

ABOUT ASPHALT.

The Barber Asphalt Company, after twenty years of monopoly in Washington, finds a competitor in the Bermudez Company. Out of 40,000 yards of asphalt to be laid this year in that city the commissioners are to award 25,000 to the new company. Tests have been made of the Bermudez asphalt, and it has come out triumphant, and has been accepted as filling all conditions. The saving amounts to several thousand dollars.

The result of this new departure will be looked for with great interest all over the country. The fact that asphalt has become almost the only pavement for level streets, and for residence property almost indispensable, has made its monopoly a serious burden to taxpayers. The Trinidad asphalt has heretofore been the only deposit that seemed to possess the necessary qualities, and the lake from which it is taken having become the property of the Barber company gave it a complete monopoly.

The Bermudez company has challenged the testing of its supply, and claimed a share of the work at the national capital. The test has indorsed their material, and the commissioners of the District have decided to give it the larger share of this year's work. Its practical success will be a great saving to the public and result in a much wider employment of this desirable pavement.