



Expect New Rubbish Burning Plant To Solve Overload Due to Growth

BY SERGE LOGAN

When the \$128,000 rubbish burner going up in the rear of the City Hall is finished, Racine's major garbage disposal problems should be ended right along with it.

Its rising stack, reaching 125 feet into the air, has symbolized the mounting problem Racine has had in garbage disposal as the city, like Topsy, just grew and grew.

Overloading at Racine's present plant has burned out the furnace linings repeatedly and has hampered the efficient operation of the facility.

Rejected Other Ideas

Commissioner of Public Works Henry Nelson tried to get a garbage disposal plant for Racine in

1953, but the Board of Estimates sliced it from the budget.

Considered, but rejected, in the meantime were:

1. Changing Racine's garbage into a compost.
2. Salvaging commercial waste for sale to waste paper dealers.
3. Installation of garbage disposal units in restaurants and institutions, and eventually in the homes.

The compost idea, suggested by City Assessor John Campbell who is a garden enthusiast, was turned down because the processing would not only be unprofitable, but would cost more than garbage disposal at present. This was the report of a committee which studied the idea for two years.

The report further added that

any change in garbage disposal at the time would be economically unsound.

Discussion and investigations by the city and waste paper dealers turned up the fact that 75 per cent of the commercial waste which was choking garbage plant operation was not salvageable for sale to dealers.

What little could be saved would not materially relieve the overload.

Waste Exceeds Capacity

Because the city is in the process of expanding its sewage disposal plant due to an overload, action on an ordinance which would have required installation of garbage grinders in the sewerage system was held up.

When Nelson faced the Board of Estimates in preparation for

the 1954 budget, he laid down these facts:

Eighty tons of garbage and commercial waste are burned in eight hours while the plant's capacity is 120 tons in 24 hours.

Private and public collectors stream in with such rapidity that loads have had to be piled alongside the plant's walls.

Commercial waste is creating more intense heat than is normal for garbage burning, requiring constant rekindling.

In 1954, Nelson was granted his request for another plant. The new incinerator, being put in by the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co., Pittsburgh, cost \$128,000. Then an unexpected \$16,850 had to be appropriated for concrete pilings when the contractors could not find a solid foundation for the new plant.

The building will provide two more gapping furnaces to the 11 present ones, and will be able to handle 60 tons of commercial waste every 24 hours. A pre-heating unit is included which will permit the incinerator to burn

—Journal-Times Photos

Outside of the contractor, probably no one got more satisfaction than did Public Works Commissioner Henry Nelson out of watching this stack grow from 19½ feet, left picture, to 125 feet, at right. It's part of the city's new rubbish burning plant which will be put into use early in 1955, eliminating current overload problems.

garbage should any furnaces in the old plant require repairs.

Paper Market a Factor

Besides the urbanization of Racine's outskirts with the resulting annexation, blame for the overloading is put on the weak waste paper market. In the summer of 1951, the bottom dropped out of the waste paper field and it hasn't been fully mended yet.

The new plant is expected to be ready for use by the first of next year. The towering smoke stack was finished several weeks ago, and the exterior of the building is near completion.