

WOOD PAVING IN ENGLAND.

It is curious that in the process of history repeating itself there should now be exhibited an almost world-wide tendency in municipalities to return to the wood-block pavement, says an exchange. In London and in nearly all of the large towns and cities of the British provinces there has been an enormous increase in the selection of wood paving in preference to all other kinds. This is the more significant for the reason that the wood must be brought from a far-away country, much of it from Australia.

It is put to the proof in experiments extending over periods of from fifteen to twenty-five years that the softer woods creosoted will have a solid life of from twelve to fifteen years, while the harder woods will last from fifteen to eighteen years. It is on record in the parish of St. Pancras, London, where the traffic amounts during the year to 411,318 tons per yard of width, that the wear of the jarah wood of Australia was only about one-fifth of an inch per annum.

This will hardly be said of asphalt, nor yet of the stone block, although it would seem that either of these pavements properly laid would be superior in wearing power to wood. No matter what material may be used, the chief feature contributing to durability is the manner in which it is laid. The best material will soon go to wreck if it be placed upon a rotten concrete foundation. More than a quarter of a century ago in America the wood pavement of creosoted blocks fell into utter disrepute because of the grafting of contractors, or, to put the best face upon it, because the contractors did not know how to lay the blocks.

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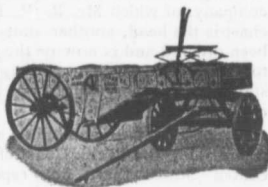
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