

increase of twenty-one miles. There are fifty-six miles of Macadam, and the remainder consists of cedar and gravel, graded or unimproved streets.

This report is a good index to the general growth and expansion of the city, notwithstanding the complaints of tardiness on the part of the Board of Works, which are sometimes heard, and the comparisons made between the state of our streets and those of such cities as London, Liverpool, or Manchester, always to our disadvantage. It ought to be known, however, that the chief difference consists in the cost, both of making and repairing the streets. The actual cost of the London pavements is said to be £100,000,000 sterling, or \$500,000,000, this sum being invested in 7,000 miles of streets. According to our proportion of population and street mileage, Toronto will have to expend one thirty-fifth as much as London, or about fourteen millions of dollars, to attain to the same degree of perfection. If our municipal authorities receive from the citizens *carte blanche* to adopt the best material for pavements, to place that material on the most improved bed or foundation, without any restriction as to cost, and when done, to employ men whose constant attention shall be devoted to the repairing of the streets, by never allowing a single imperfect block, either of wood or stone, to remain, but by immediately substituting another; and lastly, by adopting a perfect system of scavenging at night, then, and not till then, shall Toronto have streets as perfect as the cities named, and all the other principal cities in Great Britain.

In addition to this, the city fathers must have power to use their best judgment as to the best kind of pavement on every street in the city and for every sidewalk, without being hindered or delayed by the opinions of private individuals, on the principle that the public highways are for public accommodation, and the expense should be borne by general taxation. In no other way can beauty and uniformity of the streets be secured, and obstruction and delays in improvements prevented.

The extension of the street railway system has kept pace with the extension of the streets, and it is expected that in