

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
FOR THE
CITY OF BOMBAY
FOR THE YEAR
1946-47.

BOMBAY
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**REVIEW OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ADMINISTRATION
REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE
CITY OF BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.**

The Municipal Commissioner's Administration Report for the year 1946-47 gives in detail the working of the Municipal Departments for the year under review.

2. Mr. Mahomedbhoy I. M. Rowjee was the Mayor of Bombay during the year. Mr. Dahyebhai V. Patel was the Chairman of the Standing Committee and Mr. K. A. Subramanian was the Chairman of the Improvements Committee. Mr. Ganpatishankar N. Desai was the Chairman of the Schools Committee during the year.

The personnel constituting these bodies at the end of the year is set forth at pages 2 and 3 of the report.

3. Mr. U. M. Mirchandani, I.C.S., continued to hold the office of the Municipal Commissioner till 21st May 1946 after which he proceeded on leave. During his absence, Mr. N. V. Modak, C.I.E., was appointed to act as Municipal Commissioner which office he held till 21st September 1946. Mr. B. K. Patel, I.C.S., was then appointed as Commissioner *vide* Mr. Mirchandani, transferred, and held that office during the remaining period of the year.

4. Though the World War II was over much before the year commenced, the conditions created thereby had not given place to pre-war levels. Consequently, the cost of Municipal administration along with the general trend of prices also showed an upward trend. The Corporation had therefore to impose additional 2 per cent. General Tax which was recovered at 14 per cent. from lands and buildings in the City during the year of report. The rates of other taxation remained unchanged during the year.

5. The Opening Balance, which was estimated at Rs. 19.12 lacs, actually amounted to Rs. 60.20 lacs after the accounts of the previous year were closed; this was less by Rs. 8.88 lacs than the actual of the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 69.08 lacs. The actual income of Rs. 536.81 lacs for the year showed an improvement by Rs. 29.43 lacs over the Budget Estimates of Rs. 507.38 lacs and also an improvement by Rs. 49.44 lacs over the last year's actual of Rs. 487.37 lacs. The actual expenditure of Rs. 511.92 lacs was more only by Rs. 3.35 lacs than the Budget Estimates of Rs. 508.57 lacs and by Rs. 18.79 lacs than the actuals for the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 493.13 lacs. These variations in Income and Expenditure for the year converted the estimated deficit of Rs. 1.18 lacs into a surplus of Rs. 24.89 lacs, leaving at the close of the year a handsome balance of Rs. 85.09 lacs against the Closing Balance of Rs. 63.32 lacs in the last year. After recoupment of Advances of Rs. 34.91 lacs, the Closing Balance stood at Rs. 50.19 lacs.

The improvement of actual income over the Budget Estimates amounting to Rs. 29.43 lacs was due to increased realisations under several service heads. The principal increases were under (i) General Tax by Rs. 3.60 lacs due to revision of rateable values of properties and erections raised by Military Authorities; (ii) Water Works by Rs. 9.76 lacs due to increased quantity of water supplied by meter measurement; (iii) Street Cleansing and Conservancy by Rs. 3.38 lacs from Tax on value, corresponding to increase in General Tax; (iv) Roads, Drains and Sewers by Rs. 2.44 lacs due to recovery of tax from vehicles which had hitherto escaped taxations; (v) Markets and Slaughter Houses by Rs. 3.67 lacs due to increase of stallage charges, squatters' fees, etc., and (vi) Interest and Profit on Investment of Municipal funds by Rs. 3.49 lacs due to large balances available for investment and better average rate of interest realized than anticipated.

The sale proceeds of Municipal surplus land amounted to Rs. 5.04 lacs and as that amount fell short by Rs. 4.96 lacs of Rs. 10 lacs to be credited to revenue on this account, the deficit was met by transfer of Rs. 4.51 lac from the Land Sales Reserve Fund by transfer of investments and by recoupment of Rs. 4.51 lacs out of the amount advanced from this Fund for financing Capital expenditure. The balance in the Fund at the close of the year was Rs. 10.39 lacs against Rs. 14.91 lacs and Rs. 19.96 lacs in the previous two years. This balance may be absorbed by the revenue account within the next two years and thereafter the Corporation will have to be prepared to meet the deficit on this account from other sources. The area of surplus Municipal land available for sale was about 42,352 square yards the approximate value of which was estimated at Rs. 4.84 lacs.

6. The actual expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 511.92 lacs which was more by Rs. 3.35 lacs than the budgeted expenditure. However, the final sanctioned grants aggregated to Rs. 586.32 lacs including unexpended grants of Rs. 22.31 lacs of the previous years renewed for expenditure during the year and additional grants of Rs. 55.57 lacs sanctioned during the year. The transfers from one Budget head to another without affecting the total Budget provision amounted to Rs. 25.48 lacs against Rs. 6.37 lacs, Rs. 11.01 lacs, Rs. 9.44 lacs and Rs. 5.68 lacs during the last four years. Such a heavy total amount of transfers requires some explanation from the Executive. (With these heavy variations in Budget grants, the Standing Committee will have to be more critical in scrutinizing Budget proposals which admit of

such transfers.) The percentages of establishment proper and of labour establishment on the total expenditure worked out to 14.11 and 8.64 respectively.

7. The Opening Balance on 1st April 1946 on account of Loan Funds excluding the Trust Funds amounted to Rs. 8.72 lacs against Rs. 7.61 lacs, Rs. 9.27 lacs, Rs. 17.30 lacs and Rs. 11.42 lacs in the previous four years. During the year the amount of new loan raised was only Rs. 36.50 lacs against Rs. 75 lacs proposed in the Budget Estimates. Thus, the total amount available for expenditure on Loan Works during the year was Rs. 45.22 lacs against which the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 31.57 lacs, leaving an unspent balance of Rs. 13.65 lacs at the close of the year.

The Budget Estimates of expenditure to be met out of Loan and Trust Funds for the year were Rs. 68.70 lacs and the Revised Estimates were increased to Rs. 84.59 lacs. But the Standing Committee note with great disappointment that the actual expenditure incurred amounted to only Rs. 26.60 lacs. The actuals thus fell short of the Budget and the Revised Estimates by 61 per cent. and 69 per cent. respectively. (The Standing Committee note with regret that their comments about these great disparities in the estimated and the actual expenditure appear to have received scant attention of the Executive, who continue to ask for more and more grants out of the Loan Funds.) In the near future the Corporation will be embarking on very extensive loan works schemes and if this tendency of the Executive is left unbridled, they may put the Corporation to heavy debt charges with no good result to the public in the shape of improved services.

At the commencement of the year the outstanding debt was Rs. 12,95.03 lacs. Fresh amount of loan raised and added to the outstanding total was Rs. 36.50 lacs. Deducting the amount of Rs. 76.41 lacs repaid during the year, the outstanding debt at the close of the year on Municipal account amounted to Rs. 12,55.12 lacs.

