

REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL IN MOOSE JAW

A DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE SUITABLE FOR CITIES OF TEN THOUSAND TO FORTY THOUSAND POPULATION, GIVING TABLES OF COSTS.

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A CAREFUL record was kept during last year of the quantity of refuse removed and disposed of, and the cost of removal and disposal, and these figures are presented here, not with the idea that the results achieved are specially good, but rather that they may form a basis of comparison by engineers of other cities and towns.

Unfortunately the keeping of records and the collection of data in connection with this phase of municipal work has not been extensively practiced by engineers, more especially in Western cities, and this is no doubt due to the fact that during the last few years the major portion of a city engineer's time has been spent in the designing and carrying out of new works, rather than in supervising and managing the many utilities which usually fall within the sphere of a city engineer's activities.

It is unfortunate, but none the less true, that many cities spend large sums of money on civic enterprises, and after these works have been completed, councils grudge the necessary money to assure that these same works shall be run economically, and in the best interests of the city. The council of the city of Moose Jaw, however, have not been slow to recognize the fact that the money spent on the management of the various works under their control is money well invested.

Prior to March, 1915, the management of the scavenging department was under the control of the health department, but at that time was transferred to the city engineer's department, and by this transference many economies have been effected, more especially in the number of teams employed. The whole work is carried out with the city's own teams, and prior to the work being taken over by the city engineer, it occurred time and again that the health department might be short of teams to carry out

their work, while the engineer's department might have a surplus of teams, and no work to put them to.

In the removal of Household refuse an organization is required that is sufficiently elastic to take care of the wide variations in the quantity of refuse that has to be dealt with from month to month, and where a scavenging department has no other work to engage in, the consequence is that at certain seasons there is an insufficiency of teams to cope with the work, and at other times it is necessary

to hire teams to overtake the work. When, however, this department is combined with, say, the street maintenance department, and in this connection it must be understood that the writer has especially in mind the work required to be done in cities of, say, from 10,000 to 40,000 population, the combined departments will possess the necessary equipment to take care of all the work without having on hand any idle teams, or having such a rush of work that it is necessary to hire teams. This statement is borne out by Table 1, which shows an increase of garbage and ashes removal in November as compared with October, of over 156 per cent., which was overtaken by the engineer's department without the necessity of hiring a single team.

As already stated, the operation of the refuse removal and disposal departments is under the control of the city engineer, and

is operated by the works department branch. The city possesses its own stud of horses, and the necessary wagons and other plant for the operation of the department. All horses, wagons, etc., owned by the city are controlled by the works department, and are hired out by that department to the various departments requiring teams, at a rate of \$5 per day of ten hours. Any surplus, after paying the cost of running the stables, repairs to rolling stock, etc., is divided amongst the different depart-

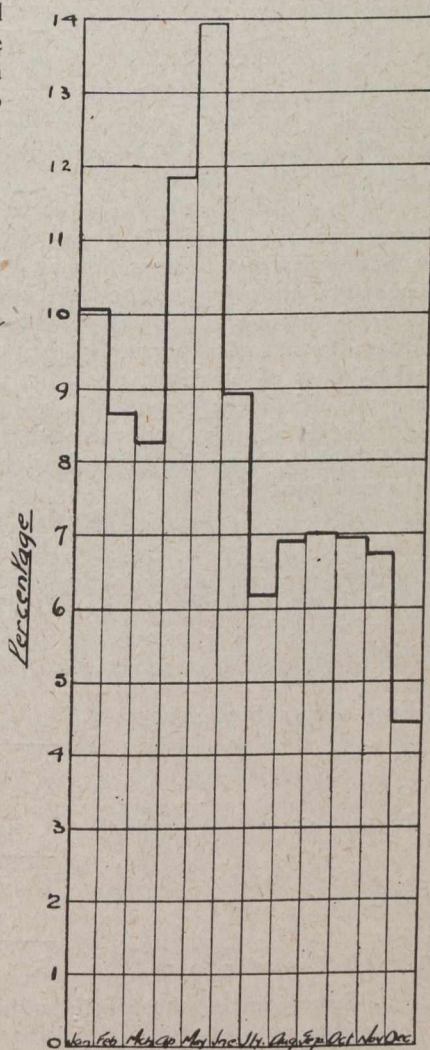


Diagram 1.—Monthly Variation in Percentage of Garbage and Refuse Removed.

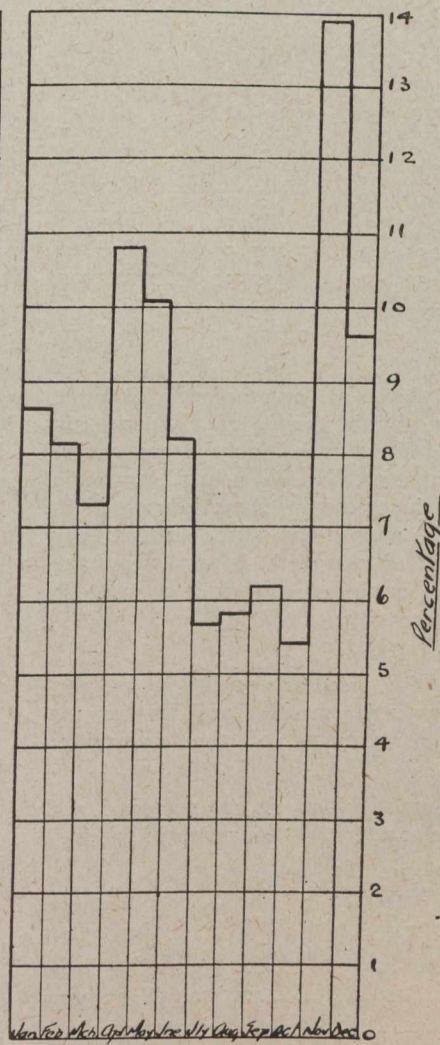


Diagram 2.—Monthly Variation in Percentage of Total Refuse Removed.