble of unrelated plans, but a single comprehensive scheme for meeting all of the demands as far as possible at the same time and by the same means.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The social need which seems to overshadow all else is a practical method for placing the government in the hands of the people—the real sovereigns. The voters must get into their own hands the tools of democracy, and then the barriers that interest and corruption have erected can be held in check. * * * *

The nineteenth century on its material plane was dominated by one great word or idea—union, combination, cooperation. System and organization [incorporation] are the handmaids of co-

Let us have Public Trusts for public properties. Public Trusts will regulate Private Trusts, not by law but by competition, and private property will be respected by both.

As long as there is one family without a home there is a misgoverned nation.

It is a bad state of affairs when there is one person in a nation who wants to work and is not able to find employment.

National and State-Auto-Highways will solve, by industrial ways and means, the problems that now vex the government and the people.

WILLIAM DANIELS

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operation; and in the trustification of industry, our labor barons have builded a gigantic labor saving device for the better civilization that is coming. They have constructed a social machine which, in its eternal operation, is a masterpiece. The thing in its way is worthy of all admiration; but, alas, it has no soul. It is moved only by the brute instinct of selfish gain. *The supreme need of the world is to breathe a humane spirit into our industrial order—to create a soul under those ribs of death.* We need to make the Golden Rule the working principle of our existence. The State [the incorporated public commission] must become the organ of Fraternity.

EDWIN MARKHAM.

Here is a very true bit of philosophy taken from a personal letter written by Albert K. Owen, of Baldwinsville, New York, that man who is forever struggling to open wider paths for the masses to march to prosperity and happiness:

"A people who do not see visions have lost the only spark of religion that is worthy of a thought. It is the realization of dreams that has blessed the world most. The American nation does not see visions. It is too much a devotee before the shrine of the Almighty Dollar. But there is a way to make a vision of to-day a reality of to-morrow—the broad and magnificent park-multi-roads, that will give homes in exchange for the labors of the millions of the homeless, will lead to a Heaven here on Earth, and now!
* * * *"

Then Mr. Owen proceeds to explain his magnificent idea of National and State-Auto-Highways which would give work and homes to millions of families.

There is nothing impossible in this dream. All it needs is the concentrated thought of the men and women in America who care to see the unemployed given work, the homeless assisted to get homes, the difficult places made easy, the desert and jungle made into parks and highways, and the United States bound together by roads excelling any which older countries builded by the toil of slaves.

Give your encouraging thought to this vision; believe that it will come true; help by word and deed also if you can. * * * It is no more impossible a dream than was the ocean cable.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

"Communion is the law of growth and homes only thrive when they sustain relations with each other."

"The flower of the Twentieth Century's economic advancement is and will be co-operation."

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

"The great and the little have need of each other."

SHAKESPEARE.

"The atmosphere of our time is full of the thought of correlation of all persons, all facts, all forces—the idea that society is an organic growth, in which everybody is somehow indissolubly related to everybody else."

CHARLES FERGUSON.

In these three quotations we have the text for "good roads." The whole question just now before the United States is how can we, as a people, best get together to associate, exchange services, and co-operate to do little and big things that are necessary to socialize and unify ourselves in order to better and make beautiful our private homes and environments, and to upbuild and advance our nation?

ALBERT KIMSEY OWEN.