

HARD TIMES NO EXCUSE.

Mr. Albert Marty Says the Present Is the Time for Repaving Grand Avenue.

"The repaving of Grand avenue with some substantial material is simply a matter of ordinary business policy," said Albert Marty, a property owner on that thoroughfare, to-day. "They say times are hard and people can't afford to go to extra expense. Well, times are hard enough with me to convince me that the best thing I can do is to pay out something like \$1,500 as my share in the expense of making Grand avenue one of the best thoroughfares in Kansas City. In fact it is a necessity and I would pay my special taxes just as I would my ordinary taxes or expenses, and do it willingly. With Ninth street paved and Independence avenue paved, as it will be soon, a good pavement on Grand avenue would make it the best thoroughfare in the city. I am not a friend of asphalt particularly, but I want the best kind of pavement on this street, and if asphalt is the best, then give us asphalt. If something else is better I will favor it. Walnut street has demonstrated what a good pavement will accomplish. South Walnut has been paved recently with asphalt and is perfectly smooth. The brick pavement on Main street below

Twelfth street is rough and on Grand avenue there are holes in the old rotten wooden pavement about every twenty feet. A wagon on Grand avenue goes along pitching, jarring and jerking and no one will drive on it if he can help it. The result is that Walnut street is crowded with teams from morning till night. Unless Grand avenue people do something before long the trade will go over to Walnut street where the travel is. The people on South Grand avenue realize this and as a result I think we will have no trouble in getting signers for a majority of the frontage as fast as we ask for them."

From Ninth street to Twelfth street a majority of the frontage has already been signed. Further south W. U. Zahner and Conway F. Holmes have taken up the question and expect to do some active canvassing soon. Mr. Holmes, besides his interest in the Grand Avenue railway, owns considerable property near Fourteenth street which will make him one of the heaviest payers of tax bills when the pavement is laid. An unusual thing is noticeable here. As a rule the larger owners are the ones who object to the new pavement, but in this case some of the largest owners are most active in urging that the pavement be laid. The owners of the Rialto building, the Keith Furniture building and Bullene, Moore, Emery & Co. are among the first to urge the importance of the proposed pavement. The question will not go before the council probably before the last of November, but if the council acts with reasonable promptness the pavement can be laid during the winter or early next spring.