Excessive Profits in Snow Removal

Continued from Page One

the director of public works the city can take his entire plant and equipment on forty-eight hours written notice without paying a cent for its use during the life of his contract.

Deposit Is Protection

"And furthermore," continued Chief Hepburn, pointing significantly to a certain paragraph in one of the contracts, "if there were not sufficient money left, as due him, to continue the contract thus taken over to the satisfaction of the director of public works, the director has an extra 10 per cent of the contract price, which is on deposit with the city treasurer from each street-cleaning contractor, upon which to draw if necessary.

"I make this statement to show that when a contractor announces that he is perfectly willing to sell his contract and equipment on a 10 per cent or any other basis he is offering to do something which he knows is impossible for him to do. It is a bluff."

Chief Hepburn marked the paragraphs in every contractor's contract with the city and handed them over for inspection. They read as follows:

The successful bidder will not be allowed to assign, transfer nor sublet this contract. * * *

If the contractor fails to commence the work at the time specified for its commencement, or fails to prosecute the work to the satisfaction of the director, or attempts to transfer or assign his contract or any interest therein, or fails to perform any of the covenants of the contract, the director, on forty-eight (48) hours' notice, in writing, may annul the contract; on such notice, the director may suspend the contractor from the work, and in case of such suspension may, at his further election, enter upon, perform and complete said work embraced in the contract, or may employ others to do so. In case of such suspension, **the director shall have the further right, at his election, to take possession of, without legal process, and to use such reasonable force and means as may be necessary to take possession of the plant and equipment used by the contractor upon the work, and to use the same in doing the work, without compensation for such use, license so to doing hereby given by the contractor,** and the contractor hereby forever releases and discharges the director and the city of Philadelphia from any and all damages or injuries which may be sustained, suffered or claimed by reason of such possession and use of said plant and equipment.

18 Per Cent Rise in Price

"One of the street cleaning contractors, in an interview in the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER, says that their expenses have greatly increased. As far-seeing business men, they have anticipated increased expenditures. At least it would seem so from the fact that they have raised their contract price this year 18 per cent, on an average, over that of last year. In other words, the city is now paying these men nearly one-fifth more for cleaning the streets than it did last year, so I take it that having anticipated increased expenses they have met it by charging the city just that much more.

"The figures show on an average an increase of 18 per cent over last year, but one contractor has raised his prices over 33 1-3 per cent.

"I am not discussing the right or necessity of contractors to increase their prices. The public, however, may wonder why a contractor should give as an excuse for failure properly to keep his district in order that he is under much heavier expense, when the official records show that he has raised his contract price this year to meet the very thing he complained of.

"The increased price which the city this year is paying the street-cleaning and ash and rubbish contractors amounts to approximately three-fifths of the $1,000,000 which could be saved to Philadelphia if it did its own street cleaning and ash collection.

"The same answer applies to the claim that they are able to haul fewer loads to the dumps. They are charging more this year for their hauling. They anticipated, as I said, what the conditions would be and so they made their bids for 1920 just that much higher.

"The Penn Reduction Co. has the garbage contract for the entire city. Last year it was paid $698,892. For the present year it will receive $750,000, an increase of only 7 per cent, whereas the street-cleaning and ash and rubbish contractors get an increase of 18 per cent.

Didn't Complete Statement

"Another criticism is that street-cleaning contractors are given only one-half pay during January, February and March, the other half being retained until the streets are properly cleaned. But this shrewd contractor did not complete the statement. Had he done so it would have thrown a different light upon that point.

"It is true that the specifications state that during January, February and March one-half their pay is retained, but on the first of April all of this is given them in a lump sum. There are no deductions unless it be for such fines as may be imposed for failure to properly perform their work. Every contractor is fully aware of this proviso when he signs his contract. One-half their pay for these months is retained to make sure they perform their contracts well.

