

Municipal Facts—City of El Paso

Ashes, garbage, waste, refuse, etc., are collected by this department, and hauled to either the disposal plant, or dumps. Ashes and garbage are separately collected. About 24 Mexican laborers and 8 trucks are engaged in this work. The collection vary between 120,000 to 180,000 pounds per day and garbage is gathered over an area of 14 square miles. It is planned by the department to cover the entire city three times weekly.

This department was recently motorized, resulting in reducing the help from about 55 to 24 men and enabling the department to cover the city three times a week instead of two.

All garbage collections from homes and residence districts are done free of charge.

Corral, Warehouse and City Shop.

On the municipal property located at the intersection of the Magoffin Avenue and Lee Street the city has centralized its warehouse and its various shops.

The entire property, consisting of several acres, is inclosed in an eight foot solid rock fence, making the city's business within its walls exclusive, and the passerby hardly realizes the extent of the activities within.

On this property are the city warehouse, the city gasoline filling station, the city automobile and machine shops, the city stables and corral, the city veterinary hospital, the harness shop and the wagon and blacksmith shop.

The city warehouse in which is carried stores amounting from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00, is a substantially built structure of brick and reinforced concrete and is considered the best built warehouse in the city. Its capacity is 75 to 100 carloads of supplies such as handled and used by the city, viz: cast iron and wrought iron pipe, automobile tires and accessories, sewer pipe, fittings of all kinds, hay and grain, water meters, pig lead, machinery, castings, tools, brooms, etc., and a general stock of various items required by the different departments. The warehouse is in charge of a custodian who is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all supplies handled, which stock is bought by the city purchasing agent. Issues from the warehouse are made on requisitions signed by departmental heads. An average of 15 to 20 per cent of the city's total purchases pass through the warehouse, the remaining 80 to 85 per cent being bought through the purchasing agent's office and delivered direct to the departments, thereby saving the city much expense and detail.

The gasoline filling station is a time and money saver for the city. The station is complete and modern, furnishing the city's equipment with gasoline, lubricating oils and air both night and day. The whole system works with clock like precision; the automobiles and lighter equipment filling during the day at designated hours and the trucks and heavier cars are filled during the night and made ready for the drivers the following morning. The time heretofore lost by the city's equipment, which numbers about 100 automobiles, motorcycles and trucks, in driving to and waiting for attention at public filling stations, is now saved. In addition to the saving in time, there is also a substantial saving made by buying gasoline in large quantities.

The automobile and machine shops are in charge of experts who look after and keep in running order the city's automobiles, motorcycles and trucks, which is by no means the city's smallest task. The shop is equipped with the latest and most improved machinery and tools, making it possible to handle the job, no matter how large or how small.

The construction of the city stables and corral is fireproof, being of reinforced concrete. Here the city's teams are cared for by experienced help. The horse drawn equipment owned by the city is steadily decreasing due to the gradual motorizing of the different departments, and within a few months it is probable that the city will be completely motorized.

The veterinary hospital is under the care

and supervision of an experienced veterinarian, and the city has a record of never having lost a horse or mule from accident or sickness, due to its excellent facilities for taking care of its stock.

The harness shop is apparently an unimportant department, but it is here that "A stitch in time saves nine," and much money is saved by the city in the proper care and upkeep of its harness. The shop is electrically equipped and strictly modern.

In the wagon and blacksmith shop, wagons are built, and kept in repair. The shop is equipped to perform any work in the blacksmithing and woodworking line. All of the stock, both horses and mules, are scientifically shod by the city's experts. So long as the city maintains its horse drawn equipment this department is relatively as important as the automobile and machine shop.

Water Department.

The Superintendent of the Water Department is appointed by the Mayor and Council. His salary is \$3600 per year. The entire operation and maintenance of the Water Works Department is under his immediate supervision. There are forty employees on the monthly pay roll in this department, in addition to from 126 to 250 laborers on the weekly pay roll. This department represents an investment by the city of over two million dollars. It supplies the city with from four to eight million gallons of water daily.

All the water used in the city is metered. The rate for metered water within the city limits is 22½¢ per 1000 gallons, with a minimum charge of \$1.25 per month. The rate until recently was 25 cents per 1000 gallons.

Rates charged for water in El Paso are due and payable at seven different periods during the month corresponding to one of the seven districts in which you live. This enables an even distribution of the office work over the month.

