

GARBAGE SIGNBOARDS.

Next the Contractor Will Have a Guide or Two—Some Calculations.

The action of the Board of Health in having printed 1,000 cards with the word "garbage" thereon for householders to use, to attract the attention of garbage collectors, is proving a source of much adverse criticism as well as ridicule. Why such placards should be necessary, if the garbage contractor complies with the terms of his contract is difficult to see. It is easy to see how it will assist him in avoiding his contract if he visits only those houses displaying the placards.

The plan of having householders hang out signs showing that they have garbage on hand was originated by City Physician Lewis. When he advanced the proposition at Wednesday's meeting of the Health Board Chief Speers laughed at the idea and asked why the cans wouldn't advertise the fact that garbage was being kept for the collector. The next thing the garbage contractor would want a guide post at the entrance of each alley pointing to the placards, and finally the collectors would have to be flagged by the householders themselves with a peculiar colored piece of bunting to attract their attention to the guide post. And if this idea was followed up householders would have to be provided with red lanterns to hang out on dark days, or burn Greek fire above their cans when they saw the collector approaching. Or they might use a revolver with blank cartridges to attract his attention. And if all these devices failed, then employ a lariat. All of these things Chief Speers did not say, but he suggested some of them.

Assistant Superintendent Waring coin-

Assistant Superintendent Waring coincided with the chief, but the motion to print the cards was carried. "We yielded," said Dr. Waring yesterday, "because it was said to be only in the nature of experiment. How useless it was and how it might assist the contractor in evading his contract may easily be seen by glancing over the terms of the contract. According to the ordinance under which the contract is made, collections must be made from all houses three times a week. If the contractor's collectors comply with this provision, cards would be unnecessary; if they do not, the hanging out of cards will only encourage them to skip houses where cards are not displayed. This would completely wreck the efficacy of the garbage system. Many people would very much dislike to mar the appearance of their premises with a huge garbage sign. If everyone hung out the placards the back alleys of Kansas City would present an extremely peculiar appearance, but how it would assist in the collection of garbage is hard to tell.

Contractor Skinner had on nineteen wagons yesterday and will employ two more today. He collected about 600 cubic feet of garbage. If he visited every house this would make about one-ninth of a pint of garbage furnished by each household. But if the contract was lived up to he visited only one-third of the houses, therefore the average collected was correspondingly greater.

Chief Speers estimates that there are 25,500 households in Kansas City. Nineteen wagons would have to be drawn around pretty quickly to cover 1,368 houses apiece every two days. This would be at the rate of about one a minute, counting twelve hours to the day, and considering the amount of work done would throw the record of Stock Inspector Barnett completely in the shade.

BUSINESS PICKING UP.