

ROAD MAINTENANCE

POINTS ON KEEPING IMPROVED HIGHWAYS IN GOOD CONDITION.

Constant and Careful Attention Very Necessary—Value of Keeping to Improve a Road's Coasting—Importance of Drainage.

The maintenance of a road already in good condition and of sufficient strength, if properly carried on, is almost entirely a question of wear, says Robert A. Meeker, state supervisor of New Jersey's highways, writing in the Good Roads Magazine. The rapidity of this wear varies with the nature of the rock used for the road covering, but even with the softer rocks there need be no deterioration if proper attention is given to maintenance.

The problem is to reduce the wear, both from traffic and the weather, to a minimum by substituting other material for that worn out, and to do this in the most economical manner.

The conditions under which wear will be reduced to a minimum under a cer-



REPAIRING A ROAD.

tain traffic are good drainage of surface and subsoil. To attain this object the material used for the surface should be hard in order to resist the wear of the traffic, should not contain too much small stone to absorb moisture and should be thoroughly consolidated and of sufficient depth to bear the loads to which the road is subjected, so that the wear may be confined to the surface.

Drainage almost always requires attention, and there is usually a great deal that can be done to improve it, at a slight expense, and nothing pays so well in the end. Proper care of the surface is generally all that is needed to prevent water from standing on the road or in the gutters, but a dry surface is not enough.

On a flat, water may be seen standing in the ditches to within a few inches of the surface of the road, in which case both the subsoil and the road coating must be softened by it and remain so long after the water in the ditch is gone. A deeper ditch, a larger culvert or a drain cleaned out through the adjoining land is usually sufficient to remove the cause of great mischief. On a hillside, springs under the road and land water from the sides can be cut off and led away by underdrains at a trifling cost.

The road coating may often be improved in composition and rendered harder by scraping, and a fairly good surface can be maintained at all times by proper care. With material of all sorts the influence that a good surface has in keeping down wear is greater than might be supposed.

Everything should be done to make a road strong enough to bear the traffic without bending or cross breaking and a reserve of strength is always desirable. Fluctuations of traffic are most trying. A road may be strong enough to bear the ordinary loads that pass over it and still be unable to support the excessive weights that may be brought upon it. When we know a road is to be subjected to heavy strains, it is always better to strengthen it by placing an extra coating upon the surface rather than wait until the road is broken and disrupted. When a road is broken or cut into by excessive weights it is no longer a mere matter of replacing wear, but of expensive repair, and often of entire rebuilding.

To replace wear that is unavoidable is a very simple matter when constant attention is given to the road. It is only when the surface is neglected for a long period that the matter of repairs becomes a serious one. A little attention to drainage, the removal of slight obstructions from the gutters, the clearing away of rubbish from the mouths of culverts, the removal of grass and brush from ditches and the careful spreading of small quantities of stone over depressions as soon as they begin to appear will keep a road in fine condition until it is almost entirely worn out.

Nothing is more neglected than the removal of worn material from the road. It seems to be regarded merely as a clearing of the surface from the mud and, as such, an unnecessary expense, while in reality this worn material affects the entire composition of the road covering. Consequently, unless the mud is washed away by nature from the surface, scraping or sweeping is necessary to preserve the proper proportion of solid stone in the road. Careful tests of the composition in our best road coverings have shown that from three-fourths to four-fifths of the material is solid stone, the remainder being material fine enough to be washed through a cheese cloth. Further careful tests have demonstrated that as this portion of fine stuff is exceeded will the road be soft, easily acted upon by traffic, water and frost. In consequence there will be an excessive waste of road material.

From the foregoing it is readily seen that the matter of road repair and maintenance is one that requires constant and careful attention. To attain the best results the most successful means so far employed is to assign a certain section to one man and hold him responsible for the road's state.

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2:15 P. M. Ar. Amodée	Lv. 12:01 P. M.
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In THE TWICE-A-WEEK SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, Wash., will be found the very latest news of the world, its matter including information on politics, commerce, agriculture, mining, literature, as well as the local happenings in the states of Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and the province of British Columbia. In addition, its columns feature the women's club articles, its short and continued stories, its "Answers to Correspondents" and "Puzzle Problems" combine to form a newspaper that at \$1.00 a year can nowhere be excelled.

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ADDRESS THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, Wash. Write your adv. plainly, enclosing amount in stamps or money order for number of insertions desired, and state whether you wish adv. inserted in Daily, Sunday or Twice-a-Week.

