

## SANITARY REPORT

Sanitary Inspector Conlin reports that 20,000 lbs. of pork were seized during the year as unfit for human consumption. The sanitary state of the city is good, owing in great measure to the strict enforcement of the health laws.

Magistrate, who, with the  
officer rendered the inspect

The report of Dr. McGregor, the librarian shows that during last year 17,083 books were issued from the public library; 7,643 to women and 9,440 to men; highest number in one day 192, daily average 71. During the year 357 new

members joined; total membership 4,020, books added to library, 540.

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### MUNICIPAL REFORM.

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TO THE EDITOR:—I am sure the most intelligent portion of your readers were this morning a little surprised, as well as amused, at the boastful tone assumed by

the Mayor at the meeting of Wednes-  
day night, when he referred to the work done by  
city councils. He very adroitly and wisely  
avoided speaking of the present council or  
what it has done. None should come for-  
ward more readily than the mayor and  
aldermen to give their support to a new  
scheme for city government, as none know  
better than they do what a miserable failure

It requires very little judgment or perspicacity to sum up the present condition of things municipal, as gross mismanagement, complete incapacity in business principles, negligence, and wasteful extravagance. Take the water question. Early last spring the water began to smell and taste badly. Numerous complaints were made

on the subject, but the council made no effort to improve matters, beyond much useless and idle chatter. Summer came and went and nothing was done. Another spring is nearly upon us and nothing has been done, and after nine months of municipal negligence we are still condemned to use high smelling water. The Mayor did not deal with the present la-

night; we are, however, living in the present and dealing with the present, and the present issues the Mayor and Aldermen have to contend with. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been borrowed to improve the water—another evidence of extravagance and ill-matured judgment—perpetual burden of at least \$6,000 a year laid on the city, when \$10,000, all told

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The houses and their contents require thorough disinfection; but for lack of appliances the work was a difficult one, and altogether unproductive of damage to the goods treated. We can never hope to be free from these diseases, which occur constantly in the best regulated cities, consequently, there must be some system of disinfection resorted to, and, with the action I suggest, the entire

It is satisfactory to see that the subject of water supply is one of the most prominent in the discussions of the city council and the comments in the press. I trust that speedily some effective work may be done in the way of providing the city not alone with an ample water supply, but of one of the very best quality. I would be difficult for me to add anything to the recommendations on the subject made in my previous communications.

Not a single case of enteric or typhoid fever has been reported to me during the year, although I have indirectly been made aware of several cases being treated by city physicians. As is well known, this disease is caused by infection from a previous case and hence both householders and physicians should at once report their cases to the health officer, in order that the source of infection—generally milk adulterated by infected water, or more likely in this city uncooked Chinese vegetables—may

be ascertained and the spread of the disease arrested. In this connection it may be well for me to refer to the necessity of having careful and accurate inspection made of street house plumbing, particularly at the present time, when connections are being numerous made with the extended sewers. I would especially call the attention of your honorable body to this point.

can during the year preceding. They were not only supplied with medicine, but some of them received orders for goods and other necessities. Their ailments were not such generally to demand their removal to hospitals but in many cases where this was done I have experienced much difficulty in securing for them the qualification necessary to their admission. Matters would be very much simplified if some arrangement could be reached by which the Medical Health officer's certificate would be regarded as sufficient.

A large number of the inmates of the police station during the past year were Indians who were frequently covered with filth and vermin which took possession on several occasions of only of the cells but also of the blankets or straw mattresses, while it has been said by the jailers that even their clothing was affected. To avoid this, I would suggest that clothing should be supplied to each prisoner on his entrance, after a bath has been given. With this object in view a boiler should

I have paid considerable attention to the matter of tuberculosis existing in some of the herds supplying the city with milk, and reported to you by the provincial government, and referred to me for investigation. In my first annual report I spoke of the dangers of

ing from impure milk, and suggested the adoption of certain regulations, but it was found that the city had no authority over the rural outside of its limits. The present action on the part of the provincial government is to be commended, for I have no doubt that many of the cases of death ascribed to scrofula, tabes, drocephalus, etc., should have been classed due to tuberculosis. Dr. Allan, health officer of the city of Toronto, traced the origin of several cases of tuberculosis to an affected cow, while

investigations at the Dominion Experiment Farm at Ottawa with some of their best staff have clearly shown that this dreaded and destructive malady may be insinuated into human system through what might be considered pure milk.

