

PAYMENTS AND SEWERAGE

The City Engineer's Views on Public Works for the Coming Season.

He Thinks \$600,000 Will be Expended—\$350,000 Already Provided for.

Various Pavements Reviewed—Macadam Discarded from Frequent Streets in Large Cities.

The engineer department is enjoying quite a rest in this cold weather, remarked a Bee reporter as he strolled into the city engineer's office on his daily rounds.

That seems to be a generally erroneous impression," retorted City Engineer R. Sewater as he looked up from a roll of papers and books lying before him at his desk.

Can't that be done as work is laid out in the summer," inquired the reporter.

No," he replied with any regard to economy or good work. For instance, in order to outline the sewer work for the coming season judiciously, it is necessary to survey and make experimental estimates of all available lines, ascertain drainage areas, sizes of sewers at different points, relative depth of base and cost, and then after a general comparison and analysis, determine upon a definite line.

What work is contemplated for the coming season?"

The entire work that should be done and I think will be well aggregated in the vicinity of \$600,000, of this about \$500,000 will be for paving and \$100,000 for sewerage.

What KIND OF MATERIAL do you propose to pave this area with?"

My estimate is based upon Sioux Falls granite for 10th street and asphaltum for the rest. However the kind of pavement must be determined by the property holders.

First of all I find no pavement should be considered without a substantial and durable foundation. The best under all circumstances is a hydraulic concrete.

Under our existing contract for this character of pavement here the cost of maintenance is incurred entirely by the contractor for the first five years, at the end of which time it is to be turned over to the city in first class condition.

asphalt paving within the past month on a twenty year guarantee of maintenance at a cost of 66 cents per yard above a five year rate.

AS TO WOODEN PAVEMENTS I find them growing into disuse in the larger eastern cities.

Can not wood be Burnitized? Yes, and to a certain extent advantage.

Yes, and to a certain extent advantage. I have a letter from Mr. Shaler Smith, chief engineer of the St. Louis bridge, who has experimented successfully on dogwood, the poorest of all material there.

MACADAM PAVEMENTS make very fine boulevards and are excellent country road ways, but I find the cost of maintaining them in streets to be so great as to preclude the idea of their use in any but ill-frequented thorough fares.

TAXES. If the city proceeds to pave all you outline, will not that make taxes very high this year? No not near as high as people imagine.

A New Corporation. CHICAGO, January 3.—The statement published that the duke of Sutherland and other English and American capitalists intend, in conjunction with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, establishing an all rail route from here to Guaymas, and from there to Australia.

The Chicago Trotting Pans. CHICAGO, February 4.—The Chicago Driving Association park has opened for winter business.

Money for the Unmarried. One of the most solid and substantial institutions in this country is the Married Men's and Mutual Trust Association, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Wrecked on the Rocks. PROVIDENCE, February 4.—A letter from Cape Horn reports Mr. Smith and a boat crew of eight men, belonging to the wrecked schooner Surprise, were found upon the rocks, and destined to provisions.

GREEN. The new company would start with a capital stock of \$25,000,000, and would be an American company, must also tell you that in connection with this Atlantic and Pacific road, which belongs to the Santa Fe system, will be built on west to the Colorado river, on the boundary line of California. Now this system owns a little line called the Southern California railway, which runs from Colton to San Diego on the coast, and Colton is on the Southern Pacific line and is operated independently because of its isolation at present, but when the Atlantic and Pacific reaches Colorado, which will be in April, they will find the California Southern built east from Colton to meet them. And then the Atchison will have a direct line of their own to San Diego, Guaymas, you know is a gulf of California port, and away south of San Diego.

THE POOR.

Report of the City Mission for Last Month.

Their Needs Greater Than Ever.

This weather is very trying upon those who have means, and it falls with crushing force on the poor, to whom the mildest winter is a period of want and suffering.

The following is the report of the relief department of the Omaha City Mission for the month ending January 31st, 1882:

This department takes pleasure in acknowledging the following donations for the month:

Received from Mr. Geo. Patterson, one quarter ton of coal; Mrs. Ross, one mattress, dishes, etc.; Mrs. Bangs, clothing; Mrs. Ferguson, clothing; Mr. A. Cruickshank & Co., box of clothing; Mr. A. Polak, order for groceries; Mr. T. A. Craig, cash; Mrs. Ellis, cash; Mrs. J. T. Bell and Mrs. Wood, cash; Mrs. Hultz, cash; Mrs. Dr. Mercer, coffee and one-half sack of flour; Mr. Merrill, 100 pound sack of flour; Mrs. Higgins, lot of clothing; Mr. P. Herman, a carpet bag of clothing; county commissioners, one-half ton of coal; Miss Goodman's private school, a nice lot of groceries.

North school—One barrel of crackers. Third ward school—Three barrels of potatoes and some small packages of fruit and twenty cents in cash.

West school, by Miss McKoon—A variety of groceries, twenty-one bundles of clothing, a lot of potatoes and in cash \$5.75.

