

The rider was accepted as part of the original motion.

With the permission of the President and the consent of the meeting, the amendment was *withdrawn*, and the motion was *carried* (with two dissentients) as follows :—

No. 18642. “That the consideration of letter from H. E. the Governor to the President, dated 5th instant, be postponed until the meeting on Thursday, the 11th instant.

“That in the meantime, and, as a matter of urgency, the Corporation approve of the expenditure of such sums of money as may be applied for by the Municipal Commissioner on behalf of the Special Committee appointed by Government, to the debit of the special grants already sanctioned for the suppression of the plague.

“That the following Committee be appointed to consider and report on the letter :—Mr. Cotton, Mr. Roughton, Dr. Bhalchandra K. Bhatawadekar, the Hon’ble Mr. Nowrosjee N. Wadia, Dr. Bahaburji, and the Hon’ble Mr. Abdalla M. Dharamsi.” (8-3-97)

The Corporation resumed consideration of the letter, from His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay, to the President, Government Notification No. 1204—702-P. and also the following :—

BOMBAY 10th March 1897.

“That the consideration of letter from H. E. the Governor to the President, dated 5th instant, be postponed until the meeting on Thursday, the 11th instant.

“That in the meantime, and as a matter of urgency, the Corporation approve of the expenditure of such sums of money as may be applied for by the Municipal Commissioner on behalf of the Special Committee appointed by Government, to the debit of the special grants already sanctioned for the suppression of the plague.

“That the following Committee be appointed to consider and report on the letter :—Mr. Cotton, Mr. Roughton, Dr. Bhalchandra K. Bhatawadekar, the Hon’ble Mr. Nowrosjee N. Wadia, Dr. Bahadurji, and the Hon’ble Mr. Abdalla M. Dharamsi.

THE Committee of the Corporation appointed at the meeting of that body on the 8th instant, as per margin, beg to recommend the Corporation to adopt the following resolutions :—

1. That the President be requested to convey to H. E. the Governor the sincere thanks of the Corporation for the courteous assurances contained in his letter.

2. That the Corporation, without discussing the necessity of appointing the Plague Committee for objects which could have been, and were being largely, carried out without such intervention, or the legality of the course adopted by Government, will cordially co-operate and give all such assistance as may be necessary to carry out the measures adopted by the Committee.

3. That, though the Corporation consider that the language employed in section 3 of Government notification is not consistent with the constitutional position and functions of the Corporation, they will content themselves in the present grave crisis by putting

Report of the Committee of the Corporation re : Government reference and Corporation Resolution thereon.

on record their objection to such language and any inference that may be drawn from it being considered as a precedent especially as they are persuaded that nothing further is meant than to require their assistance as is done in section 5 with regard to the Commissioner of Police, who is a direct servant of Government.

4. That the Corporation would respectfully submit that, in view of the large expenditure now being demanded from the Corporation, Government may be pleased to give some assurance that a fair and reasonable portion of the expenditure will eventually be met from Imperial funds, the efforts towards stamping out the plague being in a great measure an Imperial question quite as much as a local one.

5. The Corporation feel sure that Government will recognize the propriety of not allowing the expenditure to be unlimited or uncontrolled, and the Corporation respectfully request that, bearing in mind the present depleted state of the Municipal balances owing to the heavy decrease in Municipal revenues and the large expenditure already incurred in suppressing the plague, Government will be pleased to direct that in no event should the expenditure of the Plague Committee be allowed to exceed five lakhs of rupees without reference to, and sanction of, the Corporation.

ABDALLA M. DHARAMSI.

G. W. ROUGHTON.

NOWROSJEE N. WADIA.

G. COTTON.

BHALCHANDRA K. BHATAWADEKAR.

K. N. BAHADURJI.

Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Abdalla M. Dharamsi, seconded by George Cotton, Esq.—

"That report, dated 10th instant, of the Committee of the Corporation appointed to consider and report on letter, dated 5th idem, from His Excellency the Governor to the President, regarding the appointment of the Plague Committee, be approved and that the President be requested to address His Excellency the Governor in terms thereof."

carried.

Division of
the city.

The first step taken by the Committee was the division of the City into ten districts, due regard being observed as to density of population and number of houses. Each district was placed in charge of a responsible Medical Officer.

Instructions
for Medical
Officers.

The following duties were laid down for the Medical Officers and Nurses working under the Committee.

1. To Superintend and exercise sanitary supervision of the whole district in their charge, reporting to the Plague Committee and Health Officer daily.

2. To supervise the working of the District Hospitals and to attend the same routine.

3. To supervise the work of the search parties in conjunction with the Justices of the Peace.

4. To control the disinfection of the infected areas and buildings.

5. To inspect all Segregation Camps in their districts.

6. To call the attention at once of the officer appointed by Government for the condemnation of insanitary buildings to any such premises in their districts.

7. To report on registration of burials and cremations in their districts, and to supervise sanitary condition of cemeteries.

8. To send daily reports to the Plague Committee and Health Officer of casualties occurring during 24 hours preceding 6 a.m. with details of—

(a) What has transpired during the preceding 24 hours in their districts.

(b) Any suggestions they have to offer.

The Sisters of the Bandora Convent were put in charge of the Hospitals at Mahim, Sion, Bandora and Parel Government House. The Sisters from Clare Road Convent took charge of Grant Road, while the Mazagon Sisters, nursed at the Arthur Road Hospital.

Nursing
Sisters.

The following proclamation was published.

"Be it known to all concerned that Government, in its anxious concern for the well being of the inhabitants of Bombay and for the complete extinction of the plague now prevailing in your homes, have decided that, in accordance with the opinion of many Doctors and Hakims, it is necessary to remove all persons suffering from plague from their houses for a short time and to treat them in hospitals, public or private. Further that where a sick man has been taken away from a room, his family shall also vacate such room and shall take care of and tend the sick man, so as to enable the room to be cleaned by the Municipality. Be it well known that where a private hospital has been established in a *jamat*, all cases of plague in men, women, or children shall be taken thither, or, where no *jamat* hospital exists, to one of the hospitals of Government, where in the hands of God and the nursing sisters the patient may be cured.

Notice re:
House to
House visita-
tion.

"Be it known, that while such persons are being treated in any hospital, either public or private, all expenses for food, medicine, and clothes shall be borne in the case of Government Hospital by Government, and in a private hospital by the leading men of the *jamat*.

"That further it is only those sick with the plague or small pox who shall be taken to hospital, and that those suffering from any other cause shall be treated in their own homes by their own Doctors (Hakims). That in every house which is searched in which purdah women are living, the purdah women shall be visited and inspected by lady doctors only, and shall, when removed to hospital, be taken in a covered conveyance in charge of a lady Doctor, who shall place them in a purdah hospital where they shall be treated by women only.

"That all contrary statements to the above decrees are lying misrepresentations of the truth, published by designing persons to forward their own ends. Let all such persons take warning that Government will view with displeasure and disfavour all such persons as seek to mislead and do mischief to the ignorant, for these readily believe the word of their superiors, who can either do much harm by their bad advice or much good by wise counsels.

"That the Committee approved by Government to stamp out the epidemic will at all times be ready and pleased to assist with their advice such as come to them for it, and with money, those who cannot afford to pay expenses which the plague has cast upon them."

**Diagnosis of
Plague.**

The following points guide one in arriving at a diagnosis.

- (1) Character of the tongue.
- (2) High temperature, with hot dry skin.
- (3) Injection of conjunctivæ usually met with.
- (4) Delirium, sleeplessness, headache, vomiting.
- (5) Sudden onset without premonitory symptoms.
- (6) Dull, heavy, apathetic look.
- (7) Pulse full, soft, compressible and dicrotic.
- (8) Marked mental hebetude and lethargy.

All doubt is removed on the appearance of the bubo with some or most of the preceding symptoms and signs ; and no one sign or symptom can be relied on as pathognomic of plague, but the general clinical phenomena must be viewed together and the diagnosis arrived at from the patients condition as a whole.

The onset of an attack of plague is usually very sudden, the patient being struck down with the following premonitory symptoms. He is seized with rigor, or a feeling of chilliness, followed by frontal headache, nausea and vomiting, lassitude and disinclination for exertion. The vomiting is of cerebral origin, bilious in character, and may be frequently repeated without bringing any relief to the patients feeling of illness. The tongue is large, pale (often teeth indented) and evenly coated first with a thin white, and later with a yellowish brown fur. This fur is confined to the dorsum of the tongue, the tip and edges and under part of the tongue being bright red and clean, and the amount of furring increases towards the back of the organ. Thirst is generally complained of, but the appetite is good and the taste not perverted. The pulse is over 100, full, soft, and bounding, at an early stage of the disease, becoming later frequent, small, markedly diastolic and very compressible, and finally anacrotic, running and imperceptible and rarely irregular or intermittent. The respirations are accelerated, averaging over 30 per minute and there may be slight cough. The face is suffused and muddy ; the conjunctivæ injected and the eyes watery, and the general expression dull, heavy, and stupid. Usually there is giddiness, restlessness, and loss of sleep, or snatches of sleep broken by slight delirium and confusion of the memory and intellect &c.

The general treatment is directed towards checking the development of the virus as far as possible, keeping up the strength of the patient to the utmost, and treating various complications as they arise. Rest, careful nursing, quiet, dieting and good sanitary conditions are most essential as a basis of treatment. Plague patients must invariably be treated in large airy, well ventilated rooms, quite free from overcrowding, which must be kept scrupulously clean. Calomel may be

Treatment of
Plague cases.

administered at the outset, and, if necessary, be followed by a saline purge. If the condition of the patient renders the administration of medicines difficult, repeated small doses of calomel may be placed on the tongue and washed down with brandy and milk. Liquid Hydrarg. Perchlor. in fairly large doses, 2 drachms, every two hours for a few doses, and one drachm to be continued afterwards. Other drugs have been used for their antiseptic properties *e. g.* Salol, Jinacol, Carbolic Acid, Sulpho-Carbonate of Soda, Thymol.

Rice-gruel with milk in small quantities and given frequently was found a good staple diet for all plague patients, it relieves thirst and is easily digested. Milk with equal parts of soda water also answers well. The diet should always be principally milk and farinaceous food.

Change of
administra-
tions.

Government in their resolution No. 3018—3997-P, of 27th May 1898, transferred the responsibility of plague administration in Bombay from the Plague Committee to the Municipal Commissioner under the direct control of the Plague Commissioner. They further provided for the appointment of a special Deputy Commissioner and a Special Medical Officer.

The Plague Committee actually handed over charge of plague operations to the Municipal Commissioner on the 7th June 1898.

Mr. J. H. DuBoulay I. C. S. was appointed to be Deputy Commissioner for plague operations.

Retrospect of
former alarms
of Plague.

The Health Officer (Dr Weir) says :—" Looking over the reports of former years, I came across a reference to plague, and I find that in 1877 there was some fear of the importation of plague into Bombay. I quote from my report :—" From time to time, as emergencies arose, the exclusion of infectious diseases from the city, either through the channel of the harbour or from inland, has attracted great attention. Committees, in one of which I took a part, have sat and drawn up rules for quarantine. Reports have been drawn up as to how these rules were to be enforced ; and in fact everything has been done but to supply the funds with which these rules and suggestions were to be given practical effect to."

" I then go on to state :—" Nothing had really come out of it of any practical sanitary good."

" I then refer to the import of some wool from a plague-stricken area in the Persian Gulf, and I described what had to be done, and I go on to write :—" The immediate necessity for a strict

supervision of vessels coming from the Persian Gulf was earnestly urged on Government, and in July 1876, a notification was issued laying down certain rules in reference to quarantine, but as no establishment was provided to enforce these rules, they might as well have never been promulgated.

"I then proceeded to discuss, the sanitary provisions necessary for the protection of the city, and I wrote:—'Their enforcement is contingent and dependent on three things, i. e., hospital accommodation, the maintenance of special vehicles, and disinfecting apparatus; unless that these three indispensable conditions are satisfied, the special sanitary clauses, no matter how perfect they may be, will remain a dead letter.'"

The following note about Dr. Yersin's arrival in Bombay was submitted for the information of the Corporation:—

"Dr. Yersin arrived this morning at Bombay. He is sent here by the Institute Pasteur at Paris in order to repeat on a larger scale the successful experiments carried out by him last year in China, by the agency of serum, against the plague. Dr. Yersin will work at his own expense all the inoculation which he undertakes. No charge will be made. He will put himself willingly at the disposal of the Municipality and public of Bombay in order that those who desire to do so may try his treatment. All that concerns the technical preparation of the serum and first results of the treatment of the plague with this serum were published in the *Annals of Pasteur Institute*, a scientific journal dedicated specially to the bacteriologic works (years 1894, 1895, 1896 and 1897). Dr. Yersin has for his aim: 1st—To treat with his serum declared cases of plague in order to demonstrate the efficacy of the new medicine. It is necessary for the success of the treatment that the disease should be treated at its commencement. The longer the disease has lasted, the more difficult it is to deal with. However in any case the treatment is innocuous. 2nd—In houses where plague exists Dr. Yersin can inoculate those who are inclined to try the influence of the preventive serum. He will also inoculate native practitioners and their staff infirmaries or any European doctors who apply to him. The injection of the serum is not more painful than a subcutaneous injection of pure water; it causes no uneasiness, fever, or abscess. The patients have not to follow any special treatment or diet. The length of the immunization acquired by the injection of serum is about a month; after the lapse of this time, a fresh injection should be applied for with the object of renewing the period of immunization. The serum prepared by Dr. Yersin does not contain any microbe or any poisonous substance; it is therefore absolutely harmless.—Bombay 5th March 1897."

Dr. Yersin's
arrival in
Bombay.

Professor Haffkine, the eminent bacteriologist was deputed by the Government of India, who after investigation pronounced the disease to be true plague. He

Professor
Haffkine's inoculation
against plague.

prepared a serum which has extensively been used for inoculation against plague.

The following statement shows the number of persons, by class, inoculated against plague during the year 1898 :—

Brahmins	...	...	...	1,032
Jains	...	...	...	201
High caste Hindus	...	...	...	8,440
Low caste Hindus	...	...	...	7,050
Mussalmen	...	...	...	7,938
Parsees	...	...	...	6,190
Jews	...	...	...	124
Europeans	...	...	...	107
Eurasians	...	...	...	29
Indians	...	...	...	995
Other Nationalities	...	...	...	218
Unclassified Hindus	...	...	...	673

Total... 27,887

Professor Haffkine one day inoculated 45 people, 22 of whom were women. A system of payment to the poor at the time of inoculation led to a great number of inoculations. It was afterwards considered necessary to discontinue payments.

Professor
Lustig's Cura-
tive Plague
Serum.

The following letter to the President, dated the 22nd May, 1902 from Dr. A. Mayr, M. D., for Dr. Palverini and self was considered by the Standing Committee on 28th May 1902.

"In forwarding to you the accompanying copy of a communication addressed by us to the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, we have the honour to express to the Municipal Corporation of Bombay our best thanks for their Resolution No. 919 of 8th May, 1899, which has been instrumental in affording us the necessary opportunities for observation and experiment with Professor Lustig's Curative Plague Serum. We regret that its preparation is to be altogether abandoned at Bombay, which will be a loss to science and the world at large, and beg to express the hope that the Corporation would be pleased to see their way to continue further investigations on the subject, though on a reduced scale."

The Hon. Sir Bhalchandra Krishna Bhatawadekar said that the Corporation had, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Mehta, some time ago, resolved that they were of opinion that the experiments in connection with Lustig's curative plague serum should be continued for a longer period, and since the passing of that resolution there was no other resolution on record recommending the abandonment of the preparation of the serum.

The Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula observed that in accordance with the provisions of the Act the Municipal Commissioner had absolute power to act in any manner he pleased in the matter. It might or might not be desirable to discontinue the preparation of the serum, but it was entirely in the power of the Commissioner to do one thing or the other.

Sir Bhalchandra said his second point was that there was no report received from the Commissioner informing the Corporation that he proposed to discontinue the preparation of the serum.

He (the speaker) was in favour of continuing the experiments in the interest of science.

The Commissioner (Mr. W. D. Sheppard) remarked that it was not desirable to continue the experiments in the interest of science at the expense of the Municipality.

Sir Bhalchandra : It may be continued in the interest of science. Continuing he said he was quite prepared to support his recommendation by facts and figures, but he might not take up the time of the Committee by entering into the scientific aspect of the question. He was quite prepared to prove that Lustig's serum had done a great deal of good. Government having withdrawn their support it behoved the Municipality to undertake the experiments, at their own expense and place it on the line of experiments conducted in the case of Haffkine's prophelactic serum. The question affected the whole of the Indian Empire and it was certainly desirable to continue the experiments even on a smaller scale.

The Chairman (Mr. James MacDonald) thought it was exceedingly unwise to stop the experiments. It would be very advisable to obtain some statement from the Health Officer before taking any steps in the matter.

Dr. Katrak said so far as the statistics supplied to the Corporation were concerned they gave a roseate picture of these experiments. There must be some good and valid reasons why the experiments were proposed to be discontinued, without giving any intimation to the Corporation. It was hopeless to expect any phenomenal results from the use of the serum, but if it was shown that even five per cent. of those who were treated with the serum recovered, the experiments were worth continuing. He proposed the matter should be referred to the Commissioner for favour of his report, stating what were his reasons which induced him to discontinue the preparation, and informing them what expenditure would have to be incurred for the preparation of the serum in future.

Sir Bhalchandra Krishna seconded the proposition.

Mr. S. D. Khote enquired if the experiments were to be carried on from year to year at the expense of the rate payers only.

The Municipal Commissioner explained as to why Government had withdrawn their aid, and why he proposed to shut up the laboratory at the end of the year.

The Hon. Mr. Ibrahim said he had carefully studied the statistics and he came to the conclusion that it was no use spending about thirty or forty thousand rupees per annum for the purpose. If it was proved that even half a dozen lives were saved by the use of the serum the experiments might be continued. But such did not appear to be the case.

Sir Bhalchandra quoted some figures showing that some lives had been saved by the use of the serum.

After further discussion Dr. Katrak's proposition to refer the matter to the Municipal Commissioner was adopted.

The following statement shows by sections the average yearly mortality and the actual mortality for 8 years from 1st June 1896 to 31st May 1899 together with the death rate per mille.

