

File No. 11264 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

8945

that I have been informed by the City Solicitor that the law passed by the last Legislature making it obligatory to pay all city laborers \$2.00 a day is at present in full force and effect.

This law affects this department so seriously that some radical measures will have to be taken to meet this condition. For the thirty-five weeks remaining in the current year, the Street Cleaning Division is affected to the amount of \$14,087.50; the Sanitary Division is affected to the extent of \$14,114.45. The Street Cleaning Division is affected by the increase of the pay of sweepers, but not the cartmen. The Sanitary Division is affected in the pay of the drivers of the sanitary carts and pay of stablemen and laborers.

It goes without saying that the garbage must be collected regularly, promptly and expeditiously to prevent disease and to keep the sanitary condition of the city in proper and normal state. The Board of Estimates made quite a large cut in the amount asked for for this work, and I do not see how we can dispense with a single sanitary cart without jeopardizing the work of this division.

Of the two evils, I, therefore, choose the lesser, and will make the entire saving in the Street Cleaning Division by having the whole division lose one day a week. The loss of this day by the sweepers will about make up the amount necessary to pay the extra compensation due the sweepers; the loss of one day a week by the street carts will about make up the amount necessary to pay the increase for the garbage cart drivers. It will, therefore, be necessary to transfer 33 garbage cart drivers to the Street Cleaning Division roll, or at least to charge their time as cartmen to the Street Cleaning Division. The other seven necessary to make good this amount can be charged on the machine roll as drivers of Sweeping Machines. This is in line with our conversation this morning and I have issued instructions for these changes to take effect from date?

Will you kindly reply to this letter and advise whether I have made myself clear and whether it meets with your approval?

Very truly,

(Signed) J. L. Wickes,

Commissioner.