

thods should be employed, a plan of the City should be prepared, levels taken and grades established, the streets should be classified according to the requirements of traffic, specifying the most suitable class of pavement for each, careful plans and specifications for the different kinds of pavements should be prepared in accordance with the most modern practice, the best methods of their respective kinds should be employed, skilled overseers should be engaged, and every precaution taken to secure the most perfect results for every dollar of expenditure. Expenditure can be made no more profitable to the ratepayers than on street improvement, and there is no public work that receives less genuine consideration, and upon which there is more carelessness displayed.

Street-making, unfortunately, is looked upon as being a very commonplace problem. It is considered that any work done must be an improvement, that little skill or study is required in connection with the work, that a certain amount of money is required every year for making repairs, that it is part of the municipal tax which the people must provide annually, and from which little can be expected. In nearly every municipality an examination of the expenditure reveals to the people that streets and sidewalks, at best, are expensive public works to maintain, and the expense is much increased when the work is improperly done.

In many places, by a judicious expenditure on temporary work, where the soil is favorable, much good results, but in Winnipeg this is a difficult and almost hopeless task, owing to the peculiar nature of the soil, so that any effort to maintain your earth streets should be of the very simplest kind, and substantial work should be aimed at as far as possible.

This soil, however, when dry, is strong, and makes a pleasant road, supports traffic and resists wear to a remarkable degree, and in the substantial improvement of your street one point to be closely observed is to drain this foundation material and keep it dry, for when thus treated no better foundation for pavements could be had. Without providing a system that will thoroughly drain and keep drained this natural soil, it will be impossible to make good streets. And it is surprising to find that you have not given more attention to this important principle.

Your citizens are evidently alive to the importance of good streets, and have shown a commendable spirit in adopting pavements creditable to the City, and when the width of your streets and the great cost of the higher classed pave-