

THE BEST IS THE CHEAPEST.

The decision to recommend the laying of the Fifteenth street boulevard with macadam is not an indication of wisdom on the part of the petitioners. While the first cost may be much cheaper than if it were paved with vitrified brick or asphalt, it will be but a matter of a very short time until the repairs will amount to many times the sum required for good paving at the start.

Macadam is not fit paving for any city street, as has been most conclusively demonstrated on all the streets in this city where it has been laid. If the reader doubts this assertion let him go to Grand avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets, and look at the condition of the paving laid last fall around the site for the new custom house. It is already full of great holes, and in wet weather is muddy, while in dry it is so dusty that life is a burden to all who are compelled to pass that way.

If it is the intention of making Fifteenth street a place of resort for driving then it should surely be paved with a material that will meet all the requirements. The dust that will come from the macadam during the time that driving will be most enjoyed will effectually keep buggies and carriages from that street. Not only is this a fact, but this same dust and the resultant mud during wet seasons will fill the conduits of the street railway to such an extent as to compel the employment of an extra force of cleaners at heavy expense.

It is the part of wisdom to make all such improvements of such character as will show progress instead of retrogression, and if Kansas City puts the material that is only useful for country roads on her best streets simply to please a few interested parties she will be advertising herself as clinging to old ideas instead of being on the alert for new and improved ways.

Pave Fifteenth street, by all means, and make it one of the best driveways in the city, but do it in such a manner as will show that the future is looked to as well as the present. The few dollars saved by using macadam will be swallowed up many times in the life of any other paving.