"The street cleaning contractor, as pointed out in my first statement, during weather like the present is compelled to remove snow and ice from crossings, from in front of inlets, from in front of fire plugs, from pathways to cars, etc. In emergencies like the recent storm the chief is empowered to take teams used in ash and rubbish collection, which is difficult if not impossible to collect, and put them to work hauling snow.

"The contractors are paid extra for the use of these teams. They receive from fifty to fifty-five cents per cubic yard according to the capacity of the vehicle; the same price we pay to outside contractors. While the ash and rubbish collection teams are hauling snow they are receiving extra compensation. It is velvet.

"It is true that during this time the ashes may accumulate, but the extra work necessitated by this is made up by the extra pay they receive, otherwise the ash teams would be at expense in the stables.

"I have referred, in connection with this work of hauling snow, to the practice of crediting wagons and trucks with bigger loads than their capacity. **It is cheating the city.**

"During the present emergency we have checked up on this and the result is interesting.

"On the 7th and 8th of this month we kept a record of fifty-four vehicles engaged in hauling snow from the snow-removal area in the center of the city. These teams were hired from city contractors, from outside contractors and wherever we could obtain them. There were about 834 teams altogether hauling snow.

34 Out of 54 Teams Wrongly Credited

"We selected fifty-four teams at random out of the 834 teams in all for checking purposes. **The result showed that thirty-four of these vehicles, or 60 per cent, were credited by inspectors with carrying more than their capacity.** The balance of the fifty-four vehicles were credited with their measured or true capacity or a little less.

"The following table will illustrate what I mean. Where a wagon or truck is credited with a 2.5 capacity that indicates that with a full load it could haul two and one-half cubic yards of snow. Where a vehicle is credited with 2.5 and the inspector gives it 3.5 it indicates that he gave the truck or wagon owner pay for one square yard of snow to which he was not entitled.

Kind of vehicle	Calculated actual capacity	Calculated given by inspector
Truck	2.5	3.5
Truck	2.5	3.5
Truck	6.5	7
Truck	6.5	7
Truck	2.8	3.5
Truck	6.5	8
Truck	6.1	8
Truck	6.7	8
Wagon	2.8	3
Wagon	2	2.5
Wagon	2.5	3
Truck	7	8
Truck	5	8
Truck	6	8
Truck	5	8
Truck	7	8
Wagon	2	3
Wagon	2	3
Truck	5	5.5
Wagon	2.5	4.5
Truck	3.5	5.5
Truck	3.5	5.5
Truck	5.8	9
Truck	6.5	10
Truck	4.2	5
Truck	2.5	3
Wagon	2.5	3
Wagon	2.5	3
Wagon	2.6	3
Wagon	2.6	3
Wagon	1.8	2.5
Wagon	2	2.5
Wagon	2	2.5
Wagon	2	2.5
Total	142.5	175.5

"At least 60 per cent of these fifty-four wagons and trucks were overrated in capacity. We found on calculation a difference of thirty-three yards each trip, or figuring seven trips a day a low average number of trips, 251 cubic yards on every fifty-four wagons.

"This number, taking the average for the whole, divided into 834, the total number of wagons, goes fifteen times and fifteen times 251 cubic yards **amount to 3765 yards a day overpaid on snow-hauling contracts or $1882 a day at the rate of fifty cents per cubic yard, on their snow contracts alone.** This does not concern street-cleaning contracts except those also engaged in moving snow.

"It is a very obvious reason why street cleaning should be taken out of politics. **The man at the head of this bureau should be free to discharge or employ any man he desires, regardless of civil service. The bureau should be conducted just as a private business enterprise.**

"When I notified the street-cleaning contractors that this bureau proposed to have all citizens arrested who threw rubbish or ashes on the street, or otherwise violated the department rules, one of them laughed at me. He expressed the hope that I would be able to 'put it over,' and followed it with the statement that what I proposed to do was virtually impossible. He said I would be blocked by politics. He hoped that I could do it, because it would help him and other contractors in their work.

