

corrupt practices acts and some of the provisions of the charter were brought against the mayor that caused him to be suspended from office. At the same meeting Mr. Wilson was elected to fill the vacant place until a trial should decide the correctness of the charges cited. The ousted mayor was given twelve days to file answer to these charges, but instead of fighting the case Mr. Gupton resigned on the following day. Just before handing in his resignation he accepted the resignation of the chief of police who had been very active in the councilmanic election in March, as well as in a number of previous elections.

The mayor in handing in his resignation stated that of the seven charges brought against him, six were based on political reasons wholly, and the remaining one was untrue. To what extent this may be a correct diagnosis of the case it is difficult to say. It may be stated definitely, however, that political considerations played some part, and that in the interplay of political forces the former mayor had lost and had nothing to gain by remaining in office or in fighting the case in court,

as it could have been protracted until his term of office as established by law had expired.

The new charter makes the mayor-manager a political follower of the council, or else makes the mayor the head of a political group that is to control the affairs of the city. There is no recall of the mayor by popular vote, nor has he any appeal to public support in any other way than by securing the election of councilmen who will favor his measures. The motive largely dominating the authors of the new charter was to foster and perpetuate a group in power. At the first election under the new instrument of government the people by their vote repudiated the charter as drawn up and the suspension and resignation of the mayor, around whom an organization was to be built, were but natural results of the political forces set in motion throughout the entire movement. Under the new mayor little friction has been noted so far and our municipal machinery has worked smoothly, except for an undercurrent of opposition from a "liberal" element who do not favor a strict enforcement of the law.

SALVAGING WASTE IN PITTSBURGH

BY H. MARIE DERMITT

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Read how Pittsburgh's charities utilize waste to salvage men.

WHEN we talk of waste we practically set down in our minds something of no value, and our chief object in connection with it is to put it out of sight. That is an excellent object. It tends toward cleanliness and sanitation, and this phase of the waste problem cannot be too greatly stressed. Cellars and convenient places for storing waste

paper, old furniture and rubbish of various kinds have resulted in many instances in a fire hazard and health menace to the neighborhood, and have led to the popular belief that clean-up days once a year are civic events that are advocated by the best authorities in this line of work. Now clean-up days once a year may furnish an excellent

opportunity for civic enthusiasm and act as a generator for cultivating civic interest in the appearance of one's town, but this kind of civic endeavor is soon going to be relegated to the back-ground. Agencies all over the country are considering the day-to-day, methodical disposal and salvage of waste in a manner which brings an economic return in more than one way.

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY OBSOLETE

Pittsburgh has, through several charitable agencies, taken hold of this in such a manner that their work, together with the rummage sales which have become so wonderfully popular and financially successful, will obviate the necessity of a clean-up day annually. It is only a matter of education and a little more time to work out the details of this lucrative business until the property holders and house holders will be ashamed to permit waste of any kind to litter their premises.

The largest organization that has taken up this work in Pittsburgh is the Association for the Improvement of the Poor. Nine years ago the association established what is known as the Men's Industrial Department, "the main object of which is to give employment to thousands of men who are temporarily out of work and to provide work for men who are not able to do full-time work because of age, crippled condition and lack of training." The solution of the problem of taking care of this group has been worked out and the department is now self-supporting through the collection of waste material, including newspapers, magazines, old furniture, bric-a-brac, clothing, carpets, rugs, shoes, etc. This is worked over and produces enough revenue to be self-supporting. Every dollar earned is put back to maintain the work.

WHAT IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED

The association has purchased ground and erected a building, with necessary equipment, at a cost of \$550,000. This building has been provided with all the paraphernalia necessary to repair and renovate old clothes, reblock and repair hats, carpet looms, woodworking machinery and equipment for repairing clocks, bric-a-brac and other material. Fourteen tons of waste paper are brought into the building every day, in addition to quantities of material for the collection of which eight trucks are in constant use. Ten thousand thrift bags, the contents of which are sterilized before sorting, are gathered from homes all over the city, thereby bringing in quantities of clothing which is repaired and sold at very low rates. The Industrial Department store really "blesseth him that gives and him that takes." A hotel in part of the building provides lodging and meals for hundreds of men. From March, 1920, to March, 1921, there was received a total income of \$21,514.45 as against a total expense of \$17,562.09. The Men's Industrial Department alone during this same period approximated a total income of \$62,000. Of these receipts the sale of paper stock brought in approximately \$41,000. This surplus helps to tide over such periods as are now being experienced, for magazine paper stock has fallen from \$60 a ton to below \$20 a ton today; other kinds of paper and rags have fallen proportionately.

Work is regularly given to sixty men a day who wander in from among the city's unemployed, travelers or stranded men. Every kind of talent and energy of which a man is capable is utilized, and the man in return is made self-respecting and an asset instead of a burden and a financial liability to the city.

Located in the heart of the "Strip District," Pittsburgh's Good Will Industries, established in 1918 by the Home Mission Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, already has over 10,000 people who put their waste material in the good will bags which are collected regularly. This institution is as yet too young to have developed all of the accessories that it expects to have in the future. Its object is to provide work for the aged, handicapped, physically frail and inefficient. The work provided consists of the repairing and refinishing for a second round of service materials and articles which we ordinarily think of as "waste."

The Salvation Army Industrial Department, with headquarters on the North Side, has always had two sources of supply, human and material waste, and these together with surplus labor form a unity of production from a trinity of waste, that avoids a charge upon the city in more ways than one.

Their workrooms and dormitory tell the story of the times about as well as any market. In fact, both men and markets meet in this kind of work.

There are great seasonal variations in this industrial work. It is to be noted that when few men are unemployed and maximum production prevails, waste commands good prices. On the other hand, when low prices prevail it means greater need for salvage of human waste, and the revenue that can be counted upon to carry the burden of expense is disappointingly small.

An average of four tons of waste daily, besides anything from a flatiron to a piano, find their way into the six wagons that travel into the suburbs and city districts. With the market at bedrock this intake keeps things going, but the value of the effort made to find something for the human derelicts to

do cannot be reckoned in dollars and cents. That this division does carry itself, is indicated in the report of the year just ended showing receipts of \$18,823.60 and disbursements of \$17,246.63, with \$3,000 stock in hand.

One of the oldest charities in the country, the St. Vincent De Paul Society, started in a falling market four months ago in Pittsburgh, and with but one wagon is meeting the necessary expenses so far. In one of the crowded sections of the "Hill District" a store with about 3,000 square feet of space for sorting and reclaiming waste has been secured and regular employment given to four men. As yet the work has not reached the stage of provision for regular contributors. The publicity and supply comes through announcements in the churches.

CITY ALSO IN THE BUSINESS

In addition to this philanthropic effort it is interesting to note that the city pays, by yearly contract, \$9.22 a ton for the collection of rubbish and waste. Approximately 100 wagons collect on an average of 225 tons a day. This, of course, does not include garbage. Most anyone in Pittsburgh will agree that there is still an opportunity for expansion in this line of business. There are still a few hundred tons a day to be reclaimed and made an asset in one form or another for the city. It all resolves itself into the necessity for an industrial campaign that should be stressed through the press, the churches and civic organizations until the public learns that what we call waste is valuable; that it means the reclamation of human derelicts, the recovery of materials that have not exhausted their usefulness and the promoting of cleanliness and order in our homes and thoroughfares.