

PAVEMENTS AND MATERIALS.

An Expert Reviews the History of the Different Systems.

ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE

An Interesting Chapter on an Important and Much Discussed Subject—Brick, Granite, Coal Tar, Vulcanite, Asphalt.

History of Street Paving.

OMAHA, Neb., April 6.—To the Editor of THE BEE: At the present stage of our city's history the question of pavements has become a topic of more passing interest to the property holding and paying citizens.

In the discussion of this question the two main objects to be kept constantly in view are economy and durability, for the system of pavement which will best answer the requirements above set forth, must ultimately be recognized as the only pavement which can give satisfaction to the property owners and comply with the demands of an honest and conservative city government.

The writer of this article is not connected either directly or indirectly with any street pavement company, nor has he the slightest interest in any street paving system, other than the interest of a taxpayer and citizen.

Twenty years in the construction of street pavements has given me some degree of familiarity with the various kinds of pavement which are laid throughout the larger and more important cities of this country, and a personal acquaintance with many of the gentlemen who are interested in the paving business has given me numerous opportunities to estimate the quality and character of the different pavements now in use, as well as the cost of construction and maintenance, and their comparative durability.

In 1858 the writer superintended the laying of coal-tar pavement in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. At that time the only pavements laid in those cities which were not experimental were the well known "cobblestone" and "Belgian block" pavements. There was no question concerning the durability of these pavements, but the din and uproar which was caused as a consequence of even the ordinary traffic of the streets, compelled the devising of some other system of paving, which should lessen the noise, and at the same time withstand the wear and tear of ordinary travel.

The Scotchman Pavement Company, which organized in Brooklyn in 1859, was the outgrowth of this sentiment, which favored experimental paving, in the hopes of discovering some system calculated to meet the demands of the hour. The company laid a "coal tar" pavement, similar to the coal tar pavements which one sees even occasionally to-day. I was with this company at the time that their first pavements were constructed. When first laid in cool weather, the coal tar pavement gives a most favorable impression, and strongly resembles asphalt. It is hard, but under the three rays of a summer sun, or even the intense heat of a summer night, it becomes soft and liquid, the tar seeping between the joints of the blocks and to the feet of the pedestrians, so that the one or the other after leaving this pavement to drive on other streets, would be liable to have a trail behind to locate their destination.

It is a striking illustration of the absolute failure of the coal-tar pavement, that the men who were most prominent in the organization of coal-tar paving companies, some fifty or twenty years ago, have all, without exception, abandoned the method of construction, and turned their attention to other methods.

Prominent among the gentlemen who were formerly champions of this system, but who have since admitted its failure, may be mentioned Dr. Filbert, of Philadelphia, the Cranston Pavement Company, of Boston, and Samuel R. Schaff, of New York, all of whom were original "coal-tar" paving men. What is known as the "Belgian block" is simply coal-tar pavement under another name. The "vulcanite" pavement was laid quite extensively in the city of Philadelphia ten years ago, and the experiment was so unsatisfactory that but little was laid during the present session, and the Capital City Synops, of the engineer corps U. S. A., who is connected with the engineering department of the District of Columbia, that it has never been used since. It is probable there will be no more "vulcanite" laid in the district.

Personal examination of the pavement leads me to believe that Captain Synops is correct in his estimate, and I believe that "vulcanite," like coal-tar, has had its day, and must be classed among those pavements which have served as experiments, leading us on to something infinitely better.

A few years ago, it was mentioned that a great deal of money had been expended in pavement laid at last been found which could not fall to give satisfaction, and under this impression Colonel Clark, of the city of Omaha, corresponding to the "Belgium" was laid upon many of the streets of our city. Some four years of experience with this pavement has convinced me that it is probably the best pavement yet devised, and would seem to justify the conclusion that it is not the pavement of the future.

Public opinion is already unanimous in favor of the "Belgium" pavement, and only recommendation is its cheapness. Wood pavements laid in this city two years ago are rotting to-day, and are demanding immediate removal.

Major Belmonte, of the board of public works, has already shown the worthlessness of wooden pavements, in quite an elaborate article.

THE NICKNAME WHICH M. DE GLERA GAVE TO ATSCHNIOFF.

The Most Brilliant Season in the History of the City—Protecting Factory Children—Gossip From St. Petersburg.

The Downfall of Atschnioff.

St. Petersburg, Russia.