South school—Potatoes, groceries, some clothing and in cash forty cents. Cass street school—Potatoes and a variety of other useful articles. Jackson street school have done all they could in the great cause. We have received in all from those little children about forty bushels of potatoes, many groceries and clothing, which is thankfully received by those who are in need.

GEORGIA SPIRIT-CHARMERS.

Packages Which are Treasured by Plantation Darkies.

Some Quaint Superstitions Regarding the Virtues of Snake Teeth.

Men Who Have Seen Ghosts Bewitched by a Legend.

ATLANTA, January 19.—No people on the globe cherish so many quaint and curious superstitions as the dusky laborers on a Georgia plantation. Not long ago, while spending a fortnight in a village near Adams, I entered the office of the village physician and found the good old doctor critically examining a curious little package, which seemed to be composed wholly of cords and cords and cotton rags.

"One day an old colored man, who is a thrifty tenant on an adjoining plantation, came to me for treatment. I prepared a simple remedy for his ailment, and he opened a time worn leather pouch to produce my test when a small, tightly-wrapped parcel, on larger than a silver dollar, fell, un-noticed by him, upon the floor. When he had gone I discovered it and laid it upon my table.

"I know there is a custom among the negroes of carrying about their persons what they designate a 'charm bag,' which, having been carried concealed from all eyes save the owner's for a certain period of time, would possess sundry occult potencies, such as warding off danger, keeping away evil spirits and communicating a presentiment of any approaching calamity.

"I was told that the doctor had found the 'charm bag,' which, having been carried concealed from all eyes save the owner's for a certain period of time, would possess sundry occult potencies, such as warding off danger, keeping away evil spirits and communicating a presentiment of any approaching calamity.

"Snake teeth, these are, and these little bits of dried tissue are portions of some reptile's skin. But I am unable to classify these peculiar fossils," and the doctor rubbed some of the particles in his hands and chuckled.

"Two days afterward the old darky returned again, and the doctor, with a searching expression on his face, again handled the 'charm bag,' folded and packed as he had found it, to its owner, who refused to take it, saying, with a comical but serious shake of his head: 'Boas, I done give it up; you des well keep it, do.'"

"I once knew a negro servant who went to a physician and declared that a certain old woman had become vexed with him and had 'conjured' him, and that every day he could feel a lizard crawling down his leg. The physician prescribed for some little irregularity in his conduct and dismissed his patient with a severe reprimand for his foolish notions.

The plantation darkey is a firm believer in the existence of 'ghosts and spirits.' Sometimes they hear strange noises about some cabin, especially if it has remained vacant for a year—and their fertile imaginations fancy the specter is made up of shadowy forms and ghostly shapes that hold high carnival among the deserted rafters all the long, dark, wintry night, and whenever a horse begins to gather about it these doubtful associations the landlord find no occupant for it among the colored race.

AN AWAKENED NATION.

The Recent Rapid Progress of Mexico.

A Glorious Future Predicted for Our Neighboring Republic.

The Country Considered Politically, Socially and Financially.

San Francisco Chronicle. Though so near a neighbor the sister republic of Mexico, her resources, condition and prospects are by no means thoroughly understood by the dwellers on this side the border.

"White herrins! Dom want'n no herrins, nor cranes, nor ducks. Dey was sperets come to warn me away from fish'n on Sunday, and I let yer know I got away from dar, too, shore's yer born; never even stoyed ter get my pipe and 'backer, layin' side ter tree. Reckon it's layin' dar yet; staid dar, for I!"

"This ignorant superstition will gradually vanish as the colored race progresses in civilization. In Atlanta there is a flourishing college for colored people, and some of the teachers educated there are very intelligent men and women. But away from the city, on the cotton fields and rice plantations, you find the darkeys in their slavish time originality, and judging from the advances made among them since the war, they will remain the same happy, careless beings another century to come.

POLK'S PARLOR.

The Princely Life of the Thieving Treasurer of Alabama.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., February 4.—The governor offers a reward of \$5,000 for the capture and return to the sheriff of Montgomery county of Isaac H. Vincent, late state treasurer. The legislature adopted a joint resolution authorizing it and sustaining him in the offer.

A gentleman of this city says he was ex-treasurer Vincent in Nashville, Tuesday last. Vincent had shaved his whiskers, and the gentleman recognized him with difficulty. Finally he spoke, when the recognition was mutual. Vincent said he had shaved because the warm weather was approaching.

"I can't believe, who saw Vincent in Nashville last Tuesday morning, says: 'He gave no evidence of anything being wrong with him. He was in his usual spirits and made no effort to conceal his identity.' It is now reported on good authority that Vincent's wife has \$20,000 worth of diamonds. He made her a handsome present of diamonds as a New Year's present one month ago. The real property he has bought in his wife's name, but he left no ready money with her, and it is almost certain he carried little money with him. There is nothing small about Vincent. He speculated like a prince. Some of his deals in cotton embraced 10,000 bales, calling for \$20,000 margin. His deals were made through Fred Wolff, of Montgomery and New York, and B. B. Smith & Co., of New York. It is now stated that it was given in evidence before the investigating committee that Vincent brought at one time from another bank here \$20,000 of exchange, and endorsed it to Wolff. The books of Wolff's bank are said by his agent here to show that the whole \$119,000 of exchange bought by Vincent at that bank went to cover cotton losses. The real property he had bought in his wife's name, but he left no ready money with her, and it is almost certain he carried little money with him.

