

Municipal Salvage of House Refuse

Collection and Treatment of Waste Material to Redeem its Value Yields Good Results

The War has not so much taught us certain things, as it rather has demonstrated facts previously recognized but considered as of little moment, things which in times of peace it would have taken many years of persistent propaganda to awaken an extravagant and indifferent public to the importance of.

Among other questions, that of the salvage of house refuse was not the least important. The most successful, and in many ways, the most advanced municipality in this regard is the Salvage Department of Birmingham, Eng., and a brief study of its successful operation cannot fail to be of benefit now.

Here the question is one of the adoption of new processes of waste prevention and not merely that of waste disposal.

In the matter of treatment of condemned meat and fish, whereby valuable fertilizers and fat are produced, Birmingham has long been active and, recently, a laboratory for analytical and research work has been added with a view to further developments in the treatment of all kinds of refuse.

The results obtained during the war, in connection with the waste paper campaign, unquestionably warrant the continuation of this part of the work of the department. To insure saving the waste paper of the city, and to permit of easier separation of the garbage generally, a system of dual refuse bins has recently been adopted by the Birmingham authorities. One bin, for the reception of domestic ashes and sweepings only, must be provided by the householder; the second is provided gratis by the corporation. This is the salvage bin for all other household wastes, such as rags, tins, bones, scrap iron, paper, glass, etc.

In like manner, the garbage will be collected separately in newly provided electric vehicles, these vehicles being divided into two groups. The ashes, on arrival at the works, will be screened; the fine portion, constituting approximately one-half of the whole, will pass direct into waggons or boats and will be disposed of to mix with heavy clay land; the coarser material will be used as fuel.

The contents of the salvage bins will be sorted and graded. The tins are first de-tinned, then de-soldered, and subsequently banded by means of hydraulic pressure. The rags are sorted by a mechanical picking belt into cotton and woollens, passed through a mechanical washer, a turbine hydro-extractor and, finally, into a mechanical dryer and then baled.

It may not be possible for Canadian cities to carry on this important work of municipal salvage on the same lines as Birmingham, but there is certainly room for improvement everywhere in the col-

lection, separation and subsequent disposal of the municipal wastes of large as well as of smaller municipalities.

Birmingham has passed the experimental stage, has profited by its own war experiences and is satisfied with its system both from the economic and the hygienic standpoint.—C.A.H.

Serious Shortage of Anthracite

(Continued from page 31)

stoves during early autumn and late spring, as well as during mild weather in the winter, when only a moderate fire may be required. Where wood is to be burned in a stove or furnace intended for coal, it will be found desirable to cover the grate partly with sheet iron or fire brick, to reduce the draught. If this is not done, the wood is wasted, by being consumed too fast, and, while it makes a very hot fire in a furnace, it may damage the fire box.

3. The heating by wood, of churches, lodge-rooms, halls, etc., where warmth for only a limited period of time may be necessary.

4. In many cases, it will be quite feasible to eke out limited stores of coal by burning wood in the daytime, reserving coal for holding the fire over night.

5. Furnaces may be run low, keeping the house in general only warm enough to prevent water pipes from freezing, supplementing this by the use of wood fuel in stoves or grates to keep the living and dining rooms comfortable.

6. Wood can be used much more generally than at present as a substitute for coal in cooking.

7. A great saving of fuel can be accomplished by making windows and doors tight against the entrance of cold air from the outside, through the use of weather stripping, etc.; also, by the insulation of furnaces and pipes with coverings of asbestos and other suitable material.

Bringing the Fire Loss Nearer Home

Amendment to the Criminal Code Established Personal Responsibility for Fires

At the last session of the Dominion Parliament, amendments to the Criminal Code, dealing with the fire waste, were passed at the recommendation of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee, and following up the suggestions of the Commission of Conservation as contained in the report *Fire Waste in Canada*. The amendments place the responsibility for outbreaks of fire and for failure to provide proper apparatus for the extinguishment of fire or the escape of persons in the buildings in case of fire. The amendments were as follows:

1. Section five hundred and fifteen of *The Criminal Code* is amended by inserting the following subsection immediately before subsection two thereof:—

"(1A). Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two

years' imprisonment who by negligence causes any fire which occasions loss of life or loss of property.