8. The book value of investments of the Sinking Fund at the beginning of the year was Rs. 339.88 lacs, to which were added the amounts of Rs. 14.06 lacs and Rs. 19.51 lacs, respectively, for interest, etc., realizations and Sinking Fund instalments making up a total of Rs. 373.45 lacs. Out of this total an amount of Rs. 25.97 lacs was withdrawn for repayment of loans, leaving a balance of Rs. 347.48 lacs at the close of the year. The value of securities held in the Sinking Fund Account on the basis of market value on 31st March 1947 including accrued interest and cash exceeded the actual amount required by Rs. 29.94 lacs. (A draft Bill to amend the Municipal Act to enable the Corporation to utilise the surplus accumulations for general Municipal purposes was submitted to Government early in 1944, but till now nothing has been done by Government to legislate in the matter.)

9. The total income during the year under this Account was Rs. 103.70 lacs against Rs. 100.96 lacs, Rs. 102 lacs and Rs. 95.45 lacs in the previous three years. The actual expenditure against this account aggregated to Rs. 104.32 lacs against Rs. 102.05 lacs; Rs. 99.53 lacs and Rs. 97.95 lacs in the previous three years.

The ex-Trust Loan liabilities at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 15,77.68 lacs, against Rs. 15,83.66 lacs; Rs. 16,12.81 lacs and Rs. 16,17.88 lacs at the commencement of the previous three years. No loan was raised during the year but an amount of Rs. 5.91 lacs was repaid of which Rs. 5.61 lacs were repaid to Government in respect of advance taken from them and Rs. 30 lac to the debenture holders. The outstanding liability at the close of the year was thus reduced to Rs. 15,71.77 lacs of which the liabilities to Government amount to Rs. 837.58 lacs.

The Opening Balance in this account was Rs. 154.13 lacs against Rs. 130.60 lacs and Rs. 118.08 lacs in the previous two years. Receipts from sale proceeds of lands and buildings during the year amounted to Rs. 20.99 lacs against Rs. 28.88 lacs and Rs. 36.12 lacs in the previous two years. The total funds available during the year were Rs. 175.12 lacs against which the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3.40 lacs against Rs. 3.72 lacs in the previous year. The deficit of Rs. .62 lac in the General Account was met from the Capital Account. The unspent balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 170.80 lacs.

The balance in the beginning of the year in the Sinking Fund amounted to Rs. 370 lacs. The additions made to the funds during the year by way of Interest, etc., realisation and Sinking Fund instalments, respectively, amounted to Rs. 16.58 lacs and Rs. 5.70 lacs. As no amount was withdrawn from the Fund for repayment during the year, the total amount at the close of the year increased to Rs. 392.30 lacs. Valuing the securities of the Sinking Fund investments at par, the market value of the Investments comes to Rs. 395.99 lacs, which together with the amount of interest accrued upto 31st March 1947 bring the total to Rs. 397.29 lacs against Rs. 336.31 lacs which should have actually accumulated. Thus the excess in the Sinking Fund Investment in the Improvement Schemes Account amounted to Rs. 60.97 lacs.

10. The General Tax levied on properties in the City was increased by 1 per cent. for the year 1945-46. During the year of report, the tax was further raised by 2 per cent. and was levied at 14 per cent. while other rates and taxes remained the same as in the previous year, except slight variations in the rates charged for supply of water by meter measurement. The latter rates ranged between Annas 10 and

Rs. 3 according to the nature of properties and the purpose for which water was used. The dispute between the Municipality on one hand and the Textile and other Mills as also the Royal Western India Turf Club, Ltd., on the other hand in respect of rates charged to them for water supplied by meter measurement were settled by suitable reduction in the rates on both the institutions agreeing to withdraw the suits and appeals filed by them against the Corporation.

At the close of the year 50,796 properties against 50,571; 49,631 and 49,016 in the last three years respectively, were shown on the Assessment Register. Of the 50,796 properties, only 41,746 were assessed to General Tax, 1,591 were exempted 2,998 were not taxed being small plots of vacant lands etc. and 3,378 were Municipal plots. Of the total number on the Register 30,525 were classified buildings for residential purposes. There were increases of 1,381, 301 and 90 in the total number of single-room and double-room tenements and flats or blocks over the respective numbers of the previous year. The total number for each group during the year of report was 2,38,282; 52,370 and 40,630, respectively, against 2,36,901; 52,069 and 40,540, in the previous year.

The total number of residential units was 3,12,156 of which 90 per cent. were of rent below Rs. 40 per month, 8 per cent. between Rs. 40 and Rs. 100 per month and 1.9 per cent. between Rs. 100 and Rs. 500 per month.

The total number of non-residential units was 55,149, of which 53 per cent. were below Rs. 30 per month, 19.3 per cent. between Rs. 30 and Rs. 50 per month, 19.2 per cent. between Rs. 50 and Rs. 150 per month and 7.1 per cent. between Rs. 150 and Rs. 750 per month.

With the increase in the number of properties liable to Property Taxes, the rateable value of properties at the close of the year also showed an improvement, being Rs. 17,14,40,860 against Rs. 16,71,69,555; Rs. 16,00,98,370; and Rs. 15,93,54,514 on the corresponding dates in the preceding 3 years. In spite of increase in the total rateable value the *per capita* value worked out to Rs. 64-11-0 against Rs. 72-11-0; Rs. 69-10-0; and Rs. 69-5-0 in the preceding three years. This reduction, it is presumed, was on the basis of a large increase in the population in the City.

The rebate of one anna in a rupee granted in the payment of wheel tax from hack victorias, labour and hand carts in the previous year for payment of tax for the whole year in one lump sum was continued during the year under report.

The total number of vehicles and animals taxed during the year including those taxed under the Public Conveyance Act, *viz.*, 3,877 was 30,063 against 30,058; 29,248 and 23,931 in the previous three years. Of this total number the largest number for one particular class was 11,584 for motor cars (including 1,216 taxis) and the smallest number was 17 for Ponies.

In all 88,309 bills of Property Taxes were issued during the year for a gross demand of Rs. 475.96 lacs against Rs. 408.33 lacs in the previous year. The collections during the year amounted to Rs. 415.18 lacs which worked out to 88.14 per cent. of the demand. The outstanding amount at the close of the year was Rs. 55.87 lacs against Rs. 41.83 lacs in the previous year giving a percentage of 11.86 against 10.36 of the last year.

For the collection of Wheel Tax 94,773 bills were issued during the year for a gross demand of Rs. 20.71 lacs against Rs. 19.26 lacs of the previous year. The collections amounted to Rs. 16.62 lacs against Rs. 15.74 lacs of the last year which worked out to 82.24 per cent. of the demand against the percentage of 86.07 of the previous year.

The total outstanding of the Property and Wheel Taxes which at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 59.46 lacs were increased by Rs. 2.02 lacs on account of bills issued for the supply of water by meter measurement to Government properties during the year under report. These outstandings were reduced to Rs. 40.75 lacs on 30th June 1947, partly due to recovery of bills and partly to cancellation of demand. Of these outstandings, there is an amount of Rs. 3.76 lacs due from Government in lieu of General Tax from 1934-35 to 1946-47 in respect of Military and Police Hospitals. Government claims a total exemption from payment of this amount on the grounds of exemption granted to other Hospitals run by Government for the public as a result of a High Court decision. Last year's outstanding of Rs. 8.24 lacs from Government of India for premises requisitioned or structures constructed by them has increased to Rs. 13.36 lacs. Government have now agreed to refer the matter to High Court for opinion by way of a stated case. The Standing Committee are constrained to find such large outstandings against Government and their reluctance to pay them. Military and Police Hospitals are run by Government exclusively for personnel of those services and they cannot stand on par with public hospitals. Perhaps, the maintenance of those Hospitals form an integral part of the service conditions of those personnel and as such are to be grouped in the category of private hospitals. The Standing Committee once again as in the last year's review express a hope that these disputes will soon be settled in favour of the Corporation, as otherwise the Corporation will suffer loss of their legitimate revenues.

