

Rubbish Trucks

Date Requested:	7 July 2025
Date Provided:	16 July 2025

Request

When were trucks first used to collect rubbish and when were the oneman trucks first used please?



Council Response

Electric trucks, as opposed to horse drawn carts, were first used by Christchurch City Council to collect rubbish in 1915. According to the archived minutes of the Works & Sanitary Committee and Christchurch City Council the timeline is as follows:

- **11 March 1915** - The committee begins to look at using 'electric dust carts'
- **8 April 1915** - The committee considers the cost of using an 'electric motor' for rubbish collection
- **1 July 1915** - The take up Mr Harris' offer for a 2-month trial of an electric truck
- **26 August 1915** - The trial has been very successful, and they want to continue with the use of a truck
- **13 September 1915** - It is tabled to Council with a thorough comparison between the cost of using a horse versus a truck
- **By 1920** - It is also tabled to begin using electric trucks for nightsoil collection
- **By 1921** - Trucks are being used between nightsoil and rubbish where needed and new trucks have arrived for nightsoil

Regarding the number of workers that these early trucks required, we do not appear to have any reference regarding how many men were employed per truck for rubbish removal. From the report tabled to Council on 13 September 1915, on the second page, it breaks down the costs per truck. This cost breakdown lists wages as £150. Looking at the Statistics Yearbook for the year 1915 for 'general labourer' this equates to the wages for one man. You can see that report (under the section for 'Wages') at: [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1915](#)

In response to your question regarding our current one-manned Waste Management trucks, Christchurch City Council have contracts for both side arm and rear loader trucks.

The side arm trucks are single-manned and include lifting arms. These were in place for the new kerbside collection service which began on 2 February 2009. This was when the 3 wheelie bins were introduced – see press releases at [Expanded Christchurch Kerbside Service](#) and [Christchurch begins roll-out of wheelie bins for city's new Kerbside Collection](#). These trucks eliminated the need for runners and sorters on trucks.

Christchurch City Council still utilises some of the smaller rear loader trucks. These trucks require two people to operate.

Please find attached the relevant archival records.

4. RESIGNATION OF MRS. HART.
ATTENDANT AT LADIES' CONVENIENCE.

Mrs. Hart, Attendant at the Ladies' Convenience has tendered her resignation, which has been accepted.

The Committee is calling for applications to fill the vacancy and requests authority to make an appointment.

5. SPENCE AND ARCHER STREETS.

The Committee has carefully considered Messrs. Maher's and Hopping's offer to give a strip of land 7 feet deep along their frontages for the purpose of widening the above streets and it cannot recommend the Council to comply with the request.

These are private streets and the forming of them would materially enhance the value of the sections fronting thereon and the Committee is of opinion that the necessary expenditure should be borne by the owners of the land. If the owners are prepared to do the forming etc., to the satisfaction of the City Surveyor, the Committee would then favourably consider the question of taking the streets over.

A locality plan is attached.

6. EDISON BATTERY MOTOR.

The City Surveyor reports as follows:-

"I consider this is a very useful vehicle and well adapted for Municipal Work. I have used it collecting rubbish in St. Albans Ward and in running to the Marram Grass Reserve. As it has not yet a tipping body there is considerable less time lost in emptying it, but with this disadvantage it has been doing the work of two drays in collecting rubbish in St. Albans. To obtain the greatest advantage it can be used in long runs and must be filled quickly. I have tried it running tins to Bromley and it easily did the work of six single horse drays, making the trip at the rate of 10 miles per hour.

"For carting blinding and clinker from the Destructor I consider it will easily do the work of 4 or 5 drays and for collecting refuse from 2 to 3 drays, depending upon the rate at which it can be filled.

"I consider the vehicle will be a valuable addition to our plant, and that the trial has proved it to be very satisfactory. I recommend the Council to take it over at once. The price quoted to the Council by Messrs. Harris & Co. is £915, complete with a tipping body.

Clause 6 (Contd.)

"I attach hereto Mr. Stark's estimate for running the car
 "and my estimate for horse work, also Mr. Stark's letter about
 "the battery, and recommendation respecting an electrical tipping
 "apparatus in place of hand worked gear. It will be seen that I
 "estimate the saving on last year's feed prices at £35:0:0 per
 "annum if it is employed on work during which it is only doing the
 "work of two drays, and £234:15:0 if doing the work of three,
 "with a rapidly increasing difference if filled rapidly and used
 "for long runs.

"The following extracts from the Electrical Times will be
 "of interest:-

'The Electrical Times of February 18th, 1915, states
 '(inter alia) that Mr. G.B. Tomes, Surveyor to "Barnes" was
 'so satisfied with the working of two experiment electric
 'vans for dust collection that he recommended the Council
 'to adopt that method for dust collection. He estimated
 'the saving effected by two electric vans as compared to
 'horse work at £410 per annum.

'The same publication for May 20th, 1915, gives an
 'account of a recent meeting of the Dover Town Council
 'at which it was decided to purchase six electrically
 'driven wagons for the collection of house refuse. The
 'vehicles are to be equipped with Edison Accumulators
 'and will have a capacity of two tons, tipping being
 'operated automatically.

