

Coal: It will be noted that the purchase of the annual supply of coal for Public Schools is, in point of magnitude, the most important purchase of all.

The records of coal purchases for 1914 to 1917, inclusive, were examined superficially, while those for 1918 and 1919 were examined in more detail. Book records of fuel purchases for all schools and departments of the Board show the following total expenditures, including cost of inspection:

1914	\$ 96,635.84
1915	114,697.40
1916	117,452.01
1917	170,277.81
1918	212,103.17
1919	153,126.21
	<u>\$864,292.44</u>

This amount of \$864,292.44 for the six years was distributed as follows:

Public Schools.....	\$ 706,221.05
Technical School, Collegiates, High School of Commerce, and Administration Building	158,071.39
	<u>\$864,292.44</u>

It would seem that tenders on the entire annual requirements of the Board, in bulk, are not desired, since invitations for tenders for coal are issued separately for Public Schools, Collegiates, and the Technical School and High School of Commerce. This plan was followed in 1920, the estimated tonnage required being as follows:

	Smokeless, Soft or Semi-Bituminous	Soft Coal Screenings	Hard Coal			
			Grate	Egg	Stove	Nut
Public Schools	10,000 tons	250 tons	500	6,500	1,500	500 tons
Collegiates and Administration Building	1,300 "	.....	250	400	150	150 "
Technical School .....	.....	2,000 tons	.....	.....	.....	.....
High School of Commerce	350 "	.....	.....	300	.....	.....
The total requirements appear to be.....	11,650 tons	2,250 tons	750	7,200	1,650	650
Or a grand total of.....	24,150 tons					

There seems little to be gained by dividing the coal purchases in this manner. Contracts for this quantity of coal, about 500 car-loads, might well be made directly with the mine operators.

Would not the consolidation of the purchase of any one class of supplies, in normal times, make the business more attractive to wholesalers and manufacturers?