Against the demand of Rs. 321.30 lacs against private ratepayers, the outstanding at the close of the year were Rs. 15.06 lacs *i.e.* 4.69 per cent. as against 4.7. and 3.2 per cent. in the previous two years. This increase in percentage is mainly due to the difficulty of collections experienced in the second half of the year on account of disturbed conditions of the City.

The total amount of exemptions from General Tax granted to different properties during the year amounted to Rs. 14.93 lacs against Rs. 12.56 lacs; Rs. 11.46 lacs; Rs. 11.301 lacs and Rs. 9.98 lacs in the preceding four years. The increase during the year is partly attributed to increase in General Tax by 2 per cent. It is, however, gratifying to note that such exemption in 29 cases was discontinued during the year under report. The Standing Committee desire that a fuller explanation of exemptions of such a large amount may be incorporated in the future reports, especially as this shows a tendency towards an increase. A stricter vigilance is also required to be kept in respect of such exempted properties to ascertain that they are not indirectly used for purposes for which such exemptions may not be ordinarily granted.

During the year 49 claims for Drawback against 85; 361 and 6,938 and 1,905 claims for Refund against 1,941, 1,452 and 4,448 in the preceding three years, respectively, were received. Of the Drawback claims only 6 were admitted for an amount of Rs. 438-3-0, while 1,539 cases of Refund involving a payment of Rs. 1,40,532 were accepted against 1,485 and 1,036 cases admitted in the previous two years for payment of only Rs. 83,637 and Rs. 1,05,856. No explanation is given for an increase in the admission of Refund claims involving payment of increasing amounts, when due to shortage of accommodation in the City almost every property must have been fully occupied to its utmost capacity.

11. The rates of Taxation continued to be the same as in the previous two years, *viz.*, 7 per cent. The Urban Immovable and 3½ per cent. on lands and buildings of the rateable values of Rs. 2,001 and above and between Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000. Against the net demand of Rs. 105.60 lacs, the collections amounted to Rs. 91.43 lacs, *i.e.*, about 86.58 per cent. of the demand.

12. Though the Town Duties were levied during the year at the maximum rates permissible as in the previous year, the gross realizations showed a net decrease of Rs. 1.78 lacs over that of the previous year, being Rs. 25.10 lacs for the year under report against Rs. 26.89 lacs in the year 1945-46. Of the net decrease in income of Rs. 1.78 lacs, a decrease of Rs. 1.04 lacs alone was in sugar, next was Rs. 0.55 lac in wines, etc., and Rs. 0.33 lac was in ghee, etc. Other minor decreases were in timber, firewood and miscellaneous. The total decreases of Rs. 2.13 lacs were counter-balanced by increased realisations of Rs. 0.20 lac in grains of all sorts, Rs. 0.07 lac each in flour and beer. While the gross collections showed a decrease of Rs. 1.78 lacs over that of the previous year as pointed out above, the total refunds presented a different picture, being Rs. 7.46 lacs during the year against Rs. 4.68 lacs in the previous year; this is partly attributed to the refunds made to Government on account of large supplies of wheat to Defence Services. Of the total refunds, Rs. 5.31 lacs and Rs. 1.82 lacs were for grains and sugar, respectively. Thus, the net revenue derived from this source was Rs. 17.64 lacs showing a net decline of Rs. 4.57 lacs in the previous year's net realisations of Rs. 22.21 lacs. The only article in which there was a net increase in revenue was Beer. In all the rest of the articles there were decreases as compared with the net realisations of the previous year.

1,86 lacs packages of Sugar, Jaggery and Molasses were stamped and 8,964 of Ghee and Ghee substitutes were sealed with Municipal marks for re-export purposes against 2,92 lacs and 4,772, respectively, in the previous year. The fees realised for stamping and sealing amounted to Rs. 0.12 lac against Rs. 0.17 lac; Rs. 0.21 lac; Rs. 0.26 lac and Rs. 0.49 lac of the preceding four years.

The Departmental collections of Town Duties at the three Causeways, *viz.*, Mahim, Sion and Chembur, amounted to Rs. 2.04 lacs against Rs. 2.51 lacs, Rs. 2.81 lacs, Rs. 1.87 lacs and Rs. 1.26 lacs in the previous four years.

13. As required under the provisions of the Municipal Act, preparation of the Election Roll on the basis of adult franchise was commenced from 1st February 1946 and in spite of great difficulties, the Voters' List was published in time. It contained 8 lac names of voters. Expenditure on the preparation and printing of the Voters' List, etc., amounted to Rs. 5.64 lacs. However, before the time of the final publication of the Roll, Government agreed to the postponement of the General Elections and to the extension of the life of the Corporation by another year. Accordingly, the new Roll was not published and amendment of the Act was suggested to continue the old provisions for holding Bye-Elections. The Registered Trade Unions Roll contained 242 names of delegates against 241 and 106 names in the previous two years. During the year, in the General Ward Constituencies there were nine casual vacancies and one in the office of a Councillor elected by the Indian Merchants' Chamber. Of these bye-elections only one was contested.

14. During the year the Department was in charge of 2,596 properties against 2,448; 2,330 and 2,596 2,271 in the previous three years. The increase is due to addition of new Architectural structures and bringing on the register some structures which were not accounted for in the past years. Against the total Budget provision of Rs. 22.03 lacs made for maintenance of these structures, the total expenditure booked during the year amounted to Rs. 10.03 lacs, *i.e.* 45.52 per cent. of the total Budget grants. This low percentage of booked expenditure is accounted for by bills not received against the Budget provision for works in progress and not completed at the close of the year. Out of the total expenditure booked, the cost of works done departmentally amounted to Rs. 7.38 lacs. New Works and Special Works to the extent of Rs. 1.14 lacs and Rs. 1 lac were taken in hand, respectively, but the expenditure booked at the close of the year in each case amounted to Rs. 15 lac and Rs. 23 lac, respectively. The Standing Committee would like to know the reasons for such great disparities in

Budget provisions and the actual expenditure booked upto the close of the year, and if the Department is not able to cope with the works due to non-availability or high cost of raw materials whether it is not desirable to demand lesser Budget grants pending restoration of normal conditions.

It is reported that Loan Works to the extent of Rs. 4.34 lacs were carried out during the year while the expenditure booked against that amounted to Rs. '88 lac only. Here again the disparity in the two amounts is not explained. If the loan to cover the cost of works in hand had been raised, evidently the balances must have remained unused on hand while the Corporation had to provide for the interest and sinking fund charges. The Standing Committee here would suggest the desirability of evolving a co-ordinating procedure where the different departments work in unison in the best financial interests of the Corporation so as to keep as low as possible the borrowings of the Corporation. This factor will have to be carefully borne in mind particularly hereafter where big schemes are launched by the Corporation for augmentation of the City's Water Supply, Housing of Municipal employees, extension of drainage works, etc.

