

August 2, 1917.

Mr. A. P. Dyer,  
Asst. Sec'y for the West,  
Old Spanish Trail Association,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 21st ult. received on my return from tour to North Carolina.

The writer was very much surprised, as stated in today's Bulletin, to find that the "fine" sand clay roads we hear so much about around Atlanta, Asheville, etc. are really "rotten". The South has better road material for sand clay roads than the above mentioned states have, as we have not that slippery red clay which is just as sticky as Texas gumbo or that Louisiana black mud.

The conclusion was driven in very forcibly to him that the only difference between the "rotten" gumbo roads of Texas and the "rotten" mud roads of Louisiana and the "fine" sand clay roads of Georgia, North and South Carolina, is that in Georgia, North and South Carolina through the patrol system, the roads are dragged within 48 hours after rains let up, and after dragging they are as good as new and as smooth as any city paved streets. If Texas and Louisiana grade their mud roads and put sand on them in the winter and clay in the summer, and would drag them frequently, there is no reason on earth why Texas and Louisiana roads should not be more famous than those around Georgia, South and North Carolina. It is entirely a matter of maintenance.

Another conclusion forced on Secretary was that the well maintained sand road is infinitely preferable to any other kind of road, concrete included, which is not maintained to the top notch. Result is that writer is very much encouraged as to possibility of good roads in the near future in the South.

Bulletin, I note your remarks about, but do not see how we can change date of issuing same very well.