"'Why, take even the Vare wards,' this contractor said. 'If you arrest a merchant or householder for throwing rubbish on the street, the chances are that the fellow has a friend who is a warm friend of some political leader, or some citizen who is a friend of the Mayor. His case is carried up by the ward leader or prominent citizen, and before you know it the fine will be suspended and the fellow goes free.'

"I simply quote this instance as an example of the feeling that apparently exists. If what this man says is a fact, then it certainly is politics that gives Philadelphia dirty streets."

"As for the repeated assertion that I have only been in office three weeks, it is scarce worth answering," said Mr. Hepburn with a smile.

"Conditions which I have described in connection with the Bureau of Street Cleaning are so obvious that any engineer, taking the actual specifications in the street-cleaning contracts and then figuring from the records on file in this office, would have discovered the same thing.

"All he need do would be to dig."

Street Cleaning Fines for January Are Heavy

The fines on street-cleaning contractors for January will be the heaviest in the last year, Chief Hepburn announced today.

"The fine lists are now in the hands of Director Winston, who will summon the contractors to his office Monday," the chief said. "In one case Mr. Winston is making an allowance where the contractor was hampered by a strike."

CASPAR, PET RAT, IS ILL

Rodent at Penn Stricken With Pneumonia; May Not Live

"Caspar," the famous pet white rat which has inhabited the desk of George E. Nitzsche, recorder at the University of Pennsylvania, for several years, is seriously ill. A medical authority of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy today diagnosed "Caspar's" case as pneumonia. He has given the clever little animal three more weeks to live.

For several weeks the little snow-white animal has been wheezing and coughing. He seems in pain. He has no appetite and he is cranky and has forgotten all his playfulness.

"Caspar" was presented by an alumnus of the university to Mr. Nitzsche, after it had performed before countless thousands on the stage.

Ramsey Made Survey Draftsman

The Civil Service Commission announced the appointment today of Robert B. Ramsey, 1715 South Fifty-first street, as a structural draftsman in the Bureau of Surveys. The salary for this position is $1400 yearly, with a 20 per cent bonus.

Lightens work for Ma and keeps me well fed —says Bobby

POST TOASTIES

Amelita Galli-Curci
at the Metropolitan Opera House on Feb. 16

Titta Ruffo
at the Metropolitan Opera House on Feb. 25

Flonzaley Quartet
at the Masonic Temple on February 29

Hear these famous Victor artists!

Extraordinary interest attaches to the recitals of these great artists because of the double opportunity they afford the music-loving public.

It is a privilege in itself to hear these famous artists and added importance is given to the events in that they enable you to compare their exquisite interpretations with their Victor Records.

Attend the concerts of these artists and note the individual qualities that distinguish their renditions. Then go to any Victor dealer's and hear the Victor Records by the Flonzaley Quartet, by Galli-Curci, and by Ruffo. Note how faithfully their interpretations are portrayed on the Victrola.

It is because of this absolute fidelity that these artists make Victor Records; that the greatest artists of all the world are Victor artists.

Victrolas in great variety of styles from $25 to $1500. New Victor Records demonstrated at all dealers on the 1st of each month.

Victrola

Victor Talking Machine Co., Camden, N. J.

Home of Style and Economy

Silk Crepe de Chine Envelope Chemise, 2.98
Trimmed with laces. Satin ribbon straps. SECOND FLOOR

Hirsch's
923-25-27 MARKET STREET

Women's Thread Silk Hosiery at 1.85
Full fashioned—new spring shades. A limited quantity in black. STREET FLOOR

Sale of Spring Dresses

Never Before Equaled for Its Timeliness or Value Giving

Positive Values Up to $45.00
A saving of $10.00 and more on every dress.

$25

Dozens of Newest Spring Models
Correct in every detail of style and tailoring.

A Very Special Purchase
makes this event possible. We purchased 440 splendid new spring frocks at a price that is less than the actual wholesale cost. This will prove indeed welcome news to women who will want new spring frocks, and the saving is bound to make an economy appeal.