"At this meeting the Mayor stated that the saving
 'would be £1400 per annum over a present expenditure of
 '£7000.

ELECTRICAL WAGGON.

STATISTICS FOR TWELVE MONTHS.

(City Electrical Engineer's Estimate) Yearly

Electricity @ 2/6 per day	£40: 0: 0:
Garaging, cleaning, greasing, examination for defects and minor adjustments-----	£35: 0: 0:
Tyres, Est. 15000 to 20000 miles - 2 year's life-----	£21: 4: 0:
Grease, Oil, electricity to and distilled water	£11:17: 0:
Painting, brake shoes, maintenance	£15: 0: 0:
	£123: 1: 0:
Drivers Wages	£150: 0: 0:
Interest	£ 50: 0: 0:
Sinking Fund and Depreciation	£ 40: 0: 0:
	£363: 1: 0:
	=====

Estimated work 2 to 4 drays displaced and carting tins and
 other heavy traffic work once a week.

We can now do ordinary work in 5 days and have finished at
 4½ days.

Tipping arrangements can be arranged for motor gear to be
 operated by small switch.

Charging can be done between mid-night and 6 a.m. and if
 necessary with a noon boost.

WORKS AND SANITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT (Contd.)

Clause 6 Contd.

COST OF HORSE WORK.

(City Surveyor's Estimate)

For the year ending March, 31st, 1915.

Horses purchases ----- £346: 0: 0:
 Harness new and repaired ----- £186:16: 8:
 Paddock ----- £1466: 4: 1:
 Shoeing, veterinary, stables, wages,
 etc., including tight of paddocks £2826: 5: 1:
 £2826: 5:10:

Sale of horses ----- 66: 0: 0:

Average No. of horses $\frac{£2759: 5:10:}{60} = £45:19: 0: \text{ say } £46: 0: 0:$

ANNUAL COST OF HORSE WORK PER TEAM.

Annual cost of horse ----- £46: 0: 0:
 Tip dray and horse £35 @
 7% interest and sinking fund £ 2: 9: 0:
 Drivers' wages @ £2:18: 0:
 x 52 weeks ----- £150:16: 0:

£186: 5: 0:

COMPARISON BETWEEN ELECTRICITY AND HORSE WORK.

	Horse work	Electric Wagon	Difference per annum.
Cost of two drays with driver to each £189: 5: 0: =	£398:10: 0:	£363: 0: 0:	£35:10: 0:
Three drays with driver to each ----- =	£597:15: 0:	£363: 0: 0:	£234:15: 0:

9th September, 1915.

A. Dudley Dobson Esq.,

City Engineer,

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Sir,

Re/to the Motor Truck.

In my opinion the Edison storage battery as installed in the truck we have been using for rubbish is in perfect running order. This battery has some failings, one of the most important is that in other localities, (it does not apply here), where there is severe cold weather it will not give the mileage. The cold weather experienced here is not sufficient to make any trouble whatsoever. In comparison with the lead storage battery I deem the life to be from three to five times as long.

The cost of the replacement of the lead battery would be a new battery after three years use and as far as I can see the Edison battery will not have to be replaced before 12 or 15 years. The only thing that can happen to this battery is due to outside accidents which might mean the replacement of one or more of the cells, beyond this I do not anticipate any trouble provided it is given the ordinary attention in charging and in its use.

I beg to advise that we can make a self-tipping truck and I have under offer a low voltage series wound motor with reducing gearing at a cost of £5 for the motor and £5 for the gearing which could be attached to a type of rotary pump in such a manner that the tipping arrangement could be hydrolically controlled to be operated simply by throwing the motor switch on a 3-way valve controlling the dydrolie lift.

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Shoeing, veterinary, stables, wages,
etc., including tight of paddocks £826: 5: 1:

£2825: 5: 10:

Sale of horses ----- 66: 0: 0:

Average No. of horses £2759: 5: 10:
60 = £45: 19: 0: say £46: 0: 0: £2759: 5: 10:

ANNUAL COST OF HORSE WORK PER TEAM.

Annual cost of horse ----- £46: 0: 0:
Tip dray and horse £35 @
7% interest and sinking fund £ 2: 9: 0:
Drivers' wages @ £2: 18: 0:
x 52 weeks ----- £150: 16: 0:

£188: 5: 0:

COMPARISON BETWEEN ELECTRICITY AND HORSE WORK.

	<u>Horse work</u>	<u>Electric Wagon</u>	<u>Difference per annum.</u>
Cost of two drays with driver to each £109: 5: 0: =	£398: 10: 0:	£363: 0: 0:	£35: 10: 0:
Three drays with driver to each -----	= £597: 15: 0:	£363: 0: 0:	£234: 15: 0:

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WORKS AND SANITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT (Contd.)

