

judiciously applied by a person whose sole business it would be to keep the Buildings and works connected with them in a thorough state of repair, and the grounds (when finished) in proper order, than if the service were intrusted to various parties who have other duties to perform.

It will always be found difficult to keep the numerous decks, valleys, &c., of the roofs staunch, as the metal coverings of these portions expands and contracts considerably during the extremes of heat and cold. This will require the attention of a mechanic under the superintendence of a practical person.

If ice or snow is allowed to collect in the valleys, when a sudden thaw occurs, the water is backed up under the slates, and enters the building; and where a low roof is constructed, immediately adjoining a higher one, ice, if permitted to form, becomes detached during thaws, and when it falls damages the roof below.

The snow must therefore be removed from many parts of the roof during winter, and the performance of this service should only be intrusted to careful men, as damage has already been done, both to the slates and metal coverings, by careless or unskilful persons.

The roof projections are so small, and there being no eavestroughs, the water falls directly on the basement walls, and the alternate action of wet and frost upon them, takes out the pointing, which must be renewed from time to time.

The proper working of the drains, and numerous other matters outside, will have to be looked after, besides the important duties of attending to the extensive apparatus of heating and ventilation, the works connected with water supply and distribution, gas service, electric bells, &c., all of which would fully occupy the attention of an energetic and competent person, through whom all the expenditure for these purposes could be made.

It is believed that the information called for, on matters relating to the Public Buildings, has now been supplied in such an extended form, as to enable all the important subjects connected with them, to be readily understood.

If, however, further details are required, it is presumed that they can be obtained from the numerous special reports and letters in the possession of the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE,

*Chief Engineer, Public Works.*