I have conferred with the provincial minister of agriculture on the subject, who has assured me that a bill will be introduced at the present session which if carried out will as nearly as possible overcome the danger.

As your board must be aware, in view of

vast amount of ground which has to be covered, the position of the sanitary officer for the city of Victoria is no sinecure. He has, in more work than he can do justice to, and would again respectfully urge that the assistance of the city police force, which I am aware is only limited in numbers, be more largely availed of in the work of inspection of nuisances, whether upon the street or in connection with residences and warehouses. A policeman upon his beat might readily find

way into many of the notoriously filthy yards and alleys and warn the householders against their violation of the sanitary laws, whereas in many cases, the simplest thing for an aggrieved resident would be to hint to the officer in charge at such a place sanitary conditions are the most objectionable character, when he can do so as circumstances require.

I might add that it would be, to my mind, in the public interest were more stringent regulations adopted regarding the keeping of animals in the streets.

limits of the city. They are regarded by many people as a nuisance at the best, and frequently their presence is not only highly objectionable but dangerous to the public health as transmitters of several forms of disease.

I have sent East for a supply of the disinfectant antitoxine—the new remedy for diphtheria—the dreaded disease—and hope soon to have it on hand.

GEORGE H. DUNCAN,  
Medical Health Officer

### PARK COMMITTEE REPORT.

The park committee report 1,250 yards new drives constructed during the year considerable repairs to the race track other roads. New ranges of houses for the mals have been erected. The enclosure is to be too small for the deer. The attention the police is called to the wanton destruction of many chestnut trees. The animals in

**THE POLICE FORCE.**

Chief of Police Sheppard reports that during the year there were no dismissals from

force and only one suspension. The attitude a considerable amount of the sickness of men partly to the fact that overcoats, which were absolutely necessary, have not been supplied. Proper beds and mattresses are also required for the lockup cells and a boiler treating the blankets so as to keep them free from vermin. The percentage of crime compares favorably with that of other cities of similar size and population.

### CITY MARKET.

Market Superintendent Johnson regrets his report: that the market is not yet so liberally patronized by farmers as might be expected they still seeming to prefer to sell to retailers rather than follow the more remunerative course of supplying consumers directly. The collection of market fees has not been as successful heretofore, and with more vigilance the part of the police would be required.

**OLD MEN'S HOME.**

There were admitted to the Old Men's Home 14 inmates, of whom 2 died and 7 have left. Present inmates of the home numbering 21 average for the year of 55.2 against 18.3 in

For improvements to the home \$500 is required. A by-law to enforce obedience to the rules is recommended, and also some plan by which those inmates physically fit should do a day's work.

**CEMETERY REPORT.**

The interments at Ross Bay cemetery for the year were: Children (still born), 37; males,

months, 36; from 1 to 5 years, 14; from 5 to 10 years, 5; 10 to 15 years, 5; 15 to 20 years, 2; 20 to 30 years, 1; 30 to 40 years, 54; 40 to 60 years, 39; 60 to 70 years, 30; 70 to 80 years, 16; 80 to 90 years, 6; and 90 years and over, 7. Chinese, 49; unknown, 3. Males, 100; females, 89; total, 199. This is a decrease of 10 males and 7 females.

The city water commissioner reports 17 feet of pipe, 4 inches in diameter and upward in the city distribution system. The strict enforcement of the by-law requiring a separate service for each tenancy is urged. Particular of the work done and the stock in hand is given.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Deane calls attention to the

caused by defects in the fire alarm system wires getting tangled up in every wind storm. He points out the lack of sufficient water pressure, and considers that three fire engines should be possessed by the department. He recommends that a water tower be built on the hill.

### SANITARY REPORT.

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