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determined so readily. A brief statement of the problem with an outline of general methods adopted for its solution may be of timely interest.

In Minneapolis the citizens are required to drain off all moisture from garbage and to wrap the solid in paper before putting it in the garbage barrel or can. If the collector reports to the scavenging Department that the garbage is not properly drained and wrapped in paper no further service is rendered until the rule is complied with. If the householder then fails to care properly for his garbage or have it cleaned up, he is brought into court and fined. It is claimed that the drained garbage will neither smell badly in hot weather nor freeze and stick to the can in cold weather.

In my opinion, the Minneapolis regulation is admirable, although it may be a half measure only. A by-law requiring the drainage of garbage is a good regulation but only half as good as it would be if it provided for burning in the kitchen fire after draining.

At a house in Halifax, which I visit frequently, although it has been occupied for over a dozen years, not one ounce of kitchen garbage has been removed from the premises by the city. All garbage and other combustible refuse is burned in the kitchen stove, the burning being carried out when there is a good bright fire. A removeable strainer basket is kept in the corner of the kitchen sink. It costs 50 cents and will last for years. Peelings, the scrapings of plates from the table, porridge, soup or vegetable pots, pans, etc., leaves from the teapot, solids in the dishwasher after washing, all go into the strainer in turn, and shortly afterwards into the fire. Fat skimmed from soup, gravy, etc., is cooled in a cup or saucer and then burned. Bones meet the same fate. There has never been a garbage can about the premises nor has one been needed. The only refuse which requires removal is bottles and cans.

As a result of practical experience therefore, it is claimed that a by-law compelling householders not only to drain their kitchen garbage but to burn it, would be a great improvement on the draining alone.

It would not be a panacea, however, for all garbage ills. In summer, especially, in some houses, the cooking is done on oil or gas stoves. Hotels and boarding houses have too large a quantity of garbage to burn, while some means must be provided for disposing of the garbage from grocery, provision, fruit, meat and fish stores and many other properties where there are no fires in the summer.

The disposal of garbage and refuse in a manner conforming to sanitary law, is becoming a matter of vital importance and should receive the immediate attention which so important a factor in the welfare of the town deserves. It is most essential that adequate means be provided for the efficient disposal of all decomposing refuse, including dead animals and night soil. Sanitary authorities agree that the complete destruction of garbage or a complete change in its characteristics is the only solution that will satisfy sanitary requirements.

There are only three other methods of disposal which give any measure of efficiency—dumping at sea, the reduction method and incineration.

Dumping at sea is not only fully as expensive as burning but where practiced, is found to be very objectionable, even when the garbage is carried twenty miles out to sea, and is being abandoned by all progressive towns where it has been in use.

The reduction method which consists of passing the garbage only through a digestive process and extracting its oils and grease, is not popular for the following reasons, namely, that it is expensive to instal, it is very difficult to carry on the process without causing a nuisance by offensive odors, it deals only with the garbage and some other means must be provided for disposing of the night soil and remaining refuse. Separate collections must be made and the town must compete in the open market to sell its grease and tankage.

In a few towns, night soil is disposed of by dumping into large intercepting sewers. It must be done in an inclosed chamber and under town supervision. The location must be chosen where an abundant supply of water is available and the carts used should be of the latest design.

The most successful means of disposing of town wastes is by incineration.

Furnaces are in use to-day in many towns having a population of a few thousands only and are solving the refuse disposal problem satisfactorily and economically. Time will not permit a description of the method employed.