416 sketch plans, 108 registered plans and 65 major estimates amounting to Rs. 89.38 lacs for different major works were prepared, while 1,724 estimates of New and Special Repairs Works amounting to Rs. 17.25 lacs were prepared.

15. There was considerable increase in the number of applications received for erection of new buildings or alterations and additions to the existing buildings. In all 4,245 such applications were received dealing with 2,293 buildings against 2,938 applications received last year for 1,862 buildings. The number of newly constructed tenements shows an appreciable improvement over the figures of the last year. 164 one-room, 42 two-room tenements and 74 large block type tenements were constructed during the year, the corresponding figures for the last year being 52, 11 and 6, respectively. Of the newly constructed tenements, the highest number for each group was in F Ward, being 93; 20 and 40, respectively. In spite of an increase of 280 in the newly constructed tenements, over-crowding remained as acute as in the previous two years, if not intensified. The problem is assuming very grave proportions, so much as that for want of proper accommodation, even attics, garages, landings of staircases are used for residential purposes. The Corporation and the Government are alive to this situation but a satisfactory solution is still not yet found. Schemes have been formulated but could not be executed for one reason or another. The problem is urgent. If accommodation cannot be found in the City, the overspill population must be transferred to other places, preferably in the Greater Bombay area.

16. As in the last year, this year again there was a further decline in the total volume of sewage received and recorded at the Dadar Purification Plant, which in the year of report amounted to 3648.04 million gallons, i.e. an average of 10 million gallons per day against 3653.88; 4057.48 and 4558.11 million gallons in the previous three years giving an average of 10.28; 11.11 and 11.12 million gallons, respectively, of the last three years. The reason for this decreasing quantity of sewage received in the Works, while there has been an increase in population, particularly in the areas served by the Works, is not given in the report. Is it that the sewage is passed into the outfall drains before coming to the Purification Works? Due to the labour strike in the beginning of the year, the Digestion Tank ceased to function. An opportunity was therefore taken to have repairs carried out to it which were completed only by the end of the year at a cost of Rs. 22 lac. Due to these repairs, sludge gas could not be produced and the institutions which used the gas as fuel, etc., had to take an alternative supply. The income from gas for one month of March 1946 amounted to Rs. 4,767 only. The transport lorry fitted with sludge gas cylinder also could not be run during the year. With the re-production of sludge gas, supply to hospitals will be renewed and additional lorries are proposed to be run on that gas. Two sludge gas engines for generating electric power from excess sludge gas have been erected. The Standing Committee hope that this will tend to reduce the running power cost of the plant to a considerable extent and the fuel load spared would be utilised for further productive purposes. The total expenditure for the working of the Dadar Purification Works amounted to Rs. 1.58 lacs.

17. During the year 148 motor vehicles were in commission and the expenditure incurred thereon for maintenance amounted to Rs. 7.77 lacs of which the highest cost was on Refuse lorries amounting to Rs. 5.55 lacs. During the year 55 new vehicles were purchased of which 30 were tipping vehicles to replace the old unserviceable vehicles and also to meet the increase in the demand for refuse removal lorries. After the purchase of these vehicles house to house collection of refuse has been introduced in F and G Wards.

18. Though the Asphalt Plant worked only for 149 days in the year the total expenditure incurred on working the Plant amounted to Rs. 3.04 lacs. The amount realised by recoveries was Rs. 3.29 lacs showing a profit of Rs. 25 lac. During the year a total area of 35,225 square yards was renewed with 3 Sheet Asphalt at a total cost of Rs. 2.81 lacs working out an average of Rs. 8 per square yard. The total mileage and areas of roads in the City upto the end of the year treated with mixed asphalt carpet were, respectively, 51,894 miles and 11.92 lac square yards. The total mileage of roads at the close of the year was approximately 2,68,448. In all 1,89 lac square yards of roads were repaired during the year at a total cost of Rs. 3.80 lacs. Out of the area acquired as set-backs, an area of 692.49 square yards was added to roads at a cost

of Rs. 9,006. Streets in the City were lighted with 10,933 lamps against 10,864 in the previous year. During the disturbances in the City, there was a great demand for full night lighting which was met at an additional cost. (The Gas Company have undertaken the installation of a new plant and when that is completed, it is hoped that street lighting in areas served by gas lights will be restored to pre-war standard.)

19. The bulk of town refuse was transported to Deonar every day by two trains of 34 wagons each. The total number of wagons used for the purpose during the year was 23,752 against 22,929 and 20,873 in the last two years. With an average of 12 tons per wagon, the total quantity removed to Deonar was about 2.83 lac tons against 2.75 lac and 2.62 lac tons in the preceding two years. The total cost of removal and disposal amounted to Rs. 4.13 lacs against Rs. 3.43 lacs and Rs. 3.30 lacs in the past two years. The rate per ton worked out to Rs. 1-7-0 and Rs. 1-3-11 per ton in the previous two years. The increase in the rate is due to the revised rates of wages, etc. The additional land reclaimed during the year was about 9 acres. The total area so far reclaimed is 360 acres out of a total reclaimable area of 823 acres. The Incinerator at Love Grove burnt about 3,000 tons of refuse and it is understood that the question of installing more Incinerators in the City is engaging the attention of the Executive. The Standing Committee cannot but remark that the Executive have not realized the necessity of taking active steps in this matter.

20. As Government had already sanctioned the making of a Town Planning Scheme for the Mandvi area which was devastated by the explosion in the Docks on 14th April 1944, the work of surveying buildings was in progress. Five meetings of the owners of properties comprised in the scheme were held to explain to them the general aspects of the proposed scheme.

Out of the total area of 139.36 lac square yards (about 2,879 acres) of land vested in or acquired by the ex-Trust, about 40.3 per cent. remained to be developed and of the developed area about 5.3 per cent. remained to be leased. The average value of land leased came to Rs. 20 per square yard while the value of the area to be leased is estimated at Rs. 23 per square yard. In the different ex-Trust Estates there remained at the end of the year an area of 56.10 lac square yards of undeveloped land cost of acquisition of which was estimated at Rs. 202.46 thousands.

During the year, 148 plots were disposed of covering a total area of 2.23 lac square yards or about 46.1 acres with a capital value of Rs. 66.67 lacs against 145 plots in the previous year with an area of 1.99 square yards and a capital value of Rs. 47.26 lacs. Of the 148 plots leased, 132 were on rental basis, yielding an annual rent of Rs. 3.69 lacs, while 60 were leased on premium basis with a capital value of Rs. 5.01 lacs. The highest number of plots disposed of in any one Estate was 36 in the Sion-Matunga Estate while the next three places were occupied by Worli Scheme No. 52; Worli Extension Scheme No. 58 and the Sewri-Wadala Scheme No. 57, with 35; 28 and 26 plots, respectively. Three plots surrendered or re-entered buildings in the Nowroji Hill Estate, were disposed of for an aggregate amount of Rs. 2.55 lacs.

During the year amounts of Rs. 15.96 lacs and Rs. 4.81 lacs making a total of Rs. 20.77 lacs, were received by way of commutation of ground rents and premium, respectively. The corresponding figures for the last year were Rs. 12.96 lacs and Rs. 14.90 lacs. In this connection, the Standing Committee would like to know in future reports the number of plots in different Estates of which the ground rent is commuted or premium paid and the number of plots on which ground rent is still continued to be paid.

