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MARK SULLIVAN
EDITOR

June 19th, 1917.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You will remember that National Highways photographic contest in which you and Mr. Roosevelt and myself consented to be judges?

I am sending the photographs to you. Also I send a copy of my letter to Mr. Davis expressing my own judgment and a copy of Mr. Roosevelt's letter to me expressing his judgment. He differs from me in many details. I should be perfectly willing to defer to his judgment, especially in the matter of the first prize; or on the other hand we might all make our separate judgments, and let the prize money be distributed accordingly. In any event I would suggest that you go over the photographs and make such suggestions as you see fit.

Faithfully yours,

Mark Sullivan

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Council of National Defense,
Women's Committee,
Washington, D. C.

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COPY

Oyster Bay
Long Island, N.Y.

June 7, 1917.

Dear Mark:

Instead of sending the photographs on to Miss Tarbell, I am sending them to you because I disagreed radically with the Committee and even with you. I have put on the backs of the photographs I think best, the numerals 1, 2, 3 or 4 in a circle, with an R appended, this being in black pencil in both cases. I did not like the photograph you chose for first prize, at all. It is a good photograph, but it has no pictorial value and has no more value from the good roads standpoint than 50 others in the bunch. I put it in class 3. I regard the one I have marked "1" as head and shoulders above all the others. It gives a wonderful view of a remarkably good road in the Philippines; it has wonderful pictorial interest; and it is an extremely good photograph. I have then marked the five photographs for 2nd prizes; the 20 for third prizes; and only half of those for 4th prizes. As regards the remainder, I am perfectly willing to accept the choice of the committee so far as you and I have not joined in upsetting it.

I feel as if I had made myself an infernal nuisance; but at least you can see that I have devoted conscientious effort, however misguided, to the matter!

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) .

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

MR. MARK SULLIVAN'S SUGGESTIONS FOR AWARDS IN THE GOOD ROADS PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

For First Prize

Mr. Sullivan agrees with the Committee of the National Highways Association that Number 325, submitted by George Ashbrook, of Skidmore, Mo., best fulfils all the conditions of the contest.

For Second Prizes

Mr. Sullivan would name the following for second prizes.

No. 725, which was selected by the Committee, because it is an excellent photograph of a good road and has pictorial interest. It falls a little short of the first requirement of the contest - that of showing road conditions - which in Mr. Sullivan's judgment prevented its being the first choice for first prize.

No. 782, which was selected by the Committee, because it is a photograph of a very bad road which is evidently much used and has the two further qualifications of pictorial excellence and photographic excellence to a marked degree.

No. 202, also selected by the Committee, because it is an excellent photograph, with pictorial interest of a very good road.

No. 7, which Mr. Sullivan has substituted for the Committee's choice No. 707, because it shows a decided contrast between a good road and a bad road, and fulfils all other requirements. No. 707 which shows merely a bad stretch of road Mr. Sullivan places in the third class, from which he took No. 7.

No. 801, which Mr. Sullivan has substituted for the Committee's choice No. 338, because it shows very clearly a road in apparent frequent or constant use - there are three vehicles shown in the picture - in extremely bad condition. This photograph Mr. Sullivan brings from the fifth position to the second and places in the fifth position No. 338 because it is not only a poor photograph but also because one cannot be certain whether it shows a road or merely a lane.

As to all other prizes, Mr. Sullivan accepts the judgment of the Committee of the National Highways Association except that to

Number 815, Mr. Sullivan would give a third prize instead of a fifth prize. Mr. Sullivan substitutes that for No. 370 because No. 815 shows clearly a bad piece of road and its disadvantages to the farmer particularly, while No. 370 might be a low spot in a meadow or a portion of a lane.

Number 707, Mr. Sullivan places in with the photographs to which he would
award a third prize.

Number 338 Mr. Sullivan places among the photographs to which he would
award a fifth prize.

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