

Baltimore Morning Herald
January 18, 1901

Only a Trifle Spent to Keep Streets Clean

Commissioner Iglehart's Report Says the Appropriation is Ridiculously Low—Advises That City Own Wagons and Horses Used in the Service

“In Baltimore the cost of street cleaning is 73 cents per capita. In Boston it is \$1.76 per capital; in New York it is \$1.36, and in Philadelphia 36 cents.” With this sentence as a text, Commissioner of Street Cleaning Iglehart, in his annual report, submitted to Mayor Hayes yesterday, indulges in a vigorous roast of the board of estimates for its action in cutting down the appropriation for his department.

“In presenting to the board an estimate of the amount of money needed for the ensuing year,” he said, “I have strongly urged the absolute necessity for a larger appropriation than that made last year, but, in spite of all my arguments, we were allowed \$37,611.93 less than was used in 1899, notwithstanding the large increase in population and in mileage of paved streets. By comparison of the cost of this department with that of similar departments in other large cities we obtain almost incredible results. For instance, in Baltimore the cost is 73 cents per capita; in Boston it is \$1.76 per capita; New York \$1.36; Philadelphia 96 cents.

“A careful study of these figures, I think, will convince anyone of the absurdity of the proposition to keep our streets and alleys in even a reasonably clean or sanitary condition. And more especially are we impressed with this fact when we consider the wretched paving of our streets and alleys, which are generally considered to be worse than those of any other city in the universe.”

Mr Iglehart recommends that the city own the horses and carts used in street cleaning work.

“I have estimated,” he says, “that we can buy an equipment of carts, harness and horses, equal in number to those in use at present, and vastly superior to them in every respect; also build and equip the necessary stables, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, for \$35,000. For \$70,000 per annum we can maintain and operate this branch of the service. With the interest on the outlay for equipment this would be a saving of over \$12,000.”

Speaking of the changes in the personnel of the department since he took charge, Mr. Iglehart says: “All employees are thoroughly impressed with the idea that the affairs of the department must be conducted in a thoroughly businesslike manner, and that a full day’s work will be demanded for a full day’s pay. I have endeavored wherever possible to make promotions, in filling vacancies, from the rank below, thereby creating the feeling that merit will be rewarded wherever it may be possible.”

The statistical portion of the report is summarized as follows:

Total number of loads of garbage collected and removed, 66,325; total number of loads of ashes, 198,643; total number of loads of street dirt, snow, sand and ice, 126,108; total number

of loads of all kinds collected and removed during the year, 441,076. Amount paid for removing and collecting garbage and ashes, \$163,761.11; collecting and removing street dirt, sand, snow, ice, &c., \$167,345.38; for salaries, \$14,994.45; for sprinkling and sweeping, \$23,053.81; for tools, repairs, &c., \$2,495.73; for the removal of garbage by scows, \$9,950. Amount received from the sale of refuse, &c., \$1,533.07.