

for in the removal of the garbage, but the other part of the contract, calling for the destruction of the garbage and preventing it from becoming a public nuisance and a menace to health, he did not fulfil. On this account or possibly from other reasons, the contract was not renewed by the council and the Health Committee assumed the responsibility of disposing of the garbage themselves. This work was placed under the immediate supervision of the Sanitary Engineer, whose work in the department as far as we can learn has been thorough and satisfactory and with whom we have no fault to find.

The work necessitated the purchase of a number of horses and carts by the city, the building of an incinerator and the employment of a large staff of men. The incinerator was somewhat of an experiment in the way of construction, and allowing for this has been fairly successful. The garbage has been under this new regime, fully as much of a problem as under the old. There have been constant complaints, that the appliances, staff and funds were insufficient to cope with the task. One trouble was that the garbage was mixed with large quantities of ashes. Hence the officials wished to insist that the ashes should be collected separately; this proposition it was said, would save annually to the Health Committee, the sum of \$25,000, but that is not necessarily a reason why the Health Committee refused to have anything to do with it. Diluting garbage with ashes would not be an evil during the summer, as it would tend to mitigate the effluvia of decomposition, but unfortunately in the summer season when garbage is plentiful, ashes are scanty, and in the winter when there is no tendency to decomposition, the ashes exceed the garbage to an extent which prevents combustion. The practice of the department of only cleaning out the garbage barrels twice a week is one which tends to the undue accumulation of refuse.

The latest phase in the garbage situation was the total arrest of its removal by the Health Department for want of funds. Under these circumstances, the matter has been taken out of the hands of the Health Committee by the Mayor and placed under the control of the Road Department. We hope that the Road Department which has the cleaning of the streets, may do better with the garbage than the Health Committee. Why one department should clean the streets and another the lanes, we never could thoroughly comprehend. The cleaning of the lanes and incineration of garbage seems properly to belong to the Street Cleaning Department, who should be made to do it in a way consistent with the health of the city. In like manner the Water Department may safely be intrusted with furnishing water