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Salem, Oregon

Macadam's road is a thing of the past. In fact, the road of the kind built by the Scotchman John Loudon Macadam and named in his nonor has been obsolete in this country for some time.

Macadam knew nothing of machine broken stone, and be did not dream that a broken stone roadway could be made as smooth as a billiard table by the use of steam road rollers.

In these days when we speak of a macadam road we mean a road with the following characteristics:

A road with easy gradients, usually not exceeding a five foot rise in 100

feet of length. A road with drainage appliances so perfect that substantially no water reaches the broken stone from below.

A road with a foundation consisting of either the natural soil, if suitable, otherwise of artificially placed gravel or unbroken stone, so that the foundation with the superimposed broken stone will have sufficient strength to distribute over the underlying soil any load to which the road is likely to be subjected.

A road with a wearing surface of two or more layers of broken stone. small in size, those at the bottom usually not more than two and onehalf inches in diameter and those at the top generally varying from one and one-quarter inches to one-half inch in diameter, each course or layer carefully spread, uniform in depth and rolled thoroughly with a steam road roller before the next course is placed. By this process, the rolling being done on thin layers, the stones become thoroughly compacted and the void spaces or interstices between the stones are largely eliminated. The final process consists in spreading over the surface of the upper layer of broken stone a thin covering of the screenings which result from the machine breaking of the stones and which contain a considerable proportion of fine dust, then flushing or grouting the screenings into such voids as remain between the broken stone and rolling the road with the steam roller.

So far as the treatment of macadam roads is concerned, the remedy seems to be in the application of protective coats or coverings of a bituminous na-

Before any of the bituminous ma terials are applied it is essential that the road surface be evened up and patched where necessary, rolled and swept clean of all dust. The bituminous materials are then applied hot to the road surface by means of spraying machines or gravity distributers or by hand in quantities varying from one-quarter to three-quarters of a gallon to the square yard and immediately covered evenly with sand, fine grav-el or broken stone screenings.

The annual maintenance will be merely the cost of renewing the covering. probably from 4 cents to 5 cents per square yard per annum. By this method no wear whatever will take place that portion of the ordinary macadam road which takes the wear will thereafter be only a foundation for the bituminous wearing coat.

The protective coat referred to would probably be inadequate for traffic, and the introduction of bituminous binders into the voids between the broken

stones would be necessary.

A good deal of work of this sort is being done now in an experimental way by mixing the bituminous material with the broken stone before it is placed on the roadway or by grouting the bituminous material into the spaces between and around the broken stone after it has been placed and partially rolled.

The cost of the ordinary macadam road is probably from 20 to 50 cents per square yard, and the roadway will require a protective covering at least as often as once in two years. It would be economical to rely upon the protective covering and to omit the bituminous material from the voids between the stone while the traffic remains as at present.

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