Choose from
BEADED GEORGETTES SHIMMERING SATINS
TAFFETAS FOULARDS ALL-WOOL SERGES
in all the new spring colorings, as well as pastel shadings.

Hundreds of different trimming effects too numerous to even describe.

We cannot urge you too strongly to make it a point to see these frocks tomorrow, for that will be the best way to convince yourself of the unusual value this special sale brings you.

HIRSCH'S DAYLIGHT THIRD FLOOR

1-4 OFF SALE
Of Our Entire Remaining Stocks of
Fur & Cloth Coats

Absolutely Without Reserve!
You Deduct From Present Reduced Prices
A 25 Per Cent Cash Discount!

Remember, every winter coat in stock has already been reduced, and it is from these reduced prices you make this cash reduction. We quote for example—

Women's Coats

All Present 25.00 Coats
Velours and silvertones in full-length models, also snappy sports coats. $18.75

All Present 32.50 Coats
Broadcloths, silvertones, velours, poplins, pompoms and tweeds in latest models. $24.37

All Present 39.75 Coats
Silvertones, velours, plushes and novelty mixtures. Fur trimmed and self-trimmed. $29.80

All Present 49.75 Coats
Broadcloths, silvertones, bolivias and velours, fur collers or self-trimmed models. $37.29

All Present 79.75 Coats
Tinseltones or bolivias with handsome fur trimmings or rich self trimmings. $59.80

All Present 89.75 Coats
Tinseltones, frostones, Yalama and bolivias with luxurious fur collars and cuffs. $67.29

Fur Coats

Our 57.50 Coney Coats
Taupe or Kolinsky coney—reversible border and bell shape sleeves. A popular sports model. $43.11

Our 125.00 Moline Coats
A snappy sports model with cuff, collar and border of rich black sealine. $93.75

195.00 Nutria or Seal Coats
Nutria, 36 inches long. Australian seal trimmed with Australian opossum. $146.25

495.00 Hudson Seal Coats
36-inch model with collar and cuffs or bell shape sleeves or beaver or skunk. $371.25

595.00 Hudson Seal Coats
45-inch models. Collar, cuffs and borders of Russian beaver or silky skunk. $446.25

695.00 Mink Dolmans
A rich luxurious garment of choicest skins—sloped and 45 inches long. $521.25

Children's, Infants' and Girls' Coats

Children's $5.00 Coats . . . $3.75
Of velvet—2 to 6 years.

Infants $5.00 Coats $3.75
Corduroy; smocked styles.

Girls' $7.50 Coats $5.63
Cheviots and velvets; 6 to 14 years.

Girls' $10.00 Coats $7.50
Of fine velours; 6 to 14 years.

Junior Girls' $14.98 Fur-Trimmed Velour Coats, $11.24

Women's Coats in Bargain Basement

Women's 5.00 Coats . . . $3.75	Women's 15.00 Coats . . $11.25
Women's 8.00 Coats . . . $6.00	Women's 17.75 Coats . . $13.50
Women's 10.00 Coats . . . $7.50	Women's 19.75 Coats . . $14.25
Women's 12.75 Coats $9.00	Women's 21.50 Coats $16.25
Women's 11.00 Coats . . . $8.75	Women's 29,75 Coats . . . $22.50

Lovely Dress Blouses
A wealth of models that will prove welcome to women desiring new thoughts in blouses. $5.00
—of Georgette Crepes
—of Crepes de Chine
Novelty beaded, embroidered and lace trimmed effects. New short-sleeve models. STREET FLOOR

Springtime Millinery
$10

There is a dash — a piquancy about our new millinery at this price that is truly out of the ordinary. The style touches are unusual. Choice of embroidered batavia cloths, rattia-trimmed models, Georgettes, satins and straws and numerous other styles. SECOND FLOOR

Bargain Basement

New Arrivals
Spring Dresses
Special at
$15 to 24.75

We counted fully 55 different models in this elaborate showing. Silks of every kind — trimmings that are considered correct. You must see this display to appreciate the values embraced.

Open a Personal Charge Account