

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MATERIALS.

should come before street sprinkling. Many a good street has been torn up and replaced merely because it showed bad in spots. The cleaning of that street would have shown the particular spots, the inherent weakness, and at the same time the absolutely good qualities. No one knows how absolutely bad, or how absolutely good, a street covering is unless it is clean. To a certain extent the dirt covers the bad and the good. It covers certain faults and exaggerates in some places the weakness."

GOOD IDEAS ON BRICK-PAVED ROADWAYS AND LAYING PIPES.

Speaking of putting in sewers and paving streets, a gentleman who has been connected with the municipal government of Des Moines, Iowa, in one department or other, for years, remarked as follows. "We are through with cedar block pavement, and during the past year have laid large stretches of brick. We have a rule in regard to paving that we never violate. We lay no pavement except on streets where the water-pipes and sewers have been down for two years. This allows the dirt in the trenches to settle sufficiently, so that the earth foundation for the pavement is solid, and no unevenness in it is caused by its settling after it is laid. No, we do not have any trouble with soft brick because we have good inspectors. We expect also to adopt a rule that is now in force in Cedar Rapids, to prohibit the laying of water-pipes, sewers, etc., on the streets. We will make them put these pipes down in the alleys, and then when a pavement is down it is there to stay. We are certain that brick paving is a success. We have tried it long enough to know."

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

INTERPRETATION OF CONTRACT AND BOND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER WORKS.—A city passed an ordinance authorizing a certain firm to construct water-works for it upon terms fully set out. This was accepted by the firm and a memorandum of the acceptance was attached to a copy of the ordinance and signed in behalf of the city by the mayor and clerk thereof, under its corporate seal, and by the firm and each member thereof under their individual seals, thus binding the contract. The firm gave a bond which, after reciting that the same was required of them by the city "for the faithful performance of their contract," expressed the condition to be that they should faithfully perform their contract "during the construction of said works." The latter words did not restrict the scope of the bond to the period of actual construction, but, on the contrary, a failure to begin the work at all constituted a breach. The amount of damages was at least equal to the difference between the contract price and the compensation provided for in a new contract made in pursuance of a bid, secured by a subsequent advertisement of the same work.—*City of Goldsboro v. Moffitt, U. S. Circ. Ct., N. C., 49 Fed. Rep. 13.*

MEASURES TO PREVENT WASTE OF WATER.—When the franchise of a water company provides the maximum charge for a specific service, and also provides that the company may make all needful rules and regulations in connection with supplying water to consumers, and for shutting off of water for non-payment of rate or waste, and where the company adopts a rule to the effect that it may introduce a meter to ascertain the quantity of water being used when waste is suspected, the company may charge its schedule meter rates for all water used in excess of a fair amount for the purpose in question and may shut off the water in case of non-payment.—*Geo. and H. B. McNeil v. Springfield Water Works Co., Supreme Court of Mo., decision Feb. 26, 1892.*

A new system of builders' scaffolds is said to have been invented by a Duluth Minn. man, who claims that his device will save at least 30 per cent. of the cost of laying brick walls by the use of the present system of lumber scaffolding. The new scaffold is made of aluminum and steel, is light, strong and durable and is moved upward by a set of simple levers, as the wall progresses upward, always keeping the bricklayers' material directly in front of him.

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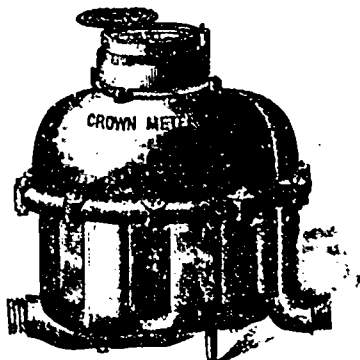
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