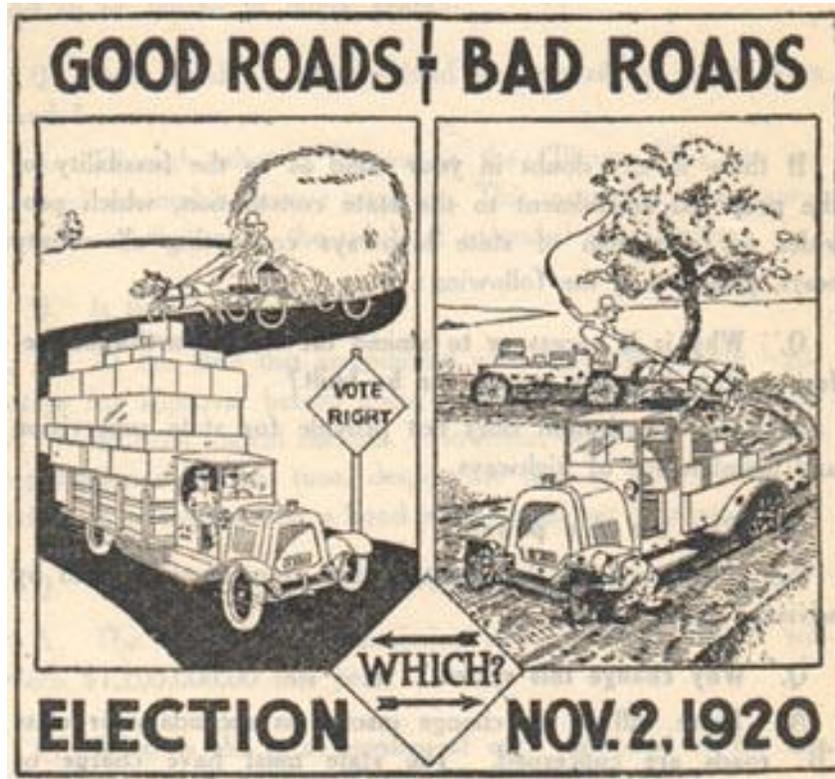


ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY NOVEMBER 2



West Virginia voters passed the Good Roads Amendment on November 2, 1920.

CSO: SS.8.24, ELA.8.1, ELA.8.2

Investigate the Document: (Letter of L. E. Lantz to N. W. Yates on Good Roads Amendment (L. E. Lantz Collection; "A Crime Against the State" Advertisement Against Good Roads Amendment (William A. MacCorkle Collection, Sc91-70)

1. What was the motto used to help promote the Good Roads Movement?
2. What promotional materials were suggested in the letter to help publicize support for the Good Roads Amendment?
3. Describe in your own words the grievances against the Good Roads Amendment. What appears to be some of the primary concerns about its passing?

Think Critically: When the Good Roads Amendment was passed, road work quickly began, with the priority initially being to connect *these* types of communities, which serve as the administrative center of each county. Do you think there are similarities to the Good Roads Amendment and the Roads to Prosperity project? What are the challenges of road construction in West Virginia? What benefits come from establishing a well-maintained road network?

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
CHARLESTON

L. E. LANTZ
JACKSONBURG

July 1st., 1920.

Mr. N. W. Yates, Secy.,
Huntington, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I have your communication of recent date with Good Road literature enclosed for which accept thanks.

That I am unhesitatingly in accord with the movement to "Pull West Virginia Out of the Mud", my record in the legislature will show, and I assure you I am missing no opportunity to work for the passage of the Constitutional Amendment.

The automobile sticker is a good idea and I believe a small one for use on envelopes, checks and etc would also be a good thing. This idea, as you will remember, was used by the Government in the Liberty bond campaign, and I believe with good results. About 1-1/2 X 2-1/8 in. would be a good size, and your motto, "Help Pull W. Va. Out of the Mud" a very suitable inscription.

If special designs for letter heads and envelopes were made and arrangements made with publishers to furnish them at a reasonable price to business men, professional men, and any others who would care to use them, I believe the opportunity to help advertise in that way would readily be taken advantage of by many of our people.

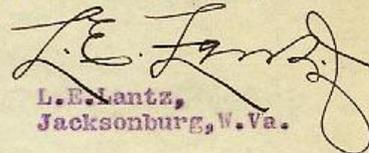
Also arrangements to furnish Good Road Penants, also to be paid for by the user, might prove attractive and useful. I find that many autoists delight in decorating their cars with penants and banners.

I am sure you will pardon my presuming to offer these suggestions, and understand that it is done with a desire to help the cause.

I can use a supply of the literature to good advantage and any time you have literature, posters or other campaign material for distribution you may forward me a supply with the assurance it will be placed in hands of persons where it will do the most good.

cpd

Very truly yours,


L. E. Lantz,
Jacksonburg, W. Va.

A Crime Against The State

If you want to load West Virginia with \$88,750,000, a debt greater than the combined indebtedness of thirty-six great states of the Union, vote for the so-called Good Roads Amendment. If you want to give 44 per cent of this vast sum for interest alone, vote for the amendment. If you want to give one-seventeenth of every acre of land, dollar of money or piece of property that you own, vote for the amendment. If you want a "REVOLVING" debt burdened on our children, a debt that will never end, vote for the amendment. If you want to turn West Virginia over to be exploited by a non-resident corporation which is behind this movement for its own benefit, vote for the amendment.

If You Want to Double Our Taxation, Imposing Income Taxes, Production Taxes, and all the Rest of the Brood of Taxes, and Get Practically No Roads For It, Vote for the Amendment.

If you want to build roads at the highest prices and at the worst time ever known in history, vote for the amendment. If you want to turn this colossal sum arising from your hard earned taxes over to the tender mercies of legislative management, vote for the amendment. If you want to frighten away investors by loading the state with a huge debt, vote for the amendment. If you want to do away with the policy inaugurated by the fathers of the state to prevent the horrors of a state debt, vote for the amendment. If you want to enjoy the distinction of being the state with the fifth largest bond burden in the Union, vote for the amendment. If you want to vote \$5,000,000 of money yearly for interest and sinking fund when you can accomplish the purpose of building all the roads without any debt by a constitutional amendment providing for a direct levy to assist the counties not able to build their roads, vote for the amendment.

If You Wish to Leave the Election of Members of the Legislature to the Great Cement Association, Vote for the Amendment.

If you want a double geared system of the county court building roads and the legislature at the same time building roads and the tax payer paying for both, vote for the amendment.

If you want to build your roads, help the weaker counties, you can do so and spend \$7,000,000 a year without a cent of bonded indebtedness. And the honest citizens of this state should not allow themselves to be driven under the yoke of an immense public debt when they can build more roads, better roads, cheaper and easier, by a fair constitutional amendment than this one offered to you.

This Amendment Means Ruin to the State

(PAID ADVERTISING)