St. Petersburg, Russia, April 6.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEE.]—Now that Atschnioff is down, everybody is taking a kick at him. It appears, however, that the man is, and has always been, a troublesome fellow and a consummate fraud. At the school, whence he was expelled, he is remembered as a bully and a glutton, who used to annex the benches of smaller boys. His expulsion might have been a lesson to some modern Offenbach, and the masterly fashion in which he duped the solemn Katkoff and the pompous Aksokoff, led the brilliant Tontatiff by the nose, and even drew funds from H. T. M. The czar himself fully entitles him to the distinction of the title being bestowed upon him recently by M. de Glera, who christened him a "Russian czar."

It is stated that everything is being done to hush up the affair, for the threatened investigation bids fair to make some of the most exalted personages in the empire the laughing stock of Europe. The Cossack was no Cossack at all, and the suite of this adventurous buffoon was composed of unsupplied priests and cashed officers. Yet it was this gang that seriously compromised the friendly relations between Russia and France, to a degree that it has been speculated upon, whether "Cossack" Atschnioff may not have been in the hire of Bismarck. There are but a few of the criticisms which are being made in Petersburg and Moscow which are being made in Petersburg and Moscow which are being made in Petersburg and Moscow.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

The charming printed China silks are combined with lace in many pretty ways for handkerchiefs.

The new French and Venetian chilies are exceedingly neat and delightful to look at, after the protracted show of heavy winter fashions. Silk crepe-line is a very beautiful fabric for evening dress, but is softer and more delicate than the ordinary crepe. Mme. Muse, wife of the Japanese minister at Washington, is translating a Japanese novel into English. Her translation will be the first of the kind published in this country.

The empire vests intended to wear on the flaring wide round hats are useful as well as ornamental, as they prove a genuine protection against the cold. Women who give nice attention to all the details of the toilet find a traveling cloak indispensable, as even on short journeys they desire to protect the costume from dust and dirt.

In dressy evening toilets young ladies are wearing ribbon bandages in their hair, with a number of long loops of the same at the back of the head, which are fastened by clips to the hair. The soiree was terminated by a distribution of prizes for the best costumes, the first prize, a magnificent fan ornamented with pearls and rubies, was awarded to a charming "Empress of the Seas," who, however, refused to unmask. The picture is to represent the Saviour surrounded by saints in heaven, holding out his hand to the poor.

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Speaking of factories, the government has just ordered a medico-legal inquiry to be instituted in the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. During the last year this manufacture has taken an enormous development and upwards of 30,000,000 kilos of this substance have been turned out by the four factories in Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa and Warsaw.

In several towns the sale of margarine is absolutely forbidden, and in others, under the pretext, and it is expected that the result of the enquiry will lead to an imperial proclamation prohibiting the manufacture and sale throughout the empire. It may be noted that almost the whole margarine trade in Russia is in the hands of the Germans.

Another sorcerer who has come off badly of late is a witch who had quite a good case in the village of Schemia, in Canada, until one day a peasant called Schemia, who had fallen ill of inflammation of the lungs, was taken to the village stream. Schemia died during the night after he had taken his cure and the sorcerer was taken to the village stream. Schemia died during the night after he had taken his cure and the sorcerer was taken to the village stream.

Did't Finish. New York Weekly: Winks—"I didn't see you around yesterday." "Minks—"No, I had a room that needed painting, and I thought I'd stay home and do it myself. But can't stop to talk—I'm in a hurry." "What's up?" "Well, I've got to take my business suit to the dyer's and cleaner's, my wife's best dress along with it, and I must stop at a hairdresser's, and then I have to hunt up some painter and paper hanger to—to put the finishing touches on that room, you know."

ENGLAND IN SOUTH AFRICA

A Writer Who Thinks Her Influence Has Been Good.

THE DOMINATION OF THE BOERS.

Sport With Royal Beasts—Exciting Race With a Wounded Elephant—Saccamela and the Lion—Hunting the Ostrich.

Britain's Humanizing Policy.

PRETORIA, South Africa, Jan. 3.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEE.]—South Africa is made up of two English crown colonies, Cape Colony and Natal; two Boer republics, Transvaal and Orange Free state and about thirty Kaffir nations, the most important of which are the Zulus, Basutos, Bechuanas, Swases, Shangans, Maccapans and Kuobnases. The population of Kaffirs is by far in the majority. In numbers the Boers come next, the English speaking being in the minority.

The English government acquires over the African states, the more civilized and prosperous they become. As it is now in the Transvaal, where the Boer "republic" so-called rules, the country is run by and for the benefit—not of the people—but of a few wealthy individuals who own great tracts of country and let it out to farmers whom they oppress and rob, and who are hated by the natives for their obedience and submission. England, of course extends a measure of protection to her own subjects, but they are harassed by many grievances which could only be redressed by her establishing the proper rule in the country.