At the commencement of the year, the department was in charge of 601 acquired or surrendered buildings of which two were sold and one was transferred to Vacant Land Register. The remaining 598 buildings consisted of 5,193 tenements of which 3,811; 631 and 306 were, respectively, one-room two-room and larger tenements. The balance was made up of 225 shops, 115 godowns and 5 factories. The rents realised from these buildings came to Rs. 6.47 lacs against Rs. 6.62 lacs and Rs. 7.94 lacs in the previous two years. The variations are due to the variations in the number of buildings, etc.

The gross rental demand of ex-Trust chawls for the year was Rs. 9.84 lacs, while the net demand after allowing for vacancies and concessional rents was Rs. 9.51 lacs against which the actual revenue collected came to Rs. 9.49 lacs giving a very satisfactory percentage of 99.92 of the net demand. The total current expenses against the income of Rs. 9.49 lacs came to Rs. 6.50 lacs. The net income therefore came to Rs. 2.99 lacs. The annual Capital expenditure on these Chawls came to Rs. 8.88 lacs. Thus the accounts for the Chawls actually showed a loss of Rs. 5.89 lacs for the year.

The average population in the chawls during the year showed an increase being 51,136 against 50,144 and 48,986, respectively, in the preceding two years. The death rate, however, among this population showed an improvement, being 6.1 per 1,000 against 7.9 and 7.4 per 1,000 in the previous two years.

During the year the department filed 161 ejectment and claim suits against defaulting tenants and the total cost incurred thereon came to Rs. 2,695 of which an amount of Rs. 1,140 was recovered and the balance is expected to be recovered after 50 pending cases are disposed of.

21. For purposes of distribution, the City has been divided into three main divisions. One part is served by the Malabar Hill Reservoir containing 30.5 million gallons, the second by the Bhandarwada Hill Reservoir of 20 million gallon capacity and the

Water Supply.

third directly from the trunk mains in the absence of Service Reservoirs. As the Tansa Lake had stopped overflowing on 29th September 1945, only 116.7 million gallons per day could be brought into the City upto the end of June 1946. During the rainy season this quantity was increased to 127.2 million gallons per day which was again reduced to 113.6 million gallons per day from 31st October 1946 as the Tansa Lake ceased overflowing on 25th September 1946.

The total number of fire calls attended by the staff of the Department to regulate water supply came to 1,500 against 1,132 and 796 of the previous two years, giving an average of 4 calls per day.

For gratuitous use of water by the general public the Department maintained 81 drinking fountains, 17 cattle troughs, 39 drinking fountains and cattle troughs combined, 60 standpost pipes and 2 dipping wells.

As in the previous year the Department maintained gardens along the slopes of Gibbs Road and Ridge Road, the Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Gardens, the Joseph Baptista Gardens and the Ladies and Children's Gardens at Ridge Road. The last three gardens were entered for competition under different classes at the Vegetable Fruit and Flower Show held in March 1947 and were successful in securing several prizes in cups and cash.

Owing to restricted supply and increasing demand for water there was a rise in the number of short supply complaints which were 3,927 against 3,223 in the previous year. Upon investigation of complaints suggestions were made to owners in 373 cases for removing the cause of insufficient supply by increasing the number or size of connections storage capacity, etc.

Sanction of the Standing Committee was obtained for severance of water connections for non-payment of tax or metered supply bills in 64 cases against 66; 99 and 165 of the previous three years. However, 35 sanctions were not enforced due to compliance with Municipal requisitions while supply was actually cut off in 26 cases against 32; 27 and 34 of such cases in the previous three years.

Though 2,091 notices were served for stopping wastage, Court action had to be taken in 51 cases only as most of the remaining notices were promptly complied with. Due to continued communal disturbances in the City during the second half of the year the work of the Waste Prevention Branch was seriously hampered. Besides some staff of the Branch had to be utilised for opening and closing of sluices in disturbed localities. The Standing Committee suggest that staff of this Branch should be instructed to move about constantly in their respective orbits even at odd hours of the day to find out leaky hydrants on public roads and waste of water due to defects in fittings, communication pipes, etc., especially when we are told that a large quantity of water runs to waste on one hand and on the other there are bitter complaints of inadequate supply throughout the various localities of the City.

388.664 miles of water mains against 385 and 378.38 miles of the previous two years were maintained by the Department. The mains varied in size from 57" to 3" of which only 57" mains of a length of 11.50 miles were steel mains and the rest were Cast Iron mains. In spite of such an extensive length of mains, there were only 12 bursts against 15 and 17 bursts in the preceding two years.

While we have a limited source of supply and that too is dependent upon the vagaries of the monsoon, the number of water connections to different premises in the City is on the increase, being 52,643 in the year under report against 52,163; 51,752 and 51,399 in the preceding three years.

The survey work of the Bhivpuri project was commenced under the Special Officer appointed for the purpose. The shortest and the cheapest alignment after considering the various alternatives was selected and the field work was completed by the end of January 1947. However, during the course of negotiations carried on with the Tatas and the Government for an assurance for 100 million gallons per day at tail race level, it was revealed that the Tatas were unable to give a guarantee particularly during the monsoon season when they would discharge only 37½ million gallons per day. Then again due to the claims of vested interests, industries and other consumers round about the Kalyan-Bhiwandi area and along the route of the projected pipe line, Government could not guarantee free and uninterrupted use of water from Bhivpuri. In view of these difficulties and the ultimate requirements of the City (including Greater Bombay area) 50 years hence, being estimated at about 400 million gallons per day, it was considered advisable as a first step of augmentation to revert to the Vaitarna Scheme which would also secure the Tansa Lake against a lean year. Having regard to the urgency of the work, the detailed survey of the Vaitarna Scheme was taken in hand on 24th March 1947, before administrative approval of the Corporation could be obtained therefor. To meet our ultimate requirements sources other than Vaitarna and Bhivpuri will have to be explored. The other source is said to be the Shai-Kalu rivers which are considered as being capable of giving a supply upto 500 million gallons per day.

Other measures sanctioned for increasing the existing supply from the Tansa Lake were the provision of (1) two 5 feet diameter opening in the Tansa Dam at 360 T.H.D. so as to be able to draw water from the Lake at lower levels and (2) automatic gates over the waste weir of the Dam so as to impound in the lake additional quantity of water which otherwise runs to waste. The latter work was commenced in February 1947.

22. During the year, 1,473 calls including 6 for outside City limits were received by the Department against 1,230; 895 and 779 in the previous three years. Of this number, 264 were false alarms. The total distance covered by the fire appliances to
Fire Brigade.

and from these calls was 10,881 miles. The actual number of fires was 961 showing an increase of 225 over the preceding year's number. The total estimated loss amounted to Rs. 67.50 lacs against Rs. 38.34 lacs and Rs. 51.87 lacs in the previous two years. This shows an increase of Rs. 25.17 lacs over the average of the last three years. This is attributed partly to a large number of riot fires. Of this loss, Rs. 34.87 lacs was in respect of insured property while the total value of property at risk was Rs. 1,261.92 lacs. Loss in terms of human life by fires during the year was 5 persons burned to death while 22 persons who sustained severe injuries subsequently succumbed to them and 53 persons recovered from injuries sustained by them. The approximate quantity of water used for extinguishing fires was 98.93 lac gallons against 71.94; 71.69; 67.99 and 61.73 lac gallons, respectively, during the previous four years. Of this total quantity, 63.59 lac gallons were drawn from Municipal mains against 48.63; 57.73; 56.38 and 58.23 lac gallons in the immediately preceding four years.

