

UNSIGHTLY AND DANGEROUS DUMPS

Much of the development of a municipality is retarded by the apathy and indifference of municipal officials who refuse to exert any effort to remedy evils which act as a draw-back to the locality in which they reside. A case in point has been called to our attention by Mr. Frederick W. Wallace, a well-known Canadian author, whose summer residence is at Hudson, Que.

Mr. Wallace says in part:—

"This well-known resort is one of the most popular summer places adjacent to Montreal and is famed for the beauty of the country-side and lake which environ the village. These attractions have prompted numerous Montrealers to build summer homes there and to these citizens the village practically owes its existence. Water, electric light, and splendid roads have naturally followed, and yacht, tennis and golf clubs have been established to add to Hudson's charms.

"At the last municipal election, Mr. James Park, a merchant of Hudson and local manager of a Montreal Bank, was voted in as Mayor, largely through the efforts of a 'Progressive Party,' which was organized to make Hudson more attractive, both as a summer resort and a permanent place of residence. The contest for the honor of filling the Mayoral chair was the keenest for many years and much was expected from Mr. Park's administration.

"One of the new Mayor's first acts was to permit the villagers to use a parcel of land owned by him as a garbage dump—there being no public disposal field handy. This particular piece of property is adjacent to Hudson Depot and alongside the highway leading to Hudson Wharf, the summer homes of several well-known Montreal people, and the Hudson Yacht and Tennis Club.

"All persons travelling to and from the waterfront and the popular Yacht Club have their eyes and nostrils delighted by the miscellaneous and odoriferous collection of garbage scattered liberally over the Mayor's property. Protests were made to the latter gentleman and polite suggestions were made that he be kind enough to save the reputation and appearance of the village by prohibiting the dumping of rubbish and to have the eye-sore cleaned up. The 'Progressive' candidate complained that it wasn't his fault; that he could do nothing. Not wishing to put the Mayor to the expense of clearing up the mess, it was suggested that he have the Council detail a couple of the road men to rake the objectionable material out of sight. This suggestion seemed to receive the Mayor's favor and it was hoped to have the offense removed prior to the Empire Day Holiday, May 24th, when many visitors would be flocking to Hudson.

"It is now a month since the suggestion was

made and the garbage dump still remains as offensive as ever. Nature has done what she can by veiling some of the rubbish with a profuse growth of weeds, but contributions of tin cans, bottles, kitchen refuse, etc., still arrive and continue to keep the place an eye-sore to passers-by. The 'progressive' mayor has taken no action of any kind."

Mr. Wallace has, undoubtedly, a legitimate complaint against the local council, whose duty is above all things to see that the citizens, from the highest to the lowest, attend to the best laws of hygiene. In the case the fact of the mayor himself being the culprit—even though it was to oblige the villagers—does not lessen the responsibility of the Council in allowing the nuisance, and the further fact that Hudson is a rural municipality does not make the offense any the less.

"Paris has purchased its subway system and at the same time entered into an agreement with the previous owner, the Compagnie du Metropolitain, to operate the system until 1955 on a minimum annual compensation of eleven and a half million francs with a bonus sufficient to interest the company in efficient management. All the employees likewise are given a bonus based on the returns of the passenger traffic. The city itself undertakes to develop the system on its own account."—Survey.

Milwaukee is to adopt a motor-cycle fire engine equipment. The speedy engine with eight extinguishers and its crew of two can reach a fire before the heavier apparatus.

Kalamazoo, Mich., has elected a charter revision commission which will probably submit a charter based on the mayor-alderman plan. The proposed charter will be submitted to the vote of the people. In the meantime, the city-manager form of government is still operating.

Los Angeles has authorized the expenditure of two million dollars for building municipal docks on Terminal Island, a connecting road to Long Beach Channel and a draw-bridge to the Island from the mainland.

In Sacramento, Cal., on May 3rd, a council of nine was elected under the Hare system of proportional representation.

Two second-class cities of Pennsylvania, Scranton and Pittsburgh, are empowered by law to adopt a system of separate assessment on land and on improvements, making the heavier burden come on the land.

The City Council in Boston has begun a campaign for municipal ownership of gas or electric lighting plants, or both.