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CONFLICT OF OPINION AS TO HASSAM PROCESS WAS DEVELOPED YESTERDAY

Assistant Engineer Hatfield Swears at Yesterday's Session of Investigation That Main Street Work was Not According to Hassam Process--Mr. Low Tells Differently--Ex-Inspector Carleton Ordered Stone Rolled.

The main street investigation committee held two sessions yesterday. City engineer Murdoch, assistant engineer Hatfield and R. S. Low, local manager of the Hassam Company, being examined. Both Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Low gave evidence to the effect that ex-inspector Carleton had directed that the roller be run repeatedly over the bed of crushed stone on the section of the Main Street adjoining Mill in advance of the grouting; but while Mr. Hatfield declared that late by the Hassam method has not been employed, Mr. Low swore that the process employed here was the same as used in New England cities. Apparently there is a conflict of opinion as to what constitutes the Hassam method. Mr. Murdoch stated that he had seen the method employed in other cities, but had not seen the crushed stone rolled before being grouted. On the other hand Mr. Low stated that the roller was always run over the stone once before grouting, though the real work of compressing it was not done till after the grout was applied.

The Afternoon Session.
At the session of the Main street investigating committee yesterday afternoon, Assistant City Engineer Hatfield declared that the Hassam process is not being employed on Main street now--that the method employed at first, that of rolling the crushed stone before grouting, was really the Hassam process. Mr. Murdoch said he had seen the Hassam method in operation in New England cities, and had always seen the grout applied before rolling. He said he would not take over the defective work from the contractors, but had entered no protest, pending legal advice, and the outcome of the investigation. Ald. Hayes said the committee should order more specimens of the foundation taken up. The mayor observed the responsibility for the defective work apparently lay between the engineer, his assistant, and the ex-inspector. The committee convened at 3 p. m., all the members being present, with Mr. Murdoch, and Mr. Carleton. Ald. Potts was a spectator for a time.

Did Not Order Stone Rolled.
The examination of Mr. Murdoch was resumed. In reply to Ald. Jones, Mr. Murdoch said he was positive that he gave no order to roll the stone in the advance of grouting, either to Mr. Carleton or anybody else. He remembered being asked by Mr. Carleton about this, and had told him the stone was to be rolled after the grouting. He did not remember when he first learned that the stone had been rolled in advance of grouting.

The contractors made no protest to him about the grouting. He received orders to have the practice of rolling in advance of the grouting stopped, but did not remember the express date.

Q--Did the Assistant Engineer refer to any complaints made by the inspector?
A--Not to my knowledge.
Ald. Hayes--Did any contractor previous to the award, discuss the specifications with you, and refer to the possibility of a change? A--No.
Q--Did you give the contractors permission to increase the size of the stone?

A--Under the Hassam method larger stones can be used to advantage. I did not feel it necessary to insist on the two inch limit, though I told the inspector not to allow any large stones.
Continuing the engineer said that as the process was new the inspector would not be at fault if the stone was rolled previous to grouting at somebody's orders. He thought Mr. Carleton would have done better if he had been better instructed in the Hassam method. Mr. Carleton had only been given verbal instructions.

Sub-Soil Rolling Not Necessary.
He did not think the rolling of the subsoil was a necessary step. It had been packed by the traffic of 125 years.

He thought the stone had been rolled in advance of grouting only one day. As soon as he heard the work was being done in this way, he had ordered that the method be changed. He was not prepared to say that the portion rolled in advance of grouting was a bad job. Pavement was frequently laid in macadam, in some places pavement was laid on sand.

Q--Is the city getting the value of its money?

A--The rolling may have cost as much as the concrete, but it was a necessary step. The mayor--It is not a question of values. We find a portion of the street not as good as we expected it to be, and we want to find out who is to blame.

Mr. Carleton--According to the specifications there was supposed to be nine inches of cement under the railway tracks. Why did you overrule my objection when I tried to have the old cement dug out and new cement put in?