4. AMENDMENTS TO "THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT".

3482
The Department of Public Health (44894) has written stating that it is proposed to introduce extensive alterations in Public Health Legislation during the coming season of Parliament if possible, and asking whether, for the sake of simplifying legislation it would not be better to remove from "The Municipal Corporations Act" all sections dealing with sanitary measures and embody them solely in "The Public Health Act"; also stating that it has been suggested in regard to the investigation and prevention of infectious disease that the powers at present in the hands of Hospital Boards should be re-transferred to Local Authorities.

The Committee recommends that the Department be informed that the Council is of opinion that the simpler method would be to group into one amendment in "The Municipal Corporations Act" all the powers possessed by a Borough relating to the public health and sanitation.

The Committee is also of opinion that the question of prevention of infectious diseases should be left in the hands of Hospital Boards or the Public Health Department made responsible, and Inspectors for this purpose should have authority to investigate with a view to tracing the source of an infectious disease. This cannot always be done by the City Inspectors whose authority ceases at the City boundary.

The Committee is of opinion that the condemnation of insanitary buildings should be placed entirely in the hands of either the Public Health Department or the Municipalities, the former for preference, but in any case the authority should not be divided as at present.

5. ELECTRIC TRUCK FOR REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

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With a view to providing for the removal of nightsoil when the Council undertakes to do this work, the Committee recommends that two electric trucks with one additional storage battery be purchased, the estimated cost being £4000.

6. METAL AND METALLING.

3394
3424
1393 cubic yards of metal and 463 cubic yards of screenings have been delivered since the 1st of April.

27 chains of water bound and 56 chains of tar macadam streets have been metalled since the 1st April.

7. STREET AND FOOTPATH TARRING.

3394
3424
107½ chains of streets have been tarred during the current year.

8. PROGRESS WORKS.

8394
8424
Metalling Moorhouse Avenue.
" Fitzgerald " "

Tar Macadamising Ferry Road - Linwood and Central, and Moorhouse Avenue.

Grading Tuam Street, Linwood
Forming and grading Eastern Terrace.

" Heaton Street Extension
" Anderson's Right-of-way.

His Worship the Mayor also stated -

EXEMPTION OF PORTION OF HOLLY ROAD
FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 117
OF "THE PUBLIC WORKS ACT, 1908".

3551

The New Zealand Gazette of the 21st ultimo contains an Order-in-Council exempting a portion of the northern side of Holly Road from the provisions of Section 117 of "The Public Works Act, 1908" subject to a building line condition.

NORTH LINWOOD AND AVONSIDE
WATER SUPPLY LOAN OF £17,000.

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3586

The New Zealand Gazette of the 11th instant contains a notice regarding the result of the Poll in connection with the North and Avonside Water Supply Loan of £17,000, and also the resolution making the Special Rate as security for the said Loan. The City Surveyor had informed him that the plans were ready for the work and tenders would be called this week.

EXEMPTION OF PORTION OF FORD ROAD FROM
THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 117 OF
"THE PUBLIC WORKS ACT, 1908".

3530

An Order-in-Council exempting that portion of the northern side of Ford Road lying between Hawford Road and the River Road abutting on the Heathcote River from the provisions of Section 117 of "The Public Works Act, 1908", appears in the New Zealand Gazette of the 11th instant.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Councillor Flesher's Notice of Motion will be submitted for consideration this evening.

SANITARY WORKS LOAN OF £7000.

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3569

The resolution making the Special Order to raise the Sanitary Works Loan of £7000 will be submitted for confirmation, and the resolution making the Special Rate as security for the Loan will also be submitted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT RE TRAMWAY TRACKS.

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3570

The Report of the Special Committee re Tramway Tracks and the letter from the Tramway Board which have been held over on two previous occasions will come up for consideration.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting will be held at 9 p.m. to commence proceedings to make Bylaw No. 5.

BRIDGE OF REMEMBRANCE.

The War Memorial Executive proposes to ask the Council after the revaluation of the City and when more income is available to build the underwork of the new Cashel Street Bridge on which it is proposed to build the Bridge of Remembrance.

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR REMOVAL OF REFUSE & NIGHTSOIL.

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3577

The new roadway has been constructed into the Chaney's Reserve and all arrangements are now ready for the inauguration of the new service of nightsoil removal in the unsewered portions of the City. The electric trucks have been on order for some time, but have not yet arrived.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - CITY SURVEYOR.

3527

The City Surveyor wishes to attend a conference of scientific men in Australia at the end of the year and desires leave of absence for the purpose. The Works Committee will consider the application at its next meeting.

4th. ORDER OF THE DAY -

Cr. Langley gave notice that he intended to move the following at the next meeting of the Council:-

POLL ON ACQUIRING TOWN HALL SITE
ON LAND BOUNDED BY VICTORIA, KILMORE
AND COLOMBO STREETS & VICTORIA SQUARE.

3521
3596

That this Council having twice carried a resolution "That a poll of the ratepayers be taken upon the question of acquiring all that parcel of land bounded by Victoria Street, Kilmore Street, Colombo Street and Victoria Square for the purpose of a Town Hall" that resolution be put into operation by having the necessary arrangements made for the taking of this poll forthwith.