Ward &c.	Sections.	Average.	Actual Mortality.		
		Mortality for 5 years from 1891.	1896-7.	1897-8.	1898-9.
A.	Upper Colaba ...	114	164	181	135
	Middle and Lower Colaba ...	897	670	804	873
	Fort, Southern ...	29	37	25	12
	Fort, Northern ...	931	1,316	2,025	1,507
	Esplanade ...	167	143	254	446
B.	Mandvi ...	1,455	2,422	2,364	2,794
	Chukla ...	1,269	1,910	2,255	1,921
	Umerkhandi ...	2,113	3,458	3,524	3,766
	Dongri ...	1,165	1,820	2,142	2,461
C.	Market ...	1,140	1,503	2,168	1,898
	Dhobi Talao ...	1,297	2,171	2,590	1,874
	Fanaswadi ...	555	870	1,127	1,000
	Bhuleshwar ...	1,181	1,846	2,286	2,029
	Khara Talao ...	1,125	1,773	2,048	2,010
	Khumbarwada ...	1,152	1,599	2,369	2,729
D.	Khetwadi ...	784	1,349	1,780	1,954
	Girgaum ...	965	1,577	1,999	1,782
	Chowpati ...	201	335	423	395
	Walkeshwar ...	236	437	253	307
	Mahalaxmi ...	280	578	500	631
E.	Mazagon ...	998	2,071	2,336	2,386
	Tarwadi ...	522	937	1,105	1,516
	2nd Nagpada ...	938	1,725	2,182	1,853
	Kamathipura ...	1,370	2,753	3,272	2,668
	Tardeo ...	781	1,394	1,636	1,723
	Byculla ...	1,667	3,415	4,804	4,686
	1st Nagpada ...	893	608	738	793
F.	Parel ...	1,217	1,932	2,727	2,705
	Sewri ...	180	430	295	464
	Sion ...	446	1,197	872	935
G.	Mahim ...	587	1,656	1,234	2,086
	Worli ...	569	1,543	1,143	2,030
	Water Division ...	70	55	83	61
	Non resident & Unknown ...	615	2,492	2,233	392
	Total ...	26,849	48,496	55,727	55,327
	Mortality per Mille...	81.58	69.28	70.54	65.09

The total number of rats destroyed in Bombay during 12 months ending 31st May 1899, was a little over 2 lakhs.

Rats destroyed in Bombay.

The sums voted for plague purposes by the Corporation from time to time are noted below.

Plague expenditure.

Corporation Resolution No.	6736 of	5-10-96	Rs.	1,00,000
"	"	11131 "	21- 1-97	" 1,50,000
"	"	264 "	5- 4-97	" 3,00,000
"	"	" "	" "	" 3,00,000
"	"	1824 "	13- 5-97	" 2,00,000
"	"	3101 "	23- 6-97	" 2,00,000
"	"	4464 "	9- 8-97	" 3,00,000
"	"	7248 "	4-11-97	" 3,00,000
"	"	9823 "	13- 1-98	" 3,00,000
"	"	11391 "	21- 2-98	" 1,00,000
"	"	11925 "	10- 3-98	" 1,50,000
"	"	12653 "	28- 3-98	" 1,00,000
"	"	440 "	14- 4-98	" 2,50,000
"	"	1192 "	5- 5-98	" 2,50,000
"	"	2098 "	9- 6-98	" 3,50,000
"	"	6047 "	3-10-98	" 2,50,000

Total ... Rs. 36,00,000

Total expenditure on a/c of Plague upto :—

	31-3-98	Rs. 24,76,616-2-9
"	31-3-99	" 35,32,408-4-6
"	31-3-00	" 43,97,313-3-8
"	from the Commencement to the 31-3-1901,	aggregated Rs. 50,77,738-7-4.

In 1898-99 a provisional grant of Rs. 14½ lakhs was received from Government.

The policy inaugurated by Government during 1898-1899 was continued during the two following years : a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 was contributed by Government for the construction of Health Camps. Government also contributed a sum of Rs. 20,000 on a/c of discretionary relief to the poor stricken with plague.

Government contribution towards Health Camps &c.

On the 14th December 1899, at a Corporation Meeting, Mr. Hormusji Shapurji Vakil moved :—

"That the Corporation is of opinion that the execution of the notices served upon the owners or occupiers of houses in Bombay by the Municipal Commissioner for the so-called improvements thereof, and the issue of fur-

Improvement of Houses.

ther notices of similar nature be stayed, until the result of the Resolution passed by the Corporation on the 23rd November 1899, as to the survey of the whole City is submitted to, and considered by the Corporation."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sarafalli Mamuji.

On a division, the votes were 13 for and 21 against. *Lost.*

A poll was demanded by Messrs. Kharshedji N. Wadya, Sarafali Mamuji, Dinsha B. Master and Munmohandas Ramji.

The result of the Poll was as follows :—For 14. Against 24. *Lost.*

House In-
spection staff
grant disallow-
ed.

The Corporation at their meeting held on 15th January 1900 reduced the budget grant for plague expenses, by Rs. 37,860; this amount no doubt represented the cost of the establishment of the House Inspection Staff.

At an adjourned meeting of the Corporation held on 19th April 1900, the Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula asked for and obtained priority, by the casting vote of the President, to the following notice of motion from him :—

Reconsidera-
tion of the
question of
allowing the
House Inspec-
tion Staff
Grant.

"That in view of Government Notification in the General Department No. ⁸⁷⁰₃₄₅ P of 17th February 1897, issued under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, and the great desirability of effecting improvements in the insanitary houses in the City, the Corporation, on reconsideration, do not think it desirable to stop the expenditure on the House Improvement Department of the Municipality.

"That the Municipal Commissioner be informed that he may defray the cost of the House Improvement Establishment out of the Plague grant sanctioned in the Budget Estimate of the current year, and he be requested to submit proposals through the Standing Committee for increasing the Plague Grant, if on account of this charge it be found insufficient."

Mr. Rustam K. R. Kama raised the point of order whether, having regard to the provisions of Section 131 of the Municipal Act, the motion was in order inasmuch as there was no recommendation of the Standing Committee for an increase or an additional Budget grant before the Corporation, as contemplated by that section.

After discussion, the President ruled the notice of motion to be out of order.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee the following letter from the Municipal Commissioner was considered:—

No 1241 of 1900-1901.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

BOMBAY, 21st April 1900.

FROM W. L. HARVEY, Esq., I. C. S.,

Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay,
TO THE MUNICIPAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—I have the honour to address the Corporation on the subject of their Resolution No. 10741, dated 15th January 1900, in which it was decided that the sum provided in the Budget for 1900-1901, for plague expenses, should be reduced by Rs. 27,860, this amount being assumed to represent the cost of the House Inspection Staff, though no entry to that effect had been made in the Draft Budget. It is within the knowledge of the Corporation that in the year 1897, a system of house inspection was instituted under the orders of Government passed under the Epidemic Diseases Act with a view to ensure that houses, which were defective from a sanitary point of view, should be vacated or that the defects should be remedied. The charges on this account have been debited to the grants made by the Corporation from time to time for expenditure on plague measures. Since August 1899, this subject seems to have attracted a good deal of attention in the Corporation, and at the request of that body I furnished a report on the work done and forwarded a copy of the rules drawn up for the guidance of the staff. On the 14th December 1899, a motion was brought forward asking the Corporation to record the opinion that improvement notices served on house-owners should be stayed and the issue of further notices discontinued, pending the completion of a sanitary survey of the City, which the Improvement Trust were expected to undertake. This motion was defeated by 24 votes against 14. In the succeeding month, however, the Resolution to which I have already referred was passed, the intention being that the Corporation should decline to provide funds for the continuance of the work in the year 1900-1901. On the 22nd January, a week after the resolution was passed, the Corporation in their Resolution Nos. 11163 and 11164, appointed two Committees to consider whether the Inspection rules could not be modified, and whether some measures could not be devised to assist the poorer house-owners on whom the cost of repairs might press heavily. Again in Resolution No. 11945 of the 5th February, the Corporation invited my attention to the ill-ventilated and generally insanitary condition of certain chawls, and enquired what steps would be taken to improve them. It is clear from the above instances that the sense of the Corporation has, except on one occasion, been in favour of the continuance of house inspection operations and they are aware that I hold very strong opinions to the same

effect. As three months have now elapsed since the Resolution of the 15th January was passed, I would ask the Corporation to reconsider the whole question and decide whether they will provide funds for the cost of the work during the current year. This can be met from the lump sum of Rs. 7,62,140 entered at page 95 of the Budget for plague expenses, and no increase in the Budget grant is required at present.—I have, &c.,

W. L. HARVEY,

*Municipal Commissioner.

The Standing Committee thereupon recommended the Corporation to increase the Budget grant by Rs. 37,860.

On a requisition signed by four members of the Standing Committee (H. Kennedy Esq., Fazulbhoy Visram Esq. C. I. E., Mulji B. Barbhaya Esq., George Lund Esq.) the Acting Municipal Secretary Mr. L. W. Michael, by order of the President, the Hon'ble Mr. C. T. Burke, convened a meeting of urgency at which this question was considered.

At this meeting it was proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Pherozeshah M. Mehta, C. I. E., seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola—

“That, with reference to letter No. 1241, dated 21st April 1900, from the Commissioner to the Secretary and as recommended by the Standing Committee in their resolution No. 974, dated 25th April 1900, sanction be given to a budget grant for Plague Expenses for the current year of Rs. 37,860 to be met by an advance from Surplus Loan and other balances pending final adjustment without any such restriction as contained in resolution of the Corporation No. 10741, dated 15th January 1900.”

First Amendment proposed by Mr. Dinshaw B. Master, seconded by Mr. Sorabjee C. Dhondi—

“That the consideration of the Standing Committee's Resolution No. 974, dated 25th April 1900, and the Commissioner's letter No. 1241, dated 21st April 1900, be postponed until the reports of the two Committees (1) appointed to report on the rules regarding the improvement of insanitary houses and (2) for lending assistance to poor house-owners, are submitted. That both these Committees be requested to expedite their reports.”

Second Amendment proposed by Mr. Jafarbhai Rahimtula, seconded by Mr. Hajee Yoosof Haji Ismail—

"That with reference to letter No. 1241, dated 21st April 1900, from the Commissioner to the Secretary and with reference to the Resolution of the Standing Committee, No. 974, dated 25th April 1900, sanction be given to a grant for Plague Expenses of Rs. 9,465 for the first three months of the current year to be met by an advance from surplus loan and other balances pending final adjustment, without any such restriction as contained in Resolution of the Corporation, No. 10741, dated the 15th January 1900.

2. "That the Committees (1) appointed to report on the rules regarding the improvement of insanitary houses and (2) for lending assistance to poor house-owners, be requested to expedite their respective reports."

Rider—now moved by Mr. Rustim K. R. Kama—

"That the Corporation trust that, as the measures for house improvement are likely to entail great hardship on many people, the Commissioner will represent to Government the necessity of carrying them out in as considerate a manner as possible."

This rider was accepted as a part of the original motion.

The second amendment was, with the permission of the President and the consent of the meeting, allowed to be *withdrawn*.

On a division, the first amendment was *lost*, the votes being 16 *for* and 23 *against*.

There were 27 votes *for* and 16 *against* the original motion, which was *carried* as under :—

"That with reference to letter No. 1241, dated 21st April 1900, from the Commissioner to the Secretary and as recommended by the Standing Committee in their Resolution No. 974, dated 25th April 1900, sanction be given to a budget grant for Plague Expenses for the current year of Rs. 37,860 to be met by an advance from Surplus Loan and other balances pending final adjustment, without any such restriction as contained in Resolution of the Corporation No. 10741, dated 15th January 1900.

"2. That the Corporation trust that, as the measures for house improvement are likely to entail great hardship on many people, the Commissioner will represent to Government the necessity of carrying them out in as considerate a manner as possible." (30-4-1900).

Debate re:
House inspection question.

An ordinary monthly meeting of the Municipal Corporation was held on 14th May 1900, the Hon. Mr. Burke presiding.

The Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtulla having asked for and been granted priority moved:—"That the President be requested to address Government pointing out that in the opinion of the Corporation it was highly desirable that the improvements of the most insanitary houses should be taken in hand first, and that improvement notices served upon owners whose houses were not very insanitary should be withdrawn for the present and to express a hope that Government would be pleased to give effect to the wishes of the Corporation herein expressed." He said that it was obvious from the discussion that took place the other day at the Corporation that there was a general consensus of opinion that very great hardship entailed upon the house-owners of Bombay by the wholesale inspection of their houses by the department specially organised for the purpose. The only way to minimise the hardship was, in the first instance, to grant money for the inspection, and then to approach Government, who might be apprised of the nature of the hardship, and requested to reduce it to its lowest limit. The Corporation had on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Mehta granted the money, and it behoved them now to go to Government and submit to them a representation on the lines indicated in his motion. During the late discussion it was pointed out that out of 9,000 houses 8,200 were declared insanitary showing that a very large percentage of houses already inspected were found defective from a sanitary point of view. But the defects varied in degree. There were certain houses which were most insanitary and there were others which were slightly insanitary. He was glad that the Corporation had recognised the principle that it was desirable to improve insanitary houses; but how they were to do it was the question. It transpired in the course of discussion that during the last three years about 1700 houses had been improved giving an average of 600 houses per year. What he suggested was that the city should be surveyed as a whole and the most insanitary houses only be inspected and picked out for improvement.

Mr. Haji Usuf Haji Ismail seconded the proposition.

Dr. Dinshaw Bomonji Master said he was not quite sure whether it was necessary for the Corporation, to go to Government in regard to this matter, because he thought the Commissioner had sufficient discretion and power to take up first the most insanitary houses for improvement. The Government had not laid down any hard and fast rule for the inspection of all the houses in the city. Suggested that the Commissioner be called upon to say whether he could adopt the course advocated in the Hon. Mr. Ibrahim's proposition.

Mr. Kazi Kabirudin moved an amendment.—"That the President be requested to submit a memorial drawing the immediate

attention of the Government to the following request of the Corporation :—

“(1) That having regard to the strong feeling prevailing amongst the ratepayers of the City against the house inspection work, the Corporation hopes the Government would be pleased to direct its stoppage for the present. (2) That during the time this subject would be receiving attention, the Government would be pleased, to direct the Municipal Commissioner—(a) to withdraw the notices of improvement served on poor house-owners as well as on those whose houses were not very insanitary, (b) to take such insanitary houses only in hand as required improvement most urgently (c) and not to issue fresh notices upon house-owners except in urgent cases. (3) That in case the Government desires to continue this work then the Corporation confidently hopes that Government would direct the Municipal Commissioner to proceed against the insanitary houses according to such classification as the Committee of the Corporation, elected for the purpose, will make. Such Committee to consist of one member from each Ward of the City.” He said that the Hon’ble Mr. Ibrahim’s motion was good in itself, but was not sufficiently comprehensive. He was not opposed to the sanitary improvement of the city, but he submitted that the Commissioner should proceed in this matter more slowly than at present.

Mr. S. C. Dhondi, in seconding the amendment, remarked that he had great regard for the Hon’ble Mr. Mehta, who had been instrumental in restoring the budget grant for the house-inspection staff. Mr. Mehta’s powers of persuasion were very great and he could persuade the Corporation to pass any proposition that he brought before them. But he (the speaker) thought that knowing as he did that he could wield such a power it was all the more incumbent on Mr. Mehta to use that power for the benefit of the ratepayers.

Mr. Lund suggested that the word “withheld” should be substituted for the word “withdrawn” in the proposition of the Hon’ble Mr. Ibrahim.

Mr. Kabraji considered that the conditions embodied in the amendment were partly wrong in principle and partly impracticable. The Corporation would simply stultify themselves by passing the amendment.

The Hon’ble Mr. Mehta said it had been suggested most uncharitably that a good deal of discussion on this subject was actuated by a desire to provide against the rainy day, or to speak plainly against the election-day, which was approaching fast. He refused to believe that any member of the Corporation was actuated by such a feeling, although a great deal that appeared in the daily papers led one to think that there was something at the bottom of that uncharitable insinuation. Speaking on the

subject under discussion, he remarked that it appeared to him that some of the members used the word "ratepayers" very glibly. They put themselves forward as the representatives of the ratepayers, and spoke in the name of ratepayers. He would ask how many ratepayers were against house-inspection.

Mr. Kabraji : Only a dozen people attended the meeting of the ratepayers held the other day.

Mr. Dhondi : No about 300 persons were present at the meeting.

Mr. Mehta observed that even the number given by Mr. Dhondi was too small in comparison with the large number of ratepayers of the city. Continuing Mr. Mehta said it would be very difficult to distinguish poor house-owners, from rich ones, for he knew that there were many rich house-owners, who called themselves poor. He thought the best course for the Corporation to adopt was to appoint a committee for the purpose of drawing up a proper representation to Government. He then moved an amendment for the appointment of a committee to consider and draw up a representation to Government in consultation with the Commissioner on the subject of the improvement of the insanitary houses in the city under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

Mr. A. F. Unwalla, in seconding the amendment, remarked that one good result of appointing a committee would be that it would be able to invite the attention of the Government to the desirability of lending money to the poorest house-owners for improvement expenses. He thought that if they induced the Government to give a loan to the Corporation, and if the latter were to lend money to poor house-owners to be recovered subsequently in instalments, it would be conferring a great boon on them.

Dr. Ismail Janmahomed, in supporting Mr. Ibrahim's motion, remarked that the report should be expedited, because as long as these insanitary houses were not improved, plague would be hanging over the city.

Mr. Hajee Usuf supported the last speaker.

Dr. Katrak said that the two committees sitting in connection with certain sanitary measures might be asked to expedite their reports so as to enable the present committee to formulate their report as soon as practicable.

Mr. Kabraji hoped that the committee would carefully ascertain the number of poor house-owners, who were said to be so much oppressed on account of the proposed improvement in their houses.

Mr. Kazi Kabirudin and the Hon. Mr. Ibrahim having withdrawn their amendment and motion respectively, Mr. Mehta's amendment was put to the vote and carried.

The Committee submitted the following report.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAW UP
A REPRESENTATION TO GOVERNMENT REGARDING IM-
PROVEMENTS OF INSANITARY HOUSES UNDER THE
EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT.**

BOMBAY, 2nd August 1900.

The Committee appointed by Corporation Resolution No. 1949, dated the 14th May 1900, "to consider and draw up a representation to Government, in consultation with the Commissioner, on the subject of the improvement of insanitary houses under the Epidemic Diseases Act," beg to submit the accompanying draft representation for the approval of the Corporation.

2. It will be seen that this representation asks Government to issue such orders as will require the Commissioner to confine the work of effecting improvements to the *most* insanitary buildings of the whole City in the first instance. The Committee beg to point out that as the most insanitary houses would generally be houses owned by poor people, if Government grant the prayer of the representation, the result may possibly be that a large number of poor houseowners would be called upon to effect improvements, and until some satisfactory proposals are placed before Government and sanctioned by them for helping such house-owners by loans or otherwise, much hardship is likely to result. Since the accompanying representation was drafted, this Committee have learnt that the Committee appointed by Corporation Resolution No. 11164, dated the 22nd January 1900, to consider and report on the feasibility of advancing loans to poor houseowners, have formulated a scheme for helping this class of houseowners to carry out the requirements of the Epidemic Diseases Act, and have submitted their report to the Corporation. The Committee will, therefore, leave it to the Corporation to decide whether the representation herewith submitted should be forwarded to Government at once or after Government have passed orders on any proposals which the Corporation may submit to them for helping houseowners who have not sufficient means to improve their houses.

