

Karrick, Loofbourow, Moran, Simon-  
di, Wantland.  
Noes—Beardsley, Folland, Hardy,  
Lawson, Rich.

#### THE PAVING QUESTION.

The board of public works sent in the following communication in relation to the paving question:

SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 16, 1892.

Hon. President and City Council:

Gentlemen—In the matter of awarding the contract for paving Main, First and Second South streets, under bids opened by this board on the 29th day of August last, which was referred back to us for further consideration, we herewith return you all petitions and papers in connection therewith and beg to represent:

That an act of the legislature creating the board of public works clearly defines its duties, which are simple and easily understood. The law contains no provision prescribing the use of any material or the employment of any particular contractor upon the work. The duty of determining these is imposed by law upon the City Council. The Council also has power, in conjunction with the Mayor, to appoint the members of this board and to remove them for cause as well as to enact all ordinances relating to the paving of streets, sidewalks, etc. It is also within its power to restrict the use of materials to home products and to award the work to local companies if such a course is by them deemed best. They also have the power to hear and grant petitions. The board possesses none of these powers but is restricted by law to advertising for and receiving bids, making specifications for the work, letting contracts and submitting the same for your approval or rejection.

In the case in question, the board has exercised all its lawful powers and performed all its duties and the result is that the bid of the Barber Asphaltum Paving company has been accepted by us and all other bids rejected, and we again recommend that the contract we have made be confirmed, believing, as we do, that our action is in the best interests of the property owners who have voted to pay for the work.

The advertisement as published boldly invites all to participate and to now exclude anyone upon the grounds not indicated in the invitation to the bidders would reflect upon the reputation and honesty of our fair city and would be disreputable and dishonest.

Our reasons for rejecting the lowest bid are made to appear in the questions and answers which were asked by the board and answered by the bidder, and which are as follows, to-wit:

[Extract from minutes of board of public works.]

Q.—Mr. Griffin, have you ever done any of this kind of work?

A.—I have done almost all kinds of work; we are general contractors.

Q.—Have you ever done any work like this?

A.—Yes. I have done rock pavement but never did any asphaltum work. I have used blocks quite extensively.

Q.—Where do you expect to get your asphaltum from?

A.—I offer three kinds here.

Q.—You say you have three kinds here. I think there is only one kind here.

A.—Yes, I have three kinds of samples, one of Utah and one of California.

Q.—What is the large slab?

A.—That is California.

Q.—Is that manufactured—was that disintegrated and then pressed?

A.—Yes sir, that is a sample of the manufactured form, not the sample but a sample.

Q.—Was that made from the refined asphaltum?

A.—From the refined asphaltum, yes sir.

Q.—Is that the material that the Stradmant people used here?

A.—I think it is that same material, yes sir.

Q.—It comes from the same vicinity?

A.—Yes, sir, from the same vicinity. Our bid is such that it is optional with the city engineer and the board of public works, what they want us to do.

Q.—What facilities have you, Mr. Griffin, for doing this work?

A.—Everything that is necessary, including one hundred odd head of mules, wagons, graders for grading and hauling and all other things.

Q.—What facilities have you for treating asphaltum?

A.—The asphaltum plant is the same plant that probably you folks have noticed the Culmer Brothers have been using; that plant was only loaded.

Q.—What is the capacity of it?

A.—Why, it is—in fact I don't know what the exact capacity of it is.

Q.—Well, approximately; it is the one they had on Richards street?

A.—Yes, sir; the same one that is up there. I will furnish you with that in full tomorrow, by seeing our man, Mr. Haines, early enough to take that into consideration. As I have here stated, I have not given much attention to the asphaltum portion of it.

Q.—That is the most important part.

A.—I will say further that our plant is all upon the ground. It is all here. Twenty-four hours' notice is sufficient to get it on the street.

Q.—To get it on the street?

A.—Yes, sir; that is, the portion that has got to go first; all that precedes the material.

Q.—Have you looked up the matter sufficiently to know that you can get your asphaltum?

A.—Yes, sir. If we have to obtain it from old sources, we can get it. Yes, sir.

Q.—Has this man of yours, Mr. Griffin, had any experience with California asphaltum?

A.—Yes, sir; that is his principal experience.

Q.—Has he ever laid any Trinidad asphaltum?

A.—I don't know. He has laid asphaltum in the east and has been recommended by California parties to us and his recommendation was forwarded by good responsible parties to us.

B.—You think his experience has been principally with the California product?

A.—Yes, sir; that is all right.

Q.—You say that cake you sent here is manufactured?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—That is not the natural bituminous rock?

A.—No, sir; that is a manufactured form; I will say that it is a compressed form; it is not manufactured from any special formula; it is put up so as to show what it is when compressed.

Q.—Is it manufactured after the formula of the stradamant?

A.—Generally, yes sir.

Q.—Our experience with the stradamant has been very unsatisfactory?

A.—Well, while I brought that in as a sample, I did not bring it in as the only one—I brought it in as a sample of the stuff. As I said before, we let the persons buying the article suit themselves. We claim to be able to supply any form of it that is generally used. We are in the business because we are general contractors.

The above is taken from the records of this board and was taken down by our short hand reporter.

In conclusion we desire to submit that we are in favor of the use of home material whenever consistent with the public good, and have and will at all times encourage it in public works. At the

same time it is our opinion that the designation of home material to the exclusion of all others will be attended with some danger, inasmuch as a restriction of bidders or materials to a particular locality would leave the taxpayers at the mercy of a monopoly, although it might have the distinction of being a home company.

Awaiting your final action in the matter, we are,

Respectfully,

L. O. HAINES,

Chairman;

J. C. CONKLIN,

GEORGE M. DOWNEY,

SPENCER CLAWSON,

Board of Public Works.

Lawson, Evans, Moran, Folland and Rich spoke at length in favor of letting the contract to a home company, providing they could comply with all of the requirements.

Lawson said that some months ago they were elected to office. Their constituents wanted them to do their duty. For one, he was for Utah, first, last and all the time.

The Chair—The board of public works cannot let the contract without the consent of the City Council, neither can the City Council let any contract without it emanates from the board of public works.

Wantland said if the contract was rejected as contemplated in the motion made by Mr. Folland at the last session of the City Council, and which was still pending, no paving would be done this year. He moved to postpone further action until Tuesday night next. The proposition that confronted the council now was to pave or not to pave this fall. Eight blocks at least should be paved before winter. A campaign was coming on and there would be three members who would take particular delight in showing up the broken pledges of the "Liberal" party. The cry that there was a thousand men out of employment and a quarter of a million dollars in the treasury will be heralded abroad.

Moran—I object to the gentleman making political speeches.

Wantland—I am not making political speeches. As to what Mr. Lawson said about pleasing his constituents I want to reply that many of them are hard up and hungry. I know whereof I speak.

Moran—How many men are there idle in this city?

Wantland—More than you wish to give employment to.

Moran—I am opposed to giving this contract to the Barber Company. I want to call attention to Mr. Wantland's attention to his wonderful mathematical calculations. He says that one thousand men will be thrown out of employment for ninety days if this contract is not let tonight. Now one thousand men at \$2 per day means \$180,000. The contract calls for \$140,000. The labor portion of it is estimated at \$36,000 which would only employ two hundred men for sixty days. I tell you this Council is sinking lower and lower into insignificance every day.

Rich (with fine sarcasm) "Salt Lake work for Salt Lake workmen." (Laughter.) There has been a good deal of galley talk about this matter.

Moran—The gentleman means me. I object to this galley talk business.

Rich—The question is between the three companies. The board of pub-