WORKS AND SANITARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

1. HEAVY TRAFFIC:

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A Deputation from the Waimairi County Council waited on the Committee at its last meeting with reference to Traction Engine Traffic.

The Deputation stated that the Waimairi County Council was desirous of having a road set apart for the use of traction engines.

The Deputation stated that the Waimairi County Council had recently spent £1000 in carrying out repairs to the Empire Bridge, and pointed out that the Traction Engines were already considerably damaging the tarred macadam top of the Bridge. They suggested that the license fee of £15 charged by the Council should be considerably increased and apportioned amongst the several adjoining Local Authorities. The Committee is of opinion that a Conference of

The Committee is of opinion that a Conference of Local Bodies adjacent to the City should be held with a view to coming to some arrangement.

2. REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL:

The Electric trucks for the removal of nightsoil have arrived. Wooden bodies will have to be built and a metal tank provided to carry the nightsoil. The Committee recommends that tenders be invited for carrying out this work. The estimated cost is £440. The money is payable out of Loan but the loan has not yet been realised. The work is of such an urgent nature that it cannot stand over.

3. ELECTRIC TRUCK USED FOR COLLECTION OF REFUSE:

This truck has been in constant use since July, 1915, and has been subject to very severe trials, especially when it was used for demonstration purposes. It is now necessary to overhaul the battery and replace any dead cells, the total cost being estimated at £330. The Committee recommends that the Electricity Department be requested to do the work.

The truck has travelled 29,033 miles and the total running cost including interest and depreciation, works out at 17.05 pence per mile which is considered very satisfactory.

4. DUPLICATION OF TRAMWAY TRACKS - BEALEY AVENUE:

The Tramway Board intends to lay another line in Bealey Avenue and wishes to alter the kerbing and side channel at the corner of Bealey Avenue and Colombo Street and Bealey Avenue and Barbadoes Street to correspond with the curve of the Tramway Track, and the Sub-Committee has approved of the alterations being made.

5. CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEES:

The Committee regrets that complaints have been received regarding the frequenting of hotels and drinking by employees during working hours.

Notices have been placed in the several yards stating that any employee found under the influence of liquor during working hours will be instantly dismissed.

6. METAL AND METALLING

14106 cubic yards of metal and 7640 cubic yards of screenings have been delivered since the 1st April.
509 chains of water-bound and 144 chains of tarred macadam streets have been metalled since the 1st April.

8th April, 1915.

CITY SURVEYOR'S REPORT TO THE WORKS COMMITTEE.

ELECTRIC MOTOR FOR DUST COLLECTION:

Mr. Stark estimates the cost of a three ton truck at £1350 and 2/- per day for the cost of power. It is difficult to say what the saving in cost of collection would be until a trial was made under the new conditions, but as 50% of the time in the suburbs is now taken in travelling with small loads I am of opinion that at least 50% will be saved on each cart at present at work. As a three ton truck would probably do the work of three drays the saving should be at least equal to the wages of three men, say £420 per annum. As against this there would be the cost of interest sinking fund and depreciation on a much greater ^{capital} expenditure of £1350 as against £224, but even making full allowance for this there should be a considerable saving.

2. SANDWICH ROAD:

I estimate the cost of completing the asphaltting in Sandwich Road at £100 for 40 chains. There is no provision on the estimates for this work.

3. CHANNEL, CATHEDRAL SQUARE:

The alteration of footpath and channel at the rear of the Cathedral will be put in hand as soon as the Tramway Board have moved back the poles to suit the new line of kerbing.

4. GENERAL:

In addition to the ordinary services of scavenging and dust and refuse collection the following works have been carried out in the various Wards:-

CENTRAL:

General maintenance has been carried out in Moorhouse
Acton Street. Walker Street

Memoranda for the Works Committee.

Electric Dust Carts.

His Worship the Mayor suggests that the Works Committee should ask the Electric Light and Power Committee to furnish it with a report on the question of electric dust carts.

Dust Abatement Plant.

Regarding the settlement with the Tramway Board for the Dust Abatement Plant: after careful inquiry I find that the original cost of the Plant was ----- £7101: 9: 1

Cost of having rotary sprinkler fitted to each sprinkler ----- £318: 0: 5

Less 2 compressors and other parts now obsolete ----- 222:19: 9 95: 0: 8
£7196: 9: 9

Less 2 wooden sprinklers scrapped ----- 295:18: 5

Leaving nett cost of Plant on 18th February, 1915, Expiry date of Contract ----- £6900:11: 4

Less one-third depreciation, which is ----- 2300: 3: 9

Present value of plant ----- £4600: 7: 7

Therefore the Council's share of this is £2300: 3:10. It is however, possible that there may be some further adjustment to be made in connection with the wooden sprinklers, and I recommend that the sum of £2300:3:10 be added in settlement of the Contract, subject to any such adjustment.

(Sgd.) HY. R. SMITH,

Town Clerk.

1st July, 1915.

Present:- Cra. Otley (Chairman) Cooper, Millar, Peek, Sullivan, Williams, Beanland, His Worship the Mayor and the Chief Clerk.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Accounts as per list attached were passed for payment.

