

THE NECESSITY IS NOW.

It has been pointed out that there might be money at the command of the street cleaning department if it were not for the existence of large unnecessary expenses in other departments of the city government. But there is not the least bit of consolation in that in the present emergency, if the necessity of cleaning up must wait on the slow and altogether uncertain process of reform in other departments before it can be recognized by the authorities, no earthly power can tell when work will begin.

But no delay is necessary. If the reelection of the present officials depended upon putting a force of 200 men on the streets with hoes, shovels and teams tomorrow morning, the force would be found there bright and early. For more than six months past the same excuse has been heard, and there has been no time within that period that funds could not have been had with the proper effort on the part of the council to devise means to that end.

If there ever was a time when a concerted effort to the end of improving the sanitary condition of the city was more needed than now the oldest inhabitant has forgotten it. The filth can be easily removed while the ground is frozen, but when spring comes it will not be so. The accumulations, once leached into the soil, into pavements and inaccessible places, there it will fester throughout the summer, breeding disease if not pestilence. Then there will be no lack of ways and means to clean the city, but it will be too late.