IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR CITY HIGHWAYS

Work Already in Progress and More in Contemplation on the Streets

The campaign of street improvement promised by the present council on its inauguration has already been commenced, and under the supervision of the streets, bridges and sewers committee is being pushed ahead with vigor. Already operations have been begun on the opening up and grading of some of the streets, the fixing of which the city has been long awaiting, and the preliminary steps are being taken for the commencement of work on many other thoroughfares.

For the last few days men have been employed constructing the cement sidewalk on that part of Government street between Michigan and Toronto streets. This piece of road was secured by the city from the Cameron estate last year, by means of expropriation. The bylaw providing for its improvement on the local improvement plan, was one of the first measures put through by the present council, and it is the first work of any importance to be undertaken by the city engineer this year.

At the same time that the improvement of the portion of Government street was provided for, a bylaw was passed for the opening up and grading of Dunedin street on the local improvement plan. This will prove a more extensive work than the grading of Government street, as it will necessitate the building of an entirely new macadam road. Cement sidewalks will also be built on each side of the street. Altogether, it is calculated that the cost will approximate $5,000, of which two-thirds will be borne by the property owners and the remainder by the city. City Engineer Topp expects to commence work in earnest on the opening up of Dunedin street within two weeks.

Although the plan to do all work on the streets, at least so far as the opening up and regrading is concerned, is but a few weeks old, two petitions have already been received by the council from residents who wish the street on which they live to be treated on this system.

The first petition to come in, is from the property owners along Madonna street. This has already been considered by the council, and the city engineer has been instructed to report on the probable cost of the undertaking, while the assessor is already at work calculating the proportion which will fall to the property owners benefitted on the "one-third, two-thirds system."

The residents along Rockland avenue are also, it is understood, petitioning for the grading and macadamising of their street on the local improvement plan, and a petition from them is expected at the next council meeting.

Considerable work will also be undertaken in the near future by the city in the neighborhood of Moss and St. Charles streets. Richardson street after crossing Moss street ends in a cul-de-sac, and it is proposed to do away with this and to continue the street out to St. Charles. The greater part of the property through which such an extension would pass is owned by the Pemberton Bros. and by Colonel Herchmer, and both these parties have granted the city a right of way through their estates. The city engineer has reported on the proposed extension, to the effect that it would cost in the neighborhood of $5,500, and as soon as the city assessor has determined the proportions which under the local improvement plan will be borne by each of the property owners benefitted, a bylaw providing for the construction of the street will in all probability be introduced.

There is also a plan contemplated for the continuation of Richardson street, once it has been extended to St. Charles, out to the Foul Bay road. At present the Gonzales Farm estate, lately subdivided, lies between the termini of the Foul Bay road and Richardson street. It is proposed to engineer a street connecting the two thoroughfares, right across the farm. Negotiations are already under way between the Pemberton Bros. and the city, and it appears to be altogether probable that the plan will go through. Should the proposed improvement be carried out, it is pointed out that a splendid new driveway throughout the most beautiful part of the city would thus be provided.

In connection with the extension of Richardson street to St. Charles, improvement will also be made to the former thoroughfare where it crosses Moss street. This spot is at the foot of a hill, and as the residents in the vicinity well know, is at present nothing more than a bog hole. This state of affairs will be speedily remedied and the whole street macadamised.

The city assessor and the engineer are already at work preparing their reports on the probable cost of widening Fort street and the proportion of that cost to be borne by the property owners benefitted, and this will, in the near future be submitted to the council. When the council has received the reports, the bylaw, or rather bylaws, for the project will be dealt with in two parts, will be at once prepared.

One of the two bylaws dealing with the project will provide for the widening of Fort street from Cook street to Oak Bay Junction, and the other will deal with the widening of Oak Bay avenue from its junction with Fort street to Rocklands avenue. The street is at present from thirty to forty feet in width, and it is proposed to increase this to sixty feet. The bylaw providing for the carrying out of the work is being eagerly looked for, as the project has created considerable discussion.

A report has alsso been requested from the city engineer as to the probable cost of straightening the road from James bay to the outer wharf, and also for block paving the street thus formed. Other undertakings are being given precedence to this, and it is not expected that the report will be ready for some time.