CLAUSE 1 METAL AND METALLING was received.

CLAUSE 2 STREET AND FOOTPATH TARRING was received.

CLAUSE 3 GENERAL WORK was received.

CLAUSE 4 ELECTRIC WAGGONS - MR. HARRIS' OFFER.

Resolved to recommend the Council to purchase the waggon provided it proves satisfactory after a two month's trial, the Council to pay the cost of the driver's wages and fair wear and tear during the trial.

CLAUSE 5 SPENCE AND ARCHER STREETS was received.

Resolved to decline the offer of Messrs Maher & Hopping (Letter 33749)

CLAUSE 6 APPLICATIONS FOR POSITION OF FOREMAN OF SYDENHAM WARD, was received.

A ballot was taken of the applicants for the position, the result being as follows:-

No.6	H Crowley ----	3
No.16	J Kay-----	6
No.17	J R Roots----	2
No.19	M J Ryan-----	4
No.20	J Russell----	4
No.21	N E Sewell---	2

On a second ballot being taken, the following was the result:-

No.16	J Kay-----	3
No.19	M J Ryan-----	3
No.20	J Russell-----	1

On a ballot being taken between Messrs. Kay and Ryan, Kay received the largest number of votes.

Resolved that J. Kay be appointed to the position.

The Chief Inspector's Report was read as attached and received.

REMIT RE SUBDIVISION OF LAND.

Letter (33899) from the Gisborne Borough Council asking the City Council to support a remit which they are forwarding to the Municipal Conference in regard to the subdivision of land for sale.

The letter was held over.

ELECTRIC MOTOR WAGGON.

Letter (33903) from the Gisborne ^{Borough} City Council forwarding copy of report of the Tramway Manager giving information in regard to the battery driven cars.

Road Richmond, Marlborough Street, St. Asaph Street, Ferry Road.
The broom has been grabbed in Banks Avenue. General
maintenance in Tancred Street and Hereford Street.

ELECTRIC WAGONS: MR. HARRIS' OFFER:

The report of Mr. Cross, Manager of the Gixborne
Tramways is laid on the table.

It appears from his evidence and also from that of Mr.
Holland, the Agent for the Anderson Electric Car Company,
that electric cars are now coming into extensive use for
Municipal Work. In view of the very high price of horse feed
I think it would be desirable to give Mr. Harris' offer
to supply a car every consideration. I believe a very
considerable saving could be effected with a larger and
quicker vehicle than the horse carts.

SPENCE AND ARCHER STREETS:

These streets have not in my opinion been legally
taken over by the Council. They will both cost a very
considerable sum to form as the ground is lower than Flockton
Street and Shirley Road.

To get the water off the land as at present pipes will
have to be laid from the Flockton Street Drain nearly dead level
and the road will have to be filled up. It will cost as much
as the land is worth to form metal channel and asphalt these
two streets.

Applications for the post of Sydenham foreman
are laid on the table.

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CITY SURVEYOR'S REPORT TO THE WORKS COMMITTEE.

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A. DUDLEY DOBSON

CITY SURVEYOR.

Comm has

541

for the cover against damage to wearing apparel the premium would be, for a cover of £50, -25.

Resolved to reply that the Committee cannot see its way to recommend the Council to take any action in the matter at present.

CONTROL OF PARK ROADS.

Letter (44765) from the Paparua County Council stating that it approves of the suggestion that the control of the Park Roads be vested in the Christchurch City Council.

Letter (44765) from the Riccarton Borough Council stating that it endorses the City Council's letter of the 15th April, 1920, re control of the Park Roads.

The letters were received.

FOOTPATH ON STAPLETON'S ROAD.

Letter (46002) from T. Conibear & Others asking that the footpath on the east side of Stapleton's Road be improved.

Resolved that the City Surveyor be instructed to have some ashes placed on the footpath and to inform the owners of the land fronting Stapleton's Road that if they desire that the footpath be asphalted the Council will carry out the work provided they contribute the sum of 6d. per lineal foot of their frontage towards the cost.

COMPLAINT RE SIDE CHANNELS.

Letter (41103) from the Beckenham Residents Association stating that they find the trouble with the street channels and sumps is chiefly caused by the low level of the side channels.

The matter was referred to the City Surveyor for a report.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF METAL.

Letter (44894) from the Glenmore Brick and Tile Manufacturing Company stating that they will have to increase the price of metal to meet the rise of wages; the increase being 4½d. per cubic yard.

Resolved that the City Surveyor look into the matter.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Letter (44894) from the Chief Health Officer asking for suggestions for amendment to the Public Health Act.

The Chief Inspector's Report hereon was read.

The Town Clerk submitted a draft letter which he proposed to send to the Chief Health Officer and it was approved.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

Letter (42726) from the Christchurch Drainage Board stating that it cannot do anything in the matter of disposal of nightsoil.

The letter was received.

Resolved that the City Surveyor interview the Engineer and also ask the Drainage Board if it has any objection to the Council carting the nightsoil and tipping it into one of the Septic Tanks or a receptacle in the vicinity and the Council would pump it into one of the Septic Tanks.