Excursion Rates to Pacific Coast

Notify your friends in the west that reduced round-trip excursion rates will go into effect June 1, 1906 and tickets will be on sale daily until September 15, 1906.

Final return limit October 31, 1906

Rates from principal Eastern points are as follows:

From Chicago.....	\$75.00
" Council Bluffs, St. Joseph, Leavenworth and Kansas City.....	\$60.00
" St. Louis.....	\$62.00
" Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Trinidad.....	\$50.00
" St. Louis.....	\$69.00
" New Orleans.....	\$69.00
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For further information call upon or write nearest Agent or D. S. Taggart, Reno, Nev. 2—no D. F. & P. A.

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TRANSFORMING AN EYESORE

Unightly Excavation Converted into Pretty Sunken Garden.

In an abandoned excavation on a lot adjoining his home in Kansas City, Mo., B. D. Bryant, bailiff in Judge McCune's division of the circuit court, planted a flower garden last spring, says the Kansas City Times. The lot, formerly a weed patch, is now a bowser, with a miniature sunken garden as the centerpiece.

When Mr. Bryant set out to plant his garden the lot gave little promise that it could be converted into a garden spot. The ground has a frontage of fifty feet and runs back from the street 150 feet. It was rough, several feet below grade and cut up by a small ravine. The owner had excavated for a house, but gave up the notion of building there.

Mr. Bryant's first step in working out his garden scheme was to dress down the sides of the excavation into terraces. The terrace nearest the street was planted with running nasturtiums; the one next to his house with several varieties of vines, which have been trained up the wall of the Bryant house, and the side of the excavated plot which bordered a ravine is today a tangle of shrubs, vines and tall growing flowers. The bottom of the excavation is an ordinary, well-trimmed flower bed. On the alley end of the vacant lot Mr. Bryant has put in a vegetable garden. The remarkable feature of the whole garden is that every square foot of the lot has been utilized and that no part of the lot is anywhere near level except the small area which was the bottom of the building excavation.

Mr. Bryant is his own gardener. He planned it and maintains it. There are upward of twenty-five varieties of flowers in the plot and all of the commoner vegetables.

TO KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAN

How a Kansas Town Stopped the Spitting Habit.

The motto "Make Olathe a good place to live-in" was adopted a few years ago under Mayor Hodge's administration, says an Olathe (Kan.) correspondent of the Kansas City Star. At the request of the women's club of Olathe an ordinance was passed making it a violation of law to expectorate on sidewalks or in halls or public places. Large signs, 15 by 12 inches, were placed in public places throughout the business portion of the city. One was nailed on a telegraph pole just in front of the bank of Olathe.

Ten to fourteen feet wide cement sidewalks are in front of all business property surrounding the square, and before this ordinance was passed and these signs placed around the square it seemed to be the delight of careless and filthy persons to spit upon and so cover the walks that women were almost compelled to walk around. This brought forth the action of their various clubs, followed by the passage and enforcement of the ordinance by the board of health.

Notably the first violator was a big careless young farmer who always spat on the white cement sidewalks just the same as if he were in a barnyard. Two and three times a week he would come to town with much regularity. The city marshal arrested him almost under the shadow of a sign. The sign was pointed out to him. He was finally released without a fine, but he was so badly frightened he was not seen in Olathe again for six months. Other arrests have been made, but those arrested have been released for the first offense. The effect is splendid. Sidewalks are as spotless and clean as a floor. The board of health under Mayor Oga is just as vigilant now as when the ordinance was first passed.

WOMEN TEACH MEN CIVICS.

They Work All Day to Improve a Selected Park.

The women of Laporte, Pa., recently taught the town council a lesson by turning out in a body with rakes, hoes and other implements and beautifying a park which occupies a prominent place in the center of the town.

No attention was paid to the demand for improvements to the park, which was allowed to be filled with rubbish and become unsightly.

A score or more of women, members of the Village Improvement society, met at the park and put in the day at work. When they had finished, the grounds showed a wonderful improvement in appearance, beds of ferns and flowers and attractive seats having taken the place of the rubbish.

Children's Work in Ypsilanti.

