

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR 1897

Bulky and Detailed Document Submitted to Select Council. CAREFUL REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT Its Work Reveals Much of Interest to Citizens Generally Who Do Not Ordinarily Concern Themselves in Municipal Affairs—Some Pertinent Facts in Reference to Pavements, Sewers and Proposed Improvements—Comments and Suggestions



document and clearly reveals the nature and extent of the department during the fiscal year of 1897. To the Honorable the Select and Common Councils of the City of Scranton, Pa.

According to instructions from your honorable bodies, by your recent or more numerous resolutions, carried on me during the year (those for pavements called for estimates for different kinds of pavements), there has been considerable work done in this department in making plans, specifications and estimates for pavements, sewers, retaining walls, grading, sidewalks, curb, gutters, etc., as shown in tables.

GRADING. There has been but little work done under this head during the year, for reasons outlined in a previous report.

PAVEMENTS. The number of miles of paved streets in the city is as follows, figured at an average width of 24 feet except the cobble stone or boulder:

Table with 2 columns: Material, Miles. Includes items like Sheet asphalt on concrete, Stone block, etc.

INSPECTORS OF PUBLIC WORK. Under this head you will notice, in the table below, the total cost of work cost of inspection and the percentage of the total cost paid for inspection of the different improvements constructed during the year.

Table with 3 columns: Description of Work, Total cost of work, Per cent. for inspection. Includes items like Bloom avenue culvert, Schuylkill court sewer, etc.

GENERAL REMARKS. Under the present laws, as interpreted by the Supreme court of this state, and the present financial condition of this city, it seems to me to be impossible for the city to proceed with improvement.

OTICURA. In cold throughout the world. Pimples, blotches, blackheads, red, rough, oily, itchy skin, itching, scaly scalp, dry, thin, and falling hair, and baby blemishes prevented by CUTICURA Soap, the most effective skin purifying and beautifying soap in the world, as well as parent and sweetest for toilet, bath, and nursery.

the question of repairs assumes great proportions. It has been demonstrated in other cities (and should be in this city) to be true economy to carefully watch our paved streets, especially the asphalted streets, and when signs of faulty construction or unusual wear appears, to repair them immediately, but with the asphalt paving repairs considerable trouble has been experienced in securing prompt attention to the work.

A general specification requiring a pavement to be left, at the end of the guarantee period, in a satisfactory condition to any one official is liable to cause dissatisfaction, and, as a matter of justice to all parties concerned, the requirements to be laid should be made as definite and as precise as possible. Hence the following sections defining the condition in which an asphalt pavement shall be at the end of the guarantee period will be inserted in the specifications hereafter:

Section 1.—The pavement shall not be reduced more than one-fourth (1/4) inch from the original thickness at the end of the first five years, nor more than one-half (1/2) inch from the original thickness at the end of the first ten years.

Section 2.—Where elevations or depressions are due to the failure of the concrete foundation, from any cause, the asphalt and concrete shall both be removed a depth of four (4) inches below the original surface of the pavement.

Section 3.—All elevations or depressions three-eighths (3/8) of an inch or more, above or below the general surface of the street, shall be brought to the same elevation as the general surface, these elevations and depressions to be determined by measurements from a straight edge four (4) feet in length, placed on the surface of the pavement parallel to the line of curbing.

Section 4.—Cracks which show any indications of disintegration, or which are three-eighths (3/8) of an inch or more in width, shall be cut out of the binder or concrete to a depth of four (4) inches, and a length and width sufficient to include the entire portion affected, this portion to be replaced with new material of the same quality and thickness, as shown in the pavement adjacent thereto.

Section 5.—Should it be found necessary to replace forty (40) per cent. or more of any section of the street with new material, the entire section shall be resurfaced.

As it is a well known fact that oil has very bad effect on asphalt pavement, I beg to repeat the suggestion that all oil wags are required to have a drip-pan, or some other means, to prevent the oil dripping on the pavement, thus ruining the surface.

