

Information Sheet

R National Good Roads Association.
990 Papers, 1903-1904.
One folder.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are a printed broadside "invitation" to B. A. McAllaster of the Union Pacific Railroad to attend the National and International Good Roads Convention to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on 27 April-2 May 1903, and a letter from A.S. Mann to Charles H. Scott, dated 11 April 1904, concerning the financing of a ship canal.

The National Good Roads Association was organized in 1900 and had offices in the Laclede Building in St. Louis, Missouri. W. H. Moore was president, B. W. Richardson was secretary, and Edwin A. Potter was treasurer. L. D. Kingsland was chairman and C. H. Huttig was treasurer of the convention committee. H. R. Whitmore was vice-president for Missouri.

The National and International Good Roads Convention was called to address "The chief subject demanding public attention," which was "Industrial Improvements; The most important of which is 'The Betterment of the Common Roads.'" According to the invitation, "the deliberation of the convention will comprehend discussion upon scientific methods of common road construction, including plans for providing for their cost and maintenance, together with recommendations for practical public road legislation. The Nations of the world are commercially and socially interested in this important question."

The invitation contains facsimile signatures of 32 prominent public officials and businessmen, including Missouri Governor A. M. Dockery, Louisiana Purchase Exposition president David R. Francis, St. Louis mayor Rolla Wells, and Frisco System president B. F. Yoakum. Birdsall Allen McAllaster (1860-1955), to whom the invitation was addressed, was land commissioner for the Union Pacific Railroad.

The letter of 11 April 1904 was typed on the letterhead of The National Good Roads Association. In it, A. S. Mann, the Vice-President for Florida, writes to Col. Charles H. Scott of New York, N.Y., hoping to meet him in Jacksonville, Florida. He expressed the opinion that "when the present scare is over many will be seeking investments again and the Ship Canal might be floated then. I control the entire situation and can make any arrangements for securing the assistance of others for the good of the cause." The reverse side of the letterhead lists the many members of the "National Advisory Committee," arranged by state of residence.

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r1244

24 January 2005
16 March 2006

Ken Divis
Tom Turner

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Congresses and conventions
Huttig, C. H.

Kingsland, L. D.
Mann, A. S.
McAllaster, Birdsall Allen, 1860-1955
Moore, W. H.
National and International Good Roads Convention (Saint Louis, Mo.: 1903)
National Good Roads Association
Potter, Edwin A.
Richardson, R. W.
Roads—Congresses
Salmon, Harvey W.
Scott, Charles H.
Union Pacific Railroad Company
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