ZOUCK MAKES ANSWER TO RITCHIE'S CRITICISM.

Says Road Commission's Bookkeeping Was Good And That Auditor's Check Proves It.

Frank H. Zouck, former chairman of the State Roads Commission made reply to some of Governor Ritchie's criticisms of the bookkeeping methods of the former State Roads Commission.

Mr. Zouck maintains that the accounts of the commission were kept accurately. He says that while there may be a difference of opinion as to what is proper accounting, the fact that the State Auditor's force found an available balance of approximately $185,000.00 which is in accordance with the monthly statements now on file in the Roads Commission's office, indicates that the system is all right.

After all, he points out, the fact remains that all outstanding contracts have been taken care of and the roads properly maintained and the only thing in controversy is the method of bookkeeping that has been followed by the former commission.

Mr. Zouck's Statement.

His statement is as follows:

"The statement given out by the Governor in reference to the State road funds only shows that the accounting system is not approved by the State auditors. The system now in use, which the Governor criticizes was installed under Mr. Weller by Haskins & Sells, and when you consider that during my administration between $12,000,000 and $14,000,000 passed through the books and after a thorough investigation by the State auditors they found there was an unexpended balance of approximately $185,000, which is in accordance with the monthly statements now on file at the Roads Commission's office, everyone must admit this shows the system is all right and the method of bookkeeping is correct.

"The borrowing of the State roads funds to take care of maintenance has been done since 1910 and is a proper way to handle this situation under the present system. Every report issued to the Legislature explained why it was done, namely, that the automobile receipts for the fiscal year ending March 31 are applied to the maintenance expenditures for the calendar year preceding. Governor Ritchie knew this. I explained it to him in a letter dated last November 24, and also in person when I called his attention to the fact that he would have to change the dates for issuing bonds in his new road loan to correspond to previous road bond sales.

Advised Change In Plan

"His plan called for four dates of issuance and I explained to him that he would have to change them to two, August and February, in order that we could have money available to finance the maintenance expenditures until the automobile receipts were available.

"As to the State aid funds, they are entirely separate from the State road funds and are in the hands of the Comptroller. The sum of $400,000 is available each year on October 1 and this money is apportioned among the counties in proportion to their road mileage. This money must be matched with a like amount by the counties. If any county does not avail itself of its allotment before March 1 its money is reallotted to counties which desire to spend more than their allotment. As to this fund being overdrawn, it is absolutely untrue. There is now in the hands of the Comptroller as of June 1 approximately $320,000, although there are outstanding obligations against this money. It will not all be drawn out this year, due to the fact that the contracts will run into next year.

"There is no reason why the counties which desire to use their allotments and have filed application for the use of it prior to March 1 cannot get it, because the money is in the hands of the Comptroller. It is true a number of the counties never availed themselves of their allotments, while others have taken advantage of their own allotments as well as those of the counties that were not prepared to use the State's money.

"The counties which were permitted

Counties Made Agreement.

to enter into contracts for more than their share were permitted to do so only with the distinct understanding that in the event that if all the counties would take advantage of their allotment there could be no reallotment and they would have to finance the State's as well as their own share until the State's share became available, which would be on October 1, following.

"When the lateral road loan took the pace of the State aid fund, some of the counties were fearful, Carroll county in particular, that if the State aid fund should be discontinued they would not be able to get the money they advanced. When the lateral road bill was pending the County Commissioners of Carroll county went to Annapolis to see what effect the lateral road loan would have on the State aid contracts. I explained to them that it was my understanding that the lateral road fund would take the place of the State aid, and in order that there should be no mistake they should ask the Governor about it and I would do likewise. This I did, explaining to him that some of the counties had gone ahead of the year's allotment, and as that fund was to be discontinued, wanted to know how it stood in connection with the lateral road loan. I explained to the Governor it was the commission's understanding that it would take up where State aid left off, and that any outstanding contracts would be taken care of by the lateral road fund. This was satisfactory to the Governor, and I so advised the County Commissioners for Carroll county, who were waiting for me in the Governor's outer office.

$750,000 To Be Available.

"This is the natural and proper method and seemed to be understood by everyone. The State's share available for this fund August 15 will be $750,000. If this lateral road fund had not been provided by the Legislature to take the place of the State aid fund, of course no county would have been allowed toenter into contracts greater than the funds available and if this had not been the understanding, Carroll county, as well as all other counties, would have been notified to cancel all outstanding contracts.