194 Fire Alarms posts (including private alarms) are connected to nine Fire Stations in the City and over 51 per cent. of the total calls were received through them.

A Grain Store started for the benefit of the Fire Brigade personnel continued to give good service to the staff in these hard economic conditions. The Municipal interest free loan of Rs. 5,000 was returned and the Store is now entirely self-supporting.

The Ambulance service in charge of this Department attended 1,499 calls for accidents 2,861 for Maternity Cases and 3,690 for hire. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,586; 1,704 and 3,786. In all 8,075 persons were carried against 7,314 and 8,243 in the previous two years. The total distance covered by the ambulances was 49,142 miles against 47,828 and 55,096 miles in the preceding two years. Receipts on account of hire calls amounted to Rs. 19,322 against Rs. 18,800 and Rs. 21,871 in the previous two years.

23. The department manages 85 sites consisting of 18 gardens, 4 fountains, 2 bandstands, 7 traffic islands, 3 open spaces, 47 recreation grounds, 1 statue and 3 ornamental hedges. Consequent upon the disturbances in the City from early in September of the year of report there was a marked fall in the number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens being 22.59 lacs against 27.48; 26.35 and 23.05 lacs in the preceding three years. The Victoria Gardens won 5 First Prizes and 2 Second Prizes in several of the contests at the time of the Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show. (Due to the strike of the menial staff in the second half of January 1947 the Nursery the Conservancy and the Zoo Section of the Gardens suffered loss of many valuable specimens.) During the year only 20 music programmes could be arranged at different places of which 9 (5 Band and 4 Indian music) programmes were played in the Victoria Gardens. These performances proved very popular and provided very healthy and entertaining recreation to the public. The Committee, therefore are of the opinion that these performances should be increased in number so as to provide the necessary attraction to the large section of the population and thus help addicts of undesirable habits to improve. In the preceding four years the number of such performances held were 47; 209; 222 and 245. A Zoological Advisory Panel was formed during the year for improvement of the Section which had suffered badly during the war. The Standing Committee hope that with the help of the Panel very soon efforts will be made to renovate and replenish the Section.

24. The Museum had to be kept closed for several days in the year partly due to disturbed conditions of the City and partly (due to the strike of the labour staff of the Victoria and Albert Gardens Department). It was kept open for 287 days against 233; 307 and 314 in the preceding three years. Though the number of days it was kept open was more than that of the last year the total and the daily average attendance of visitors show a decline, being 9.60 lacs and 3,345, respectively, against 11.63 lacs and 4,993 in the preceding year. Similarly, there was also a fall in the number of pupils from Primary and Secondary Schools that visited the Museum during the year their number being 2,756 against 6,690 and 10,544 in the previous two years. A brochure describing the arrangement and display of exhibits in the Museum appeared to be appreciated by the visitors as 1,000 copies thereof were sold at annas two each. It is not known from the report whether the practice prevailing in previous years of reserving entry into the Museum on Wednesdays to women and children only had been discontinued.

25. During the year 728 against 669 in the last year popular and interesting publications, local vernacular and English papers were purchased accessioned classified and catalogued. Besides, to meet the growing demand of the reading public additional local newspapers, American Library Journals etc. were subscribed. One part time library was opened in the Victoria Gardens (Museum Compound) which brought to 14 the total number of Municipal Free Reading Rooms and Libraries. The total number of visitors to these institutions during the year was 3.12 lacs against 3.70 lacs and 3.77 lacs in the previous two years. The fall in this number is attributed to continued disturbed conditions in the City.

26. For the purchases of stores, etc., required by the various departments 87 tenders were invited during the year against 88; 77 and 138 in the last three years. 71 contracts against 57; 56 and 37 in the preceding three years were entered into with different parties for supplies to be made during the year. Besides entering into regular contracts for the supply of numerous articles covered by different Stores Schedules, 4,221 orders were placed with

various firms for purchase of other articles of stores against 3,763; 3,837 and 3,442 in the previous three years. The value of stores and materials purchased came to Rs. 17.68 lacs against Rs. 19.88 lacs, Rs. 18.21 lacs and Rs. 17.73 lacs in the previous three years. The decrease is attributed to non-receipt or restricted supplies of several articles, like pipes, iron and steel materials, cloth, etc., from contractors and/or Government due to the prevailing market conditions. Of the articles purchased, value of materials of Indian manufacture came to Rs. 15.67 lacs the balance of Rs. 2.01 lacs covered the purchase of foreign goods. Against all these purchases and stock on hand 20,609 indents or sales memos. were received from the different departments against 20,865; 20,188 and 19,115 in the last three years.

The iron and other scraps and other unserviceable articles received from departments were disposed of in lots by public auction and the amount realized thereby came to Rs. .57 lac against Rs. .44 lac; Rs. .40 lac and Rs. .25 lac in the previous three years. The highest rate realized for sale of C. I. scraps was Rs. 152 per ton against Rs. 131; Rs. 130 and Rs. 186-8-0 per ton, respectively, in the immediate past three years.

The total turnover of the department during the year of report was Rs. 36.14 lacs against Rs. 39.38 lac; Rs. 36.50 lacs and Rs. 3.12 lacs in the last three years. The value of stores in hand at the close of the year was Rs. 9.60 lacs against Rs. 10.38 lacs; Rs. 9.99 lacs and Rs. 10.06 lacs in the last three years.

27. The number of permits or licenses issued during the year was 28,596 against 25,751 in the previous year and realised fees of Rs. 2.56 lacs against Rs. 2.63 lacs in the preceding year. The out standing demand at the close of the year was for 696 notices aggregating to Rs. 9,620 against 125 and 96 notices amounting to Rs. 1,092 and Rs. 796, respectively, of the previous two years. The reason for this abnormal increase in outstanding both in the number of licenses and the amount therefor is not explained in the report. The loss of revenue consequent upon the disuse of the old licenses, etc., was Rs. 0.17 lac against Rs. 0.10 lac and Rs. 0.18 lac in the preceding two years.

Though the number of permits issued for display of advertisement showed a decline being 1,930 against 2,116 and 2,571 of the last two years the amount of fees collected therefrom showed an increase being Rs. 1.54 lacs against Rs. 1.41 lacs and Rs. 1.35 lacs in the previous two years.

Due to serious and continued disturbances in the City from 1st September 1946 there was evidently a fall in the number of hawker and squatter licenses issued during the year which was 39,545 against 43,272; 45,517 and 41,663 in the previous three years. The amount of fees collected was Rs. 1.78 lacs against Rs. 2.03 lacs and Rs. 1.92 lacs and Rs. 1.86 lacs in the corresponding last three years. The department instituted during the year 2,035 prosecutions for offences against different Sections of the Act against 2,198; 2,654 and 4,017 launched in the previous three years. Of these prosecutions, 1,018 were withdrawn on compliance with law and 373 resulted in conviction and fines inflicted amounted to Rs. 20,306 against Rs. 11,069 and Rs. 9,361 in the preceding two years.

