

EXPERT AGAINST MACADAM ROAD

SAYS OIL OR ASPHALT BINDER IS
NECESSARY.

Council Hears Testimony of Several
About North Second.

"Macadam without oil binder is not worth what it costs to construct it and eastern road builders have ceased to construct simple macadam." Such was the startling testimony of Mr. Ayers, expert, head of the department of highways at Oregon Agricultural college, last night before the city council during remonstrances to the prices charged for macadamizing N. Second street. The remonstrators object to the quality of the work and this is their second effort to prevent payment of full charges as the original litigation ended favorably in a measure to the remonstrators but the council was left with the option of again going through the formalities of an assessment and last night was remonstrators' night. William Miller, representing Riverside addition, was the mouthpiece of the remonstrators, objecting not to the improvement but to the grade of workmanship. Witnesses were put on the stand to portray by words how alleged defects were allowed to creep into the construction of the macadam on North Second.

Expert Relates Findings.

The highway expert discussed road building in a learned manner and was indeed interesting both to the council and to the citizens present. He

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went into the details of road construction and pointed out the fallacy of building macadam without asphalt or oil binder, and setting out that different types of rock need different

processes. The rock used on North Second was so hard that there was insufficient "flour" or fine particles that fill up the cavities between the larger particles of stone. Then the

crown wasn't sufficiently high, and other defects of a technical nature were pointed out.

Work Had Alleged Defects.

H. Coffin, formerly in the real estate business here, was also a witness and told how the workmen had been requested by Mr. Miller at various times to roll certain places more effectively and to perform various other acts which in Mr. Coffin's opinion, would not have been done but for the requests, they being so frequent that friction developed. He said he seldom saw the city engineer on the ground while the work was going on; said that sometimes the roller was at work and sometimes not when sprinkling was being done. He told of finding soil instead of fine rock on the surface of the street in considerable quantities. Mr. Coffin was a constant attendant about this work last fall when the work was done.

Miller Corroborates.

William Miller corroborated Mr. Coffin's testimony going farther, however, and saying that when the second of the three courses of the macadam was finish and rolled, it was so loose and incompact that when he rode his bicycle over it, it left a trail. He produced a canful of soil that he had scraped up at random in the middle of a block immediately after it was constructed saying the soil in the can represented large quantities of similar dirt that covered the first and second courses to a depth of about two inches, being, in his opinion, the third coat or wearing surface. Fine rock should have been used, he maintained. The sample dirt was picked up in the presence of County Judge Henry, who later testified to that effect.

George Palmer Talks.

"If that is a specimen of macadam roads, they aren't worth much," was the way George Palmer, of the Palmer Lumber company, classified the macadam. He told how the work was completed last fall, in October, and how last spring it was necessary to grade the surface and fill in the holes that had been cut through the wearing surface into the rock foundation. He said that the repairs had to be made or the road would have been impassable quickly.

The matter was taken under advisement by the council as a committee of the whole.

Fire Alarm Adopted.

The Gamewell Fire Alarm system for La Grande was adopted last night. It will cost \$20,000 plus the cost of wiring the city. In anticipation of the new system and equipment the ways and means committee will devise some plan for properly housing the new paraphernalia.

A carload of wood pipe was ordered purchased. This is to cost not more than 12½ cents per foot.

The Smith Construction company has been let the job of building cement walks on Main from First to Walnut.

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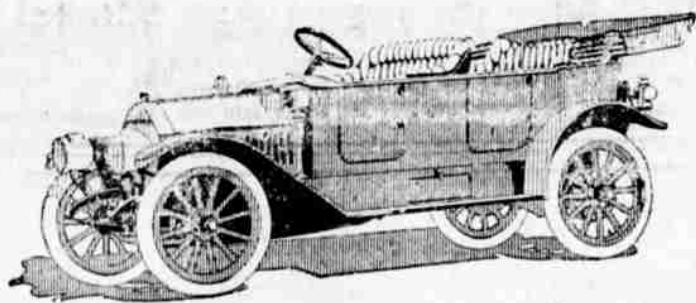
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