

MUST NOT BE OPPRESSIVE.

City Counselor Rozzelle Gives the City Physician a Few Instructions.

The board of health has been greatly annoyed during the entire week by the importunities of householders who cannot see why they should be required to buy garbage cans if they have no garbage, or if they have such a small amount that it can be burned. To all of these the board has pointed to the ordinance passed by the council, which explicitly says that the occupant of each house, meaning each family in the city, shall purchase a garbage can. The board has declared that two or three families living in the same house, as in flats, cannot club together and buy one large can for common use, but has said that each family must have a can.

City Counselor Rozzelle yesterday instructed the city physician that the ordinance was not to be construed so stringently. The purpose of the ordinance was not to be oppressive, nor was it to be made the means of evading the requirements of the sanitary regulations of the city. If there were families who burned all their garbage, that was their own affair and they could not be required to get cans, and if they had no garbage to be disposed of they could not be required to purchase cans, which would be useless. In the hot weather there will be few families which will be able to burn all their garbage, but until nuisances are created by insufficient disposal of garbage the cans need not be bought.

The counselor also instructed the city physician to inform householders that if they desired to purchase finer and better cans than the ordinance called for, they could do so. The ordinance provides for galvanized iron cans of the grade of No. 24 iron. If anybody wanted to buy porcelain cans, they could do so. The ordinance was to be construed as prescribing the minimum grade. No cans inferior to those prescribed shall be bought, but those of a better quality may be purchased if desired.

The city counselor said that the effort of the city would be to strictly enforce the sanitary requirements of the city, but that there would be as little red tape about it as possible.

Contractor Skinner has ten wagons at work collecting the garbage from every ward in the city. Each wagon has made one load during each of the last two days. The contractor expects to have everything in good running order within two or three weeks, but he is complaining that not one family in a hundred has a garbage can and he has to do a great deal of fruitless hunting after the garbage.