3. The Committee beg to state that the Commissioner does not concur in the recommendation contained in the draft representation as to suspending action on improvement notices already served upon houseowners whose houses are not "most insanitary." He thinks they should not be wholly suspended but might be *partly* so.

C. T. BURKE.

I have seen the Report—K. KABIRUDDIN.

IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA.

GEORGE LUND.

DINSHA BOMANJI PESTONJI MASTER.

K. E. DADACHANJI.

ISMAIL JAN MOHAMED.

H. KENNEDY.

N. J. GAMADIA.

ARDESHIR F. UNWALLA.

HAJI YOUSOF HAJI ISMAIL.

P. M. MEHTA. (*Note*—I do not think the report deals adequately or practically with the matter in hand.—P. M. M.)

C. H. SETALVAD.

DARASHA R. }

CHICHGUR. }

(I agree with Mr. Mehta.)

(I agree with Mr. Mehta.)

The request that the most insanitary houses in the City should first be dealt with is a most reasonable request, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that bare compliance with it will aggravate the condition of the very class of houseowners whose inability to carry out the sanitary improvements, unaided, formed the subject of two Corporation Resolutions. Most of the "most insanitary" houses in the City are owned by poor people. Mr. Murzban, our Executive Engineer, who knows the City most intimately, bore testimony to this fact in a conversation I had with him on the subject.

It becomes absolutely necessary, therefore, that the above request to Government should be accompanied by another to empower the Corporation by a notification under the Epidemic Diseases Act, to carry out the necessary improvements and recover the expenses in the same or some such manner as is provided for in Sections 494 and 495 of the Municipal Act, III of 1888. I strongly pressed on the Committee the desirability of this course, failing which I suggested that the Committee should request the Corporation for its amalgamation with the Committee appointed by the Corporation Resolution No. 11164, dated the 22nd January 1900, to report on the feasibility of helping the poor houseowners to carry out the sanitary improvements. I also ventured to express the opinion at a meeting of the Committee that, considering that the Epidemic Diseases Act is a most elastic piece of legislation, a notification by Government under it would enable the Corporation to carry out this object, and thus render help to the poor owners. Very early in the consideration of the question I gave a notice of motion for the May meeting of the Corporation to the same effect. I now find that the Committee appointed by Corporation Resolution No. 11164 have been advised that the course suggested by me is feasible. It is needless to point out that the sanitary improvements in question are as important as (some of them more important than), the works, the expenses of which, under Sections 494 and 495, can be declared and recovered as improvement expenses. Had the framers of the Act at the time had any idea of the sanitary improvements enforceable under the Epidemic Diseases Act, there is no doubt that these too would have been included in the provisions of the above quoted sections. It, therefore, stands to reason that these expenses should also be recoverable in instalments of such amounts and at such intervals as will suffice to discharge such expenses, together with interest thereon at 5 per cent. within a period not exceeding thirty years. Five years, I think, would be too short a period. If the Corporation are of opinion that the interest should be charged at the rate of 6 per cent. as provided for in Section 495, that may be done.

The Corporation at my instance resolved, by Resolution No. 918, dated the 23rd April 1900, "That poor houseowners should be given all the facilities and benefits contemplated by

Section 494" in the matter of house connections, and I think strongly that the works of sanitary improvements should be similarly treated in the case of houseowners similarly circumstanced.

The draft representation, as it stands, should, therefore, in my opinion, be considered together with the Report of the Committee for helping the poor houseowners (Item 48 on the Agenda paper), and that one representation should embody both the recommendations as suggested in this minute.

ACCACIO G. VIEGAS.

24th August 1900.

Draft Representation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT,

BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

General Department.

SIR,—I have the honour by desire of the Corporation, to bring to the notice of Government that, under Government Notification No. 870-845 P., General Department, dated 17th February 1897, issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Municipal Commissioner is empowered to prohibit, by a written order, the further use of any building as a dwelling, if it shall appear to him that any such building, intended for or used as a dwelling, is unfit for human habitation.

2. In order to enforce improvements in houses from a sanitary standpoint, a set of rules was framed conjointly by the Municipal and Government Engineers, and these rules are now in force.

3. The house inspection establishment engaged by the Municipal Commissioner to give effect to the orders of Government, inspect all houses and condemn those which do not wholly answer the requirements of the rules referred to. The effect of this is, that 90 per cent. of the houses so inspected are found to be insanitary, and notices, under the signature of the Municipal Commissioner, are served upon the owners thereof, calling upon them to carry out the requisite improvements in order to render the building fit for use as a dwelling. The house inspection staff devotes much of its attention to enforcing notices so served. The Corporation, while fully recognising the great desirability of effecting improvements in insanitary houses, wish to invite the attention of Government to the fact that the procedure of inspection as referred to above, is not calculated to result in the greatest good to the health of the City; they are, therefore,

convinced that the work of effecting improvements in insanitary houses should in the first instance be confined to the most insanitary buildings of the whole City.

4. During the last three years that the work has been in progress, only 1,700 houses have been improved. This gives an average of a little less than 600 houses per annum. It may, perhaps, be contended that more than 600 houses could be improved in the course of the year. Even assuming that about a thousand houses could be improved within a year, it is in the opinion of the Corporation essential that these houses should be those of the most insanitary character in the City, as the improvement of such houses would confer relatively much greater benefit, from a sanitary point of view, than the improvement of a thousand houses varying in different degrees of insanitation. In order therefore to enable the department to concentrate all its attention on the most insanitary houses in the City, it is necessary that the notices of improvement, already served upon house owners whose houses are not very insanitary should not be acted on for the present.

5. It has been represented to the Corporation that the rules for the improvement of insanitary houses needed modification, and consequently a Committee has been appointed to report thereon and to obtain outside expert opinion should it be necessary to do so. These rules are now in course of consideration, and, when the modifications are finally completed and adopted will, no doubt, facilitate the improvements of houses with the least degree of hardship.

6. The Corporation, being anxious to urge on the improvement of insanitary houses have also appointed another Committee to report on the feasibility of advancing loans to the poorer classes of houseowners and recovering them by instalments, in the same manner as Section 495 of Bombay Municipal Act, III of 1888, empowers the recovery of improvement expenses by instalments. It is doubtful whether the Corporation have the power of declaring the cost of sanitary improvement as improvement expenses of a building, and when the Corporation finally decide this question, they will no doubt, if necessary, approach Government on the subject.

7. In conclusion I am to request that Government may be pleased to issue orders modifying notification of 870—845 P, dated 17th February 1897, in such a manner as will require the Municipal Commissioner to take in hand only the most insanitary houses, in the first instance, and to suspend action on the notices already served upon house owners whose houses are not so very insanitary until the work of the improvement of the most insanitary houses has been completed, and in this connection the Corporation desire that the work be gradual and progressive.

I have, &c.,

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CORPORATION ON
GIVING LOANS TO POOR HOUSE-OWNERS FOR IMPROVE-
MENTS UNDER THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT.**

BOMBAY, 25th July 1900.

The Committee appointed by Corporation Resolution, No. 11164,

* "That a Committee, composed of the President, Mr. Vithaldas Damoder Thakersey, Mr. C. T. Burke, Mr. Dinsha E. Wacha, Mr. Munmohandas Ramjee and Sir George Cotton, Kt., be appointed to consider, in consultation with the Commissioner, the marginally quoted motion (placed before the Corporation by Mr. Vithaldas Damoder Thakersey) and report on the feasibility of the proposals therein made,"

dated the 22nd January 1900, (quoted in the margin*) "to consider, in consultation with the Commissioner a motion placed before the Corporation by Mr. Vithaldas Damoder Thakersey and report on the feasibility of the proposals therein made,"

1. That the Corporation, while admitting the necessity of improving the insanitary houses of Bombay in the interest of the whole City, cannot but acknowledge that serious cases of hardship do occur amongst the poor house-owners by the notices of improvements served upon them under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

2. That it is further of opinion that, in order to lessen the hardships, it is desirable that some pecuniary loan for improvements be advanced to house-owners who are unable to carry out the required changes and to recover the same by instalments.

3. That the President be requested to forward to Government a copy of the above resolutions and to request them to consider the exceeding desirability of giving, at the discretion of the Commissioner, such help as may enable poor house-owners to carry out the improvements required by the Epidemic Diseases Act.

4. That the Commissioner be requested to report whether it is feasible to advance loans from Municipal Funds to house-owners who in his opinion, are themselves unable to carry out the improvements required by the Municipal Act, and to recover the same by instalments.

proposals therein made," beg to report that they are of opinion that serious hardship does occur among poor house-owners by the notices of improvement served upon them under the Epidemic Diseases Act, and that in order to mitigate this hardship it is desirable that pecuniary help should be given to them.

2. The question as to the best means of rendering such help has received the Committee's most careful consideration. They would have been glad if it was possible under the existing law to arrange for a procedure by which, with proper and adequate safeguards, advances could be given to the said class of house-owners at a reasonable rate of interest, for the purpose of enabling them to carry out by themselves the required improvements. Legal opinion, kindly obtained for the Committee by the Commissioner, is, however, to the effect that, under the law as it now stands, Government cannot empower the Corporation to advance money to any house-owner for the cost of improvements to his house, and that fresh legislation would be necessary to enable this to be done. To wait for legislation would mean considerable delay in a matter in which early action is desirable, and therefore the Committee's recommendation is necessarily confined to what is permissible under the existing law.

3. The Committee are advised that it is possible, under the Epidemic Diseases Act, for Government to empower the Commissioner to carry out the improvements and to recover the cost from the owner and to declare it to be a charge in favour of the Corporation on the premises, an agreement being taken from the owner, prior to undertaking any work, that he should pay the actual charges, *plus* the usual percentage for supervision, by fixed instalments and with interest at a rate to be fixed. The Committee approve of this procedure, the effect of which will be best understood from the accompanying draft notification. The usual percentage added for "Municipal Supervision" to the cost of labour and materials is 15 per cent. The Committee think that in this case the charge should be only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They recognize that this will not quite cover the actual cost, but they would at the same time urge that a little might be foregone in the interests of the poor, so as not to deter them from taking advantage of the facility proposed for them. The amount advanced should be recoverable in five years, and the rate of interest should be 5 per cent. per annum. If the work were to be done by the house-owners themselves and an advance made to them, the Committee would be in favour of fixing a higher rate of interest, so as not to tempt applications for assistance except from the really needy, but a rate which might be deterrent is not necessary when the improvement work is to be done by Municipal Agency and might therefore be expected to be more costly—which in itself would be a deterrent. As a necessary safeguard it should be provided that no improvement work costing more than Rs 3,000 as a maximum, or in any case costing more than the market value of the land on which the building to be improved stands, should be undertaken by the Commissioner, and that in the case of all leasehold properties the Commissioner should, before undertaking the work, insist upon the owner getting the property insured.

4. The conclusion to which the Committee have come on a full consideration of the matter referred to them is, therefore, that the best way under the existing law of helping poor house-owners who are required to improve their houses under the Epidemic Diseases Act, but have not the requisite means, would be as indicated in para. 9 of this report, and they accordingly recommend the Corporation to address Government with a view to their issuing the necessary notification to give legal sanction to the arrangement desired.

C. T. BURKE.
VITHALDAS DAMODHER THACKERSEY.
MUNMOHANDAS RAMJI.
D. E. WACHA.

Draft Notification.

WHEREAS certain parts of India are visited by, and others threatened with, an outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease known as plague; AND WHEREAS the Governor-General in

Council in exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (8) of Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, has been pleased to direct that the powers conferred by the said Act may, within the Presidency of Bombay, be exercised by the Governor of Bombay in Council; AND WHEREAS the Governor in Council thinks that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient to prevent the spread of this disease, and that measures are necessary for facilitating the prompt and effectual execution in certain cases of works requisite for the sanitary improvement of buildings which have been or may hereafter be dealt with by the Municipal Commissioner (hereinafter called the Commissioner), under the powers in that behalf vested in him by Section 1 of Government Notification No. 228-P, dated the 10th day of February 1897, and by Government Notification No. 2675-3027-P, dated the 10th day of May 1898, and of other buildings which, being intended for or used as dwellings may be considered by the Commissioner to be unfit for human habitation: NOW pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred as aforesaid, the Governor in Council is pleased to order as follows:—

1. The Commissioner is directed to continue the detailed survey and examination of buildings in the City, which has for some time past been carried on under his orders for the purpose of informing himself as to the sanitary conditions and requirements of all buildings intended for or used as dwellings and for the purposes aforesaid, he is authorized to entertain such staff as he may from time to time consider necessary.

2. In addition to the powers conferred on the Commissioner by the Government Notifications marginally specified, he may by written notice require the owner of any building intended for or used as a dwelling, which for any reason appears, or may hereafter appear, to him to be unfit for human habitation, to commence and promptly and diligently carry on to completion the execution of all such structural or other works (to be specified in such notice) as shall appear to the Commissioner to be necessary for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of such building and rendering the same fit for human habitation, and if in any such case the Commissioner shall be satisfied after such enquiry as he shall think necessary to make that the owner and other persons interested in the said building is or are not able to provide for the expenditure necessary for carrying out the structural or other works called for by such notice, he may, if he thinks fit, with the approval of the Standing Committee and at the request of the owner and other persons aforesaid and subject to his and their first entering into such

Government Notification No. 228-P,
dated 10th February 1897.
Government Notification No. 4691-
3120-P, dated 30th August 1897.
Government Notification No. 2675-
3027-P, dated 10th May 1898.
Government Notification No. 4516-
4779-P, dated 12th August 1898.

agreement as hereinafter provided, himself cause such works to be executed or such things to be done as shall, in his opinion, be necessary for commencing, carrying on or completing the execution of such works as aforesaid.

3. All expenses incurred by the Commissioner in carrying into effect any of the measures hereby authorized shall, in the first instance, be provided by the Commissioner out of the Municipal Fund, but in every case in which any such expenses are incurred in respect of the execution by the Commissioner under clause 2 of any work for the improvement of the sanitary condition of any building, such expenses shall constitute a charge in favour of the Municipal Corporation upon the premises of which such building forms part and in respect of which or for the benefit of which such expenses shall have been incurred and the Commissioner shall take an agreement from the owner and other persons interested in the said premises for the payment of the aggregate actual cost of the labour, materials and fittings to be employed and used in or about such work together with added thereto for Municipal supervision, by instalments of such amounts and at such intervals as will secure the payment of the whole amount due with interest thereon at the rate of per centum per annum, within a period of not more than years.

4. For the purpose of carrying into effect the measures hereby directed and authorized, the Commissioner and his assistants and staff are empowered to exercise all such powers of entry upon any building or land as he or they can or may exercise under Section 488 of the Municipal Act aforesaid in order to make any inspection or survey or to execute any work authorized by the said last mentioned Act, or by any regulation or by-law framed thereunder, but subject always to restrictions similar to those presented by the said Section 488 as aforesaid.

At a Meeting of the Corporation held on 10th September 1900. Mr. Damodhar Vithaldas moved that the report on the subject of advancing loans be approved and adopted, and the Government be addressed in accordance with the recommendations made in it; and that the other report be recorded.

Mr. Wadia seconded the proposition.

Dr. Viegas urged that the Government be asked to make provision for taking up the improvement of the worst houses first. He thought the period of five years fixed by the Committee for the repayment of the loans was too short and should be extended to 30 years. He moved an amendment accordingly, but it fell to the ground for want of a seconder.

Mr. Jafferbhoy Rahimtoola moved another amendment requesting Government to consider the advisability of withdrawing the various notifications issued under the Epidemic

Diseases Act, and in the event of their complying with the request the Commissioner be requested to carry out the work of improving insanitary houses under the provisions of the Municipal Act.

Mr. Haji Yoosuf Haji Ismail seconded.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta moved a second amendment that the President be requested to place before the Government reports of both the Committees, informing it that the Corporation found that great hardship was occasioned to houseowners in consequence of the proceedings under the Epidemic Diseases Act and requesting whether in view of the recent resolution of the Government of India on the report of the Plague Commission, the time had not come to reconsider and modify the policy hitherto followed in this respect in the city for the improvement of houses.

Sir Bhalchandra Krishna seconded the amendment.

Mr. James Macdonald declared that the result of passing the last amendment would simply be to put off necessary improvements still further.

The original motion and amendment having been withdrawn, Mr. Mehta's amendment was put to the vote and carried.

At the Meeting of the Corporation held on 22nd April 1901, the following letter from the Secretary to Government, General Department, to the President, was considered:—"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's letter, dated the 12th September last, relative to the improvement of insanitary houses under the Epidemic Diseases' Act. With that letter are enclosed copies of the Reports made to the Corporation by two Committees appointed by them (1) to report on a proposal to advance loans to such poor house-owners as are required under the Epidemic Diseases' Act to make improvements in their insanitary houses, and (2) to draw up a representation to Government on the subject of the improvement of insanitary houses under the Epidemic Diseases' Act. Government are not, however, informed of the opinion of the Corporation on the proposals made by these Committees, but an inquiry is made as to whether the time has not now come especially in view of the resolution of the Government of India on the Report of the Plague Commission, to reconsider and modify the policy hitherto followed in respect to the Improvement of Insanitary houses in the City. I am to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the question put must be answered in the negative. There is nothing in the resolution of the Government of India which affects the subject of improving insanitary houses. That resolution deals with measures for the suppression of existing plague. The structural improvement of insanitary houses is a measure rather of prevention than of suppression, and if conducted properly can scarcely be carried

Government
reply to Cor-
poration re-
presentation
re: Improve-
ment of Insa-
nitary Houses
and advanc-
ing Loans to
Poor Rate-
payers.

too far. In existing circumstances, it cannot in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be relaxed unless the attempt to keep the City permanently free of plague is abandoned. I am further to remark that in the absence of any satisfactory building by-laws rules under the Epidemic Diseases' Act appear to be the only means of ensuring the observance of sanitary principles in house construction. As regards the proposal made by the Committee appointed by the Corporation Resolution No. 11164, dated the 22nd January 1900, to the effect that Government should empower the Municipal Commissioner to carry out improvements and to recover the cost from the owner, I am to state that Government are prepared to direct that expenses incurred by the Municipal Commissioner in giving effect to the sanitary alterations of houses under the Epidemic Diseases' Act shall be defrayed in the same manner as Improvement expenses under Section 495 of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, and will issue orders accordingly on receipt of definite proposals to that effect from the Municipal Commissioner."