ELECTRIC TRUCK FOR REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

Resolved to recommend that two electric trucks, with an additional storage battery, be purchased for the removal of nightsoil, the total cost to be about £4000.

DRIVERS' WAGES.

Report from the City Surveyor re drivers' wages was read as per attached.

The report was approved, the increase to take place as from the date the Council agreed to the increase in wages.

Read and confirmed.

W. Williams

Chairman.

June 16 1920

THE CITY SURVEYOR'S REPORT TO THE WORKS COMMITTEE:

28th September, 1921.

Sanitary Work:

Arrangements have been made that Mr. Howard cease work on the night of Friday, 21st October, but I understand that Mr. Dobson arranged with him to be ready to assist the Council until the end of the month in case of a breakdown, and to be paid for the remaining days in that month.

The road at Chaney's is being widened in places where necessary and the surface covered with ashes. When rolled it will be ready for use.

Before this service can be started, the following will require to be carried out:

(a) Hide curtains, cushions and footboards to waggons	£20: 0: 0
(b) Tank Stand £25; Ram and water connections to tanks and from tanks to washing place £45; 120 ft. of 1" Rubber Hose and couplings £5; Tanks £10	£85: 0: 0
(c) Slop-ping and levelling sand-hills to receive nightsoil, (in hand). sand, Spreydon St.	25: 0: 0
(d) Lighting Roadway, Electricity Department's Estimate	137: 0: 0
(e) Wooden chute to carry nightsoil from truck to trench	3: 0: 0
Total	£273: 0: 0

With reference to lighting (see Item d.) this estimate includes running a wire and connecting up to Balmairi County Council's Lighting Circuit at the junction of North Rd. and Spencervill Road with all poles, wire and six electric lights complete.

Alternative lighting could be effected by the use of two portable batteries placed at given positions on roadway from which the electric lights could be generated. These would cost £87, but the permanent lighting is more preferable.

The following staff will be required to carry out the work of collection and disposal at Chaney's:

- 1 Ganger in charge of collection.
- 4 Collectors.
- 2 Motor Drivers with mechanical knowledge of Electric Trucks.
- 1 Man at Chaney's to bury the nightsoil.

As these men, with the exception of the labourer, do not come under the scope of my awards I shall be pleased if the Committee will fix the rate of pay. It will be necessary to insure these men against accident.

DAY WORK FOR TRUCKS:

The two sanitary trucks will be available for a certain period during the daytime, and I would recommend that they be used for the rubbish collection in the outlying wards, such as Spreydon, St. Martins, Opawa and Beckenham-Fisherton.

No. 1 RUBBISH TRUCK USED FOR ST. ALBANS RUBBISH COLLECTION:

The ^{batteries} on this truck are not giving satisfaction, and owing to their failure it is necessary to employ the use of drays to cope with the work. (See Mr. Hitchcock's report). I would suggest that his recommendation be carried out.

WORK DONE AT SHINGLE PIT, SPREYDON:

The following gives the total number of hours worked and shingle and sand washed by men employed in the pit:

The total number of yards of shingle and sand washed is 196 cubic yards. The total number of working hours I cannot ascertain as the men were paid by the yard.

Morrow and Masters the men who complained, washed 95 yds. in 87 days which equals 54 yds. per day or 10/6 per day in actual money.

Linwood	281	
SPREYDON	141	
Linwood	284	
UNEMPLOYED:	290	

Men are employed on the following works:
Washing shingle and sand, Spreydon Pit.
Forming Frankley Street Extn., Spreydon.
Cleaning Bricks, Canterbury Hall.

METAL SHEET		Water Bound	Tar Macadam
Central	The following is the amount expended to date:		
Spreydon	Central Ward (Canterbury Hall Site)	195: 6: 3	
Spreydon	" (Washing Shingle)	15: 12: 0	
Linwood	" (General)	135: 4: 10	
	169 Chs.	25 Chs.	2346: 3: 1

HAYFORD ROAD WIDENING:

This work is in hand; the widened portion of the road has been graded and the footpath formed. 8 chs. of fender boarding etc. is in ready for laying the kerbing and channelling.

Linwood	60	180
	240 chs.	565 Chs.

DURHAM STREET:

The portion of this street between Armagh Street and Victoria Street is in bad repair. I would suggest that this be lightly sheeted with tar macadam. 120 cubic yards of tarred metal will be necessary. I would recommend that the work be done; it will take about 200 cubic yards of metal.

RHODES STREET WIDENING:

The footpaths and widened portion of roadway are formed and channelled. The asphaltting of the pathway and metalling will be proceeded with as soon as the telegraph poles are moved to their new position.

Forming Frankley Street, Spreydon.
Washing Shingle and Sand, Spreydon Pit.

STONE YARD, EDGEWARE ROAD:

The boundary fences of this yard are very dilapidated. As it would cost a considerable sum of money to re-erect same, I should be pleased to have the Committee's instructions on the matter.