I would also recommend that councils take some action in regard to the width of streets to be used on all vehicles. The great majority of tires are too narrow and the width of the surface covered by these narrow tires is not sufficient to bear the weight of the load, and the narrow knife-like tire cuts into it, thus the grooves in the pavement are gradually being worn in the past, and as the property owners have paid a large amount of money for pavements the time is ripe for some action should be taken in the matter.

During the year plans and specifications have been prepared for sewers covering the whole of Section "A," Section "C," Section "D," part of Section "E," all in the Fifth Sewer district, the Sixteenth Sewer district and the Nineteenth Sewer district, also on Broadway and Emery streets in the Sixteenth and Eighteenth wards. The above sewers cover a vast territory and required a great amount of time and labor.

All plans and estimates prepared this year provide for the construction of the house connections to the curb line on streets and avenues to the fence line on courts and places.

such as the construction of sewers, resurfacing of asphalt pavements, opening of streets, building bridges, viaducts, engine houses, etc. (many of those improvements are very much needed at once, such as the Providence, South Side, Bellevue and Patagonia sewers), without an increase of the public debt. Should you decide on submitting this question to a vote of the people, provisions should be made for sewers in the Twentieth and the north portion of the Fourth wards; also for a safer and more pleasant road approach to the central city, for the benefit of the people of the North End and the surrounding territory, than the present unpleasant muddy road through the Diamond Flats with its three railroad crossings, one of which is very dangerous, as well as the narrow and contracted Carleton street west of Penn avenue.

This street, or road, from Penn avenue to Court street, is undoubtedly a disgrace to this city. The opening of a wide, level, and well paved road of this character, of Ash street from Capouse avenue to the intersection of Providence road and Diamond avenue, has been suggested.

Another route suggested is from the intersection of Monsey avenue and Walnut street to the bridge over the Delaware and Hudson railroad, across the Manville mines culm dump to the present surface at the intersection of Nay and Von Storeh avenues and the Green Ridge Flats, then along any one of the many avenues to Green Ridge street and on Green Ridge street to North Main avenue. On this route there would be but one grade crossing, that over the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad (Green Ridge branch) and the Lackawanna tunnel and one over the Ontario and Western railroad, with the necessary masonry and filling required on this route would cost about \$75,000 without the right of way.

Inquiries are made almost daily by city officials, councilmen and citizens, who own a certain street or road is city property, or directly in city care, and I am unable to answer. Hence it is time that steps were taken to determine the ownership of streets and to properly mark on the city map all streets actually in possession of the city either by deed, usage or otherwise.

It would be an efficient method of preserving the city from blindly placing electric lights, water plugs or making repairs on streets not legally in its possession, and thereby incurring the same by reason of such improvements.

FORM OF RAILS. In the fore part of the year the question of changing the style, or form, of rail to be used on paved streets was before the council, but it was not taken up for consideration as there are good prospects for the paving of part of Providence road, North Main avenue, Capouse avenue, Green Ridge street and Sanderson avenue this summer, it would be advisable for councils to take up this question again and settle it in time.

In conclusion, I desire to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the members of both branches of councils, his honor, the mayor, and the various city officials for the courtesies extended me during the past year. I hope that the same friendly relations will continue during the year just commenced. My thanks are also extended to the different members of the department for the aid given me by them in carrying out the wishes of councils. Very respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH P. PHILLIPS, City Engineer.

GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION. Will Be Given in the High School Auditorium on April 25. The gymnasium connected with the Young Women's Christian association will hold its annual exhibition Friday, April 25, in the High school auditorium.

MRS. OAKFORD INJURED. Mrs. Frances Oakford met with a most deplorable accident on Tuesday evening, by an unfortunate mishap on the stairs she seriously fractured a leg just above the ankle.

JERMYN. Mrs. Arthur Day and family were in Scranton yesterday. Miss Lizzie Winters has returned home after having taught a successful term of school in Broadheadsville.

He Was Vaccinated. From the Atlanta Constitution. An old Georgia dandy, with his arm in a sling, was talking to another on a West End car yesterday.