The Boers spend a great deal of their time shooting and hunting. Few, if any sports yield the same amount of pleasure and satisfaction as that of hunting, especially when the game is scarce and attended by danger. South Africa is the Elysian fields of the hunter, besides an abundance of smaller game are always to be found. In company with the Boer game hunter, Hugo Von Palen, Prince Von Lichtenberg, your correspondent made an extended hunting tour. After enjoying ourselves fully with a span of twelve oxen and four hunting ponies, plenty of ammunition, provisions, and drinkables, we engaged two Zulus and one Hottentot to accompany us, and started off.

The Zulus are great hunters, being well acquainted with the country and full of daring and bravery. We met with a lion, a leopard, a hyena, and a number of other animals, but when we got into the elephant country we kept a good watch and fell on a herd of these huge animals, feeding on the leaves and branches of trees called "baobabs." The animals were generally congregated near rivers along with lions, rhinoceros, hippopotami and other animals to drink, and often quarrels ensue and bloody battles are fought.

Dr. Livingston refers to this in his "Mission to Zanzibar," when he says: "The mightiest denizens of the forest wage war, are beyond description. Before we got within range the herd espied us and made off. We gave chase on our swift hunting ponies, and singling out three of the bravest, followed them up. One of the men, who was leading, fired and hit one of them, a powerful bull. The shot had the effect of bringing the brute to bay, about forty yards off. He turned and came at us with a terrific charge. We all fired, but the shot had no apparent effect, other than infuriating the beast, which came on with ears erect like two huge fans and trumpeting and bellowing with rage and pain. I thought it was all up with us, leaning over on the off side of the saddle as far as possible I shot close at him his trunk being within two feet of me. At the same time plying the spurs vigorously to my horse I got clear of the danger. Running and galloping through the thick tangle brush and underwood, the monster close in my wake. However, veering off in another direction, he made off at his best speed. The day was exceedingly pleasant, and leaving our horses with the oxen we strolled along the banks of the Limpopo, which in this part abounds in tall matrushes. Continuously employed in the hunt for lions and leopards, we were one day in the afternoon, when cleared away revealed the form of the Zulu laying full length in the grass, the lion limping away about fifty yards off. Kaufman and the other Zulus pursued, and by making a sharp angle got within gun shot. Already wounded and under the fire of two rifles he soon rolled over dead. Meanwhile I was attending to poor Saccamela, whom I found apparently dead, a terrible gash in his left eye and an arm broken. After stitching the wound and applying what restoratives we had, signs of life began to appear. A good draught of brandy revived him, but we had a sick man to care for, for we had a sick man to care for, for we had a sick man to care for.

There are at present some two thousand white employed in the gold mines throughout the country. When the women's school of pharmacy was first organized in Louisville it was entirely forgotten, and the business, and both of these were the laboratory of one of the professors. During the last term more applications for graduates than could be accommodated, and the school has been received at the Louisville school since its commencement.

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CONJUGALITIES.

The women in England exceed the men by 3,000,000, and yet Englishmen come to America for their wives.

A prominent citizen, aged ninety-two, of Dayton, Ohio, was married last week to a woman thirty-eight years old.

Marriage is not a failure at Jeffersonville, Ind. Six eloping couples were united there last week, or two ago—three white and three colored.

Henry C. Hunter, in jail at Crawfordsville, Ind., for bigamy, had the cheek to send to both his wives and ask them to go on his behalf.

The other morning Judge Sloyer of Kansas City performed the feat of hearing and sentencing four divorce cases in six minutes.

There are marriages still at famous Gretna Green. One Willie Lang there takes the bride to her father's door, and the public house supplies a dozen or so couples every year.

In 1880 some thirty young men in Berlin started an old maid's club with a provision that if any of them were married, the year only one member was left, and she found herself called upon to dispose of \$5,000 marks, an accumulation of the fines paid by the former members. The club was advised of the ex-members, and it was decided that half the sum should go to a hospital, and the other half to a sick man who had the rest for himself.

A special from Spokane Falls, W. T., says: Thirty years ago, in Puxnataway, Pa., John H. Reed and Miss M. E. Thompson were married. Reed came west, traveled through California and Oregon, finally settling in Nevada, where he married Miss Thompson. She married a Mr. Brewer. They heard nothing of each other for more than twenty-five years. Both had grown up children, and Reed was a well-to-do man. Accidentally Reed and Mrs. Reed learned these facts, opened correspondence with the former members, and the day they were married. Both are over fifty years of age.

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Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington

March 25, 1889.—Sealed proposals, endorsed

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