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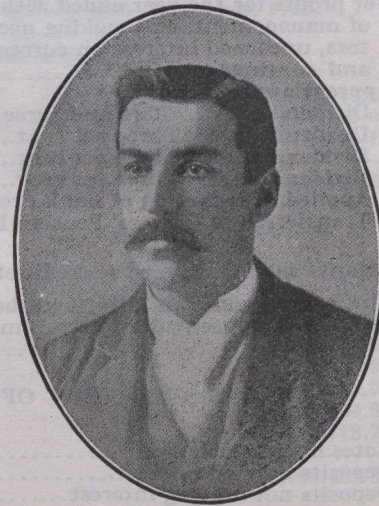
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Engineers—And

Street Cleaning and Refuse Disposal



F. W. W. DOANE, C.E., City Engineer, Halifax, N.S.

(Read at the Convention of the Union of Nova Scotia
Municipalities.)

In this age sanitary science and public health have made such rapid progress as to become a part of the order of every careful person's life.

The foundation and the most important feature of Sanitary Science, is "scavenging." Sewers and water supply are secondary conditions if scavenging is neglected.

During the last century, our cities and towns have become congested areas, densely populated, and each producing a vast amount of filth in its midst. Irrespective of the many perhaps at present unavoidable unsanitary areas in almost every city and many towns, there will always remain to be dealt with the natural filth products from the population and business connected with all cities and towns.

It is because of this latter factor more especially, that within the last quarter of the century there has been brought to the front that great preventive science for the suppression of the cause of diseases, "Scavenging," as applied through the machinery of a scavenging department under the control of a Superintendent with scientific knowledge.

A few years ago, this department was created in some of the larger cities where it was regarded as a luxury, but to-day the smallest town realizes that something similar is an absolute necessity. Why? Because it has become recognized generally that filth and noxious refuse in, or around the centres of communities have more to do with the creation of disease than any other evils that exist. Each town has its health officer, and if the town itself does not attend to the scavenging, the health and town authorities make sure that the individual householder does it in a sanitary manner.

The people who are tied to the town and more especially the slum area, have neither time nor thoughts for public or even personal health. The insanitary conditions of their district and its surroundings have become second nature to them, and if they think of them at all, they resign themselves to the conclusion that it is a penalty attached to their station in life, and must be endured. It is here that scavenging can work wonders.

This science properly applied, cleanses the streets, purifies the air these people breathe, the houses they live in, the shops they work in, and the yards and recreation grounds (too often the streets) their children play in.

The principle that should control every scavenging department is to provide such measures as will enable it to get in touch with all filth and refuse as soon as it is created and to keep hold of it until it is permanently destroyed. This immediate action will lessen the danger of it becoming disseminated. Dirt and refuse upon the roads, streets, or in the back yards of dwellings, cannot be said to be under effective subjection. It is so only when it has been collected, stored in some suitable