"The person owning, occupying or controlling the premises in which such a fire occurs, or on whom it may have caused the fire through negligence if such person has failed to obey the requirements of any law intended to prevent fires or which requires apparatus for the extinguishment of fires or to facilitate the escape of persons in the event of fire, if the jury finds that such fire, or the loss of life, or the whole or any substantial portion of the loss of property, would not have occurred if such law had been complied with.

2. The said Act is further amended by inserting immediately after section five hundred and fifteen the following section:—

"515A. In any case where any fire insurance company which carries any policy of fire insurance on the property, or any Dominion, provincial or municipal fire officer or authority recommends that the owner, lessee or other person controlling or operating any building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, pier, sawmill, or yard in which logs or lumber are stored or alteration in such building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, sawmill, pier or yard, remove any material therefrom, or supply any apparatus therefor, with a view to reducing the risk of fire or for the extinguishing of fire, and such recommendation is approved by any officer in the service of His Majesty, thereto authorized by the Governor in Council, and notice of such recommendation and of such approval thereof has been served personally upon or forwarded by registered mail to such owner, lessee, or other person, and such owner, lessee or other person refuses or neglects to forthwith carry out such recommendation, such owner, lessee or other person shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment."

At the meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee at Ottawa on May 9, Mr. G. D. Findlayson, the honorary secretary, and Superintendent of Insurance, interpreted the first clause of the amendment as follows:

"Under the first clause, any person upon whose premises fire occurs is deemed to have caused the fire by negligence if he has failed to comply with any regulations designed to prevent fire. Non-compliance is the proof of negligence, and this is a question of fact to be determined by a jury. Notification of a breach of the law is not provided for, as every person is presumed to be familiar with the law."

This drastic legislation should be given widespread publicity, as it will have a most important bearing upon the enormous fire losses of Canada, as well as upon the great loss of life therefrom.

Object Lessons in Mothercraft

Science of Rearing Babies Taught During Girls' School Life

One elementary school in East London teaches mothercraft to the older girls. It is a Jewish school, and is certainly an example worthy of emulation by the schools in this Dominion. The head mistress states that the pupils "are awakened to the fact that there is a science in rearing babies. In addition they learn to respect their mothers more for nursing their babies." We need more of this respect for parents in Canada. The programme is, briefly, as follows:

Time Spent: During the last year of the girl's school life (13-14 years), one hour a week for six months is spent on definite lessons in infant care. In addition, two visits, each lasting about two hours, are paid by every girl to a local day nursery.

Theory: In preparation for the work, the science lessons preceding the infant care lessons include the physiology of the adolescent girl. Physiology is taught for a year, one hour a week.

The infant care lessons include care of the mother, how to feed, clothe, wash and instil good habits, and the treatment of minor ailments of infants.

Practical Work: At the Crèche the work includes weighing, bathing, dressing, preparing bottles and barley water. The girls also prepare the food and feed the children, and play with those from two to five years of age.

It is admitted that the standard of maternal care in East London is highest in Jewish homes. No wonder!

Solomon said of the Jewish mother: "Her price is far above rubies; strength and honour are her clothing; she openeth her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness; she looketh well to the ways of her household and catcheth not the bread of idleness; her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also."

CONSERVATION OF SALMON

The reduction in the run of salmon in the rivers of British Columbia has greatly increased the utilization of the fish. When the runs were large, some canneries merely used the large or central portion of the body, the remainder being sold as offal to the fish reduction works, to be converted into and guano, or thrown away.

The canneries report that, at present, nothing is wasted in any species of salmon, as the supply is not equal to requirements. The backbone is never cut out, and the flesh is used as close to the head and tail as possible.

This closer utilization is a measure offsets the shortage of fish and increases the supply which would otherwise be available.