Mr. P. M. Mehta moved that the letter of Government be recorded. He said that he would have liked to see one of those gentlemen, who used to say that people had to put up with great hardships on account of the Epidemic Diseases Act, take up the matter. The Corporation sent representations to the Government from time to time with regard to the working of the Epidemic Diseases' Act, and especially with regard to the improvement of houses. Various suggestions were made to the Government with regard to the rules adopted for the improvement of houses. But the Government now said that it was impossible to accept the suggestions.

Mr. Kaji Kabirudin seconded the proposition.

Mr. K. N. Wadia said that not much good had resulted out of the measures taken to improve insanitary houses. They had several instances of houses in which no plague cases had occurred before making improvements in them, while after the improvements in them several plague cases were detected.

Mr. Hormasji Vakil said that it was a pity that Government did not see its way to comply with the wishes or suggestions of the Corporation. It was an admitted fact even by the executive officers that though many lacs of rupees had been spent for the suppression of plague, no good whatever was effected by incurring so much expense. The Commissioner was asked by the Government to carry out a certain policy with regard to the plague. It could not at present be decided by the Corporation whether it was competent for the Commissioner to carry out that policy. But as Government had turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the people, there was now only one alternative left to them. As Mr. Mehta had suggested previously, they should take a test case to the Court, (Mr. Mehta: Hear, hear). That was the last remedy left open to the people, who were distressed

and who found that no heed was paid to their appeals. He wanted to draw the attention of the Corporation to a certain thing. They sent the representation about the matter to the Government in August last. Now the date of the resolution was 29th March, when the Governor had left Bombay. That showed that Government resolutions were sometimes drawn up even by a single official. The speaker regretted to find that the appeal by the Corporation had not been met by the Government in that spirit in which it was expected it would have been met. The inspection of houses was not mentioned in the body of the Act but was simply a creation of the Government of Bombay. House inspection was not a part and parcel of the Act. They wished that Government had sent a more sympathetic resolution.

Mr. Manmohandas Ramji said that the measures adopted in respect to the suppression of the plague entailed much hardship on the people.

Mr. Jaffar Rahimtulla said that the Government seemed to base their whole case on the absence of satisfactory building bye-laws under the Municipal act. It was necessary that the building bye-laws should be such as to meet the circumstances of the City and the Committee appointed to consider these bye-laws should be asked to expedite their report. He moved as an amendment that the letter be recorded and that the Commissioner be requested to expedite the report asked for by Corporation resolution 4882 of the 24th August 1889.

Mr. Haji Yusuf Haji Ismail in seconding the amendment said the house improvement rules had not proved effective as plague had occurred frequently and virulently in houses that had been improved under the rules. They were coercing people without any real benefit.

Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed did not see that any useful purpose would be served by the amendment. The better course would be to record the letter and that it be sent to a new committee which he heard Dr. Dinsha was going to propose.

Dr. Dinsha Master proposed that the matter be referred to a committee to be composed of gentlemen whom he named.

Mr. Lund who was one of those whose names were proposed for the Committee asked that his name should be withdrawn. He was so distinctly in favour, in the interests of the City, of what Government said that he would rather be an incumbrance than an assistance to the Committee.

Dr. Jehangir J. Cursetjee seconded Dr. Dinshaw's amendment.

Dr. Sukia said that in certain cases plague had appeared after the so-called improvements where there had not previously been plague. The present building by-laws were stringent enough and if they made them more stringent they would not improve the health of the City unless they improved the drainage, the quality of the water supply and by proper supervision prevented the adulteration of food.

Mr. Jaffer Rahimtula withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Mehta in replying on the debate said that even Mr. Lund would see that the way Government now dealt with the matter raised a very serious question indeed. He had been consistent in urging that they should go on with the improvement of houses under the Epidemic Diseases Act. He was in favour of it as a measure in the present critical condition of the City for the purpose of meeting temporarily the ravages of plague. But Government now told them that 'the structural improvement of insanitary houses is a measure rather of prevention than of suppression and if conducted properly can scarcely be carried too far.' Did members realise what that meant? It meant that they must have another Improvement Trust running side by side with the City. The Improvement Trust which had been brought into existence at such an enormous expenditure. Government brought in the Improvement Trust Act for the purpose of permanently improving the City so that there might afterwards be no trace of plague. The provisions of that Act were to a certain extent for the purpose of not placing all the burden of Improvement upon individual house-owners. It was only fair that if the City is to be permanently improved the burden should not be cast simply upon individual houseowners, but upon the whole community. But Government now say that the permanent structural improvement at the expense of the houseowners could not be carried too far. The whole city might be improved in that way. For the purpose of preventing disease within the City structural improvements in every house will have to be carried out. If the suggestion of the Government were carried out by the Plague Commissioner they would have placed upon them a horrible machinery for the purpose of dealing with every house in the City. That could not be tolerated.

Mr. Lund : It is only insanitary houses, I take it.

Mr. Mehta : Insanitary quarters are to be improved by the Improvement Trust and only insanitary quarters.

Mr. Lund : The Improvement Trust cannot improve the whole of the City, but can only run a road here and there.

Mr. Mehta : I beg Mr. Lund's pardon. The Improvement Trust Act deals with the improvement of insanitary areas in every part of the City. If he understands that improvement to mean simply running streets he is very much mistaken. There were two ways of improvement under the Act, there were improvement schemes and street schemes. The street scheme took up whole areas and included the razing of houses and houses would be improved under the act. But side by side with that Government wanted that each house be taken up under the orders of the plague Commissioner for the purpose of structural improvements. If that was to be the idea of the improvement of insanitary houses under the Epidemic Diseases' Act it was a very serious matter for the house owners of the City. If that were necessary, then he

said that a system under which houses would be properly selected should be introduced. The matter must not be left to the discretion of an individual officer going into a house and saying that it needs structural improvements.

Mr. Lund : I don't conceive that Government intend that.

Mr. MacDonald : It is the structural improvement of insanitary houses that cannot be carried too far. Insanitary houses not areas.

Mr. Lund : Not every house.

Mr. Mehta : Who is to determine whether a house is sanitary or insanitary ?

Mr. MacDonald : Our officers.

Mr. Mehta : Exactly. That means simply that an Inspector goes and says "This house is insanitary." The Executive Engineer may or may not go to see it. And because one individual, a Sanitary Inspector, by no means an expert, says that a house is insanitary then it has to be altered structurally. That means that for every little thing which may be somewhat insanitary expenditure to the extent of half the value of the house may be required for structural improvements.

In reply to Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Mehta said that at present under the Epidemic Diseases' Act they were only dealing with the worst cases among insanitary houses. If the improvement was to be done on a large scale it must be done by the Improvement Trust at the expense of the whole City. It would be ruinous to individual houseowners to require them to improve houses in that way because a Sanitary Officer or the Municipal Commissioner thinks that houses are insanitary. He had realised that the Sanitary Inspectors did go about finding that a wall should be this or a partition should be there and giving orders for structural alterations. Huts and hovels might be dealt with in that way and even to a certain extent "pukka" built structures, but if they were going to have their work running parallel with that of the Improvement Trust it would be ruinous to house owners in the City.

Mr. MacDonald : I quite agree with you in that.

Mr. Mehta then withdrew his original motion to simply record the Commissioner's letters and Dr. Dinsha's motion referring the matter to a Committee was adopted.

An adjourned meeting of the Municipal Corporation was held on 27th June 1901 Mr. D. E. Wacha presiding.

The Corporation considered the following letter from the Commissioner :—" With reference to the Corporation Resolution of the 29th ultimo. I have the honour to state that the number of Government and Port Trust buildings, examined under the Epidemic Diseases' Act is 21. This number includes seven blocks in premises Nos. 628, Duncan Road, in charge of Government, for the improvement of all of which only one notice has been

Improvement of Government and Port Trust buildings.

issued, as all the blocks are alike. The number of buildings requiring improvement is, 11. Four notices have been served on Government and the Port Trust, out of which three have been complied with. As regards the fourth notice, it refers to the seven blocks above referred to. All the improvement requisitions have been carried out in six blocks. As regards the barracks located in the City for native soldiers, I have the honour to state that they are not fit for human habitation according to the strict interpretation of recent rules framed under the Epidemic Diseases' Act. They require certain alterations, chiefly provision of proper means of ventilation and perfusion of air. The evils of these defects are, the Acting Executive Engineer reports, to a great extent nullified by the chawls being only groundfloor buildings and having large open areas around them. No notices have been served for their improvement, as at present action is limited to the most insanitary houses in the City. In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that certain buildings on the Marine Lines were demolished by Government on a requisition from the Municipality."

Dr. Dinshaw Master moved that the letter be recorded and that in view of the Commissioner's expressed opinion that the barracks for Native soldiers are unfit for human habitation the Corporation regrets that no notices have yet been served for their improvement. Under the circumstances the Corporation are of opinion that the early attention of Government should be drawn to these barracks for their improvement according to the Epidemic Diseases Act. This report, he said, reflected a sad state of things for the poor rate payers of the City. While thousands of notices had been served on the ratepayers, only four notices had been served on Government and only 21 buildings had been examined. Why had they not served notices on Government to improve the very insanitary barracks for native soldiers? As to the demolition of certain buildings in the Marine Lines he denied that they had been pulled down at the instance of the Municipality. Before plague broke out the Military Officers were clamouring for the demolition of the buildings and when a few cases of plague occurred in the servants' quarters advantage was taken of that to remove the buildings. The report showed that in the administration of the Epidemic Diseases Act there was one rule for the Government and another for the poor ratepayers.

Dr. Jehangir J. Cursetjee said that no amount of improvement of these barracks would be satisfactory unless they were razed to the ground and rebuilt.

Mr. Shroff said that to call these structures barracks was entirely a misnomer. These black holes in which the native soldiers had been lodged for half a century were simply disgraceful. For fifteen years they had been allowed to stand as at present and when they compared this with the "zoolum" practiced on poor householders the less they said the better.

Mr. Hormusji Vakil said the report justified the complaints brought forward by some of them in regard to the administration of the Epidemic Diseases' Act. There were two sorts of administration, one for the poor ratepayers and the other for high officials of Government. The position of the Commissioner in this matter was very unenviable. On the one hand he has to protect the interest of the Municipality and the ratepayers, and on the other hand he was a servant of Government upon whom his position and promotion depend. But in spite of these drawbacks he had brought forward this report.

Dr. Sukhia said the Epidemic Diseases' Act had brought about the ruin of several ratepayers who had to sell their houses because they were not in a position to carry out the improvements required under the Act.

Mr. Haji Yusuf Haji Ismail thought the time had come when the poor houseowner should rejoice. It had been pointed out that action, under the Act was only taken in respect of houses that were considered the most insanitary. There were few places more insanitary than these barracks and if they were not to be improved they might take it that action in respect of other houses would be stopped.

Mr. Wadia said it was not only Government and the Port Trust who were favoured in carrying out the Act but there were certain chawls belonging to the B. B. and C. I. Railway which were still more insanitary. He would like to know why these big and influential bodies were treated in a different way from the rest of the City. The officers working under the Act seemed to wear very black spectacles when going about these localities; otherwise they would see the things to which attention was called. They could only harass the poor ratepayers. It was a shameful sort of affair.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta thought it was not right that remarks should be made such as Mr. Wadia used.

Mr. Wadia : They are justified.

Mr. Mehta said they all liked to go against the Government but it was not right to use such language as that—"it was a shameful affair." They had time after time complained of the working of the Epidemic Diseases Act, but it was useless to go on over and over again using the same woe-be-gone expression. The proper question was, had Government been served with notice. He asked Dr. Master to consider whether the proposition he had placed before the Corporation was a correct one. It was not right to take a few words from a sentence expressing the full opinion of the Commissioner and then say that his opinion was so and so. The Commissioner did not commit himself to the opinion that the buildings were unfit for human habitation, but "according to the strict interpretation of recent rules framed under the Epidemic Diseases Act" they were so. It was pointed out that the defects were nullified by the fact that there was a large open space adjoining the buildings and that

they were mostly ground floor chawls. These were points to be taken into consideration and showed that the buildings should be treated as those of private owners had been treated—left untouched because of circumstances which did not make them so bad as other buildings. They were now dealing only with the worst houses in the City. They had been telling Government that only the most insanitary houses should be touched and now the Corporation were invited to ask Government to remove buildings which were only unfit for human habitation in a qualified sense. The original object of Dr. Master was a sound one, because it was to turn the tables on Government by pointing out to them that they had not improved buildings unfit for human habitation in a qualified sense; and to point to this as proof that the rules under the Epidemic Diseases' Act were too strict. He moved as an amendment that the letter of the Commissioner be forwarded to the Committee appointed by a resolution in April to report on Government letter, General Department, relating to the improvement of houses under the Epidemic Diseases' Act.

Sir Bhalchandra Krishna seconded the amendment.

Mr. MacDonald said that charity should begin at home, and thought it would be a good thing if Mr. Wadia took off his black spectacles and walked around the chawls provided for the Corporation "bigaries" then he would see something which would keep him quiet.

Dr. Master withdrew his motion in favour of the amendment which was adopted.

House In-
spection ex-
penditure.
Statement of
Houses in-
spected.

The total expenditure incurred by the Municipality for maintaining the house inspection staff during three years (1898, 1899 and 1900) has been Rs. 89,826-14-11, and the work performed by them is shown in the following table:—

	Year ending June 1898.	Year ending June 1899.	Year ending June 1900.
Houses inspected	5,521	2,579	1,905
Flats inspected	15,515	7,088	5,467
Plans scrutinized	176	1,193	1,471
Houses demolished	77	97	147
Houses for which improvement notices issued	1,223	2,484	2,505
Houses in which improvements taken in hand	112	823	996
Houses, improvements of which com- pleted ... ..	...	32	612
Insanitary sheds demolished	109	178	68
Notices issued for overcrowding... ..	37	99	118
Overcrowding abated ... ..	...	76	126
Statements prepared showing works necessary for improvement of licensed stables ... ..	...	...	46
Insanitary licensed stables improved ... ..	...	...	21

At their meeting held on 10th October 1901 the Corporation considered the following letter from Mr. W. D. Sheppard, the Municipal Commissioner.

"I have the honour to report, for the information of the Corporation, that Captain Pritchard, I. S. C., Personal Assistant to the Commissioner for Plague Operations, is proceeding on leave with effect from the 15th instant. I have decided not to indent on Government for any Military or other officer to take his place, and propose instead to carry on the Plague Administration with the active assistance and advice of the Executive Health Officer, Dr. Turner, under whose immediate orders the whole of the plague establishments will be placed, subject to my general control. The plague "policy" will continue as that at present laid down by the Government of Bombay. The object of my proposal, to which Government have intimated that they have no objection, is to prepare the way for an early amalgamation of the Plague and Health establishments, and in so doing to effect an early further decrease in the plague expenditure of the city. Ultimately I hope that the experience gained will demonstrate the desirability, if not the necessity, for plague being treated under the Municipal Act as an ordinary epidemic disease, and as such being properly dealt with by the head of the Health Department to the exclusion of any outside interference. I have the honour to inform you that I shall ask for urgency for the consideration of this letter at the Corporation meeting of Thursday, October 10th."

On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta C. I. E. the Corporation approved of the arrangement proposed by the Commissioner.

Amalgamation of the Plague and Health Departments.

Movement of people during the plague of 1897-98.

Month.	ARRIVALS.			DEPARTURES.		
	By rail.	By Road.	By Sea.	By rail.	By Road.	By Sea.
July 1897	1,02,058	87,813	10,893	1,11,105	81,188	11,979
August "	1,13,646	98,258	18,252	1,80,106	98,258	17,017
September "	1,23,526	1,20,968	45,825	1,50,888	1,17,153	27,100
October "	1,22,047	1,24,011	36,241	1,24,776	1,27,766	35,945
November "	88,649	1,06,118	38,122	1,08,024	1,05,581	31,699
December "	87,656	85,996	88,288	1,04,426	87,781	35,059
January 1898	69,529	59,823	14,588	93,518	60,794	47,812
February "	52,503	56,609	15,686	59,896	62,002	39,867
March "	66,290	61,849	19,977	61,523	61,849	39,215
April "	28,001	36,666	15,858	27,301	22,611	16,657
Total Arrivals.			Departures.			
19,46,022.			20,93,392.			

Movement of the people during the Plague.

The Corporation at their meeting held on 7th October 1897 considered the following communication from Government:—

No. 5242 OF 1897.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT,

BOMBAY CASTLE, 28th September 1897.

From J. DE C. ATKINS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to Government,
To THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPAL

CORPORATION FOR THE CITY OF BOMBAY.

The City Improvement
Trust.

SIR,—In an address to a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce last February, his Excellency the Governor referred to the urgent necessity for extensive sanitary improvements to the City of Bombay, more especially in respect to the removal of insanitary dwellings and the prevention of overcrowding, not only now, but in the future. His Excellency dwelt upon the evil of overcrowding as a premium on crime, misery, squalor and disease, and presaged as the outcome of the measures to be taken consequent on the dire outbreak of disease a healthier and still more prosperous and beautiful city.

2. Since the date of that address, the Governor in Council has given most careful consideration to the matter. He has been assisted by officers possessing great local and professional experience, and is now in a position to form a definite conclusion as to the essential requirements for, and the best means of, effectually and expeditiously carrying out the improvement of the City of Bombay. Any scheme to be effectual must be on a thoroughly comprehensive scale, and must provide not only for opening up crowded localities by the construction of new streets and acquiring frontages thereon for the erection of improved dwellings, and for the levelling up of low-lying areas, but also for improving existing insanitary dwellings and housing a very large number of the poorer classes in new sanitary dwellings to be let at an extremely low rate of rent. It must in addition provide room for the accommodation of the population to be displaced in the process of relieving congested areas, and lastly room for the future expansion of the city. The last purposes, I am to observe, can be secured by providing for the laying out and filling in, where necessary, of vacant lands to the north of the city and by the reclamation of areas west of Colaba and at Walkeshwar, these reclamations being most suitable for residences of a superior class, for which sites are in great demand.

3. The cost of a scheme of this comprehensive character will be very considerable, and that aspect of the question will, it is apprehended, be regarded by the Corporation as a very serious one. The balance of their borrowing powers will no more than suffice to meet the cost of essential sewerage and storm-water drainage schemes, extensions of the water-supply mains and other requirements of a more or less obligatory nature which are

incidental to the sound municipal administration of every large city. A scheme which will effectually remedy the serious evils referred to and render the city immune, as far as is sanitarily possible in these respects, from the devastation of epidemic attacks of disease is in fact as entirely beyond the financial means of the Corporation as it is outside the range of duties, for the discharge of which the provisions of the Bombay Municipal Act have been specifically designed and adapted. The Municipal Executive admittedly have a sufficiently burdensome task in administering the general affairs of the city, and it is felt that for the measures now in contemplation it is imperative, both for general management and prompt executive action, that there should be a special agency with a separate staff at liberty to devote their entire energies to the particular task before them.

