

A Model Municipal Wood Yard

Virginia, Minnesota, has established and successfully operated a model municipal wood yard. It has always been a problem to obtain anything but temporary and transient labor for city work because there was no form of employment which could be offered in the winter months. This possibility of using the city labor in the wood yard in the winter and thus creating a permanent employment for a better class of labor was a strong incentive to the city.

Once the idea had taken root they promptly proceeded to put it in operation in true business fashion. A considerable tract of birch and maple timber within three miles of the city was purchased at a stumpage cost of about fifteen cents a cord. An eighteen horse-power kerosene saw outfit was installed on this tract and enough six-cord racks, divided into two-cord compartments, to take care of all the delivery teams. In this way there was no delay in measuring the wood while the teams waited. The wood was measured up and waiting for the

teams at all times. The city teams were used for delivery. Iced roads and a down-hill grade to town made it possible to haul two full cords—the minimum delivered to any one address—at a load.

The office work was handled by a manager in the court house. The city papers advertised the fact that the city had wood for sale at \$3.00 per route for 16-inch wood, \$4.00 for 24-inch, \$5.00 for 32-inch, \$6.00 for 36-inch and \$8.00 for 48-inch. Full payment to be made in advance. The applicant filled in the order.

Both the citizens and the city have been greatly benefitted by the operation. They expect to do even a larger business next winter, and are so well pleased with the way the thing has worked out that they hope to make it a permanent institution.

Many other towns on the range have established city yards on one system or another, but none of the others are so well organized or so well operated as the one in Virginia.—From "The North Woods."

How to Save Coal

Many people believe that it is impossible to get cordwood into the cities at anything but fabulous prices and that no one would use it even if it were cheap. This is very largely a superstition that has been built up and carefully fostered by the coal men. A recent experiment tried in St. Anthony Park North, a part of St. Paul, shows pretty conclusively that both assumptions are poorly founded.

A community of about five hundred families was chosen as a basis of the experiment. The members of the Forestry Club of the University volunteered to distribute some order blanks as their bit in helping out the fuel shortage. A little later they collected the orders for one hundred and ten cords of tamarack wood, a species that the coal dealers claim cannot be sold at any price.

The wood was bought up North, shipped to the city in carload lots, sawed into 12, 16, and 24-inch lengths and delivered at \$9.00 per cord. A carload of oak was handled in the same way and sold at the same price.

If the same plan could be worked throughout the city, and every community of this size could be sold the same amount, and there is no reason why it could not be done, it would mean a sale of eleven thousand cords of wood in St. Paul alone. Ten thousand tons of coal saved for Uncle Sam.

—From "The North Woods"

The Forestry Journal will be sent to any address in Canada for One Dollar a Year.