Grading
Clearing
Widening Hayford Road, Upawa.
Widening Rhodes Street.
Metalling Lincoln Road, Spreydon.
Renovating Caretaker's Quarters, Council Chambers.
Regrading

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**"ADVERTISING CARS."
COUNCILLOR SCOTT AND ELEC-
TRICAL ENGINEER.**

ALLEGATIONS REPEATED.

A CHORUS OF PROTEST.

"I would like to refer," said the Mayor last night, "to a statement made in open Council a fortnight ago by Councillor Scott. I do not suppose that Councillor Scott meant it when he said that the engineer had no time to give him a report he had asked for, and yet had time to go about selling motor-cars. A good many citizens think it strange that we should employ an officer for that purpose, and I think the statement has done harm."

"I said advertising motor-cars," said Councillor G. Scott, "and I still stick to that."

**"ADVERTISING
CARS."**

Lyttelton Times, Volume CXVI,
Issue 16925, 3 August 1915, Page
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"I do not think advertising motor-cars is quite the proper expression," said Councillor A. S. Taylor, chairman of the Electricity Committee. "The committee and the Council are endeavouring to make use of the current during the night hours by establishing a trade in charging electric vehicles, and with that end in view he should be glad to see one or two firms getting a start, especially in carrying vehicles. In Chicago a large number are being used. However, I will not labour that point. With that end in view, I know the engineer has tried to influence several firms in that direction. The only electric vehicle in Christchurch is an Edison storage battery truck, which is now being tested as a rubbish cart, but as the result of the interest raised in it one other firm is ordering an electric motor-car, not from that company, but from Australia. We are merely advertising our desire to push on our business."

"I think," replied Councillor Scott, "that the engineer has plenty of work to do without advertising these things. I know of one firm he approached, and in fact several of them, and in one case he was ordered out of the room."

The electrical engineer, who was present during the discussion, rose apparently to contradict this statement, but sat down again without speaking.

"I think he has plenty of work to do," continued Councillor Scott, "instead of running about selling a motor-car for the sake of getting a few units of current sold. I think it is quite out of place. If you want those motor-cars on the market get an agent to do it and not an engineer. An engineer getting a salary like he is getting should not have done it. When we are told by him that £150,000 will not complete the work, and when we have only £125,000 voted at the present time, he should be at home studying his work instead of trying to increase the sale of a motor car."

Councillor D. G. Sullivan said that Councillor Scott had spoken in the most severe terms of the engineer, who could not reply; but even if he had made an attempt to do business along the lines suggested he had acted, he was certain in accordance with what he deemed to be the interests of his department. He would like to know from the chairman if the engineer had been engaged on the work without the committee's knowledge.

"Councillor Scott knows as well as the other members of the committee," said Councillor Taylor, "that the engineer reported on this matter of electric traction and the committee approved of it. Councillor Scott knows that the more we can fill up that night load the better we shall be off. I know that the very high load factor in Christchurch is the subject of great admiration from engineers in other parts of New Zealand. I am sure the engineer was acting with the idea of introducing one or two of these vehicles to get the thing started."

"I must emphatically protest," said Councillor Hayward "against the in-

terpretation placed on the engineer's action. I do not think it is fair, because the engineer has no right of reply. As a member of the committee I consider the engineer has worked very hard and strenuously to put the thing on a solid footing, particularly when you take into consideration the position in which he found the system. This misinterpretation of the action of an energetic employee is greatly to be deplored, and he should be protected against it."

"I am amazed at Councillor Scott's statement," said Councillor H. F. Herbert. "He seems to use every means in his power to discredit our engineer; not only Mr Stark, but the late engineer, who was not capable according to Councillor Scott, and now he charges Mr Stark with going round and selling motor-cars. I protest against this going out to the public. The words used have already done much harm, and it is a shame to make such statements before inquiring into the matter."

Councillor J. O. Jameson said that he had every confidence in the ability and integrity of the engineer. He had sat next to Councillor Scott at the previous meeting and could certify that he had said "selling cars," not advertising them.

The Mayor said that in mentioning the matter he had thought that Councillor Scott in the heat of debate had let slip the statement without a thought. It seemed to be a serious charge to make against a responsible officer, and he had hoped that Councillor Scott would withdraw or modify it.

"I do not intend to modify it," said Councillor Scott. "and I can bring evidence to substantiate what I have said."

"I protest," said Councillor J. Reynolds, "against Councillor Scott's action at the last meeting, when he denied making an attack on the engineer. It would be interesting to know what language he would use when he was really making an attack on a person."

The matter then dropped.

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CITY COUNCIL. FORTNIGHTLY MEETING.

The Christchurch City Council met last night; present—the Mayor (Mr H. Holland), and Councillors J. M'Combs, M.P., W. H. Cooper, J. R. Hayward, J. Renyolds, A. M. Loasby, G. Scott, H. Hunter, J. M'Cullough, H. J. Otley, W. Miller, F. Burgoyne, A. S. Taylor, J. W. Beanland, A. Morten, A. Williams and H. B. Sorensen.

ABATTOIR AND RESERVES COMMITTEE.