4. The Governor in Council, I am to say, fully recognizes the success of Municipal administration in Bombay as exemplified, for instance, by the magnificent water-supply works which constitute an achievement of which any city might be proud, but he is of opinion that a scheme of the character now in contemplation, requiring persistent and long-sustained effort on systematic lines, involving so many varied purposes with the prospect of an almost infinite number of questions of detail both in management and execution, and in which, moreover, large proprietary interests of Government will be involved, is essentially one that should be entrusted to a small administrative body, with special powers to raise funds, acquire property and execute the necessary works.

5. The proposal which most commends itself to the Governor in Council to carry out the scheme, the main features of which are indicated in this letter, is that a Board of Trustees be constituted, on which the Corporation shall be strongly represented. It is intended that this Trust shall, in constitution and powers, very closely follow the lines on which the Port Trust was formed. In practical working that body has most deservedly earned cordial approbation, both official and public, and it may be said that there is a general feeling of confidence in this form of administration. The idea of such a Trust is not, I am told, a new one, a prominent precedent being the City of Glasgow Improvement Trust, which was constituted for similar purposes and has been most successful in its results.

6. Government, on their part, propose that the control of all vacant lands within municipal limits, which are the property of Government, shall, with a few exceptions, vest in the Trust; that the Trust shall administer such properties for the benefit of the rate-payers for a long term of years, subject to a charge representing an extremely low rate of interest on their present market value, which charge will accrue only after the lapse of ten years from the date of the transfer of the lands, and that the Government reclamation rights, west of Colaba and at Walkeshwar, shall also be vested in the Trust on similarly easy terms. It is

intended that the Trust shall have the enjoyment of rents from reclaimed areas free for the first twenty years, and thereafter subject to a charge representing a low rate of interest on the then market value of such areas *minus* the cost incurred in effecting their reclamation.

7. Similarly, it is proposed that the vacant municipal lands suitable for building purposes at Agripada on the Connaught Road north of the Victoria Gardens, and at Matunga, less any portions required for Municipal Departmental purposes, shall likewise be vested in the same Board of Trustees, to manage for the benefit of the rate-payers on terms similar in every respect to those on which the Government vacant lands are to be so vested. It may be here mentioned that the approximate value of the Government land to be transferred is Rs. 67 lakhs; that the present value of the reclamation rights is about Rs. 29 lakhs—total Rs. 96 lakhs; and that the approximate value of the Municipal lands is Rs. 28 lakhs.

		Rs.		As advised that the entire cost of scheme such as is herein outlined will not be less than Rs. 5 crores, but that managed and financed by a Board of Trustees constituted and endowed as proposed, it will involve an addition to the municipal rates of not more than 2 per cent. on the assessable value of the properties
New streets opening out				
crowded localities ...	2,70,00,000			
Reclamations ...	1,25,00,000			
Chawls for the poor ...	88,00,000			
Levelling and laying out vacant lands ...	17,00,000			
Total...		Ra.	4,95,00,000	

within municipal limits after taking into account, on the one hand, the receipts from rents of vacant Government and municipal lands and of reclaimed areas and the enhanced receipts which will accrue from municipal assessments on the new properties, and, on the other, the interest and sinking fund charges on loans, &c., the cost of administration and collection, and the maintenance and lighting of the extensive lengths of new streets. On the one hand, what is perhaps a favourable view is taken of the prospects of reclamations which will, however, be subject to the test of experience; on the other, the profits to be derived from the acquisition of frontages on the lines of new roads are entirely left out of account. These, in probably the larger number of cases, would be very considerable. As, however, this item may be regarded as a speculative one (notwithstanding past experience in Bombay and other large cities), the rough estimate is based on the assumption that, in the inhabited portions of the city, land sufficient only for the roadway is to be acquired, and purchases and sales of surplus frontage land are alike omitted from consideration. Should the results of reclamation prove less favourable than anticipated, it might be found desirable to restrict expenditure and consequent liability under that head.

This and the desirability of acquiring frontages along the lines of new streets are questions which must be left to the judgement of the Trustees, which they will exercise after careful investigation in each instance.

9. I am to say that the Governor in Council is satisfied as to the soundness of the scheme and regards it as the only effectual means of securing the improvement of insanitary areas in crowded localities and of providing for the necessary expansion of the city in a manner calculated to prevent such expansion from adding to, instead of removing, the difficulties that have now to be combated. The Government of India, with whom it rests to make the most valuable concessions regarding reclamations and vacant Crown lands, are, I am permitted to say, already prepared to regard with favour the general principles on which these proposals are based, and this Government are now engaged in formulating them in the shape of a legislative enactment. Whilst doing so, however, they desire to be favoured with the views and suggestions of the Corporation, who, his Excellency in Council is convinced, will be the first to recognise the importance of the object in view and of the advantages offered by Government. The Corporation will also doubtless recognize the desirability, in the interests of the city, of giving practical effect to any scheme of improvement with the least possible delay, especially having regard to the present local conditions, and as Government particularly wish to publish detailed proposals in the form of a Bill which may be dealt with in a Session of the Legislative Council at the close of this year, I am to ask that very early consideration may be given to this letter (which merely indicates the general outlines of the scheme) and that Government may be favoured with a reply before the end of the ensuing month.—I have, &c.,

J. DE C. ATKINS, Secretary to Government.

Proposed by Dinsha E. Wacha, Esq., seconded by Kaikhosru N. Bahadurji, Esq., M.D.—

“That the letter of Government, No. 5242, dated 28th September last, be recorded.

“That the Chairman be requested to acknowledge the same with thanks and inform Government that, while fully recognizing the desirability of the object to be attained by the scheme described in the letter and though ready to meet the wishes of Government in regard thereto, the Corporation are unable to express opinion or offer observation or suggestions regarding the financial and constitutional aspects of the scheme in the absence of details.

“That the Chairman be requested that, with a view to enable them to express their views definitely on the

scheme, the Corporation request that the Government will be pleased to favour them with a copy of the Draft Bill as soon as it is ready, together with a statement of its objects and reasons."

Amendment, proposed by G. W. Roughton, Esq., seconded by Sundernath D. Khote, Esq.,—

"That the Chairman be requested to acknowledge with
 No. 6343. thanks the receipt of the letter from Government, dated the 28th September 1897, and to state that, having considered the same, the Corporation are of opinion that the object indicated therein is desirable, but in the absence of any details as to how the matter is to be carried through, to whom the lands to be made over to the proposed Trust are eventually to belong, the time over which the proposed scheme is to extend, as to the proposed constitution of the Committee so far as the representation thereon of the Corporation is concerned, as to the powers of the Corporation, as to health, conservancy, water-supply, and as to other essential details of municipal administration over the lands to be vested in the proposed Trust, they feel constrained to ask for further and detailed information before giving an unqualified adherence to the scheme; more especially as a new body is proposed to be constituted which, if constituted—as to the expediency of which the Corporation do not now wish to commit themselves—apparently will, to some extent, conflict with, or take over, the powers now vested in the Municipality.

"That the Chairman be also requested to inform Government that they have appointed a small Committee who will meet without delay and formulate the points in which further information is required by the Corporation and that their report, if approved by the Corporation, which approval, there is no reason to suppose, cannot be obtained during the present monthly meeting or some adjournment thereof, will then be immediately submitted to Government.

"That the Chairman be requested meanwhile to ask Government to favour the Corporation with a draft of the proposed Bill and the statement of the objects and reasons therefor.

That the following gentlemen, if willing to act, be nominated as members of the Committee referred to in para. 2 of the first portion of this resolution:—(1) the Hon'ble Dr. Bhalchandra; (2) the Hon'ble R. M. Sayani; (3) Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Esq.; (4) Dr. Cowasjee Hormusjee; (5) Dr. A. G. Viegas; (6) Dinsha E. Wacha, Esq.; (7) G. Lund, Esq.; (8) Sundernath D. Khote, Esq.; (9) Mulji B. Barbhaya, Esq.; (10) T. W. Cuffe, Esq.; (11) G. W. Roughton, Esq.; (12) the Hon'ble Mr. W. C. Hughes; (13) N. J. Gamadia, Esq.; (14) Dr. K. N. Bahadurji."

With the permission of the Chairman and the consent of the meeting, Mr. Dinsha E. Wacha was allowed to withdraw his motion in favour of the amendment which was carried unanimously as a substantive proposition.

On the 10th February 1898, the Corporation on the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula formed itself into a Committee of the whole house and proceeded to consider the City Improvement Trust Bill in detail.

This Committee submitted a report* suggesting certain alterations in the proposed Bill, which report, the Corporation on 4th March 1898 adopted and requested the President to address Government in terms thereof.

At the Meeting of the Corporation held on 6th August 1900, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta obtained priority for the consideration of a number of letters from Government and the City Improvement Trust on the subject of extending the period allowed to the Corporation for making representations to Government on the schemes of improvement prepared by the Trust, and on other matters relating to the operations of that body.

Mr. Mehta said the items before them required very careful consideration from the Corporation. He ventured to think that the time had now come when they should take a careful note of what had occurred between the Corporation and the improvement Trust consider the relations which somehow or other had come to exist between the two bodies, and see whether it was possible to take action for the purpose of placing both on a satisfactory footing. He had, taken the trouble to bring this matter before the Corporation, because he was firmly convinced that the questions involved in it were questions which would permanently affect the progress, the well-being and the financial solvency of the Corporation and of the City. It had been said and unfortunately it had been even hinted in the Corporation, that they were actuated by a feeling of jealousy in taking up the attitude they had taken towards the Improvement Trust.

* See page 581. Corporation Record, Vol. XXI for 1897-98.

It seemed to him that a recollection of a few facts would enable everybody to come to the opinion that such a motive was not likely to influence the Corporation. He would remind them, that when a proposal to found a Trust for the sanitary improvement of the City of Bombay was first launched, and when the scheme was sent by Government to the Corporation for its opinion, though it looked as if there was to be a curtailment of their powers to a certain extent, they received the scheme with cordiality and gave their approval to it by a large majority. It was in no jealous or grudging spirit that the Corporation replied to the Government approving of the principles on which the Trust was based. The same spirit guided him, as the representative of the Corporation on the Legislative Council, when the scheme was introduced in the Council and though not approving several of its details, he expressed his entire approval of the principles on which it was founded. Instead of viewing the operations of the Improvement Trust with feelings of jealousy, the spirit which inspired the Corporation in the matter was one of watchfulness. A paper, called "Indian Engineering" made the charge against the majority of the members of the Corporation that they opposed the Improvement Trust, because they had lost the chance of profitable gambling in land transactions. He ventured to say that knowing as he did the people of Bombay and their representatives on the Corporation, a grosser libel was never uttered. If the writer of the article had studied the Improvement Trust Act, he (Mr. Mehta) was certain that he would never have formulated such a tremendous accusation. "Speculation" was a bugbear, which was very often raised for the purpose of asking the Corporation not to meddle, as it was said, with the proceedings of the Trust. The word was never more sadly misused in regard to the purchase of properties, which were to be acquired under the improvement schemes. He thought that the sections in the Improvement Trust Act relating to acquisition of properties did not admit of speculation which would yield any profit. He repeated that the Corporation had been actuated by no motive of ill-feeling or by any disappointment in having lost an opportunity of making money when assuming the attitude which they had taken up in connection with the operations of the Trust. That attitude had been founded upon other reasons altogether, and it had been taken up for the purpose of comprehending quite accurately the schemes of the Trust. It might be remembered that the Improvement Trust Act was rushed through in the Legislative Council, and the reason given for it was that no other remedy would avail against the spread of plague, unless the city was at once taken in hand and the insanitary and unhealthy portions of the city reconstructed. But it was now made quite clear that though the operations of the Trust would go a great way in improving the health of the city they would not do anything towards stopping the plague. As a necessary consequence of the haste in which legislation

was undertaken a great many matters of vital importance did not receive that consideration which the gravity of the situation required and upon which the successful operation of the Act and the financial solvency of the city to a large extent depended. Mr. Mehta then proceeded to argue that no mature consideration was given by the Trust to their schemes of improvement, nor had the Corporation and the public any opportunity of fully considering and discussing them.

In conclusion, he moved that the papers be recorded ; and that a Committee composed of the President, Messrs. Sayani, Setalwad, MacDonald, Lund, Vithaldas Damoder Thakersy, Jafferbhoy Rahimtoola, Gamadia, Shroff, and Mehta, be appointed to prepare in consultation with the Municipal Commissioner and submit to the Corporation a representation on the various points raised in the papers.

Mr. R. M. Sayani seconded the proposition, which was carried.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Removal of
filth in 1825.

In the early part of nineteenth Century there was a difficulty of providing means for the removal of the filth of the Fort. Eventually on the 24th August 1825, the following resolution was passed :—

“That a letter be written to Government in reply to their suggestion of employing a scavenger’s boat to remove the filth of the Fort, stating that the Worshipful Bench have caused enquiries to be made, the result of which is that the measure will be attended not only with a considerable additional expense, but moreover be ineffectual, inasmuch that the Boats could not be used at low water nor during the violence of the S. W. monsoon for several days together, besides which there is not a convenient place where it would be permitted to deposit the filth until the Boats could be brought up for its removal.”

Prior to this suggestion, the question of providing funds for cleaning the streets engaged the attention of the Justices. Government was thereupon addressed on the subject as to whether the expenses should be borne by them or by the Justices. The following resolution which was passed on the subject, however decided the question.

5th May, 1824.

Cleaning of
unmade
streets in
1824.

“At a meeting of the Committee of His Majesty’s Justices held this day a letter was read from Government dated 3rd May 1824 stating that the Hon’ble Government in Council are of opinion that for the purpose of maintaining a more efficient establishment for cleaning the unmade streets of the Fort the Bench are fully warranted in levying an additional assessment, &c. The Bench having given this important proposition from H. M.’s Board the fullest consideration are of opinion that the expense of cleaning the unmade streets should be borne by Government according to the Act of Parliament and not from the Assessment.

“The Bench are also further of opinion that the Assessment on houses and buildings being to the extent of one-twentieth part of the gross annual value is as high as the circumstances of the proprietors and owners, and the nature of the buildings will admit.”

Prior to the year 1840, the work of cleaning the native Town was done by contract, but on 28th April 1840, the Bench thought this method an inefficient one, as the Contractor would do the work in the cheapest and most superficial manner and therefore considered the advisability of discontinuing the system. A Committee was then appointed with full power to act in all matters relating to the cleanliness and general health of the city.

Cleaning of
Native Town
in 1840.

Before the introduction of the Municipal Act of 1865, there were three distinct establishments for the purpose of promoting the health and convenience of the citizens of Bombay and these three functionaries performed their duties under three distinct local Acts. Viz: First the Executive Engineer's Establishment for designing and constructing new roads and sanitary works and the repair and maintenance of old ones. This work was done by the Superintendent* of Repairs under Act XI of 1845.

The second was the "Regulation of buildings." This was effected by the Surveyor to the Court of Petty Sessions under the Building Act XXVIII of 1839.

The third was the prevention of nuisance and this was done by the Surveyor to the Court of Petty Sessions under the nuisance Act XIV of 1842.

Mr. H. Conybeare in his report on the Sanitary State and Sanitary Requirements of Bombay in a footnote states that Government appointed the Superintendent of Repairs on the condition of his discharging the duties of a Government appointment, that of Surveyor to the Court of Petty Sessions, gratuitously. This arrangement being made the "Superintendent of Repairs" was forthwith gazetted as "appointed by the Governor in Council Surveyor to the Court of Petty Sessions," his establishment in such capacity being still paid from the Treasury and not from the Municipal fund. The inconvenience that would have otherwise arisen from the double capacity of the Surveyor to the Court and Superintendent of Repairs and the double authority under which he acted was in a great measure obviated by the Court of Petty Sessions and the Board of Conservancy having the same Chairman.

Appointment
of Superin-
tendent of
Repairs and
Surveyor to
the Court of
Petty Ses-
sions.

The Sanitary work of the Municipality in this year, was distributed between the Surveyor's or Executive

* The Superintendent of Repairs was appointed by the Bench subject to the approval of the Government who confirmed his appointment.

Engineer's Office, the Scavenging Contractor and the Sanitary Department which, however, only included the Health Officer and the Market and Slaughter House Departments, consequently there was no Executive Head of the Health Department. The contractor who was practically uncontrolled did the Scavenging work in the cheapest possible manner. The arrangement continued till 1st August 1865, when it was cancelled. Subsequently the Health Department was made the Executive and accordingly on 18th November 1865, took up the entire work of cleansing the Town.

The arrival
of Halalkhors
in Bombay.

On the 15th November of that year the first batch of Halalkhors arrived from up country and by the end of the year 255 had come down. Twenty five of this number however ran away, having been intimidated by the halalkhore residents in Bombay.

Halalkhor
Strike.

On the 1st January 1866, and for the ten succeeding days, the Halalkhores struck work, being alarmed at the introduction of the new hands, and being determined to try and retain the old system. Eventually the head men were brought to terms and Dr. Hewlett, the then Health Officer enrolled the whole of them. In these days the pay of a Halalkhor was Rs. 40. On the 1st August 1867, it was reduced to Rs. 30 per mensem, that of the women from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20 and of lads from Rs. 20 to Rs. 15 each per mensem.

Proposed abo-
lishment of
the Halalkhor
system.

The improvement in the Halalkhore system did not meet with the encouragement it should have as in 1868, two Justices of the Peace (Mr. S. Shapoorji Bengalee and Mr. Nowroji Furdonji) proposed that the service should be abandoned by the Municipality and left to private service as of yore, because the Municipal service was no better than that of old, they were flatly contradicted by the native Justices appealed to, and their proposal found no supporter whatsoever.

Extension of
Halalkhor
Service to
Malabar Hill.

On the 1st January 1875, the Municipal Halalkhor service was extended to Walkeshwar and Mahaluxmee. The carrying out of this arrangement met with considerable opposition from the private sweepers, who were very stubborn and insolent. Many of the private sweepers refused to take Municipal employment at any price, and resolved to leave Bombay sooner than serve in the

Health Department. Their opposition to and dislike of the Municipal service was very natural, considering that they would not receive from the Municipality half the wages they had already been earning. Besides as they gave a certain portion of their pay every month to the butlers of the families by whom they were employed, they relied on the butlers being able to get at the ears of their masters, and prejudicing them against the Municipal Halalkhores. It was to their interest to cast as much discredit as they could on the Municipal arrangements, and as almost all the servants were interested in the continuance of the private halalkhore system, they at once reported to their masters all the little shortcomings of the Municipal sweepers, they exaggerated every little fault they committed, and they retailed highly coloured accounts of their failures. The private sweepers were very useful to the servants; they used to do little odds and ends of work for them, and many things which the house servants should have done themselves and they were allowed to go into places where they should never have been permitted to show their faces. Many of the residents were anxious to keep on their own sweepers whom they knew, and believed they could trust. On the 1st January 1875 a good many of the private sweepers were present and answered their names, but instead of going to the bungalows to work they ran off and hid themselves. The absence of their old sweepers from work annoyed many of the people, particularly as they had been told by their servants that the Municipal Officers had frightened them off, and had threatened to do dreadful things to them if they were caught at work; this they believed, and they could not be convinced that anything less than force would have kept their old sweepers from work. The private sweepers thought their masters could not do without them or get any one to replace them; however as there was a reserve of Municipal sweepers, the difficulty was tided over.

