

IN HIS OWN BEHALF,

Garbage Contractor Skinner Presents His Side of the Case to the Assistant Sanitary Superintendent.

Garbage Contractor J. W. Skinner held a long conference yesterday with Dr. Waring, the assistant sanitary superintendent, and explained many matters in connection with the collection of garbage which were not quite clear to the board of health. If the board had some fault to find with Mr. Skinner the latter had some fault to find with the board, the principal one being the failure of the city to protect him against the persons who gather up the garbage indiscriminately without other authority than their own, selling the garbage collected to persons who have hogs to feed. An ordinance passed the council some time ago to license the collectors with the exception of the city contractor, but the mayor vetoed it for the reason that the ordinance could not be suspended after the garbage season closed, which is in November, and for the additional reason that the more garbage that was collected by other than city contractors the less it would cost the city. The contractor was thus abandoned, and he said yesterday he was losing money all the time. He said that he is doing his very best and has only fifteen complaints per day out of 15,000 houses; that is, only one house out of 1,000 is missed.

"I have to contend against all kinds of men in my employ. If I find a case of deliberate neglect, I give the driver a lecture, and if the offense is repeated I discharge him. I have discharged over 300 men since I have been doing this work. I have had over fifty men leave their wagons in the alley and go their way, and never hear of them again. Then another complaint which is frequently made is that persons speak to one of my drivers who is passing, and in nine cases out of ten it is a driver of some other ward than the one where he is accustomed. The ordinance expressly forbids the wagon assigned to one ward collecting from another ward, and the people get very mad because my drivers don't take their garbage in violation of the ordinance. Of course, there are many complaints well founded, but under all the circumstances, with irresponsible collectors taking the pick of the city, and with drivers who can not be managed, I think I do well to miss only one house out of a thousand."