

### PRESERVING THE STREETS.

Nowhere is that prodigality and waste, which is said to be peculiar to the West, shown to a greater extent than in the streets of the cities of the West, notably Kansas City. No expense is spared when the pavements are laid. In fact, it is strongly asserted that too much expense attaches to the paving of the streets.

Too many people have to be "seen" before the most suitable pavement can be decided upon. But this is neither here nor there in the present article. The most patent fact that presents itself to the public mind now is the neglect of these costly streets.

Good pavements of block, stone or asphalt are laid, and then the street commissioner appears to lose all interest in the matter and devotes his entire attention to the paving of new streets. The result of this neglect is seen in the worn ruts that have made their appearance in all of the older paved streets. It is not alone in the wooden pavements that this is to be seen, but even in those made of heavy stone are found deep, unsightly and annoying ruts caused by the constant and unceasing wear of narrow tires upon heavy trucks and freight wagons.

The resolution of Mr. Rollert to compel the use of wide tires upon all wagons that are used on the streets of Kansas City is a move in the right direction, and one that cannot be too quickly brought to a conclusion. There is no doubt of the ability of the city to compel the own-

ers of such wagons to comply with such a regulation, and unless the city wishes to be always noted, as it is at present, for its bad streets, it should at once take the necessary steps to preserve the pavements after they are laid.

There are too many ordinances on the book now that are virtually dead letter ordinances. The intention has been right and the necessary ordinances have been passed, but they are not enforced, and the result is that all over the city the streets and pavements, as well as the sidewalks, are being used as dumping grounds for ashes and refuse that help to destroy the material with which the streets are paved. There is an ordinance regarding the leaving of snow and ice on the sidewalks, and in some instances the police are zealous to see to its enforcement, yet in other instances it is a notorious fact that the sidewalks are never cleaned of snow and ice in front of the residences of men who are well able to have it done. It has always been a mystery to certain poor men, who have been compelled to take time to clean off their sidewalks, why the rich man who lived in the adjoining house was permitted to leave snow and ice on his walks all winter through, with never a protest from the same policeman who notified the poor man to clean up, or be arrested.

The ordinance that compels this cleaning off of the ice and snow is aimed at the protection of the pedestrian, but it should be enforced for the preservation of the sidewalk. While it is being enforced, see to it that all are served alike.