LAST SESSION OF THE PRESBYTERY

Considerable Amount of Important Business Transacted.

JOSEPH VITALE WAS ORDAINED

For the Last Six Years He Has Been Connected with the Italian Missions in and About Pittston--Next Session of Presbytery Will Be at Athens, May 16, for the Purpose of Ordaining Mr. Sawtelle.

The business of the Lackawanna Presbytery was concluded yesterday afternoon and it adjourned to meet at Athens, Bradford county, May 16. The morning session devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. W. H. Sawtelle, of Athens. The committee on exhibit at the general assembly was augmented by the appointment of Rev. F. B. Hodge, D. D., Rev. James McLeod, D. D., S. C. Logan, D. D., and Elders Hon. W. H. Jessup, Hon. Theodore Strong and R. M. Stecker. These additions were made at the request of Rev. N. G. Farke, D. D.

When the report of the committee of bills and overtures was presented and a motion for its adoption was made a brief discussion resulted. The committee's recommendation was that an overture be made by the coming general assembly that the sessions of this body be held tri-annually instead of annually, as is the prevailing custom. Though there were diversions as to the wisdom of the course recommended, the motion for the adoption of the recommendation was carried.

Joseph Vitale, a candidate for the ministry, was then examined. He came to Scranton nearly six years ago, and since then has labored among the Italian missions in and about Pittston that are fostered and guided by the Presbyterian church along the line of railway work conducted by that denomination among the foreign speaking population of this valley.

During these years he has made preparations for the ministry but the usual period of preparation has not yet matured. It was pointed out however, that the necessities of the presence instance strongly appealed for the Presbytery's immediate consideration, and that the proper disposition would be the ordination of Mr. Vitale.

Although Mr. Vitale was not fully acquainted with the intricacies of the English language, he passed a most creditable examination and Rev. Dr. Logan urged upon the Presbytery the justice and necessity of accepting him. When the vote of the Presbytery was taken there was only one dissenting voice.

The candidate was presented to the Presbytery and delivered a sermon, part of which was in English and the remainder in Italian. His ordination immediately followed. Rev. C. E. Robinson, D. D., delivered the charge to the new congregation.

AFTERNOON SESSION. At the afternoon session the report of the mission committee was presented by Rev. Dr. Brooks, of Wilkes-Barre. It was of an encouraging nature and dealt at some length with the work of supplying clergymen for vacant churches. Reports were then heard from various ministers concerning the most candidates for the ministry who are receiving instructions under their charge.

The last business transacted by the Presbytery was to adjourn to meet May 16, at Athens, Bradford county, for the special purpose of ordaining the son of Rev. Dr. Sawtelle, pastor of the Athens church.

Amelia (smiling from her wheel at Scranton yesterday. "Have I kept you waiting long, dear?" "Mortimer—'Long'! Many eyes have passed over the hour appointed for our meeting."—Judge.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

If You Would Read the Truth About Friday Bargains

Go Over This List Carefully. We aim to truthfully carry out every statement we make in advertising. It is a part of the record of our past success that we do so. Oftentimes, representations may seem big and flattering—but never unless the goods mentioned are worthy it. The silks we have advertised for three days are UNUSUAL bargains—the public has found them such. Our statements concerning them were strong—had a right to be. But we didn't exaggerate. Thus you will find the several items here as we represent them to be. If not, your money back—every time. That's a fair battle—for us, and for you.

The Sale of Silks. Examine any of the Silks advertised here, and you'll pronounce them bargains as quickly as we did. We bought them this Spring in unusual quantities. We've sold thousands of yards at their regular prices—and even they were lower than elsewhere. Now, we've put them on our counters under that much abused word "Bargains." But that is what they are, and why deny it?

