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Etching conquistador
mounted to

9 The Old Spanish Trail crosses two-thirds of the drainage waters of the United

States. Bridging these rivers and basins has been a mighty task. In the West are vast ranches, deserts and mountains and few people. Yet the highway was built by a pioneer people across this continent despite obstacles and cost. A people that can do that are a people to tie to for future achievement.

A country that can sustain such works is a country of vital and enduring interest.

Not alone do these construction achievements make one reverent of the conquering spirit of men but some prescience guided those men in the East when they called their dream child the "Old Spanish Trail." From many Nations come letters that show the spell the name carries—from students, writers, editors, librarians, lecturers and publicists. And from travelers we hear of the same spell. As we develop the old history we are continually impressed with the truth of the name. It begins with the ancient Spanish story of St. Augustine and ends with the romantic Spanish story of San Diego. Wherever the traveler picks up the

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name - old Spanish trail.

Saint

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highway or its territory the Spanish atmosphere greets him. St. Augustine, Tallahassee, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Las Cruces, Tucson, Yuma, San Diego! East or west, desert, mountains or gulf, the marks of the *padres* and the *conquistadores* are there to make men pause and try to peer into that courageous past.

At first the project was a dream to connect New Orleans, La., with Miami, Fla. The Spanish atmosphere East is not so pronounced as in the West. It lies buried under a mass of modern ideas. Why didn't they give their little project some commonplace name, some Main Street thought?—I have asked often who thought of the name?—What vision prompted it?—I do not know. The minds of those men are hazy on this. It was several years before the dream child spanned the continent. When it did and the wealth of Spanish history and romance in the Southwest enveloped it, the Old Spanish Trail was found so appropriately named no one will ever come in response to its lure and find its history lacking.

The Old Spanish Trail country will become the Nation's playground. Florida and California have long been the popular retreats of the people. The country lying between, the Gulf of Mexico country and the Mexican Border country are as alluring, and now they are opened,

and pavement is completed three to four hundred miles south from San Antonio into Old Mexico and is pressing southward to Mexico City, 950 miles south of San Antonio.