Twenty three years after the first Halalkhore strike—in 1889—the Health Department had to face a difficulty in the shape of a strike by the scavengering biggaries. The strike caused inconvenience and threatened great danger to the Health of the City. The Corporation acknowledged the services of the Executive Officers whose energy overcame the crisis. The Acting Commissioner of

Strike of
scavengering
Biggaries.

Police (the late Col. Wise) and his omcears gave very valuable assistance.

The Halalkhors in Municipal employ rendered good service by cheerfully doing as much of the scavengers work, in addition to their own halalkhor work as they possibly could.

In his annual report of 1866, Dr. Hewlett, the Health Officer thus describes the Halalkhor :—

The Halalkhor of India.

“ The lowest of the various castes throughout India is the Halalkhor, whose shadow even defiles the heaven-born Brahmin, and with whom the Mhang or Mhar (the scavengering class) disdain to eat or associate. Distinct and degraded from birth as the halalkhor is, he is yet, generally speaking when young well grown, and possessing pleasing and symmetrical features. Without the restraining effect of any kind of religion, they indulge in every vice, and become prematurely old and worn out. Their great pleasure appears to be to drink the most ardent spirits they can procure until they fall down in a perfectly lethargic state. Whilst in this state, you may roll them over, you may pour buckets of water upon them, without eliciting any greater sign of vitality than a feeble grunt, and nothing will rouse them until they have slept for some hours, when they get up without any headache or other apparent ill effect. A European lad, 17 or 18 years of age, was found living amongst them, and entirely supported, fed and clothed at their expense. This wretched boy was the son of a soldier who took his discharge from a regiment in the Panjaub and came to Bombay with his wife, and this boy in search of employment. The wife died; the father applied for and obtained a passage to England at the expense of Government leaving this boy to take care of himself as best he might. He sank from bad to worse, and at last, as he said, was really dying of actual starvation, when these men, the out-castes of society, took pity on their brother out-caste and supplied him with the necessaries of life which he could not obtain from his fellow countrymen. This lad was taken into Municipal Service, but the craving for an idle vagrant life had been allowed to grow too strongly on him, and, after overlooking faults of the gravest kind on several occasions, and finding that he, although so young, was already a confirmed opium eater, I was obliged to discharge him.”

The following Table shews the Executive Staff as it existed in 1865.

WARD.	Area in Acres.	Popula- tion.	Propor- tion of Area to Popula- tion in sq. yards.	European Inspectors.	Native Inspectors.		Superintendent of Stables &c.	Muccadums.	Carts.	Drivers.	Bullocks.	Biggaries.		Total of last 2 Cols.
					1st Class.	2nd Class.						Men.	Women.	
Celaba	238·36	19,161	60·1	1-2nd class 225	1	2	1	1	16	16	32	32	16	48
Fort and Esplanade.	698·66	49,582	68·2	1-1st „ 250	1	3	1	1	26	26	52	66	26	92
Mandvee	210·96	1,57,996	6·4	1-1st „ 250	3	5	1	1	44	44	88	132	88	220
Umarkhari	153·55	1,23,279	6·02	1-1st „ 250	2	4	1	1	38	38	76	114	76	190
Bhuleshwar	235·90	1,44,606	7·8	1-2nd „ 225	2	4	1	1	38	38	76	114	76	190
Camattipura	747·78	1,28,214	28·1	Do.	2	4	1	1	38	38	76	114	76	190
Girgaum	301·90	56,866	25·6	Do.	1	2	1	1	18	18	36	54	36	90
Malabar Hill	1,104·33	19,238	277·8	1-3rd „ 200	...	2	1	1	14	14	28	33	24	62
Mazagon	530·64	31,246	82·1	Do.	1	2	1	1	11	11	22	33	22	55
Parel	5,031·05	24,122	1,009·4	Do.	1	2	1	1	11	11	22	33	22	55
Mahim	2,665·64	29,670	434·8	Do.	...	2	1	1	11	11	22	33	22	55
Total...	11,918·77	7,83,980	.....	11	14	32	11	11	265	265	530	763	484	1,247

Scavenger-
ing and Drain
Carts.

In the Eleven Wards of the City in 1865, the distribution of Scavenging and Drain Carts were as under :—

Wards. No.	Scavenging Carts.	Drain Carts.	Total.
1	10	6	16
2	14	12	26
3	24	20	44
4	20	18	38
5	20	18	38
6	20	18	38
7	12	6	18
8	10	4	14
9	6	5	11
10	6	5	11
11	6	5	11
	148	117	265

Night Soil
Depots.

There were also only 6 public Depots as follows :—

Colaba, two new iron necessaries	....	4 carts.
Khara Talao ... ..	....	9 "
Packmodia Street ....	....	1 "
Sonapur.... ..	....	16 "
Camathipura ....	....	8 "
Parell ... ..	....	2 "

40 carts.

City divided
into Wards.

After the introduction of the Municipal Act of 1865, the City was divided into three class of Wards i. e. :—

First Class Ward.	{ Fort. Mandvi. Omerkhari. Bhuleshwar. Camathipura.
Second Class Ward.	{ Girgaum. Malabar Hill. Mazagon. Colaba.
Third Class Ward.	{ Parell. Mahim.

At present the City is divided into seven Wards i. e. A. to G.

Health De-
partment Es-
tablishment.

A staff consisting of one Chief Inspector and 11 European Inspectors with Native Assistants were entertained on 1st August 1865. A European Inspector was appointed to each Ward and his duties consisted in seeing

how the Contractor of Scavengering performed his contract, in reporting all nuisances, and bringing offenders against the Act before the Police Magistrate.

The Establishment then consisted of :—

1. The Scavengering Establishment.
2. The Drain Cleaning „
3. The Road Scraping „
4. The Town Sweeping Bunder Establishment.
5. The Foreman, Carpenter and Storekeeper's Establishment.
6. The Market and Slaughter House Establishment.
7. The Night Soil and Halalcores „

The Island was then divided into 11 Wards and a distinct Establishment of Carts, Bullocks, Coolies &c, was told off to each Ward.

The City having considerably extended within a period of a little over thirty years, and consequently the work of the Health Department having considerably increased, a proposal was submitted in 1897, to reorganise the Health Department; which was done by the appointment of Divisional Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers and a large staff of employees.

DISPOSAL OF TOWN SWEEPINGS.

The refuse which was removed to Sion and Coorla consisted of 7,548 waggons during the year 1866, each waggon averaging 6 tons in weight. The new pattern waggons weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons and in subsequent years the removal of garbage increased.

Under the contract system in 1865, about 7,550 waggons or 45,300 tons of refuse went to Coorla while under the Departmental system it was :—

In 1866	17,183 Waggons or	1,03,098 Tons
„ 1867	16,254 „	1,11,789 „
„ 1868	15,991 „	1,11,876 „

Removal of
Town Sweep-
ings to Coorla.

But besides this in 1868, no less than 13,431 cart loads of refuse were burnt at different points or 840 waggon loads or 6,720 tons. So that the entire amount of refuse removed in 1868 was 16,831 waggon loads or 1,18,596 tons and whereas in 1867 it cost Rs. 1,57,949 to dispose of 1,11,789 tons of refuse, in 1868 it cost Rs. 1,38,000 to dispose of 1,18,596 tons.

Reclamation
of the Flats.

The Health Officer in his annual report of 1873 states:—

“The question of reclaiming the Flats with Town-sweepings appears to me to be simply this—shall they remain as they are sewage soaked, uncared for, periodically flooded, an everlasting source of disease; or shall they be reclaimed with a material which, in a little more than 3 years forms a mould fertile in the extreme and able to grow every kind of vegetable in luxuriant plentifulness?”

In June 1873, Dr. Hewlett wrote to the Municipal Commissioner as under:—

“I have the honour to address you on a subject which I have more than once brought to notice, and which I do again in the hope that you may approve of the scheme suggested and bring your influence to bear on Government to promote it. I mean the filling in of the Flats between Hornby Vellard, Clerk Road, the Main Drain and Love Grove sluices and the building of a crescent on the land so reclaimed. As you are aware, year by year, there is a greater influx of salt water through the Vellard and the water stagnates on the Flats and becomes under the hot October's sun most offensive. If the Government were only to give a concession of the land for a nominal rate per square yard and were to sell the Cumbhalla Hill, the whole of this area might be filled in up to the level of the Vellard. Many native gentlemen would gladly invest money in building houses and a magnificent crescent might be formed which would directly face the West and would relieve Malabar Hill which is very much overcrowded. It would be a great improvement if Government were only to grant the concession I have asked; I believe it might be carried out within a very few years.”

On the 7th May 1875, the Town Council passed the following resolution:—

“That the Council consider that the proposal of the Municipal Commissioner for the gradual reclamation of the Flats with Town sweepings, with due sanitary precautions as now adopted, instead of transporting the sweepings by Railway to Coorla would be an important sanitary improvement, and they approve the same generally.”

“That the Council consider that when the Municipal Act is (shortly) before the legislature clause 214 of the Act should be amended by the omission of the final words ‘for within the limits of the city of Bombay.’”

"That the Council consider that an application should be made by the Municipal Commissioner to Government for a lease of the land on the Flats to be reclaimed, and that the terms on which a lease can be obtained should be reported."

Leasing of
land on the
Flats for
Kutchra.

From 1st December 1875, only one train of sweepings was sent to Coorla instead of two as before. About one half of the garbage was sent to the Coorla reclamation, and the greater portion of the remainder was laid down on the flats.

The Army Sanitary Commission, in a memorandum on the report of the Bombay Municipality for 1874, express their views on the disposal of the garbage to this effect:—

"An important question is raised by the Officer of Health as to the use of town sweepings for raising the level of the "flats" as they are called which are at present a putrid salt marsh. It would not be safe to use any cesspool water for such a purpose, but there is no experience to show that ordinary town sweepings would be otherwise than beneficial in their action. If the surface were raised to its intended level, properly planted and covered with useful vegetation, as the Officer of Health suggests, the result to the public Health could scarcely be otherwise than beneficial, a well known source of malaria would be gradually abolished, and a large useful area might be converted into cultivated ground or into public gardens but no part of it should be covered with dwelling houses."

The practice of sending out the town sweepings by train to Coorla was discontinued from 1st December 1877, after which it was deposited on the flats at Tardeo. Government made over to the Municipality a very considerable portion of the flats for reclamation with town sweepings on the same terms as those on which the original allotment of 36 acres was made over under Government Resolution No. 2609 dated 7th May 1873. The terms were "36 acres made over to the Municipality on a nominal rental of Re. 1 per acre on condition it may be resumed at 6 months notice on payment of compensation for standing crops only. That no building be erected on it and that it be applied to no purpose to which Government may object."

Discontinu-
ance of remov-
ing Town
Sweepings to
Coorla.

Area of Reclamation ground at Tardeo and Curia.

Areas of reclamation grounds at Tardeo and Curia.

YEARS.	Tardeo Flats.	Curia.	
	Acres.	Acres.	
1866... ..	.....	} 42.00
1867... ..	.....	
1868... ..	.....	
1869... ..	.....	
1870... ..	3.75		
1871... ..	2.75	} 8.41	
1872... ..	3.12		
1873... ..	} 5.00		3.54
1874... ..			5.75
1875... ..	3.75		.69
1876... ..	5.95		8.68
1877... ..	8.56		
1878... ..	} 26.05		
1879... ..			
1880... ..	6.87		
1881... ..	.....	
1882... ..			
Total ...	67.80	64.02	

Government Resolution leasing land on the Flats.

The following are the Government Resolutions making over to the Municipality several plots of land on the flats:—

Revenue Department No.	194	dated 20th April	1848.
"	"	193	4th February 1870.
"	"	2609	7th May 1878.
"	"	6668	8th November 1877.
"	"	5174	9th October 1878.
"	"	950	22nd February 1879.
"	"	7768	6th November 1882.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CORPORATION APPOINTED TO REPORT ON THE QUESTION OF THE DISPOSAL OF TOWN SWEEPINGS.

Removal of Kutchra to Chimbur.

The Committee of the Corporation re-appointed on 4th April

That the following Committee be appointed to report on the question of the disposal of town sweepings:—

The President, Bhalchandra K. Bhatawadekar, Esq., Thomas Blaney, Esq., C. I. E., Dinsha Edulji Wach, Esq., N. N. Katrak, Esq., S. Rebsch, Esq., Major Scott.

Three to form a quorum and Major Scott to be Chairman.

and fully detailed report of the

1895, as per margin, beg to report that they have met on sixteen occasions and fully discussed all the possible means of disposing of the town sweepings, in consultation with the Municipal Commissioner, the Executive Engineer, and the Health Officer. The numerous Executive, which accompany

this, will enable the Corporation to judge of the merits and drawbacks of the various schemes that have been put forward.

2. It will be seen from the papers that these schemes include (a) Incineration; (b) Transport by the existing Tramway Service; (c) Transport by Municipal Railway; (d) Transport by the B. B. and C. I. and G. I. P. Railways, all the calculations being based on the quantity of kutchra removed in the official year 1895-96.*

3. At the earlier discussions on the subject it was considered that it was not possible to come to any satisfactory arrangements with the two Railway Companies, while the proposals to convey sweepings by either a Municipal Railway or by the existing Tramway Service might prove an intolerable nuisance, causing congestion of traffic in portions of the City, without any preponderating material advantages.

4. Incineration was, therefore, thought the only feasible solution of the question, and details of this method of disposal were very fully discussed and reported upon. It was however, found in the early stages of the discussion, that it was not practicable to incinerate the sweepings at convenient points throughout the area of the City, partly because of the nuisance that would be created in the vicinity of incinerators, and partly because the cost of acquiring sufficient land for the necessary operations would be prohibitive. The proposal for local incineration had, therefore, to be abandoned, and the further discussion on this method of disposal was confined to incineration at a large central station.

5. Only one such position was available, viz., at Mahaluxmi Flats; but it was soon manifest that a great part of the economy expected to be effected by the adoption of such a single central station for incineration there would disappear, for the cartage expenses could not under such a scheme be reduced.

6. It will thus be seen that the scope of the enquiry was henceforward confined to either incineration at one large central station or transport by railway from the same locality. At this stage it was clear that a comparison of the cost involved in disposing of the sweepings after they had been carted to Mahaluxmi, and a careful investigation into the sanitary advantages of the methods of further disposal, would indicate the most suitable and economical scheme to be recommended to the Corporation. A further discussion at this stage with the Railway Companies made it practicable to arrive at a suitable working scheme. They are willing on certain terms to convey the town sweepings to Chimbur.

7. The Executive Engineer has shown in a very lucid statement attached to his report * No. 6088, dated 4th August 1896—the comparative financial position of incineration and transport by railway. The statement shows the sums of the working expenses and the Sinking

* See compilation of printed papers circulated by the Secretary under date of 11th August 1896.

* See proceedings of the Corporation.

fund and interest charges on capital expenditure, and the comparison takes into account all the factors in each case. The figures appear to show incontestably that, from a financial point of view, transport to Chimbur is the scheme most suitable for adoption.

It has already been stated that the cartage expenses would be precisely the same whether incineration or transport by railway were adopted; this factor has not therefore been included in the comparative statement. The only other point which might prove a sufficient reason for not adopting a decision on the financial outlook, is the question of nuisance which will now be discussed.

8. The Committee had hoped for a clearer expression of his opinion than the Health Officer has given in

† See printed compilation circulated by the Secretary on the 11th August as above.

his No. 14059 of 20th July 1896, to the address of the Commissioner †, regarding the probable relative nuisance in incineration and in transport. It seems to the Committee that up to the point at which the carts discharge the sweepings which they have conveyed, such nuisance as must exist is precisely the same whether the cart load is discharged into a railway waggon or on to the ground at the incinerator station. After this the railway would convey the stuff to its destination without any further disturbance *en route*, whereas in the latter case the sweepings would lie festering for hours awaiting incineration. They would have to be disturbed and exposed to the air during their conveyance to the cells, and thereafter the smell and smoke of the incinerator chimney would be carried over a very large area of the Island. So far, therefore, as the Committee can judge, the nuisance of incineration would be of longer duration and of as great or greater intensity than that involved in railway transport, and they are accordingly of opinion that the nuisance question need not alter the decision indicated by financial results.

9. The first proposals made with respect to local incinerations at convenient centres throughout the area of the City appeared so suitable from a financial point of view, in that they would have obviated the necessity of a large portion of the present cartage expenses, that the Committee think they should at this point somewhat amplify the brief remarks which this scheme has already evoked. The chimney of the trial incinerator at the Municipal Workshops is admittedly not high enough, but the thick smoke spreading therefrom over the surrounding locality, which is densely populated, indicates the danger to be apprehended from the smoke of the chimneys, of not one, but eight or ten incinerators which would be necessary in different parts of the town. The smoke nuisance could probably be reduced by increasing the height of the chimneys, but this again would enhance the cost of construction, and the increased capital outlay would *pro tanto* raise the sinking fund and annual expenses. Again,

speaking from a financial point of view, there is another factor to be borne in mind, namely, the liability of incinerators to damage and mishaps. This means either additional nuisance so long as the sweepings accumulate and remain unburnt, during the interval of repairs which may be from a few hours to a few days or the provision of additional or reserve incinerators at an increased capital outlay. It seems clear therefore that local incineration within the limits of the City, apart from the nuisance referred to, must involve an outlay largely in excess of that necessary if the whole of the incineration were carried out at one site as estimated for by Mr. Murzban in his statements N*, Q

* See for N printed compilation circulated by the Secretary on the 11th August 1896, and for Q and S accompaniments to Mr. Murzban's No. 8321 of 22nd October last in the record of Corporation.

and S appended hereto; for not only would the outlay on the acquisition of land be very much greater, but the incinerators and spare cells at each depôt and the chimneys necessary at each installation would be largely in excess of similar works necessary at a central station with corresponding in-

crease in their cost.

