Kuhlman Sewer Cleaning Machine

The accompanying illustration shows a view of the Kuhlman sewer cleaning machine, as operated by the city of Gary, Ind.

This machine, which was invented by Mr. John F. Kuhlman, commissioner on Board of Public Works, Hammond, Ind., consists of a series of patented expansion buckets for the cleaning of sewers 8 inches in diameter and upwards. "The bucket," states Mr. Kuhlman, "is not necessarily drawn from one manhole to the other, but is only drawn into the sewer far enough to be filled with the deposit and when full it is drawn back out of the same manhole in which it is inserted, for the bucket is so constructed that when the reverse pull is made, the jaws close up tight and hold anything that may have entered the bucket in its forward movement. Therefore, time is saved when the deposit is near the manhole by reversing the pull the shortest distance to the manhole. Then again, the manhole trolley jack is so arranged that the buckets will slide up out of the sewer without the cable cutting into the sewer or brick work. When the bucket strikes the arm, it releases a hook and guides the bucket to the center of the manhole and up to the surface."

The trolley jack attached at the bottom of the manhole is a special contrivance and has an arm pivoted at the upper end with a cable wheel attached at the lower end, holding the cable down and away from tiling or brick work while the cable is pulled. As soon as the bucket reaches this arm, it swings out to the center, allowing the bucket to come out of the sewer and up thru the center of the manhole without obstruction. This structure and mounted on steel wheels. A gasoline tank of 25 gallons capacity and a large air receiver, fitted with safety valve, pressure gage, drain cocks and outlet valves, and a substantial cover with curtains are included as part of the complete outfit. The entire equipment is complete and the necessary gasoline and oil put in shape for immediate use. It is light and easily moved from place to place and it runs so smoothly that no blocking is necessary.

arm is then automatically locked in an upright position, to be released when the bucket is returned to the sewer and again catch the cable in its lower position. This jack is held firmly in position by being forced against the sides of the manhole with expansion screws. In manholes that are of equal size, this device can be easily and quickly removed by a pull on the chain on the shoe side.

This system, which is manufactured by the Champion Potato Machinery Co., Hammond, Ind., consists of the following: Two steel trucks with hoist windlass and swinging loading boom; two patented trolley jacks for guiding the cable and buckets in manhole; two %-inch wire cables 300 feet long; one each, 6-inch, 8-inch, 12-inch, 15-inch and 17-inch patented expansion buckets, and one 10-foot hand hook.