

HAVE A FAIR DIVIDE.

The city is in need of money, so says the mayor, and there is a pressing necessity for funds to carry on certain lines of work that will not bear delay.

There is one fund that the city keeps up, yet has no benefit from. That is the dramshop fund. Ninety per cent of the money received from saloon licenses goes to the county and the city gets no benefit from it. The city furnishes this fund almost in its entirety. The present law designates the way in which this money shall be spent by the county, but as it is spent the benefit goes entirely to the county, away from the city.

According to the law, one-half of the money received by the county from saloon licenses should be applied to the improvement of the roads in the county and the other half go to the general county fund. It can be stated that the portion of the fund that the law says should be applied to the roads is not so applied, but goes into the general fund. There is no way of telling just what is done with this money, for the books kept by the county are of such nature that it would take an expert to find out just what went with the money. One thing is sure and that is that the roads of the county do not receive the amount that the law says they should receive, or they would be in a much better condition than they are now in.

The law accords to the people of the county the privilege of having macadamized roads whenever they shall make application to the county court, and stipulates that they shall pay a certain proportion of the expense. It is claimed by the people of the county that such applications have been made time and again but the county court has never complied with the request.

If the facts are as stated then something should be done by the city to get some of the benefit from the fund that is not applied as the law says it shall be applied. If the city had one-half of the fund obtained from saloon licenses it would be in a position to do many things in the way of improvements that are now impossible. Why would it not be well for an investigation to be started in this direction to find out what is done with the dramshop fund and see if something cannot be done towards getting it divided between the county and city?