

(Continued from other side)

This is a matter for discussion.

VALUE OF SHADE TREES

California tests have shown that shade trees protect paved roads. Additionally if a road is properly built and drained shade trees are not only a matter of beauty and comfort, but of value. The old idea that trees must be cut down along the road was really based upon the ignorance that built improperly drained roads. Therefore the sun was needed to correct faults due to a lack of drainage. In many northern states trees are being planted along the federal and state aid highways by the highway commissions.

TREE LAWS

In some states there is a tree law that requires special permit for trees to be cut down. In the South wonderful old trees along the roadsides are being foolishly cut, or girdled to stand like specters and proclaim the vandalism of men.

HERD AND STOCK LAWS

So long as cows roam the roadsides many kinds of shrubbery cannot be planted. Undoubtedly a legislative committee should be appointed to get stock laws that will keep cattle off federal and state aid roads.

ROADSIDE ADVERTISING

This is the most serious problem. The tin signs and junk that are nailed on trees and fences within the right-of-way can be controlled, for there are laws enough giving county or parish and state officials the right to protect public roads, but undoubtedly it will be necessary for the women to organize and hammer on this question to clear away this advertising.

Frequently county or parish boards give a contract to some advertiser to put up direction signs. A small board tells the direction and a cluster of advertisements adorn the post, and these soon rot or rust and add to the disgrace. It is the experience that as soon as the road becomes nicely improved and popular with the people the advertising enthusiast proceeds to cover trees and fences and everything he can find. Clearing the rights-of-way of this sort of junk is the first step in beautification.

Signs across the fence line on private property is the national problem. It is an ancient law that a man has a right to use his own property as he will, although laws are slowly coming which restrict these rights in the public interest. If the women of the nation will take the leadership and organize to stop this big bill-board sign nuisance there will be hope. All the people are crying out against it. Bill-boards even invade nice residence sections. Legislation will be needed. It is time the work begun with the organized power of womanhood behind it. Read also the California report on bill-board advertising.

TOURIST PARKS

The large map of the Old Spanish Trail has tourist park data on the back. There is also a mimeographed circular at the convention with tourist park experience described.