From 1st February 1947 the trial of these cases was transferred from the Hon. Presidency Magistrates Courts to those of the Stipendiary Magistrates.

The total revenue of the Department revealed a set back during the year being Rs. 5.88 lacs against Rs. 6.07 lacs and Rs. 5.81 lacs in the previous two years.

28. The communal disturbances in the City were responsible for the reduction in the number of mass raids which materially help the enforcement of the Act. Such raids during the year were 121 (27 by day and 94 by night) against 172 (99 by day and 73 by night) and 123 (67 by day and 56 by night) in the previous two years.

The total number of visits and revisits to different establishments covered by the Act was 43,659 against 58,546 in the previous year. These visits were made up of 31,029 to shops; 6,625 to commercial establishments; 5,821 to restaurants and 185 to places of amusements. The fall in the number of visits reflected in the fall in the number of new prosecutions which came to 3,347 against 3,688, 2,538 and 3,495 in the preceding three years. With the outstanding balance of 488 cases pending at the close of the year, 2,640 cases were disposed of against 3,495 of the previous year. The result of the disposed of cases showed that 2,585 were convicted, 40 withdrawn and 15 acquitted. The total amount of fines inflicted was Rs. 0.38 lac against Rs. 0.66 lac of the previous year when 3,447 cases were convicted. The average fine for the year worked out to Rs. 14-11-1 per case or Rs. 7-2-1 per charge against an average of Rs. 19-4-8, Rs. 21-8-0 Rs. 19-7-4 and Rs. 14-6-0 of the preceding four years.

An amount of Rs. 66,400 was sanctioned as grant-in-aid by Government for the year 1945-46, against Rs. 49,993 and Rs. 69,259 of the previous two years.

29. While the actual number of Municipal Markets during the year remained the same, viz, 17, as in the last year two squatter areas (i) at Nowroji Hill Road and (ii) at Khetwady 4th Lane were treated as Open Air Markets. Though on account of disturbed conditions of the City, stalls in several Markets remained unoccupied for long periods, the total receipts showed an improvement over those of the previous year by Rs. 3.19 lacs, net receipts for the year being Rs. 9.37 lacs against Rs. 6.18 lacs in 1945-46. This was mainly due to enhanced stallage charges recovered during the year. Similarly, due to revision in the Schedule of Fees, the

collections from the squatters' fees showed an improvement of Rs. '58 lac being Rs. 3.45 lacs against Rs. 2.87 lac, during the previous year. Likewise, as a result of the competitive biddings for securing the rights of collecting fees at the Arthur Crawford Market Scale Shed, there was an increase of Rs. 1.15 lacs over the amount of Rs. 1.36 lacs realised in the previous year. Due to dispute between the Municipality and the stall-holders regarding enhanced charges an amount of Rs. 2 lacs for stallage charges remained in arrears at the end of the year. The highest net receipts derived during the year from any one Market were Rs. 5.80 lacs from the Arthur Crawford Market, the next three places were occupied by the Erskine Road, the Dadar and the Gold Mohur Castle Markets with the net receipts amounting to Rs. .78 lac; Rs. .63 lac and Rs. .61 lac, respectively. The most favourable percentage of net receipts on the cost was 86.4 in respect of the Elphinstone Road Market. The next three places in this respect were occupied by the Fergusson Road, the Dadar and the Parbhadevi Markets with the percentages of 60.2; 42.1 and 33.7, respectively.

The number of Private Markets licenced during the year shows a reduction by one, being 21 against 22 in the previous year, whilst that of the Private Slaughter House was the same as in the last year, viz., 2. It is disappointing to find that the amount realised from these shows a fall, while the reasons therefor are not explained in the report.

It appears that the amount of Rs. 48,973-7-0 was realised as licence fees from 19 Markets against Rs. 49,532-5-0 from 15 Markets and one Slaughter House during the previous year. The licence fees of one private market and one slaughter house were held in deposit, while licence fees of one such each institution were in arrears.

Due to various restrictions imposed by Government on slaughter of horned cattle and sheep and goats realisations from the slaughter and removal fees showed a decline of Rs. 16,298-10-0. The total amount realised during the year was Rs. 4.77 lacs against Rs. 4.93 lacs in the previous year. Likewise, the fees recovered from the Kurla Municipality to import buffalo meat in the City showed a decrease of Rs. 5,500 being Rs. 31,610 against Rs. 37,110 in the previous year. Out of 14,07,745 animals brought to the Fair Ground against 15,15,059 in the previous year 4,843 animals against 9,582 in the last year were rejected on ante-mortem examination due to the advanced age of pregnancy or suffering from some disease thereby rendering their meat unfit for human consumption. The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 12.13 lacs against 13.84 lacs and 15.02 lacs in the previous two years. The total amount of slaughter fees, etc., realised came to Rs. 5.01 lacs against Rs. 5.32 lacs and Rs. 5.51 lacs in the preceding two years. The highest number of animals slaughtered or removed for private slaughter was 1.29 lacs in July 1946, while the lowest was .56 lac in October 1946,

The approximate weight of dressed meat of buffaloes, cows and bullocks was 8,142 tons and that of sheep and goats 9,155 tons of which 31½ tons and 13 tons, respectively, were condemned giving the percentage of .38 and .14, respectively.

While the number of outside meat shops during the year remained the same as in the last year, viz., 187, the licence fees realised therefrom amounted to Rs. 8,931 against Rs. 8,075 in the previous year.

30. The constant increase in the population of the City since the year 1943, without any corresponding increase in its capacity of accommodation or series of service has been an anxiety of the City's health authorities. Besides, the R. I. N. and the communal disturbances in the City during the year of report were responsible for loss of property and personnel of the Department. They also caused many difficulties in rendering systematic conservancy and sanitary services not only in disturbed areas but throughout the whole City. These disturbances took 653 lives upto the end of the year. (Due to the sweepers' strike in April 1946, no conservancy service could be rendered for 11 days in that month and after the termination of the strike it took a month and a half to restore normal conservancy services in the City.) The average density of the population which was 89 per acre in 1941 stood at 149 per acre. In spite of increasing population of the City with its restricted area and scope of public services further cramped by local disturbances, the health conditions were maintained at the normal level.

The number of live births registered was 53,649, i.e. 299 more than in the previous year and 12,435 more than the average of the last ten years. Of these births, 27,395 were males and 26,074 females. Calculated on the census of 1941, the birth rate was 35.9 per 1,000. Still births reported during the year were 3,097 against 3,398; 3,374 and 3,129 in the preceding three years. Of the total births (56,566) recorded during the year, 43,320, i.e., 77.1 per cent., took place in maternity homes or hospitals. In the immediately preceding four years, these percentages stood at 79; 72.9; 81.1 and 75.8.