- Habutai Wash Silks, in fancy stripes, for summer waists, per yard, 19c
Taffeta Finished All Silk Habutai, worth 50c yard, 29c
Black Japanese Habutai, worth 60c a yard, 39c
Black Brocaded Gros Grain, 15 styles, worth 75c a yard, 46c
Taffeta Silks, in fancy changeable and brocades, worth 90c a yard, 50c
French Foulards, in all styles and colors, worth \$1 a yard, 55c
Black Brocaded Gros Grain, 25 inches wide, very handsome, worth \$1 a yard, 58c
Bengalines, Armures and Faille, fine qualities, worth 90c yard, 59c
Brocaded Silks and Satins, rich, heavy quality, worth \$1.25 a yard, 59c
Taffetas, plain and changeable, worth 85c a yard, 67c
Figured Grenadines, 45 inches wide, large assortment, worth \$1 a yard, 69c
Colored Satin Duchesses, beautiful shades, worth \$1 a yard, 72c
Novelty Silks, large variety of styles, worth \$1.25 a yard, 76c
Black Satin Duchesses, rich and glossy quality, worth \$1.25 a yard, 79c
Bayadere Stripes, elegant qualities, worth \$1.50 to \$2.00 a yard, 81c
Black Satin Duchesses, 24 inches wide, heavy quality, worth \$1.75 a yard, \$1.15

3,000 Books at 3c

This (Friday) morning, April 22, we will place on sale Three Thousand Paper Covered Novels, regular 12 mo. size, printed on heavy paper, every volume positively worth TEN CENTS EACH, all at the uniform price of THREE CENTS. There are just ONE HUNDRED TITLES to choose from, among them being—

- SPORT ROYAL, by Anthony Hope.
A WINDOW IN THIRUBS, by J. M. Barrie.
THE MAN IN BLACK, by Stanley J. Wevman.
SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT, by Beatrice Harraden.
THREE MEN IN A BOAT, by Jerome K. Jerome.
THE DYNAMITERS, by R. L. Stevenson.
ELAINE, by Charles Gannicay.
A STUDY IN SCARLET, by A. C. Doyle.
BLACK BEAUTY, by Anne Sewell.
REVERIES OF A BACHELOR, by Ik. Marvel.
A MAN OF MARK, by Anthony Hope.
And others by "Quida," "Crockett," Hall Caine, Marie Corelli, "Rita," Laura Jean Libbey, Rudyard Kipling, "The Duchess," Charles Reade, Mrs. Alexander, Walter Besant, Edna Lyall, Rosa N. Carey and others.

BOOK DEPARTMENT—NEAR MAIN STAIRCASE.

1,000 Linen Collars at 5c

This (Friday) morning, we will place on sale One Thousand Women's Linen Collars, in a variety of NEW STYLES at FIVE CENTS each. They're a bargain, of course, about which we need to say but little. They came to us from one of the biggest and best collar manufacturers in the country, whose name is a guarantee of reliability. They're in all sizes and they're FIVE CENTS. That's the story. We expect to sell them all in two days.

Jonas Long's Sons. For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

MYER DAVIDOW, 307 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

Great Money-Saving Bargains in SHOES AND SLIPPERS

Type cannot confer an adequate conception of the magnitude of the bargains to be had today and tomorrow. We must be selling regardless of what the loss will be. If you have any money here is a great investment.

- Men's Shoes. Men's Fine Russet Vici cloth tip, very stylish and comfortable shoe, all sizes, at \$1.98, worth \$3.00. Men's Vici Patent Tip coin toe Shoes, strictly up-to-date, only \$1.98. Men's Shoes at 98c, \$1.29 and \$1.49, are worth seeing. Ladies' Shoes. We have a full stock of Ladies' Fine Hand-turned Shoes in Gray Bros., John Kelly's and other well-known make, at prices \$1.98, \$2.48, \$2.98 and \$3.50. Misses' and Children's Shoes. We have just received a full and complete stock of Misses' and Children's Shoes, in Russet and Black, also Cloth Tops at prices from 30c to \$1.50. Boy's and Youth's Shoes at prices to suit everybody. Call and examine our stock before buying elsewhere. Remember there is no trouble to show goods and you will surely save money by it.

MYER DAVIDOW, The Acknowledged Cheapest Wholesale and Retail Shoe House. 307 Lackawanna Avenue