Non-uniform trash receptacles and storage of household wastes create problems almost immediately:

“There was used to incinerate the above garbage (3,614.25 tons), 930,200 pounds of soft coal screenings or approximately 254 pounds per ton of garbage. This is 19 pounds more per ton than was used during 1914. I think this can be accounted for by the great amount of rain that fell during the season; people would leave covers off their garbage cans and the garbage would come into the plant in a very wet condition.”

from: 1915 Annual Report
J.E. CONNOLLY
Superintendent City Garbage Incinerator

“I wish to state that the ‘Garbage Ordinance’ is being violated by a large number of people. Some have boxes, some tubs, some water pails, and old boilers and barrels, there are a whole lot of others that have cans but they do not keep the garbage dry, nor wrapped up in paper. In a great number of cans the garbage is frozen solid and if the men cannot get it out of the cans they make a big howl to me, or the Board of Public Works, or the Health Department.”

from: 1916 Annual Report
J.E. CONNOLLY
Superintendent City Garbage Incinerator