The Abattoir and Reserves Committee reported that the painting of the mortuary chapel and the waiting-room at the Sydenham Cemetery had been completed, and a new cattle-proof fence erected on the eastern side of the approach to the cemetery. Posts and rails had been fixed at the places where wheel traffic made a practice of taking short cuts under the trees in Bealey Avenue. Soil was being prepared for top-dressing some of the bare parts in Sydenham Park, and a good dressing of artificial manure would be given before the winter set in. The head gardener had made arrangements to assist in lifting and re-laying the turf for the electric underground cable across the park. Rabbits were doing a considerable amount of damage to some of the trees on the Bottle Lake Reserve, and the committee recommended that rabbit-proof netting should be hung on the fence that surrounded the recently planted part. This would more than save one year's planting, and would last for several years.

The report was adopted.

ELECTRICITY COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL.

**Lyttelton Times, Volume CXVI,
Issue 16829, 13 April 1915, Page
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The Electric Light and Power Committee reported that, with a view to an earlier supply to the Sydenham district from the Sydenham Park sub-station, arrangements with the Government for the supply of energy from the overhead lines to the district of Cashmere had been completed, and also with the Waterworks Department for the transformer station to be located within the pumping station building. A start had been made on the connecting line, together with the lay-out for transformer and switch device. The direct current supply to the district was already very much overloaded. Work had been started on the Sydenham sub-station supply feeder, and was expected to be finished in a few days. The Department had tested a large number of both D.C. and A.C. meters, and installed 107 D.C. and 37 A.C. meters. In addition, 261 maximum demand indicators had been tested and 45 installed.

The electrical engineer had obtained permission to purchase the following quantities of cable as a temporary supply, pending the arrival of cable under contract:—Silvertown Rubber Company—Six miles of 7-18 at £28 per mile, six miles of 7-16 at £42 15s per mile; Brown Bros.—Ten miles of 7-20 at £18 per mile, nine miles of 7-18 at £29 8s per mile; National E. and E. Company—Five miles of 7-18 at £28 10s per mile, four miles of 7-16 at £43 12s per mile. During the past fortnight twenty-one new service connections had been made. Mains had been erected in Montreal Street South and on both sides of Bealey Avenue from east to west. Five steel poles had been purchased from the Tramway Board at £11 each to complete the lighting in Cathedral Square. The Board's stock of brackets had also been purchased at £1 each. The committee had much pleasure in stating that the service from Lake Coleridge was giving every satisfaction. The electrical engineer reported that the service was remarkably steady, and so far the best that he had met with in his experience.

The report was adopted.

RUBBISH COLLECTION TRUCK.

The Works and Sanitary Committee reported that the electrical engineer estimated the cost of a three-ton truck

estimated the cost of a three-ton truck for rubbish collection at £1350, and it could be run at 2s per day for power. The City Surveyor stated that it would be difficult to say what the saving in cost of collection would be until a trial had been made, but as 50 per cent of the time in the suburbs was now taken in travelling to and from the Destructor, he was of opinion that a considerable saving would be made on each cart at present at work. A three-ton truck would probably do the work of three drays, and the Surveyor estimated the saving at about £420 per annum. Against this would have to be set the interest, sinking fund and depreciation on the capital cost of £1350, but, making full allowance for this, there should be a considerable annual saving on one truck. The committee recommended the council to place a sum on the estimates for the purchase of a truck during the current year. Tenders should be invited as quickly as possible, as it would take several months before a truck could be brought into operation. The committee had written to the Public Works Department calling attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which the surfaces of electric cable trenches had been left.

The report was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The By-laws Committee reported that the portion of North Avon Road from Dudley Creek northwards had been named North Parade. The Public Works Department had agreed to the exemption of Short Street from the provisions of the Act in relation to the building line. As the result of representations to the police, thirty-one convictions had been secured against cyclists using the pathway through Cranmer and Latimer Squares.

The tender of E. J. Ruddick at £75 was accepted for entrance gates at Beckenham Park.

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ELECTRIC TRACTION.

THE TWO-TON RUBBISH TRUCK.

A MONEY-SAVING PURCHASE.

The Works Committee recommended the City Council last night to purchase the two-ton Edison storage battery truck, which has been on trial for nearly two months, as a rubbish collector. The price quoted by the owners, Harris and Co., is £915 with a tipping body, which has yet to be fitted.

The city surveyor reported that the truck had been doing the work of two rubbish collecting drays at St Albans, and of six drays in running longer distances to the marram grass reserve, making the trip at ten miles an hour. For carting blinding and chalker from the destructor it would easily do the work of four or five drays. If engaged on work where it was only doing the work of two drays it would lead to an annual saving of £35, and on the work of three drays £284, with a rapidly increasing saving if used on long distances and filled rapidly.

Estimates were put in by the electrical engineer that the electric waggon would cost £363 a year, and by the city surveyor that two drays would cost £398, or three drays £597.

It was agreed to purchase the truck.

ELECTRIC TRACTION.

Lyttelton Times, Volume CXVI,
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Page 3

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