10. The Committee would further state that the Commissioner has most emphatically and repeatedly brought to their notice that the existing method of disposal by deposits on the flats can no longer be continued without danger to the health of the City, and that the rapidity with which the new scheme, to be adopted, would be brought into operation, should be considered an important element in making a selection from the various schemes.

11. In this respect, too, the Railway transport scheme compares favourably with incineration, for the Executive Engineer reports that the Railway sidings, &c., can be brought into operation within a period of twelve months, whereas the construction of incinerators and other arrangements in connection with this mode of disposal, will occupy two or three years.

12. The Committee, after taking everything into consideration, beg therefore to recommend for adoption the scheme for the transportation of the sweepings by railway.

13. In the above, the Committee have endeavoured to review, as briefly as possible, the large mass of reports and opinions which has passed through their hands, thinking that a summary of this nature would place the principal features of their deliberations most clearly before the Corporation if all details and figures were omitted.

14. In order, however, that the Corporation may have every opportunity of looking into details, the undernoted documents accompany this report.

Mr. Acworth's No. 8390, dated 7th July 1894,* already published (see volume XVIII of the *Record*, part I, page 213—253.)

* See Corporation Record.

Report showing cost of land required for local incineration at convenient places within the city (see Commissioner's No. 5494, dated 25th June 1896, page 11) and papers forwarded therewith.

Mr. Murzban's report No. 17715 of 26th March 1894.

Mr. Murzban's No. 8321 of 2nd October 1896.

Papers circulated with the Secretary's memo. of 11th August 1896. Commissioner's memo. No. 8968 of 10th August 1896, giving cover to the Health Officer's letter No. 14059 of 2nd July 1896, and other papers.

15. There are one or two more points which the Committee would wish to remark upon. They are disappointed in not being able to show any savings in the collection and removal of the sweepings to Mahaluxmi, although the Health Officer in his No. 14059 of 20th July last, as above, considers that there may be a saving of about Rs. 270 per mensem in the establishment now employed on the flats.

16. It appears to the Committee that there is room for certain improvements in the method of conveyance of "Kutchra" to Mahaluxmi. Not only is the system of cartage a nuisance to the localities through which the carts pass, but this form of conveyance is costly as well as destructive to the roads used, and the Committee venture to suggest that it may be practicable to run out a certain part of the sweepings by the existing Tramways to Mahaluxmi; also that the B. B. & C. I. Railway should again be approached with a view to the Colaba sweepings being railed direct from a collecting station in that locality.

17. It may be convenient to the Corporation if this report is furnished with an abstract of the expenditure involved in the schemes for railway transport and incineration, a summary of the advantages and drawbacks of each, and a review of some points in the Executive Engineer's recommendations.

18. From statements Q* and S* given in Mr. Murzban's letter No. 8321 of 2nd October 1896, as above, it will be seen that the initial cost of the incineration scheme, at one site, namely, on the flats, will be as follows :—

							Rs.
Land	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,00,340
Construction works	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,80,600
Total Rs.							7,80,940

The annual working expenses, including cartage to Chimbur, of non-incinerable stuff, will amount to Rs. 3,01,938. For purposes of comparison it is necessary to show the annual charges for interest and Sinking Fund on the capital expenditure of Rs. 7,80,940. These are given at Rs. 56,510. The total annual charges therefore amount to—

						Rs.
Working expenses	..	..	..	..	..	8,01,938
Interest and Sinking Fund	..	..	..	..	..	56,510
Total Rs.						<u>8,58,448</u>

* See Corporation Record.

Similarly, the Railway transport scheme will necessitate an initial capital expenditure as follows:—

	Rs.
Land (to be purchased outright)	1,06,890
Construction works including screens instead of shed at tipping siding	5,80,296
Total Rs. ..	<u>6,87,186</u>

or Rs. 1,43,754 less than the initial capital expenditure involved by the incineration scheme.

The annual charges in the case of the railway transport scheme will amount to:—

	Rs.
Working expenses	1,40,411
Sinking Fund and interest	38,040
Total Charges Rs. ..	<u>1,78,451</u>

19. The total annual charges for the incineration scheme will, therefore, amount to Rs. 3,58,448, as against Rs. 1,78,451 for railway transport, but the latter will result in valuable reclamation works being effected at Chimbur. The Executive Engineer estimates that the revenue to be derived from the reclaimed area will amount to some Rs. 12,000 a year to commence with, and this sum will gradually increase until in 1910 it will reach the handsome figure of Rs. 90,750 as given in his Statement No. S* attached to Mr. Murzban's letter No. 8321, as before. From incinerations there will be no revenue.

The Executive Engineer's estimate of revenue is based on that now obtained from land at Chimbur, which was reclaimed some years ago when railway transport was in force.

20. The Committee recommended that negotiations be entered into with Government for the out-and-out acquisition of the land at Chimbur, which is required for the deposit of the town sweepings. This land is now practically valueless, but will have a high agricultural value immediately reclamation is effected, and it may some day become exceedingly valuable residential property.

21. In the estimate for works in connection with the railway transport scheme, the Committee have considered it desirable to ask the Executive Engineer to include provision for permanent screens on both sides of the tipping sidings, in order that the nuisance from dust, &c., may be reduced to a minimum. The screens will cost Rs. 43,628, and this has been included in the estimate for the scheme. It is a question whether a similar arrangement is not equally necessary at the incinerator site, but provision has not been included in the incinerator estimate.

* See Record of Corporation.

22. The following appear to be the advantages and disadvantages of the rival schemes :—

The railway transport scheme, besides showing a saving of Rs. 1,43,754 in initial capital expenditure, will show an immediate saving of Rs. 1,80,017 per annum in working expenses, interest, and Sinking Fund, as compared with incineration, and will result in a revenue of increasing amount being derived from the reclaimed area.

It will also remove the town sweepings to a remote locality in the speediest manner.

Incineration will cost Rs. 1,80,017 per annum more in working expenses, interest and Sinking Fund at present than Railway transport, and this difference will increase in future as the revenue to be derived from the reclaimed land at Chimbur grows larger.

Theoretically, incineration is believed to be the most sanitary mode of disposing of refuse, but it is more than doubtful whether local conditions will not cause it to be more insanitary than railway transport to a remote uninhabited tract of country.

23. The Committee at their final meeting considered the conditions mentioned in para. 7 of the Executive Engineer's No. 8921 of 2nd October 1896, as above, and, if valid, they would necessitate an alteration of the estimates set forth. From inquiries made from the Commissioner and the Health Officer, it appears that a misapprehension existed as to the Health Officer's meaning, and that he was merely arguing on the basis of a further deposit of non-incinerable kutchra being permissible, while really adhering to his views that not further deposit of any kind was even desirable. As it is obvious that Government do not intend the flats to be used for further deposit of kutchra, once the new scheme can be got into working order there is no occasion to discuss these conditions further, and the estimates will remain undisturbed.

COWASJEE HORMUSJEE.
S. REBSCH.
D. E. WACHA.
G. W. ROUGHTON.
BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA.
NANABHAI NAVROSJI KATRAK.

Note by the Secretary.—Two of the members originally appointed on the Committee have retired from the Corporation, viz., Major Scott, R.E., C.I.E., and Thomas Blaney, Esq., C.I.E.

Corporation
adopt the
Chimbur
Scheme.

The report of the Committee was approved and adopted, by the Corporation and the President was requested to address Government with a view to the permanent acquisition of the land required at Chimbur.

The following was considered by the Standing Committee at their meeting held on 8rd February 1897.

Letter No. 22752 dated 28th January 1897 from the Commissioner to the Secretary as under :—

Sir,—With reference to the Municipal Corporation's Resolution No. 9808, dated the 14th ultimo, and Standing Committee's Resolution No. 9838, dated the 16th idem, thereon, I have the honour to report that there are no funds available to permanently meet the cost of providing for the initial outlay required for the disposal of town sweepings at Chimbur. 2—The cost will therefore have to be met by raising a loan of Rs. 6,37,186, or say Rs. 6,40,000 in round figures, repayable in 40 years at $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest per annum. Pending the raising of a loan of the above amount along with the cost of other works already sanctioned by the Corporation to be carried out by raising loans, the expenditure during the ensuing year in connection with the scheme for the disposal of town sweepings can be temporarily met with the Standing Committee's and Corporation's sanction by advances from invested and other available balances. 3—The annual interest and sinking fund instalment on the above loan of Rs. 6,40,000 for 40 years at $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest will amount to Rs. 30,200, which together with the maintenance charges amounting to Rs. 1,40,417 as estimated by the Executive Engineer and approved of by the Corporation, or say Rs. 1,71,000 in all, will have to be met from current revenue, which, I am afraid, will not be able to bear this heavy charge, as also the interest and sinking fund instalment, amounting to Rs. 73,500, on account of the loan works of the aggregate estimated cost of Rs. 15,61,000 sanctioned in the ensuing year's budget, without extra taxation, unless the Corporation agree to meet the deficit in revenue which will be caused by these additional maintenance and debt charges, out of the accumulated balances of previous years, a greater portion of which is likely to be absorbed by deficits in revenue for the current and ensuing years and by further expenditure for the suppression of the plague. I have &c.—
P. C. H. SNOW, Commissioner.

Proposed by Nanabhai N. Katrak, Esq., seconded by T. W. Cuffe, Esq.—

“ That, with reference to their Resolution No. 9808 of No. 11830. the 14th December 1896, the Corporation be recommended to authorize the Commissioner to apply to Government for sanction to the raising of a loan sufficient to provide for the initial outlay necessary for providing for the disposal of town sweepings at Chimbur, namely, a loan of Rs. 6,40,000 repayable in forty years, bearing interest at $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum,

That, pending the raising of such loan, the cost of carrying out the works in question be met by advances from invested and other available balances to be adjusted hereafter when the raising of the loan has been sanctioned. That the Commissioner reports that the annual charges for interest and sinking fund instalments on the loan and at the above rate of interest on a loan for 40 years will amount to Rs. 30,200 per annum, and that the maintenance charges debitable to current revenue are estimated by the Executive Engineer at Rs. 1,40,417 yearly; that the Corporation be further recommended to authorize the Commissioner to include the above amount of Rs. 6,40,000 in the application to be made to Government for raising Rs. 15,61,000 for the different loan works sanctioned in the Budget for 1897-98, the total loan to be applied for thus aggregating Rs. 22,01,000, or say Rs. 22,00,000. That the Standing Committee agree with the Commissioner that the sinking fund and interest charges on the total loan and the maintenance charges, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 2,44,200, if not met from invested balances which are likely to be almost absorbed by deficits in revenue for the current and ensuing years and by further expenditure for the suppression of the plague, will have to be met by additional taxation. That the Chairman be asked to apply to the Corporation, at their meeting tomorrow (4-2-97) to consider this resolution as urgent business."

On 4th February 1897, the Corporation passed the following Resolution.

Proposed by Bhalchandra K. Bhatawadekar, Esq., seconded by A. G. Viegas, Esq.—

Corporation
sanction the
raising of the
requisite loan.

"That, with reference to the Standing Committee's Resolution No. 11830 of the 3rd instant, the Corporation authorize the Commissioner to apply to Government for sanction to the raising of a loan sufficient to provide for the initial outlay necessary for providing for the disposal of town sweepings at Chimbur, namely, a loan of Rs. 6,40,000 repayable in forty years bearing interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

"That, pending the raising of such loan, the cost of carrying out the works in question be met by advances from invested and other available balances to be adjusted hereafter when the raising of the loan has been sanctioned.

"That, as further recommended by the Standing Committee, the Corporation authorize the Commissioner to include the above amount of Rs. 6,40,000 in the application to be made to Government for raising Rs. 15,61,000 for the different loan works sanctioned in the Budget for 1897-98. The total loan to be applied for thus aggregating Rs. 22,00,000.

"That the Corporation agree with the Commissioner and the Standing Committee that the sinking fund and interest charges on the total loan and the maintenance charges amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 2,44,200, as

Interest and Sinking Fund on Rs. 6,40,000 ...Rs.	30,200	detailed in the
" " " " 15,60,000 ... "	73,500	margin, if not
Annual extra debt charges ... "	1,03,700	met from in-
Annual maintenance charges in connection		vested balances
with the disposal of town sweepings at		which are like-
Chimbur	1,40,500	ly to be almost
Total ... Rs.	2,44,200	absorbed by

venue for the current and ensuing years and by further expenditure for the suppression of the plague, will have to be met by additional taxation.

"That Resolution of the Standing Committee, No. 10098 of 30th December 1896, as under be recorded:—

'That letter to the Secretary, No. 19560, dated 23rd instant, from the Commissioner, and protest against the disposal of town sweepings at Chimbur submitted therewith, be forwarded to the Corporation.' "

The Bombay Government vide their letter No. 1532, Revenue Department dated 24th February 1897, having intimated to the Corporation that H. E. the Governor in Council did not deem it expedient to sell outright either the land already leased to the Municipality or the additional land applied for, the Corporation on 13th May 1897 sanctioned the acquisition of 823 acres and 4 guntas or thereabout of land at Chimbur, the property of Mr. Ardaair Cursetji Cama, specified in the Executive Engineers' letter to the Municipal Commissioner No. 17013 dated 25th March 1897.

The Corporation visited and inspected the works on 12th May, 1899, and the transportation of sweepings was commenced on 7th June 1899. Out of the grant of Rs. 8,44,000 the expenditure upto the end of March 1900 was Rs. 7,18,209.

Government
refuse to sell
outright the
land at Chim-
bur.

Total ex-
penditure on
the Chimbur
Scheme,

The Bee Hive Incinerator was sanctioned in November 1886 and was completed in August 1887 but as the result of the working at first was not satisfactory, several minor alterations were effected in December of that year and the subsequent results were favourable.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The duties connected with the registration of births and deaths were permanently attached to the Health Officer on the 1st January 1867. The registration of the births and deaths was most unsatisfactory, as the causes of deaths were most imperfectly given. The City was therefore divided into fifteen districts, and to each district a Registrar of births and deaths was appointed. Hand-bills were circulated and battakees beaten in every part of the City warning the inhabitants that they were liable to a penalty to give information to the Registrar of the District in which they resided, both as regards births and deaths occurring in their families. This measure was attended with immediate good results.

In 1874 the establishment was made up of:—

5 Registrars of Births and Deaths.

1 Superintendent water Division.

7 office clerks.

1 Peon.

* 22 clerks for collecting information concerning births in the city.

The cost of the establishment came to about Rs. 804 a month.

In 1897 a proposal was submitted to amend the system of Registration of Births and Deaths as under:—

BOMBAY, 20th January 1898.

The Committee appointed by the Corporation on the 23rd December 1897, beg to report that, after careful consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on the proposed amendment of

the law relating to the registration of births and deaths, your Committee are of opinion that no alteration in the Municipal Act is necessary as they consider that accurate registration can be secured by the operation of by-laws framed under the provisions of Section 461 of the Municipal Act.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that by-laws under Section 461 be framed accordingly.

G. COTTON.
MANEKSHAH J. TALYARKHAN.
KALABHAI LALUBHAI.
IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA.
HAJI YOOSOF HAJI ISMAIL.
ISMAIL JAN MAHOMED.
SUNDERNATH D. KHOTE.
G. W. ROUGHTON,
DHAKJI KASHINATHJI.
N. J. GAMADIA.

I dissent from the above and agree with Dr. Bahadurji that the alterations proposed by the Commissioner to the Standing Committee with certain amendments should be adopted.

O. V. MULLER.

I disagree with the Committee in the view they have taken of the subject of death registration as well as of the nature and scope of their work. It is urged that the present Act is all sufficient for the purposes of correct death registration, and all that is required is to frame bye-laws under Section 461, and the bye-laws, according to the Sub-Committee, should provide efficient inspection of corpses at the different places for the disposal of the dead by Brahmin doctors for Hindus, Mahomedan doctors for Mahomedans, and Parsee doctors for Parsees. No bye-laws can lay down a procedure for carrying out what the Act itself does not provide for or sanction, and the suggestion for a general inspection of corpses just before disposal, and after all religious rites have been performed, even by caste doctors, betrays want of close acquaintance with the religious beliefs and usages of the different communities. A careful reading of the Act will show that no section or sections empower such general inspection of corpses. To say that the Act is all-sufficient for the purposes of correct death registration is not to realize fully the aims, objects, and the true basis of a correct system of death registration, and to show incorrect or insufficient knowledge of what now passes for death registration in the city. The sections embodying the principle and basis of death registration are 449 and 450. Section 450 deals with cases that have received qualified medical treatment. It directs that in the case of a person who has been attended in his last illness by a duly qualified medical practitioner, it is the medical practitioner that shall sign and forward to the Commissioner a certificate of the cause of such person's death in a particular or such other form as may be prescribed by the Commissioner. This section has often remained a dead letter, and for obvious reasons.