MANITOBA TRAGEDY

Plumas, Man., Feb. 20.—Coroner Rose of Gladstone empanneled a jury and held an inquest on the body of James Alexander, who was shot dead near Plumas, and the jury brought in a verdict that the victim came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted by Wilson Lyle. Lyle is an Irish bachelor, 55 years old, and has no relatives. He was taken to Gladstone, where Magistrate Cory committed him to stand trial for murder.

It seems that Alexander and Lyle were neighboring farmers. The former kept pressing Lyle to come and help him draw hay, even after he had repeatedly refused. So Lyle told Alexander he would shoot him. He took the shotgun and fired, the shot going under Alexander's left shoulder, tearing off the bottom of both lungs.

He then laid the gun on the bed and dragged Alexander in and laid him on the bed beside the gun. Then he went and notified Miss Alexander that he had shot her brother. Lyle is considered to be crazy, although he talks sensibly enough. To a private party he said he was possessed and forced to shoot. He said that Alexander provoked him to it. He realizes his situation, for he said to one of his neighbors' wives: "I guess I've got myself in a pretty tight corner now."

The victim was well known for his religious tendencies, being almost fanatical. He was very active in Sunday school work.

CHILDREN BURNED

Overtaken By Fire in Their Father's Residence

Quebec, Feb. 20.—Burned to death in their beds in a fire which consumed the residence and store of their father, two young children of Mr. Sayack, general storekeeper of Valcarder, a few miles north of this city, met a horrible fate yesterday, their little bodies being burned to a crisp. The ages of the victims were about two years and seven respectively.

Sayack is a Hebrew, and conducted a general store known as the "Settlement." The building and all its contents, stock alone being valued at about $5,000 were reduced to smouldering ruins.

FIRST CAKEWALK IN AFRICA, SAYS STARR

Professor Saw Natives Perform Gyrations Credited to Southern Negroes

Chicago, Feb. 20.—The cakewalk is not of American origin. It had its beginnings in the wilds of Africa, not upon the sunny plantations of the South. It is a dance hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of years old, and was an acquirement of the negro before he ever set eye upon America.

The origin of the cakewalk has been unearthed by Professor Frederick Starr, of the department of anthropology of the University of Chicago, who returned to Chicago a few days ago after an absence of sixteen months, a year of which was spent in "darkest Africa."

Practically the only American addition to the dance is the cake, and it is not at all certain that there may not be some pre-historic antecedent for this, he says.

"I always had supposed the cakewalk to be of American origin," said Professor Starr. "The natives of the Congo Free State have a dance that has all the fantastic steps; all the elaborate attentions, all the eloquent attempts at grace, the salutations, the carrying of the cane, and the light, airy movements that we know here in America in the form of the cakewalk. The dance is accompanied by a sort of ragtime music and handclapping, but there is no cake."

Professor Starr also exploded the missionary-cannibal joke. "The man who made up that perpetual piece of humor had a lively imagination," said the explorer. "I was among many cannibals, for there are many tribes in Africa which still adhere to this custom, but none of them ever expressed a desire to eat me.

"Missionary Soup" a Joke

"The natives are not in the habit of eating travelers. I dare say that a few white persons have been eaten, but very few. The particular variety of meat that may be served at a cannibalistic feast is strictly limited to each tribe. One tribe may eat only the old people, another the children, if they should die, and still another those who fall in battle. Etiquette is very strict in these matters.

"Neither is it dangerous to travel through Africa. The greatest danger is not from the natives nor from the wild animals, but from the fever. If you approach the natives in the proper attitude you will not be harmed.

"But the fever is an enemy. My companion, Manuel Gonzales, suffered from twenty attacks, while I had about ten."

Professor Starr left the United States on Sept. 18, 1905, accompanied only by his adopted son, Manuel Gonzales, his mission being particularly to study the pygmies of the upper Congo. He took a steamer to Matadi, a port on the Congo about 150 miles from its mouth. From this point he began his explorations.

"I am not yet ready to advance any new theory or to contradict any old ones', said Professor Starr yesterday morning. "However, I have established one fact of scientific importance. Anthropologists have always supposed the Congo people to be long-headed. The contrary is true, and, in fact, they are somewhat broad-headed."

Professor Starr found throughout the regions he visited that the women do the work. The bulk of the food is supplied by agriculture, and it is the women who have to supply it.

"In Africa the men do little but talk, and they are the greatest talkers in the world," he says.

Natives Smoke "Ropes"

"They smoke tobacco and hemp. For drinks they have a sort of beer or wine made from the sap of palm nuts, sugar cane, bamboo, or pineapples. Palm wine is the favorite beverage.

