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NATIONAL GOOD ROADS CONGRESS  
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ADDRESS BY CONGRESSMAN DICK T. MORGAN OF OKLAHOMA.

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Washington, D. C. May 21, 1909.

The Second National Good Roads Congress has been in session this week in Baltimore. Vice-President Sherman and Speaker Joe Cannon and other prominent men addressed the Convention.

Oklahoma was represented on the program by Congressman Dick T. Morgan. Mr. Morgan's speech was highly complimented and the Convention did him the honor of extending him a vote of thanks for his address.

Mr. Morgan's speech in part was as follows:

I am here to-day as a private citizen -- a representative of Oklahoma -- the youngest -- though not in rank the smallest state in the Union. Measured by the extent of her area, by the number of her inhabitants, by the amount of her wealth, by the abundance of her resources, by the volume of her business, by the value of her products, by the efficiency of her educational institutions, or by the intelligence, patriotism and progressive spirit of her people, Oklahoma is entitled to a high rank among the great sisterhood of States comprising and constituting the American Union.

The one million six hundred thousand people of Oklahoma -- our farmers, merchants, bankers, mechanics, professional men -- people in all avocations and callings of life, will join hands with those in every other section of the Union to secure substantial, practical and immediate progress in the building and making of better public highways, throughout the length and breadth of this great Country.

#### Oklahoma's Mineral Wealth.

Oklahoma is rich in mineral resources. She has an unlimited supply of coal, oil, and gas. She has lead, and zinc, and glass-sand. She has an inexhaustible supply of limestone, with cheap fuel in close proximity, with which to manufacture Portland cement -- the great building material of the future. Her vast beds of gypsum, in extent and quality, are not equaled in any other State in the Union. She has great mountains of

marble -- sufficient to construct all her public buildings, and provide palaces for thousands of her people. It is especially appropriate -- before the Good Roads Congress -- to say that Oklahoma has inexhaustible beds of asphaltum, sufficient not only to pave the streets of all her towns and cities, but enough, so that in that day when the good roads movement shall have attained the success which it deserves, Oklahoma will have the asphaltum with which to construct many of her public highways.

" Agriculture Leads "

With all this mineral wealth, with all her bright prospects to become a great manufacturing State, with all her brilliant outlook in the line of commerce and business, Oklahoma is today and will remain in the future, essentially an agricultural State. Her farms will ever be her chief pride, her greatest source of wealth, the main-stay of her prosperity, the foundation of her material strength and greatness.

As one who has at heart the welfare of his country, I am in favor of pursuing a policy that promises to the farmers of the Nation the greatest material prosperity and the highest degree of comfort and happiness. The building of good roads, the improvement in our public highways, the betterment of the means of communication, of travel, of transportation throughout the country districts, will in a thousand ways add to the profits of farming, and contribute to the comfort, dignity and

and well-being of all those engaged in agriculture.

The Future

Looking to the future, I see the triumph of the cause which you here to-day represent. I see throughout this Nation better public thoroughfares. As our public highways shall improve and finally attain a reasonable degree of perfection, I see a corresponding improvement in the conditions of farm life.

I see further that good roads have brought to the farmer greater profits; drawn him nearer to the town and city; placed ~~him~~ him in closer contact with the commercial world; given his children better schools, and superior educational advantages; enlarged and extended his Church privileges; given him better opportunities for moral and intellectual culture; brought him innumerable additional comforts, and placed within his reach luxuries hitherto unattainable.

"Patriotism in Good Roads Movement"

The movement for better public highways is not prompted by greed or selfishness. It is inspired by the highest benevolence and the purest patriotism. Primarily the object of this movement is to improve the conditions of farm life -- to help the farmer -- to increase his profits, multiply his comforts and augment his happiness; to lighten the burdens of his family, and give his wife and children ~~xxx~~ more recreation

and sunshine of life; to insure to his sons and daughters greater opportunities for culture and refinement; and to give to the farm, as nearly as possible, all the advantages and attractions offered by the towns and cities.

This is not all. The advocates of good roads look beyond these benefits and blessings to the farmer. In giving a great uplift to the thirty or forty millions of people on the farm, they see the foundation of the Nation made more secure; they see the mighty fabric of this Republic strengthened to meet future conflicts and trials; and they see, in this improvement in country life, additional safeguards for our Nation and greater assurance of its safety and perpetuity.

Without reserve, I commit myself to the cause of good roads. I am ready in any proper way to contribute to the success of the movement. The National Government should aid in this great work; the various States of the Union should rally to its support; County and City governments should contribute their share of the work; and finally, every citizen who loves his country, and reveres the flag, should lend a helping hand to the movement which has for its object, not only better roads, but better men and a greater Government.

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