Department of Cleaning the Streets and Caring for the Parks.

The work comes under the direct supervision of the Street Commissioner and Park Commissioner. Both commissioners are appointed by the council. The cleaning of about 90 miles of paved streets is done by about thirty-two push cart men and a vacuum sweeper. After heavy rains it is necessary to put on an extra gang to clean up sand. Normally three trucks and four teams are used in the street department. Before motorizing about twenty-two teams were used. Motorizing enabled a 30 per cent saving in operating costs.

The Park Commissioner directs from 30 to 60 laborers and keepers in caring for 87 acres of improved park. In addition to this the city has about 70 acres of unimproved park. The total value of El Paso's parks is \$2,074,950. A list of the parks and their value appears below:

San Jacinto Plaza	\$1,045,000
Carnegie Square	390,000
Cleveland Square	212,600
Mundy Park	41,500
Houston Square	74,700
Newman Park	16,600
Austin Park	4,800
Alamo Park	27,400
Washington Park	172,000
Depot Park	30,000
Doniphan Park	6,000
Madeline Park	Donated
Scenic Point	16,600
Wescott Park	
Castle Heights Park	37,750
	<u>\$2,074,950</u>

In addition there are undeveloped areas intended for parks and others are contemplated in the near future.

There are 50 blocks of parked streets and a scenic drive three miles in length around the point of Mount Franklin is under construction.

Department of Health.

The executive officer of the Board of Health is the Commissioner of Health, who is appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor also appoints a Board of Health, consisting of five members. This Board acts in an advisory capacity to the health officer. It enacts the sanitary code, and special health rules. In case of an epidemic, the Department of Health has wide scope of authority and power. The work of the department falls under the sanitary and health committee of the council.

The health department also has general supervision over contagious diseases. Cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, small-pox, typhus, etc., are reported to and quarantined by the health officers. The diseases most prevalent during the last twelve months was chicken pox, 52; measles, 41; scarlet fever, 45; diphtheria, 51. Under the supervision of the health department a pest house is maintained, where all small-pox cases are kept at the city's expense. Last year there were only thirty-seven small-pox cases with one death—while in previous years they numbered between 300 and 500 per year. The number of vaccinations made during the last twelve months was 6104 which work is responsible for the low number of small-pox cases.

The health department also has a division on food inspection, engaged in making milk, dairy slaughter house, bakery and restaurant inspections. The city sets up certain milk standards, and when dairies fail to reach this standard, they are marked unsatisfactory. Restaurants, bakeries, meat markets, ice cream parlors and fruit stores are also graded by the Health Inspector. The amount of meat condemned by the health department during the last year was 25,872 pounds. The amount of fruit condemned during this period of time is 2093 pounds, while 9,000 cans of fruit was condemned.

Another division in the health department is engaged in enforcing the tenement house ordinances. This division inspects lodging houses, tenement houses, and when conditions are found contrary to the tenement house ordinance, such as congested living conditions, insufficient plumbing, light and ventilation, orders are given to remedy conditions. This division has power through the Board of Health to condemn, and confiscate tenement houses, which do not conform to the provisions in the tenement house ordinance. The number of rooms condemned and confiscated by this division last year was 28.

The Department of Health registers all births and deaths, within the city limits. An analysis made in 1918 of the weekly reports, as filed by the registrar, shows a death rate in El Paso of 27 per thousand, which is higher than the average death rate in 20 other American cities of the same size as El Paso. The death rate for El Paso was high because of the high death rate among Mexican inhabitants and because of the death of tubercular patients who are shipped in here. Death rate among Mexicans at that time was calculated at about 40 to each thousand inhabitants. Infant mortality among Mexicans is also exceedingly high, calculated in 1918 to be about 65 deaths for each 100 births. Births among Mexican inhabitants are also high, there being 1138 Mexican births during a twelve month period ending with July, while there were 619 American births.

Another important piece of work done jointly by the City and County is maintaining the social disease clinic, where those affected are treated free of charge. At present there are 41 persons confined in the clinic who will be treated until doctors order their discharge. During the past year about 450 cases have been treated.

The importance of the work being done by this clinic may be estimated from a tabulated statement prepared by the government showing the percentage of drafted men from the principal cities of the state found to be affected with social disease among the second million