"I visited in all twenty-eight tribes. Of these, perhaps the Bampendes were the worst. They are above Wissman falls on the Kasla river. They are cannibals and eat their slaves. One of the chiefs has a fondness for drinking human blood.

"Will these people ever reach a high state of civilization? That is a hard question. The people of England were barbarians when the first Romans discovered the island. Without the hair dressings and the tattoo marks there is not much difference between some people of the Congo Free State and our Southern negro."

Professor Starr brought back four or five tons of collections, including specimens of native implements, weapons, ornaments, clothing, tools and furniture. Besides this he is bringing back 700 photographs taken by his adopted son, Manuel Gonzales.

From a scientific point of view, Professor Starr's explorations will be important. He has studied the people and country more thoroughly than any other scientist, and is bringing back more specimens

GET

Old Blended Glenview

THEN YOU GET THE RIGHT SCOTCH WHISKEY MELLOWED BY GREAT AGE

FIGHT JAVELINS AND RATTLERS IN TEXAS

Hunting Southern Wild Hog on Staked Plains Is No Child's Play

Houston, Tex., Feb. 20.—"We want the real thing with plenty of excitement," said A. A. Martin, W. W. Kellogg and D. W. Whipple, when they engaged Hardaway Evans as guide for a ten days' hunt near Pryor's ranch.

"You'll git it," answered Evans sententiously, and before the hunt was ended they had fought wild hogs, killed large and small game and battled with rattle-snakes.

Each member of the party had narrow escapes from reptile fangs. Mr. Martin was struck several times on his knee boots by rattlers and Dr. Whipple had one particularly narrow escape from being bitten in the face.

Mr. Kellogg and Dr. Whipple having trailed a deer until they were tired, selected a spot for a rest on a hillside that seemed snakeless, and after chatting for a time both took a nap.

Mr. Kellogg was awakened by a rattling sound, and as he opened his eyes he saw a monstrous rattler, coiled, ready to spring at his face. He whirled with all his power and rolled in an opposite direction and down the hill. It was a timely movement, for a moment later, he believes he would have been bitten. The snake was quickly killed.

There were other terrors than snakes, and among them were herds of javelins, or wild hogs. It was these animals that Lady Constance MacKenzie journeyed from Scotland to Texas to hunt four years ago. She was the guest of Mrs. King, the Texas cattle queen. To hunt wild hogs is a mark of courage on the part of any Nimrod, and the one who goes into it knowingly is usually well posted on what he is facing. The hunt of President Roosevelt on the Pryor ranch is regarded as one of the gamest of his exploits.

The first member of the party to encounter javelins was Mr. Kellogg. He did not know there was a pack in the bush when he got a shot at rather long range at a scouting boar. His shot was lucky, as the boar fell dead. A moment later the whole pack rushed from cover, snorting and circling for sight of the foe. Kellogg gave the danger signal and Dr. Whipple joined him.

The hogs sighted the two hunters and charged. There was no time to waste. Fortunately two scrub oaks were near at hand, and in the nick of time the hunters shinned up, one in either tree. The guns had been left on the ground.

There was not much to do except to wait and hope. The hunters were high enough to prevent the hogs tusking them. After three hours of suspense the hogs seemed to grow weary of the watch and slowly departed. A half hour later the two hunters recovered their guns and retreated to camp.

The toughness of the hide of a native pig was shown by a shot Martin made with his .303 Savage rifle at ninety yards. It was a big boar. Mr. Evans was in the vicinity at the time. A broadside of the boar was presented and Martin's bullet struck it just back of the middle of the body, two inches from the hip. There was no penetration and the bullet mushroomed and fell to the ground.

The blow was sufficient, however, to render the hindquarters of the boar useless, and it dragged its legs as it moved forward.

Martin believed the shot would prove effectual and did not fire again, but advanced on the hog. The animal waited until he was near, and then charged again, dragging its hind feet. The movement was so quick that Martin did not have time to fire, but he dodged behind a tree and drew his bowie knife. The hog circled after him and would have ripped him with its tusks but for one lucky stroke, which sent the knife into its jugular.

Martin brought the tusks of this boar home. They measure two and three-fourths inches each from tip to socket.

Three deer, five wild hogs and three hundred quail were bagged, not to mention rattlesnakes. After the second day out the party refused to recognize rattlers as worthy of killing provided they were not sixteen buttons and upward. They brought home with them a copious supply of buttons, hides of the largest boars, boar tusks, antlers and snake pelts.

