

Topeka Capital
January 5, 1916

Kansas City Star
January 11, 1916

MORE KANSAS CITIES PAVE STREETS THAN ANY STATE

**Leads All Others During Last Five
Years—Practice Spreading to
Country Communities.**

Manhattan, Kan., Jan. 4.—More cities in Kansas have paved their streets with first-class materials during the last five years than in any other state in the Union, is the assertion of W. S. Gearhart, state highway engineer. "These cities began their work," says Mr. Gearhart, "by paving one or two blocks in the business districts and extending operations until in many places practically all of the streets have been paved. The most natural, practical and logical development of this system will be the extension of these paved highways out into the country. Indeed, many counties are making definite plans for such a radiating system of roads.

"During the last five years Kansas has built and has been maintaining the finest system of earth roads in the world, but about ten months ago the 'bottom dropped out' and the most important dimension of these highways has been their depth. The weather conditions in 1913 and 1914 were favorable for the maintenance of earth roads and many Kansans began to think that properly graded earth roads would answer any purpose.

"However, it is now clearly evident that if these main roads radiating from market centers and connecting cities, are to be maintained in the eastern part of the state as 365-day highways, it will be necessary to surface them with more permanent materials.

"Eastern Kansas is especially adapted to general farming and dairying, and a system of first-class highways leading to the market centers is one of the first essentials in the successful carrying out of this type of farming.

"Choosing the type of road for a locality should be done by an expert engineer, while the construction of the road should be placed under the supervision of a corps of expert engineers who have been given the power to get results."

BOURBON COUNTY IS FIRST

**ITS SHARE OF THE JEFFERSON HIGH-
WAY ALREADY IS PROVIDED FOR.**

**Petitions for the Rock Roads on Each
Side of Fort Scott Are Filed and
Construction Work Will
Begin Without Delay.**

Bourbon County, Kansas, claims the honor of being the first county to provide for its share of the Jefferson Highway in all rock construction. The petitions for the two gaps, on each side of Fort Scott, are ready and will be filled with the county commissioners this week. That means the beginning of the work of construction without further delay under the Hodge Law which is being so successfully used in this county.

Bourbon County furnishes a fine example of the value of rock roads as an advertisement of the progressiveness and prosperity of a community. Ten years ago Fort Scott citizens built the first short stretch of rock road to the cemetery because there were times when a hearse could not be used. The cost was so much easier than had been anticipated and the experiment so popular the citizens began building roads for the living as well, and from that start have nearly fifty miles of rock roads.

When the Jefferson Highway was proposed Bourbon County instantly became the most talked of county between Kansas City and New Orleans. The fact that its rock roads were standing up under the test of travel and were being built for a dollar an acre, or ten cents an acre a year, has been repeated thousands of times the last few months in several states. Now the county is the first to provide for its share of the Jefferson Highway, and that fact will be given much publicity.