

The Giddings News

December 21, 1923

mud Taxes

The spell of wet weather is bringing a lesson home to some people who have been against good roads. Business men in places where the people can not get to town to do their trading have lost more business than their profits would have paid out in a good road tax, and the worst of it is that when you pay a mud tax you get nothing from it while from a good road tax there is something to come from it.

Some people have kidded themselves into thinking that because good weather prevailed the past few seasons of Christmas shopping that good weather would continue. It has been different this year for the weather and the roads have been bad during the Christmas shopping season this year. The town that is not paying a mud tax this year is the one that has provided for good roads - - in all weather and all seasons. Mud holes that are only a few feet across but which stop several miles of traffic have taken their toll of this year's business. The promise to fix them up does not hold good because gravel cannot be hauled when the roads are bogged down in mud.

Another sad side to the question is that the designated high ways will be taken over by the State of Texas January 1. The counties will be relieved of the upkeep of these roads, and the State will maintain these highways only in the condition in which they are January 1. So if a highway is in a poor condition January 1, 1924, the chances are that it will remain in that condition for some time to come. Those communities which have gone ahead and built highways will get their roads maintained in their present status, which means much considering the usefulness of an all-weather road.

The mud tax has been heaped on the past few weeks. Rural routes could not be traversed their entire lengths; trade was checked, Christmas visiting through the country will be considerably handicapped, and every person and business firm will feel the call of the heavy mud tax this Christmas.

The mud tax for 1923 has been paid, we hope, but nothing of value has been received from it.