Ald. Jones--That question was answered last night.

The mayor--Mr. Carleton stated that the matter was a trivial one.

A Direct Contradiction.

Ald. White thought the matter was an important one. The contractors figured on laying concrete all over the street; consequently they were receiving pay for work they did not have to do.

The engineer said he had told Mr. Carleton to allow the good concrete to remain, but to have any bad concrete taken out.

Mr. Carleton--Mr. Low told me he would not take out the old concrete till the engineer came at 3 o'clock. Then the engineer decided against me.

The engineer--I did not. I left it to you.

Mr. Carleton--My hands were tied. Every ruling was given against me. Contractors are quick to take advantage of such things, and throw it up to you.

The engineer again stated that he had not given a decision against the inspector. He had told Mr. Carleton to have the concrete taken out, and in reply to Mr. Carleton the engineer said he remembered the inspector calling his attention to the fact that four inches of sand was put under the grouting stones. The specifications called for not less than 1 1/2 inches of sand. More was permissible to bring the paving stones to the proper alignment.

He Blamed No One.

Ald. Holder--If you were notified that this place near Mill street was done wrong, why did you let the work go on?

The engineer--I had given orders that the grouting should be done before rolling. I had to feel my way at first, and I had no complaint about it from the inspector.

Q--Then you did not really know whether this was the right method?
A--I had seen the work being done elsewhere and knew that it should not be rolled before grouting.

Q--Then you did not know that this place was bound to be defective?
A--Well, I wasn't certain.

Q--Whom do you put the blame on?

A--I'm not blaming anyone.
In reply to the mayor the engineer said Mr. Carleton had not given him his reasons for resigning. He had said, "Oh, you have resigned, have you?" and before he could frame another question, Mr. Carleton went off.

He found Mr. Carleton on the work during his visits. The inspector answered any questions put to him. He had reason to believe that the assistant engineer had obeyed orders in making street lines and surveys.

In reply to Ald. Jones he said that when on the 19th Mr. Carleton called to complain that the specifications were not being lived up to, the question was about the placing of concrete under the railway tracks. He informed Mr. Carleton that he had agreed with the contractor to allow the old concrete where found good to remain.

Q--Did Mr. Carleton make any other protest?
A--Not that I have any recollection of.

Q--Did you tell Mr. Murdoch about this?

A--A poor specimen.
Considering the time said he did not know at whose direction the specimens previously exhibited had been taken out or the exact locality. He thought these specimens were true concrete.

Q--Do you know under whose direction the crushed stone were rolled near Mill street?

Mr. Murdoch Gave the Order.

A--Under my direction. I called upon Mr. Clarke to have the roller passed over the work in order to see that the subgrade was in condition.

Q--Did you tell Mr. Murdoch about this?

Ald. Hayes said the committee had authority to take up small specimens at various places and see if they were up to the specifications. He thought they should use this authority.

The committee then adjourned till 8 p. m.

The Evening Session.

At last evening's session of the Main street investigating committee, R. S. Low, local manager of the Hassam Pavement Company was examined. He swore that Inspector Carleton had ordered the roller run repeatedly over the crushed stone near Mill street before grouting and declared that excessive rolling had caused the defect in the foundation. He swore that the Hassam method was now being employed on Main street.

All the members of the committee were present with Ald. Potts and the city engineer. Mr. Carleton was on hand at the opening of the meeting, but did not remain very long.

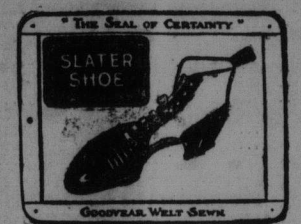
Mr. Low Called.