Most of the large importing houses are French or German, chiefly the latter, and from whom, I believe, most of the exaggerated reports spring. They see the trade passing out of their hands to the Americans, and naturally they do all they can to spread the idea that Mexico is an unsafe country. The retail houses are generally Mexican, gaining long credit from the Germans and paying heavy rates of interest; but failures are rare, and obligations are promptly met. Four years ago there was no regular commercial bank in the City of Mexico; now there are three with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$13,000,000. The National bank is a Mexican affair, with a capital of \$5,000,000, which was subscribed on one day after the incorporation.

"Are these the only banks?" "Yes," replied Mr. Thurston, "they are; and there is not a single savings bank in the Republic, although for the men who make one in the capital, Guadalajara, or Leon, a month's labor would pay for it. There is a mortgage loan in a fortune. The borrowers are people who pay good security and

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RAILROADS IN MEXICO.

"That brings you to the third head of the discourse, I imagine!"

"Yes," assented Mr. Thurston, "and the next, I believe, is the subject of railroads. In the past all the transportation has been done by pack mules at the rate of one cent a pound for twenty leagues, the result being that every producer has had to rely upon local markets, and therefore has rated his supply to this limited demand. Mexico has awakened up to the fact that she is behind the age, and all the great schemes of to day are those of intercommunication, and hence the railroads—the Mexican Central, the Mexican National, the Gould-Degress and the Huntington line. The Mexican Central is a Boston corporation, and its lines run through the heart of the country. The main line connects El Paso with the city of Mexico, 1350 miles, passing through seven cities of over 50,000 inhabitants. It is being constructed rapidly at both ends. From El Paso south it is built 300 miles, the remaining 700 to be built by the 1st of June, 1884. The Mexican Central has a branch line running from San Luis Potosi to Tampico, on the gulf of Mexico, and a second from Leon to San Blas. The first branch is to be finished in three years and the second in five. The Mexican Central runs from Laredo, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, down through the population of the City of Monterrey to the capital, and has also a branch from Mexico to Manzanillo. That company has built 125 miles out from Mexico, and on the coast has completed the line from Manzanillo to Colima. The Gould D. Gress road started from Brownsville in Texas, and was to run to Mexico almost parallel with the National. Much work was done from the border south, but operations have been suspended. The Huntington road crosses the border at Eagle Pass in Texas, and proceeds south to Mexico. Work was commenced on the 1st of December. There is no through line as yet, but on the pieces of road which are completed the travel has been immense. For instance, the Central, on its completed portion, running from the capital to Aguascalientes, a distance of 310 miles, sold tickets at the last mentioned station at the rate of \$30 a day for the first thirty days. There is no denying the fact, sir, the country of Mexico has a big future, and that great infernal plague, with the finest climate in the world, will in the next ten years be a home for a thousand Americans, where now there is one."

"A sort of Mexican Gimbetta?"

"Exactly so," assented Mr. Thurston. "The government," he continued, "is stable, financially. Every subscription for the past four years has been paid scrupulously and without delay. That of the Mexican Central is \$17,000 a mile. In 1882 there were six hundred miles of road built, and between ten and eleven million dollars were paid on the day due. The country is, in fact, quiet and well governed, and for the last two years I have never heard of a single stage robbery nor of a mercenary murderer—a state of affairs somewhat at variance with the reports sent up for the purpose of decrying Mexican enterprise and boasting Mexican securities. The reports, too, that the elections are conducted with disturbances are altogether unfounded, and especially so concerning Guadalajara, where I happened to be at the riot—which did not take place—was said to have occurred. The reason is that 60 per cent of the people take no interest in politics and don't vote, being perfectly willing to let the other 40 per cent run the government."

"Then you rest upon the political aspect of the country?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Thurston, "but not because it is exhausted. Commercially, also, Mexico is prospering. The revenue of the country for 1882 was something like 30 per cent greater than in 1881 and more than double that of 1879, the figures of the first and last mentioned years being around \$29,000,000 and \$19,000,000. This money is entirely derived from import duties, although within the last year a revenue tax has been laid on monetary drafts and cigars and tobacco, the export tax of 5 per cent ad valorem on silver having been removed as a counter balance. Such an enormous increase in the custom-house must then show an increased commercial activity and is not due, as many suppose, to the increased activity in railroad matters, for everything needed in railroad construction, from an spike to a locomotive, is imported free of duty. There is a general idea, also, that the Mexican tariff is very exorbitant, but while it is on certain articles, as a rule it is not. Milling machinery, powder, steel, manufactured lumber and farm stock are all on duty at 15 per cent ad valorem, tea, on which it is \$1 per pound, and piasea, on which it is 22 cents a pound, on these and the like the government comes down heavily."

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