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In solid oak, upholstered in solid crushed plushed silk. Colors: green, fawn, tan, red and blue. Regular values $21.50, Friday's bargain, each..... $7.50

Sofa Lounges

In solid oak frames, scroll edge, with heavy carved legs upholstered in solid silk crushed plush. Colors: green, fawn, tan, red and blue. Regular values $25, Friday's Bargain, each $12.50

N. B.---These Chairs and Lounges are upholstered in genuine solid silk crushed plush, not Cotton or velour plush

SELECTIONS FOR THIS DAY

Buffets

QUARTER CUT WEATHERED OAK BUFFET, leaded glass compartments, with large beveled mirror, regular $55.00. Sale price $45.00

WEATHERED OAK BUFFET, two drawers—one plush-lined—with cupboard compartment, regular $35.00. Sale price ... $29.00

ONE WEATHERED OAK DINNER WAGON, regular $22.50. Sale price $19.00

QUARTER CUT OAK BUFFET, with china closet compartment, regular $37.50. Sale price $25.00

QUARTER CUT OAK BUFFET, with large beveled mirror, swell front drawers, regular $30.00. Sale price $25.00

QUARTER CUT OAK BUFFET, decorated top, small front drawer, beveled mirror, regular $26.00. Sale price $21.50

Dining Room Chairs

DINING ROOM SETS with springs, beautiful hand-carved, covered with No. 1 embossed leather, regular $115.00. Sale price $90.00

DINING ROOM SET OF CHAIRS, quarter cut oak, No. 1 leather seats, highly polished frames, regular $75.00. Sale price $65.00

DINING ROOM SET, weathered oak, upholstered with No. 1 leather, regular $67.00. Sale price $61.00

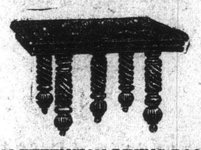
DINING ROOM SET, weathered oak, regular $38.50. Sale price $33.00

DINING ROOM SET, weathered oak, upholstered in No. 1 leather, hand carving on back, regular $56.00. Sale price $48.00

DINING ROOM SET, quarter cut oak, not upholstered, regular $30.00. Sale price..... $25.00

VERY SPECIAL VALUE—Weathered Oak Dining Room Set of Chairs, with Spanish leather seats, regular value $35.00. Sale price $24.75

Dining Room Tables



ELM EXTENSION DINING ROOM TABLE, 8-foot, regular $14.00. Sale price $12.50

SOLID OAK DINING ROOM TABLE, 8-foot extension, regular $15.00. Sale price ... $13.50

Sideboards

SIDEBOARD, highly polished, beautiful golden finish, beautiful hand-carved legs, plush-lined drawers, highly mounted brass decorations, large beveled mirror, regular $50. Sale price .. $42.50

SIDEBOARD, highly polished quarter cut oak, large beveled mirror, beautiful swell front dresser, regular $60.00. Sale price $48.50

SIDEBOARD, highly polished quarter cut oak, beautiful hand-carved legs, plush-lined drawers, beveled mirror, regular $84.00. Sale price $60.00

Brass Bedsteads

ONE BOWFOOT BRASS BEDSTEAD, ground top, tastefully decorated. Special sale price... ..... $60.00

ONE SATIN FINISH BRASS BEDSTEAD, ground top, tastefully decorated. Special sale price... ..... $70.00

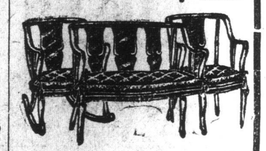
Dressers and Stands

DRESSER AND STAND, golden finish, beveled mirror 20x24, extra good value, regular $22.50. Sale price $18.50

THREE ODD WASHSTANDS in surfaced oak, regular value $8.00. Sale price $3.75

ELM DRESSER, golden finish, just what is required for children's rooms, regular $8.75. Sale price $7.50

Parlor and Library Suites



THREE-PIECE LIBRARY SET, upholstered with pantosote, regular $47.50. Sale price ... $37.00

THREE-PIECE PARLOR SUITE, spring edge, solid silk, hair-stuffed, regular $60.00. Sale price $50.00

THREE-PIECE MAHOGANY SET, hair-stuffed, upholstered in solid silk, spring edge fronts, regular $70.00. Sale price $57.50

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