

AUTO IN NEW ROLE

Undertakers Are Using Motor Car More Now.

MACHINES ARE SUCCESSFUL

Three Portland Funeral Directors
Supplant Horses With Automob-
iles—Laundry Wagons Also
in Vogue in Community.

Three of Portland's largest undertak-
ing establishments have found the au-
tomobile to be a time-saver, labor-
saver and money-saver. They have
adopted it for their use, dispensing
with the use of the horse-drawn corpse
wagons as a consequence. The motor
car has been put to almost every con-
ceivable use in Portland, but that of
carrying the dead is a new role. As
in its other occupations the automobile
has made good as undertaker's assist-
ant quite readily.

There are three trim-looking dead
wagons now in daily operation on the
Portland streets, and, strange as it may
seem, it can be said that Portland is
one of the most progressive cities in
the United States in that respect. Many
of the larger cities still cling to the
horse-drawn dead wagons. Pro rata
population New York City does not
possess any more automobile undertak-
er wagons than Portland. This shows
that Portlanders are awake to the pos-
sibilities of the motor car.

In view of the fact that the Portland
undertakers were so quick to grasp
the significance of the automobile as an
economist it is not a far cry to surmise
that within another year or two fu-
nerals in an automobile will be the gen-
eral order of things. In fact, a local
funeral director is contemplating the
purchase of a motor-propelled hearse.
If this materializes, taxicabs will be
borne into service as parts of the fu-
neral cortege.

The Edward Holman Undertaking
Company was the first to receive its
specially-constructed dead wagon. Then
J. P. Finley & Son received a similar
machine and now Dunning & McEntee
have one, while the other funeral di-
rectors of the city are planning similar
investments.

The one recently built for Dunning &
McEntee serves as the Coroner's wag-
on, and during its short career has done
yeoman service in emergency case runs.
In connection with the firm's private
business and the county's funeral busi-
ness, it has been necessary to operate
four horses and two wagons. Now the
motor car comes along and relieves the
horses of their work, saves the firm un-
limited time and a great deal of money.

In the course of a week the Coroner
is often called upon to make many long
trips into the country. With horse and
wagon these require many hours' time.
With the motor car speeding along at
30 miles an hour a round trip can now
be made in less time than a single trip
made by horses heretofore.

"We have not taken time to assem-
ble the cost of maintenance of our car
as yet," said one undertaker last week,
"but we are satisfied that the machine
has cost less than half what our horses
and wagon formerly did. But it was
not the cost of upkeep that has been

worrying us. It was the time-saving
properties of the automobile that at-
tracted us. In funeral arrangements
we are often rushed and the use of the
automobile facilities matters a great
deal. The motor car is certainly a val-
uable asset in our business."

Another branch of Portland's business
world to supplant the horse and wagon
with the motor car is the laundry trade.
It is estimated that there are more
than a score of automobile laundry
wagons now in commission. More are
in prospect. In laundry work there is
a large area to be covered, and the mo-
tor car can get over twice the terri-
tory that a horse and wagon formerly
did. The Yale Laundry installed a mo-
tor car in its delivery service recently,
as a sort of experiment. It made good,
and now the company plans to do its
entire delivery work by motor car.

Nowadays it is hard to think of any
line of work in which the motor car or
motor truck does not play a prominent
part. With the arrival of the new au-
tomobile fire engines the field will be
well covered.

Success of the automobile as patrol
wagon in Detroit and other Eastern
cities has fired the city authorities of
Portland with automobile enthusiasm,
and to hear that such a vehicle for the
use of the Portland Police Department
has been ordered will not be a great
surprise.