"When it is all said the fact remains that all outstanding contracts have been taken care of and the roads property maintained, and the only question in controversy is a question of the method of bookkeeping and of how different items should be carried on the books."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

If you find a group of the women folks engaged in earnest discussion, the subject at issue is not so likely to be the choice of the next president, as what they shall wear next fall.

So far none of the kids of Westminster has accepted any fireworks given on condition that he go way outsde town to discharge 'em.

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If you believe in home trade—in a home newspaper—in boosting your town—advertise in this paper

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The kid element is making a careful list of the people who object to noise, for special attention the night before July Fourth.



DECLINE IN PRICES OF MEAT

Bureau of Crop Estimates Notes Drop in Amount Paid for Pork, Beef, and Mutton.

The advance in the monthly average price of hogs per 100 pounds received by producers, which began with February, 1916, comparison being made with the same month in the preceding year, continued without a break to August, 1919, and the advance was from $7.07 to $19.30. Since August, 1919, the fall from month to month was continuous to $12.66 in December, followed by a rise to $13.36 in January, 1920, or $2.33 below the January price in 1919, according to the reports of the bureau of crop estimates, United States department of agriculture.

The average price of sheep per 100 pounds received by producers throughout the whole year had an upward movement from 1913 to 1918, from $4.54 to $10.94, the principal increase being in 1917. The average for 1919, $9.58, is a drop of $1.36 from that for 1918, or 12 per cent.

From 1915 to 1918, the average price of beef cattle per pound to producers invariably advanced from year to year in each month and the advance continued from 1918 to 1919 until May, after which month the average price in 1919 fell below that of 1916 in each month, and the average price for January, 1920, was $8.99, or 66 below that for January, 1919. In the upward movement, the highest monthly average price reached was $10.84 in May, 1919.

Veal calves gained in average price in every month of every year since 1915, the comparison being with the same month of the preceding year,



It Costs No More to Feed a Purebred Hog Than It Does a Scrub.

and the price being per 100 pounds to producers. The yearly average price rose from $7.63 in 1915 to $12.74 in 1919.

FEED VALUE OF BUTTERMILK

Slightly Lower in Protein and Carbohydrates Than Skim Milk—Excellent for Pigs.

For all practical purpose buttermilk has about the same feeding value for hogs as skim milk, although it is slightly lower in protein, carbohydrates and fat than skim milk. Being high in digestible protein and rich in mineral matter, especially calcium and phosphorus, buttermilk is admirably suited for growing pigs, brood sows and breeding boars. It is an excellent supplement to corn because it furnishes those feed constituents that corn is deficient in.

ACCURATE RECORDS OF EWES

As Lambing Time Approaches Animals Should Be Separated and Given Extra Attention.

Some fairly accurate record should be kept when the ewes are bred in order that when lambing time approaches the ewes may be separated from the main flock and given extra feed and care. If ticks, lice or scab appear in the flock, the sheep should be dipped even though the weather is a little severe. This is extra work, but the flock will be more healthy and thrifty. A warm place should be provided for the sheep until they dry off.

FIND MILLET HAY INJURIOUS

Fed Liberally to Horses It Causes Increased Action of Kidneys and Other Ailments.

The North Dakota Experiment Station several years ago found that millet hay fed liberally to horses for a long period of time was injurious to the extent that it caused increased action of the kidneys, a swelling of the joints and a certain amount of lameness. Millet hay seems to be all right for cattle and can perhaps be used safely as a small part of the roughage for horses. It would not be advisable, however, to feed it liberally to horses for a considerable period of time.

MICKIE SAYS



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you'll be foolish to buy it, of course But if you can't get it for nothing—real good lumber—you can do the next best thing; pay as little as possible consistent with good quality and value. This is what you'll be able to do at our yards, for our facilities afford large savings in the purchase of the medium and better grades of both rough and finished lumber.

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Also it is difficult to see how the circuses can do anything in either Chicago or 'Frisco this year.

Almost impossible to get anyone to build houses in these times, but plenty of fellows willing to keep books for said work in some shady office.

Children Cry for Fletcher's
CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over thirty years, has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhoea; allaying Feverishness arising therefrom, and by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Comfort—The Mother's Friend.

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