

PINBALL MACHINES TO HELP WIN WAR

2,450 of Those Seized by the Police Junked to Produce 10 Tons of Scrap Metal

SALVAGE DRIVE A FAILURE

Only One Ton Collected, Carey Says After Survey—He Holds Discontinuance Likely

The intricate mechanisms and gaudy trimmings of 2,450 pinball machines seized by the Police Department in crusades against gambling devices have been reduced to ten tons of needed defense metals, it became known yesterday.

Most of the scrap came from machines that have been stored for years in the property clerk's warehouse, but 450 of the machines dismantled were seized in the drive against pinball games that started twelve days ago when Magistrate Ambrose J. Haddock ruled that mere possession was illegal.

Meanwhile the attempt of the city to get citizens to contribute old metal, rubber, rags and paper for the defense effort was termed "a complete failure" by Sanitation Commissioner William E. Carey after a tour of the department's refuse stations in the five boroughs.

Only One Ton Collected

Although 700 employes gave up their day off yesterday to collect the scrap only about one ton of material, most of it unsalvageable, had been brought in by Manhattan trucks and a negligible quantity by those in the other boroughs when the campaign for the day ended at 5 P. M., Mr. Carey said.

Another collection will be made next Sunday and "if the response is as unsuccessful as the first the idea will be abandoned," he added.

In the current drive against pinball machines the police have seized 3,261 and served 1,594 summonses. Where the possessors have pleaded guilty the police have moved to destroy the machines that originally cost about \$100 each. Most of the guilty pleas came from Bronx storekeepers, but the bulk of the defendants have pleaded not guilty and trial of their cases has been postponed pending a review of Magistrate Haddock's decision.

A survey last night at Police Headquarters showed that 420 convictions of pinball machine operators had been obtained since the latest campaign was begun. As a result, 448 machines have been destroyed. From the 3,261 machines thus far seized \$9,783 was recovered and is held in escrow by the Police Department. If a conviction is obtained the machine is dismantled and the money it contained is turned over to the Police Pension Fund.

The scrap realized from the confiscated machines was sorted under the guidance of metallurgists of the Department of Purchase and consists mainly of copper, nickel, steel and aluminum. It will be added to the "Salvage for Victory" campaign and has an estimated value of \$1,100, although the machines from which it was stripped collected about \$4,000,000 annually as gambling devices.

Weapon Destruction Halted

It also was learned yesterday that the Police Department will abandon its practice of jettisoning dangerous weapons seized each year. Items such as daggers, brass knuckles and blackjacks will be converted into scrap for defense, while small firearms are to be turned over to the civilian defense authorities. Rifles have not been tossed into the sea in two years and about 200 that have accumulated also will be made available for civilian defense. About 5,000 weapons of all kinds were confiscated in 1941.

The police revealed further that many items that can be utilized for national defense or are irreplaceable due to the demands of war will be withheld from the Spring auction of unclaimed or stolen merchandise, particularly automobiles. There were 300 seized or abandoned last year and where possible they will be reconditioned for use by various city departments. If that is not feasible the machines will be broken up and the parts salvaged or turned into scrap. Typewriters also are excluded from the sale.

In discussing the failure to get salvage material from householders Mr. Carey expressed the belief that the campaign had not received sufficient publicity. Mayor La Guardia first announced the collection in a radio broadcast Jan. 25 and specifically asked that neither tin cans nor bottles be included. A large part of the collection yesterday consisted of these two items.