R. S. Low was called and sworn. To the mayor he said he was the general director of the Hassam Company's work here. His company was engaged almost continuously in street paving work of different classes. He was familiar with the specifications from end to end. His company put down a compressed concrete for street foundation. After rolling the subgrade, stones were placed to a depth of 7 inches; the roller was then run lightly over it; the grout machine is placed on a plating runway; a mixture consisting of one bag of cement to three bags of sand was made, diluted to the consistency of thin gruel, and poured over the stone till it flowed

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THE SLATE OF QUALITY.

A--Yes, after the stone was dumped. Mr. Carleton informed me that the contractors refused to roll the subsoil. I told him to make them. Next day the stone was spread, but Mr. Carleton told me the soil had not been rolled. I reported to Mr. Murdoch who told me to have the roller passed over the bed of crushed stone. I did so, passing the roller over once. Later the crushed stone was apparently rolled again. I judge that from conversation I had with Mr. Carleton.

The mayor--A different method is now employed from that used on the first day the contractors went to work?

Yes.

Ald. Holder--Who is responsible for the change?

A--I suggested to Mr. Low that they should not do any rolling before grouting. He said, "That is what we want to do, but the inspector wouldn't let us."

To Ald. Jones he said he had read the Hassam specification. He produced a copy, and read from it showing that according to the Hassam method, the broken stone is rolled and firmly compacted before being grouted.

Hassam Process Not Used.

The mayor--Then the Hassam process is not being used on the work now going on?

A--No--It is a different method.

To Ald. Jones witness said that Mr. Carleton had proposed to stop the work because he did not understand the Hassam method. He had told the inspector that he would get an order in the morning permitting the Hassam process.

Mr. Carleton interrupted to say that conversation dealt with the removal of the stone, and the rolling of the subsoil.

Mr. Hatfield--I understood that you were objecting to the Hassam method.

Mr. Carleton--The contractors were waiting for the Hassam method--I was waiting to have the stones removed and the sub-soil rolled.

In reply to Ald. White, the city engineer, Mr. Murdoch, said he had seen the Hassam process being used in other cities. He had not seen the stone rolled before grouting.

Would Not Take It Over.

To Ald. Hayes he said the portion of concrete near Mill street was not in accordance with specifications. He would not recommend the city to take over the work, but he would do so if he had not, however, sent in a protest to the contractors. He had brought the matter to the attention of the chairman of the board of works, who had decided to consult a recorder and get a ruling from the council.

Mayor Frink said the engineer, his assistant, and the inspector seemed to be responsible for the condition of affairs that had arisen. Mr. Murdoch could not live on the work, and had to delegate some of his duties to the assistant engineer and the inspector. Somebody had to be responsible for the work, and he had been doing so.

The committee would have to hear all possible evidence and fix the blame.

Ald. Hayes said the committee had authority to take up small specimens at various places and see if they were up to the specifications. He thought they should use this authority.

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barrel of cement had covered 11 yards of stone.

Engineer Opposed to It.

To Ald. White witness said he did not remember explaining the Hassam method to Mr. Murdoch, he knew Mr. Murdoch had seen the method in operation. He knew that Mr. Murdoch had reported unfavorably against the Hassam pavement though admitting it made a good foundation and had been careful not to talk about it.

Ald. White--Do you remember when you got permission to use the Hassam process?

A--About the first of July, I think. This was in the engineer's office. Mr. Clark was present.

The city engineer corroborated this. To Ald. White, Mr. Low again stated that Mr. Carleton had ordered the rolling of the bed of crushed stone on the first day. Mr. Dodwell had dug up the concrete foundation somewhere near Acadia street. Neither he nor Mr. Clarke were on the work at the time.

The mayor--Mr. Dodwell is not the kind of man who would be influenced by anybody.

To Ald. White Mr. Low said he had seen Mr. Murdoch when he was inspecting the Hassam method in New England.

After some cross-examination of the witness, it was decided to hold another meeting at 4 p. m. today, when it is hoped to have the man who was in charge of the roller the first day on the witness stand.

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