

It will hardly be maintained that the surface of a cement concrete pavement is a desirable one. It is hard upon the horses, and glaring to the eye; and the unsightliness of the cracks and joints, increasing with age, is such that it requires magnificent selling ability on the part of highly specialized promoters in the employ, directly or indirectly, of the cement manufacturers' associations, to cause one to overlook these facts. Why lay a good floor in one's house and not put a pleasing and protecting rug or carpet upon it? Why lay a concrete road foundation and not put a pleasing, protecting and economical surface upon it?

The answer is that the cement manufacturers do not want one to, and therefore promotion funds of large proportions have been created and cement concrete roads have been boomed as no other road has ever been boomed before; with the inevitable result. The real reason most concrete roads are laid is not that anyone who is a road specialist of long experience believes they should be laid in preference to other roads, but for the reason that the cement companies sell just twice as much cement per mile for a concrete road as they would for a concrete foundation of the same width and thickness. Their bill for cement is so high that out of it they can well afford to take a goodly sum for further promotion work; and this they do, thereby making the public the victim of its own generosity. Cement concrete roads blow dust into people's eyes in more ways than one.

If the cement concrete road were a very cheap construction, more reason for laying it might be found; but, comparatively speaking, it is not cheap. In fact, a concrete foundation and a stone-filled sheet asphalt wearing surface can frequently be laid for about the same money, and in no case where there is a large amount of work to be done will the cost of the high grade asphalt pavement be much more.

The asphalt surface may be expected to go many years practically without repairs, and can finally be re-surfaced at a very low cost, re-using the old mate-