The certificates of membership to the boys' and girls' auxiliary to the Civic Improvement association, a branch of the American Civic association, have been distributed to the various schools for distribution among the children. 1,100 to the different city schools and 400 to the training school, or 1,500 in all. The certificates are very neat and are made of bond paper and impressed with a gold seal. The boys and girls will have their names on the certificates and will agree to help make the city in which they live more beautiful. So neatly are the certificates got up that they will be framed and kept with the other certificates received from the schools by the children. The work they are to do in this association will be under the instruction and supervision of the grade teachers.

Tacoma Abolishes Dumping Grounds.

Within a few months all dumping grounds in and around Tacoma are expected to be closed to garbage, plans being under way for either buying or leasing a crematory or making some other preparation to dispose of garbage.

ng like a hog for? demanded the farmer, as he rose up.

"Because he has no sentiment," observed Miss Fanny.

"If he grunts again he can take himself off," added the wife. "Stranger, go ahead with your story. I haven't been so excited since our wood shed took fire."

"Two weeks passed, kind friends—two of the longest weeks since time began. Then I received a brief note from Lulu, who had bribed a tin peddler to deliver it. She stated that she had told her father that Barley Snaps were far superior to Barley Drops as a breakfast food and that she would marry me or die an old maid. Her father's reply was a box on the ear. As she wrote me the note she was on the point of leaving the house. She was going she knew not where, but somewhere. She bade me to find her and make her my own."

"And she didn't tell you where she could be found?" asked Miss Fanny.

"Alas, no! I waited a week for another note, but none came. Then I set out in search for her."

"And you couldn't find her?"

"I have not found her to this day."

"But where could she have gone? Where have you looked for her?"

"Where have I not looked for her? The Lulu of my heart? I answered, as I wiped a tear from my eye. 'Where she went no man has ever been able to tell me. I have looked the world over during these last ten years, but not a trace of her have I found.'

"She probably drowned herself in the vinegar bar!," chuckled the jealous hired man.

"The farmer jumped for him, but the fellow leaped over the veranda rail and disappeared in the darkness. The farmer returned to his chair and said:

"By gum, girls, but that's quite a story. I knew this feller was no common tramp when I saw him coming up the road."

"It's a story to sadden the heart," added the wife.

"It is, indeed," announced the old maid. "It appeals to romance, pity and all the more beautiful sentiments in the human breast. Lulu wanders o'er the face of the earth and hourly hopes to meet you, and yet you never meet."

"That is the case, miss, but I know that wherever she is, she has not lost faith in me. She knows I am searching for her. She knows that if heaven spares me long enough I shall find her and clasp her in my arms."

"James, is there no way you can help him? asked the wife of her husband.

"I'd be darned glad to, stranger, but I don't see how I can," he replied to me. "I'll keep watch of the road as much as I can, and if Lulu comes along I'll tell her you were here and asking for her, and I am sure ma will give her something to eat."

"And she will find a sympathetic friend in me," added the old maid.

"I sighed, rose up and wandered down to the gate. There I met the jealous hired man. Without saying a word he hauled off and made a swipe at me. I blocked and swung my right and knocked him into a bed of catnip. Next morning when he got up with a black eye he explained that he had run against the cherry tree. I was an honored guest over Sunday, and when Monday came I resumed my search for the lost Lulu." M. QUAD.

His Idea of It.

"Willie" exclaimed his mother reprovingly as he hurled a piece of toasted bread across the table.

"Oh, that's all right!" replied the boy. "We're pretending this is a banquet."

"What's that got to do with it?" she demanded.

"Why, I'm giving a toast," he answered.—Chicago Post.

Entirely a Mistake.

Charley Camera—I only came in to take one of your cows.

Old Grumps—Oh, you did, did you? Well, just let me catch you doin' it. Get off the farm, you cattle thief! You city fellers talk as if cows was free an' didn't cost anything.—New York World.

Washing Day.



Voice From Upstairs—Mary, I hope you are getting on with the washing. Mary—Oh, yes, mum. I'm just filling the copper, mum.—Tatler.

A Roudau of Vocation.

The wicked fee where none pursue To pastures green and waters new. In other words, the very rich. On whom it is the style to pitch, Seek cool and rest where men are few.

In private yacht with well trained crew. In mountains high above the blue—To every far and costly niche The wicked fee.

Less rich and hence less wicked, too. We scrimp to buy two weeks of "view." For fourteen sleepless nights we twitch. And ceaselessly big fans we twitch. For each night comes with cool and dew The wicked fee!

—Cecilia A. Lolscaux in Lippincott's Magazine.