

Health Officer the occupants are then required to vacate within 8 days and the reoccupation of the premises forbidden until restored to proper condition. This power is not used as often as it should be. It is very difficult to make out a case in court against the proprietor, and aldermanic interference, is often worked to the utmost. We recently condemned a block on Busby Lane and as it is in my own ward we have been able to press the matter to a conclusion. The block is now being demolished.

#### PRIVY PITS.

One of the main reforms for which I have been fighting for the past two years and for which I expect to struggle for the remainder of my term, is the abolition of the pit-in-the-ground privy. Even in this year of our Lord, 1900, there are still over 5000 privy pits in the city of Montreal. The by-law regarding this matter requires that the pit be practically water tight; as a matter of fact not five per cent. of the privies of the city are in conformity with the existing by-law. In the study which I made three years ago of the western part of the city I was able to show that the death rate and the prevalence of contagious diseases followed proportionately the number of privies in various localities. Twice I have introduced by-laws into Council for the total abolition of this abomination and twice have I been defeated. At the present moment I have before Council a compromise measure calculated to tolerate, after May 1st, 1901, none but exceptional cases. The conditions of continuance are these:—No privy pit shall exist except by permission granted by the Medical Health Officer. Said permit shall only be given when, 1st. when it has been conclusively proven that the house cannot contain a water closet or that the insertion of the same would be a menace to the health of the occupants, and, secondly, that the alternative privy conforms strictly with the regulations and is as innocuous as possible. Even this half way measure, with difficulty, we succeeded in passing through the Board of Health, where you would have expected it would have received unanimous support. Should it pass the Council we shall hope in time to so worry the proprietors who tolerate privies, that a large portion of those presently existing will ultimately be abolished.

#### PUBLIC BATHS.

The maintenance and control of the public baths, such as they are, fall within the powers of this department. At the present time there are three summer baths in operation, one on St. Helen's Island, one in Hochelaga, and one out near Verdun. These baths, two of which are open on the river, are free to the public. Plans are now completed for the construction of a new public bath near the Wellington Bridge, which will be of a more permanent character than its predecessors. This