The obligation to furnish the necessary certificate is placed on the wrong party. It is by no means an unusual thing to change doctors in the course of an illness, and, just before death, resort to other than qualified medical treatment, or no treatment at all. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the medical practitioners called in turns to treat or see a case do not feel themselves called upon to send in a certificate of the cause of death. The friends and relatives of the deceased are not charged with the duty of obtaining the necessary certificate, and it is by no means an unusual thing for the friends and relatives composing the funeral party to remain silent or give a negative answer to the question of the medical attendant, of set purpose or through indifference. When for some purpose or other it is sought to conceal the true cause of death, the name of the medical attendant or attendants is not given, as it may lead to inconvenient inquiries and results. That correct information is not given is a well-known fact, for it is not to be believed that out of some 700 deaths in a week, only two received the *hakim* or *vaid*, and seventy-three qualified medical treatment. Section 449 deals with untreated cases. It desires information as to the cause of death at or about the time of the disposal of the corpse. Now, at the place of disposal of the dead, the law (Sec. 448) sanctions nothing more than a municipal officer *receiving information* of the particulars to be entered in the Death Register. And the information is to be given in writing, if the informant can write, or orally, if otherwise. The informant is a member of the funeral party—a friend or near relative of the deceased, or any other person present at the death, or the undertaker, or any person causing the corpse to be disposed of (Sec. 449). It is incomprehensible how any bye-law can ascertain more than is now ascertained from informants such as these. It is true, the Coroner's inquest does ascertain circumstances giving a probable cause of death. But that is a semi-judicial inquiry for special cases, and not sanctioned by law for ordinary cases; and the inquiry embraces examination of the corpse, with autopsy where necessary. It argues, therefore, quite an erroneous reading of the terms and intentions of the Act to say that it provides for inspection and examination of the corpses at the places of disposal of the dead, and that all that is necessary is to make bye-laws, to lay down the procedure for carrying out such provision. No such provision exists, and no bye-laws can bring it into being. I take it, then, that it is on a mistaken view of the intentions and provisions of the Act that the Corporation is advised that no amendment of the Act is necessary. For, it will hardly be claimed by even a layman with any idea of the requirements of a correct basis of reliable death registration that the written or oral information given at the burning or burial ground by some one of the funeral party can be the basis of a true and reliable registering of the cause of death. It is true, there is a penalty of fine for the informant who gives information which is not

correct, according to the best of his knowledge and belief. But it is self-evident why the penalty is practically inoperative. I trust therefore, it is sufficiently clear that an amendment of the Act is necessary. What shall be this amendment? In seeking an answer to this question, it must be borne in mind: 1.—That the object of death registration being to ascertain correctly the cause of every death in the City, the procedure to be adopted for the attainment of the end must recognise the right means and methods which afford the necessary information. 2.—That there are but three reliable ways of gaining the necessary information, viz., (a) an examination of the sick person in the course of the last illness by a duly qualified medical practitioner; (b) thorough examination of the corpse; (c) an inquest inquiry, which may require an examination of the corpse, with or without autopsy. 3.—That inquests are provided for in special cases, and it would be absurd and impracticable to hold semi-judicial inquiries in every case in which a medical certificate of the cause of death is not forthcoming. 4.—That it would require extraordinary powers of vision to tell the cause of death by the simple process of viewing the corpse, and one must be very credulous, indeed, to believe that even qualified medical men can decipher the cause of death by a mere inspection of the corpse from a respectable distance prescribed by the religious tenets of the different communities. 5.—That the religious beliefs and usages of this country, and the practice enjoined thereby to dispose of the corpse with all possible haste and at any hour of the day or night, are against the procedure of ascertaining the cause of death on the lines adopted in countries where corpses are not only not so disposed of, but may be inspected, touched, and examined, without any violation of religious principles and rites, or disregard of popular feeling. The law and the procedure, therefore, must be such as seek the necessary information on the nature of the illness terminating in death—not after, but before, death. A law and procedure so adopted will not only gain more reliable information, but work very satisfactorily and smoothly, for it could be no violation of religious rites or feelings to require people to furnish certificates of the nature of the illness terminating in death. Our basis of correct death registration must be a certificate of the nature of the last or fatal illness given by a duly qualified medical practitioner, who has either treated the case or was at least called in to examine and certify the nature of the illness. It is difficult to conceive what objection people could have to supply the necessary certificate except under two circumstances, viz., (1) that in any particular case the cause of death is sought to be concealed to defeat the ends of justice, as in death by poisoning, or to evade the requirements of sanitation and public health, as in death from epidemic diseases; (2) that they are unable to obtain the necessary certificate, because, of poverty. In the first case the course is obvious. In the case of people unable to afford not only qualified medical treatment but even a fee for examining

the patient and certifying the nature of the illness, it is the duty of the Municipality to provide in such cases the necessary examination and certification free of charge. Even to-day this procedure obtains in the mofussil, where the official medical inspector, on being sent for, visits the poor patient and certifies the nature of the illness, so that when death occurs there is no trouble or delay in disposing of the corpse, and the death is not treated as one from plague or requiring further inquiry. If this procedure works well in times of epidemics, there is no reason why it should not work well in ordinary times. Our basis of correct death registration, therefore, must be a certificate of the nature of the last illness given by (a) a duly qualified medical practitioner who has either treated the case or was at least called in to examine it and certify the nature of the illness, or (b) the official medical inspector who was called in for the purpose of examining the patient and certifying the nature of the illness, the official medical inspector being an hospital assistant, who is, according to the ruling of the Government of India, a duly qualified medical practitioner. Bye-laws may be made to lay down the procedure for providing the poor with free visits of the official medical inspector, not for the purpose of giving treatment, but for the purpose of examining the patient and certifying the nature of the illness, so that, on death occurring, the corpse is allowed due disposal without any delay or examination of any sort. The amendment suggested by the Commissioner with the necessary alteration to suit the procedure suggested above will meet the requirements of correct death registration. Sections bearing on the procedure to be adopted before removal of the corpse from the house should be omitted, and Section 451 (1) should read thus: "No corpse shall be allowed disposal without a certificate of death from,—

(a) a duly qualified medical practitioner who had treated the case or was called in to examine the case and certify the nature of the illness ;

(b) an official medical inspector who was called in to examine the case and certify the nature of the illness."

For corpses without such certificates a special procedure already exists for cases of sudden death, and the proposed Section 458 (B) deals with other uncertified cases. The Committee at their last meeting dropped all consideration of the Sub-committee's report bearing on the lines on which bye-laws were recommended, and decided that their work was done if they simply told the Corporation to let alone the suggested alterations in the Act and only frame bye-laws under Section 461. They thought it was no part of their work to suggest the bye-laws that would, in their opinion, secure accurate registration, or even the lines on which such bye-laws should be framed. It was agreed that no accurate registration was possible under the existing state of things. They were appointed to consider a report on the proposed alteration in the law relating to the registration of births

and deaths—a report laying down not only principles, but a regular scheme to work out those principles. The Committee reject it *en bloc* without advancing a single reason and give nothing tangible in return, but a mere fiat to the Corporation—Don't change the law, make bye-laws. After going, fully into the question, as they must be presumed to have done, they have nothing to suggest as to what sort of bye-laws they want; they think the Corporation should appoint another Committee to frame bye-laws which, in their opinion, will secure accurate registration. Suppose, the new Committee in their study of the whole question find the law to be really defective, and are, therefore, unable to cure the defect in the law by means of bye-laws, what then? And, moreover, the question of birth registration did not occupy the attention of the Committee. Not one word was uttered on the subject. I cannot help repeating that the Committee have failed to grasp not only the extent and meaning of the existing provisions in the Act in relation to death registration, and the requirements of accurate death registration, but also the purpose and the work for which they were appointed by the Corporation.

K. N. BAHADURJI.

1st February 1898.

This report was considered by the Corporation at a meeting held on 21st February 1898 with the following result:—

Proposed by Maneksha J. Talyarkhan, Esq., seconded by Kalabhai Lalubhai Esq.—

“That the report of the Committee of the Corporation on the question of the proposed amendment of the law relating to the registration of births and deaths, dated 20th January 1898, be approved and adopted.”

Amendment, proposed by Dr. Kaikhosru N. Bahadurji, seconded by Dinshah E. Wacha, Esq.—

“That the report of the Committee on the subject of registration of births and deaths, dated 10th December 1897, be approved and adopted, subject to the omission of the following passages:—“Sections bearing on the procedure to be adopted before removal of the corpse from the house” should be omitted, and Section 451 (1) should read thus: “No corpse shall be allowed disposal without a certificate of death from (a) a duly qualified medical practitioner who had treated the case or was called in to examine the case and certify the nature of the illness, (b) an official medical inspector who was called in to examine the case and certify the nature of the illness.”

On a division, the votes were recorded as follows :—

		<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>	
Amendment	...	7	13	<i>Lost.</i>
Original motion	...	15	9	<i>Carried.</i>

No. 7076 of 1888-89.

BOMBAY, 24th July 1888.

TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN COUNCIL.

Proposed
amalgamation
of the Regis-
tration and
Vaccination
Departments.

SIR,—Referring to Corporation Resolutions Nos. 1648 and 1858, dated 24th November and 19th December, respectively, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Town Council, that the result of my communication with the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject embodied in the Resolution quoted, has ended by Government declining to assent to a modification of the existing arrangements under which the entire control and supervision of vaccination in the city of Bombay is in the hands of Government.

I enclose a copy of the Resolution, together with a copy of my letter No. 4445 of 14th June 1888, with its accompaniments, for the information of the Council.—I have, &c., F. L. CHARLES, Acting Municipal Commissioner.

No. 4445 of 1888-89.

BOMBAY, 14th June 1888.

SIR,—Referring to your predecessor's No. 17B of the 4th January 1888, I have the honour to forward copy of a report No. 5941 of the 31st May 1888, from the Health Officer of the Municipality, and to say that Dr. Hewlett apparently misunderstood the meaning of the proposed amalgamation.

2. As I understand the Resolution of the Corporation, its intention was not to hand over the registration of births to your Department as Dr. Hewlett understood, but that the Health Department of the Municipality should take over the vaccination arrangements from Government.

3. I have now the honour to ask whether Government are prepared to hand over the supervision of vaccination to the Municipality. It would, of course, be necessary that Government should continue as now to supply a trained Superintendent of Vaccination.—I have, &c.,

F. L. CHARLES, Acting Municipal Commissioner.

No. 5941 of 1888-89.

BOMBAY, 31st May 1888.

TO THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER.

MEMORANDUM—The Sanitary Commissioner and the Superintendent of Vaccination have certainly, as you state, misunderstood the purport of the Resolution of the Corporation. I understood that the Corporation wished to know whether by amalgamation of the Vaccination Department, and the establishment for

the registration of births under the Municipal Commissioner, more efficient vaccination and a more efficient registration of births at less cost could not be secured. The impression I had on hearing the discussion was that the Corporation considered that not only was the registration of births, but the enforcement of vaccination, inefficient.

The Superintendent of Vaccination proposes a scheme and establishment for the registration of births at more cost, and in my opinion less efficient than the present system. The Superintendent of Vaccination proposes that instead of the establishment for the registration of births under the Health Department (which now consists of 39 karkoons, although 40 are budgetted) and costing Rs. 429, an establishment costing Rs. 696 should be employed. This is shortly the proposal. The present establishment is 39 karkoons at Rs. 429 a month and Rs. 5,149 annually.

The proposed establishment of the Superintendent of Vaccination is:—1 Inspector, Rs. 80 per month; 1 Inspector, Rs. 65 per month; 1 Inspector, Rs. 50 per month; 1 Clerk, Rs. 30 per month; 12 karkoons at Rs. 15 each, Rs. 180 per month; 21 karkoons at Rs. 12 each, Rs. 252 per month; 1 Peon, Rs. 10 per month; Promotion to 4 Vaccinators at Rs. 6 each, Rs. 24 per month; Promotion to the Head Clerk, Rs. 5 per month; total Rs. 696 per month, and Rs. 8,352 per annum.

If there is more money to be spent, it is of course very easy to propose a scheme for spending it. I do not think it is necessary to spend any more money on the registration of births so long as there are Sub-Inspectors and mucadams in the Health Department to do the work of the three Inspectors proposed by the Superintendent of Vaccination in his scheme. The Superintendent of Vaccination proposes three new Inspectors on salaries ranging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 50, 1 clerk on Rs. 30, 1 peon on Rs. 10, in addition to 33 karkoons on salaries higher than are now paid by the Municipality to the karkoons employed under the Health Department, and that promotion should be given to certain vaccinators and to the head clerk of the Vaccination Department. This is the scheme. As regards the Inspectors: in my opinion the Inspectors could do nothing in the way of supervision. Consider the vast numbers of the populations amongst whom the Inspectors would have to find births and amongst whom they would have to follow the karkoons. Take the figures of the Superintendent of Vaccination, 1 Inspector to a population of 2,96,809, a second Inspector to a population of 2,62,804, and a third Inspector to a population of 1,88,696. What work practically could three Inspectors do in following 33 karkoons amongst these vast populations. Unless that the Inspectors were very exceptional men, they would do no work, and further it would be practically impossible to find out that they did no work. It would almost be as practically useful to expect three men to count grains of the sand on the foreshore.

The Superintendent of Vaccination is not acquainted with the present system, or I do not think he would propose that three Inspectors should be employed. The present system is this. The karkoons keep daily diaries of the houses they visit. These diaries are checked by each ward staff of the Health Department, and the karkoons are also watched by each ward staff; but this supervision is not found sufficient owing to the impossibility of following the karkoons through the large number of houses in the districts distributed to karkoons. The best test is an arbitrary one, the birth-rate; and it is used as you know in addition to other tests in judging the work and punishing the karkoons.

I agree with the opinion of the Superintendent of Vaccination that the karkoons should be paid higher salaries than they are now paid by the Municipality; he proposes that they should be paid Rs. 15 and Rs. 12 each instead of Rs. 11, as now in the Health Department. The work of the karkoons, as I have before reported, is chiefly damaged by a large number of karkoons leaving duty, and applying for leave of absence on the pretence of sickness or emergent business. If the karkoons were paid higher salaries they might be more reluctant to leave Municipal employment. They now attach very little importance to the appointments of Rs. 11 a month.

I do not think it is necessary to have a clerk as the Superintendent of Vaccination proposes, and I do not well know what he would do. I apprehend that the appointment has been proposed under a wrong impression that a clerk is employed in the Health Department in the registration of births. A clerk is not employed by the Health Department in the registration of births, but a clerk has been employed and employed from before the Health Department took over the registration of births, in the tabulation of births. The Health Department has only had charge of the registration of births since the 3rd December 1877.

The Superintendent of Vaccination has misunderstood the position of the Registrars of births and deaths. The Registrars have a position fixed by law, and until the law is amended the Registrars must occupy that position. The Registrars do not find births, but they enter in books the particulars on the birth reports. The Registrars of births are really the karkoons assisted by the Health Department ward staff.

The Superintendent of Vaccination has not had an opportunity of knowing the cause of the laxity "in the working of the penal clauses of the Municipal Acts." That laxity is due to the reading of the law by the courts and, as you are aware, I have long ago reported on the impossibility of obtaining a conviction against the parents of the children. The Superintendent of Vaccination did not know the view taken by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of the law, on this law, and hence his impression.

The large establishment proposed by the Superintendent of Vaccination shows that the present expenditure on the registration of births is very low. If the Superintendent of Vaccination considers that Rs. 267 more than is spent now, is necessary for the registration of births, it is an argument for the increase of the present expenditure. I do not think it is necessary to increase that expenditure. I think it may be reduced if the present experiment of paying the karkoons according to births registered is successful. The report of the Superintendent of Vaccination merely indicates that the registration of births cannot be conducted by any other department than the Police so economically as it is conducted by the Health Department. The Police could conduct the registration of births as economically as the Health Department. The registration of births varies very much in different classes as shown in the following table :—

Return showing the number of births in each class during 1886.

CLASSES.	Number of Births.
Jains	508
Brahmins	287
Lingaets	32
Bhatias	156
Hindoos of other Castes	7,095
Hindoos, Low Castes	1,451
Musulmans	3,256
Paraces	1,323
Jews	108
Native Christians	433
Eurasians	73
Europeans	169
Negro-Africans	16
Buddhists .....	.....
Other and unknown Castes	2
Total...	14,909

I feel some reluctance in criticising the system and establishment provided by the Municipality for the enforcement of vaccination. The great advantage of the present system is in being able to obtain an experienced officer from Government to act as Superintendent of Vaccination. This is the chief advantage. Excluding the Superintendent of Vaccination, the department would be worked more cheaply under the Municipal Commissioner. The scale of salaries paid to the subordinates in the Vaccination Department is higher than in the Health Department, while of course the work is less onerous; for instance, sub-vaccinators are paid Rs. 18 a month, while mucadams of the same class in the Health Department are only paid Rs. 13 and Rs. 12. The lowest salary of clerks in the Vaccination Department is Rs. 30, while in the Health Department it is Rs. 20. The karkoons in the Vaccination Department are paid Rs. 12, while in the Health Department they are paid Rs. 11. With the

exception of the appointment of the Superintendent of Vaccination, there is no doubt that it would be more economical for the Municipality to have direct charge of the Vaccination Department, and I do not think the department would be worked less efficiently by the Municipality with a good superintendent.

I would point out in conclusion the birth registration is improving.

T. S. WEIR, Health Officer.

Government Resolution No. 2415, dated 12th July 1888, General Department, regarding the proposal to entrust vaccination in the City of Bombay solely to the Municipality.

RESOLUTION.—The Sanitary Commissioner should be requested to inform the Municipal Commissioner, that Government are not prepared to assent to a modification of existing arrangements under which the entire control and supervision of vaccination in the City of Bombay is in the hands of Government.

JOHN NUGENT, Chief Secretary to Government.

The Corporation on 13th September 1898, passed the following Resolution :—

Proposed by Thomas Blaney, Esq., seconded by Surgeon-Major Waters—

“That the papers on the subject of the amalgamation of the Registration and the Vaccination Departments, submitted by the Town Council No. 4269, be recorded.” *Carried.*

The Corporation on 19th June 1902, considered letter to the President, from the Acting Chief Secretary to Government General Department, dated the 17th May last, with regard to the charge of vaccination work in the city. The letter states :—
“The Governor in Council is advised that as public vaccination is one of the matters for which the Corporation may provide in their discretion the Health Officer can, by arrangement between Government and the Corporation be appointed under Section 3 of Bombay Act I of 1877 to the charge of vaccination work in the City. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that in Bombay as in Calcutta, the responsibility for vaccination and for the registration of births should be in the same hands. Should the Corporation desire that the Health Officer should undertake this duty, Government are prepared to make the arrangement described in the following paragraph. Government, I am to say, have undertaken the construction of a Central Vaccination Depot at Parel, which they are prepared to hand over with its site to the Corporation on the understanding (a) that the Corporation undertake the whole management of vaccination in Bombay City including all administration charges, and the pay of the Assistant Superintendent of Vaccination and (b) erect on a site which

Government are prepared to give on a nominal rent a Vaccination Station in the Fort for which plans and estimates have been prepared at an approximate cost of Rs. 15,000. I am to request that Government may be favoured at a very early date with the views of the Corporation on the arrangement proposed."

The Hon. Mr. Mehta moved that the letter be recorded and that Government be informed that this was a question which ought to be taken into consideration along with the question substituting different heads of liability in respect of police and medical relief.

Dr. Katrak seconded the proposition which was adopted.

The Corporation on 4th February 1897, passed the following Resolution:—

Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Abdalla M. Dharamsi—
Seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta C. I. E.

"I. That, in the opinion of the Corporation, it is necessary that the Commissioner should, under the provisions of section 368 of the Municipal Act, give public notice, if such notice has not already been given, calling upon the occupiers of houses to collect all dust, ashes, refuse and rubbish from their respective premises, and to deposit the same in the public receptacles provided for the purpose.

Removal of
rubbish.

"II. That in future the provisions of sections 368 and 372 of the Act be stringently enforced.

"III. That hand-bills in English and in the Vernacular languages be issued, informing the public that, under the provisions of section 368 of the Municipal Act, it is incumbent on occupiers of all premises to carry out the provisions of that section and that, under the provisions of section 372 of the Act, it is an offence to throw or place any dust, ashes, refuse or rubbish, or any excrementitious or polluted matter on streets and gullies, and that persons so doing are liable to a penalty of Rs. 50, and that in future the provisions of sections 368 and 372 will be stringently enforced."

In order to expedite the removal of refuse and to assist tenants to keep their premises clean it was suggested that the system of sending carts from house to house would be a great convenience. The Health Officer in his letter No. 141 dated 3rd April 1900 to the Commissioner stated that a cart could be sent from house to house in

System of
sending carts
from House
to House.