

COMMUNICATIONS

4100 Tel.

Tewksbury,
Nov. 10, 1937.

Editor, Lowell Sun.

Dear Sir:

The construction of North street which caused considerable discussion during the spring and summer months is now under way in full swing. It had been the belief of many that when a job of this size was started many unemployed men would be put to work. For the past few years a motion was made at the annual town meeting to hire the men on welfare rolls, or otherwise in need of employment while jobs of this type are in progress. This has not been so in the case of North street. On the excavation, a power shovel was imported from Salem to do the work. Now, a power shovel from Lowell is busy in the town of Andover, replacing men in the gravel pit, to build a Tewksbury road, while the road commissioners look on in merriment watching it perform.

The trucks owned by the town, commonly known as 1 1-2 ton trucks, are being grossly overloaded to the tune of about five tons of gravel per load, and are being driven at excessive rates of speed over our highways in order to keep a piece of machinery busy, while men in need of employment remain idle. If an individual did this the registry inspectors, or police, would soon be on the job, to make them live within the law.

One of the truck drivers was discharged a few weeks ago by the superintendent for a serious offense, only to be reinstated by a road commissioner in the evening of the same day. Then, the same driver became involved in a serious accident a week ago Saturday, when one of the brand new trucks, purchased recently, was wrecked, practically beyond repair. The truck with its heavy load of gravel careened off the highway on Andover street in North Tewksbury, finally crashing into a tree.

Is there any more respect for the safety of the public? Is there any more consideration in the expenditure of public funds toward providing employment for those who help to pay the burden and who need it? It is understood by many to be the intention of the voters assembled in town meeting, that jobs of this size provided for this. Does our welfare department approve of this? Are they alert to this procedure?

If our road commissioners believe in the use of power loaders for our trucks, let's purchase one at the next town meeting, or, let jobs of this size out by contract to the lowest bidder. Then when a contractor is doing the work, and one of his trucks is wrecked, the townspeople won't have to spend an abnormal sum for unnecessary repairs, or for extra truck hire to replace the damaged ones. Better still, let's load the trucks by hand, and provide work and wages.

TOWN CITIZEN.