

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE WASHINGTON, D. C., PLUMBING REGULATIONS.

The commissioners of the District have ordered the following amendments to the plumbing regulations.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the inspector of plumbing under the direction of the commissioners, to inspect or cause to be inspected by his assistants all houses when in the course of erection in said district, to see that the plumbing, drainage and ventilation of sewers thereof conform to these regulations.

It shall be his duty at any time during reasonable hours, under like directions, on application of the owner or occupant, or the complaint under oath of any reputable citizen, to inspect or cause to be inspected any house in said district, and to examine the plumbing, drainage and ventilation of sewers thereof.

And he shall, after inspection and upon approval by his immediate superior, serve a notice on the owner, or agent, of the premises, directing such changes as are necessary to make the plumbing conform to the plumbing regulations, to be commenced within ten days from date of the service of notice, and completed within a reasonable time thereafter, provided, that if the owner, agent or tenant shall within five days from date of said notice protest in writing against any of the required changes, and shall deposit with the collector of taxes of the District of Columbia \$20 to cover the expense of re-examination, it shall be the duty of the engineer commissioner to designate three inspectors to make a re-examination, and if the engineer commissioner approve a decision against the exceptant the commissioner shall cause said exceptant to be notified of the decision, and the work ordered by the inspector to be begun within five days after service of notice, and be completed within a reasonable time.

Should the owner or agent of the premises ordered to be repaired neglect or refuse to comply with the order within a reasonable time after ten days' notice, it shall be the duty of the inspector of plumbing to report the same to his superior, who shall, if in his judgment the circumstances so require, consult with the attorney for the District, who shall draw up an information and prosecute the offending party.

SEC. 56. When an old service pipe is repaired the stopcock and box, if located in the traveled portion of the footway, shall be moved so as to conform to those regulations.

Whenever and wherever a public footway is paved or repaired, stopcocks and boxes, fresh-air inlets and pavement washers shall, if located otherwise than in conformity with these regulations, be

moved to the respective positions herein prescribed.

The removal of a running trap and the clean-out thereon to a new position shall be required only in cases where, in the opinion of the assistant in charge of the division of sewers and plumbing, the expense of such removal would be justified.

SEC. 59. No person shall place, or cause to be placed, any pavement washer or hose attachment for the service of a new building in any footway or portion thereof. All such fixtures for new buildings must be connected to the service pipe inside of the front wall of the building, and may project therefrom above the surface of the ground, suitable precautions being taken against freezing. In repairing or replacing that portion of a service pipe to which the pavement washer or hose attachment is connected, or such fixture itself, if the building served is provided with a cellar or unfurnished basement, the fixture may be placed in the front wall. In case the basement is occupied for living purposes, or the building has no cellar, the fixture may be placed in the area wall or in the parking, at least two feet from the sidewalk; if no parking or suitable area exists, the fixture may be placed in the sidewalk inside the line of projections and as close to the building line as practicable.

SEC. 75. If the public sewer be a pipe sewer, having a diameter of twelve inches or more, and the house sewer to be connected be of iron, the connection may be made by the plumber, who shall carefully cut a hole of the least practicable size in the public sewer and insert a connecting thimble of cast iron of the same size as the house sewer and of such length that the hub shoulder thereof shall rest against the outer surface of the sewer and no portion extend within it.

Any connection thus made, and the house sewer to the building line shall, before being covered, be inspected by the inspector of plumbing or his assistant, who shall inspect and make a record of the condition of the public sewer, and shall make a prompt return of such inspection to the permit clerk, as in case of inspection by the sewer tapper.

No house sewer, either of iron or vitrified pipe, greater than six inches in diameter, shall be connected to a twelve-inch public sewer, except at a manhole.

SEC. 87. All soil, drain, waste and vent pipes shall be located inside of the building. Every soil and vent pipe shall be of iron or lead, with screwed, leaded or wiped joints, and shall be located so as to be accessible for inspection. Pipes of this kind shall be kept above the ground, if practicable. When wrought iron pipes are used they shall be of galvanized iron provided with galvanized fittings.

The inspector of plumbing may, with the approval of the assistant in charge of the division of sewers and plumbing, authorize the placing of small vent pipes outside of old buildings in cases where it is considered inadvisable to locate the same within the building.

SEC. 98. Every water closet, urinal, sink, basin, wash tray, bath tub, set of

tubs, or fixtures of any kind connected with the drainage system of a building, shall be separately and effectually trapped, if located within the building, and vented, excepting that in the case of the upper or only water closet on a soil pipe and having its center within two feet of the center of the stack, a vent will not be required.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

PAYNE V. COUGHELL.—Judgment on appeal before Meredith, C. J., at Toronto, by the Corporation of the County of Elgin, from an order of Master in Chambers dismissing application by appellants to set aside third party notice and order authorizing it, served upon appellants. Action by plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other subjects of the Queen who use or are entitled to use a road called the London and Port Stanley road, to have it declared that the defendants have no right to exact tolls on the road or to obstruct it by placing toll bars on it, for an order directing defendants to remove these obstructions, for an injunction to restrain defendants from hereafter demanding or exacting tolls for the use of the road, for damages, and for a return of tolls paid by plaintiff on October 12th, 1895. The defendants are the assignees of a lease of the road and tolls from the county corporation to one Hepburn, and the defendants claim to be indemnified upon the ground that the corporation warranted their title to the road by that lease. Held, that this was not a claim to indemnity within the meaning of rule 1,313, which applies only to claims to indemnity as such, either at law or in equity, and does not apply to a right to damages arising from breach of contract, the latter being a right given by law in consequence of the breach of the contract between the parties, while the former is given by the contract itself. Birmingham District Land Co. v. London & Northwestern R.R. Co., 34 Chy. D. 261; the Jacob Christensen (1895), p. 281, Baxter v. France (1895), 1 Q.B. 591, followed. Page v. Midland R.W. Co. (1894), 1 Chy. 11, distinguished. Appeal followed with costs and orders below and notice set aside with costs.

SUGGESTIONS ON JAIL CONSTRUCTION.

In a recent circular issued by the Board of Charities of Minnesota the following suggestions are made:

The board objects to the use of flat bars in the cells unless the edges are turned to the light. The end of the front should be an open lattice work, and as a bed the board advocates a board $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, which can also be used as a seat. Iron or solid cement floors are objected to, but stone flagging, Portland cement, blocked or tile, are advocated. There should be a ventilating pipe from each cell, though from four to eight cells may be ventilated through one pipe in the roof connected with the individual pipes.

The cells are not to be less than $6\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$, and the front cell wall be not less than four feet from the window. Separate locks should be provided for each cell, and the windows should be so situated that the sun may shine into the cells, at least part of the day. Bath tubs are objected to and shower baths are advocated instead.

An open iron fence is also advocated in place of present close high fences,