With a total complement of 129 beds in the five Municipal Maternity Homes, the number of women admitted and of the cases confined in the Homes came to 8,116 and 7,005 as against 8,961 and 7,996, respectively, in the previous year. Of the women confined 1,326 were *primiparae*. Meagre measures at present taken to look after expectant and nursing mothers and infants require further extension if the increasing rate of deaths among them is to be checked and if the City is to have infants who as years go by would become useful citizens. To have an effective check in this direction arrangements, for ante and post-natal as well as infant care at home and at clinics must be improved and extended. We want more Maternity Homes and Health Visitors. The Standing Committee hope that proper schemes would be evolved for expansion of this activity in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme, so

that adequate funds could be spared for these activities as well along with the Post- War Engineering problems which alone at present seem to engage the attention of the Corporation.

The Health Visitors paid 47,382 visits in various districts against 50,712 ; 60,997 and 45,422 in the previous three years. The decline in the number of visits is not explained in the report, but is presumed to be due to disturbed conditions of the City during the year.

The total number of deaths recorded was 41,264 including 919 unnatural deaths in riots and disturbances against 40,215 ; 41,882 ; 34,165 and 25,177 in previous four years. It was 8,378 more than the average mortality of the last 10 years. Per 1,000 persons living, the death rate according to the census figure of 1941 and the actual population of the City came to 27.7 and 16.5, respectively. As per census figure, these rates for the last three years were 27 ; 28.1 and 22.9, respectively. Of the total deaths during the year, 22,829, were among males and 18,435 among females. Thus the male death rate was 24 and the female death rate 33 as against 23 and 33, respectively, in the previous year. As in the previous years diseases of the Respiratory System were responsible for a higher death rate than in any other group, being 8.9 per 1,000 of the population, the actual number of deaths being 13,346. The second highest group was Congenital debility and diseases of early infancy, wherein the death rate was 3.2 per 1,000 of population, the actual number of deaths being 4,712. The next lowest group was the old age with 3,493 deaths and a rate of 2.4 per 1,000. Tuberculosis claimed 1,914 deaths giving a rate of 1.3 per 1000.

31. Eight free prophylactic Centres were kept open day and night in different Municipal Venereal Diseases. Institutions and 9,013 persons attended the Centre at the Venereal Diseases Clinic and 1,025 at the other Centres. The average daily attendance at the Clinic for diagnosis and treatment and for prophylactic was 520.7 against 558.8 in the last year. As a result of propaganda carried out to root out the evil of this disease and its baneful effects, a large number of persons came to the Clinic for consultation, advice, treatment, etc.,. In this Clinic, Medical Practitioners are given facilities to practice methods of diagnosis and treatment of these diseases for which no fees are charged.

32. Nineteen Municipal Dispensaries rendered free medical relief to the sick poor of the City. The total number of new cases treated at the different Dispensaries was 1,78,936 against 2,09,792 ; 2,20,910 and 2,13,894 in the preceding three years. The total attendance numbered 6,45,183 against 7,37,237 ; 7,71,482 ; 7,78,427 in the last three years. During the year, the Dispensary Medical Officer paid 102 visits to patients in their homes against 135 and 233 such visits in the previous two years.

33. During the year efforts were concentrated on the work of organising mass Anti-small-pox and Anti-typhoid campaigns with a view to keeping the City free from ravages of the diseases. For this purpose mobile vaccination centres were arranged at strategic points in the different parts of the City, when microphone talks on the necessity of taking preventive measures against the diseases were delivered and immediately followed by mass vaccinations. 36 pictorial slides on small-pox were prepared and distributed to different cinema house in the City. 95 shows of Health Education films were arranged on different health subjects in open public parks, labour colonies, etc., when the total number of attendance was 2,24,475. During the year, six Health Film Exhibitions were arranged under the auspices of other Institutions at different places in the City.

34. These Hospitals are run for reception of patients suffering from major infectious diseases. City Fever Hospitals. They have a total accommodation of 314 beds and the proposal for additional accommodation are under consideration in connection with the Post-War Re-construction of the Hospitals Scheme. The average weekly cost per patient worked out to Rs. 17-7-2. with 6,311 as the total number of patients treated at the different groups of the Institution.

35. As in the last two years the Hospital has an accommodation for 510 beds. The number K. E. M. Hospital. allotted to males, females, and children also remained the same, viz., 325 ; 145 and 40, respectively. No progress was made during the year for an extension of the Hospital due to difficult prevailing times. While the bed accommodation remained static, the number of in-patients admitted showed an increase being 17,096 during the year against 16,221 ; 16,745 ; 14,804 and 12,782 in the last four years. The daily average number of in-patients was 570.93 against 556.30 in the last year and the average number of days each patient was resident worked out to 11.08 against 11.51 in the previous year. (From the daily average it clearly appears that on several occasions some of the patients had to be accommodated on the floors of the Wards. The maximum number of in-patients on a single day was 635 which made their nursing and care extremely difficult.) The total number of operations on in-patients was 6,576 against 6,683 in the last year. Of the in-patients (17,641) treated at the Hospital, 7,137 were cured, 5,198 discharged and relieved, 1,792 died, 2,974 left the

Hospital against medical advice and 540 patients remained at the end of the year against 545 previous year's balance. (The average cost per in-patient per day showed a big jump and stood at Rs. 5-3-10 against Rs. 4-12-8; Rs. 4-3-4; Rs. 3-15-10 and Rs. 3-4-8 of the last four years.) The average cost per in-patient admission worked out to Rs. 64-9-8 against Rs. 58-1-10; Rs. 50-4-11; Rs. 46-11-10 and Rs. 42-6-1 of the previous four years. While with the increasing number of in-patients, the average cost should have been lower with the same standard of medical relief the jump in the average is the best proof that (medical relief in the City has tendered to become costly and beyond the reach of citizens of average income and quite naturally they have to resort to public hospitals for curing their ailments. This further proves the necessity of an early extension of the free hospital accommodation available in the City.) The Standing Committee hope that with the taking over of the groups of the Bai Yamunabai L. Nair Hospital and the Military Hospital at Dharavi, the Corporation will be able to meet to some extent the need of the citizens in this direction.

It is very surprising to find that while the number of in-patients has shown an increase in the year, the total number of out-patients (including 26,064 casualty patients against 27,755 of the last year) shows a decline being 1.15 lacs against 1.50 lacs; 1.46 lacs and 1.33 lacs of the preceding three years in spite of the fact that population is constantly on the increase. Perhaps partially, this decline which might have prevented patients from going to the Hospital for treatment of minor ailments. The daily average of new out-patients was 421.22 against 474.42 and 414 in the previous two years. The total number of out-patient attendance was 4.67 lacs against 5.08 lacs; 5.76 lacs and 4.71 lacs in the previous three years. This gives a daily average of 1,557 against 1,645; 1,542 and 1,505 of the previous three years. The number of operations performed on the out-patients was 11,188 against 11,921 in the last year. As in the case of in-patients, the average cost per out-patient attendance also showed a jump being Re. 0-10-11 against Re. 0-7-7; Re. 0-7-11 and Re. 0-7-2 of the last three years. Accordingly, the average cost per out-patient admission also showed an increase and was Rs. 2-4-5 against Rs. 1-9-6 in each of the last two years and Rs. 1-8-5 in the year 1943-44. During the year, a munificent donation of Rs. 1 lac was received from a philanthropic gentleman for establishing a blood bank at the Hospital. It is reported that during the year, blood transfusion was provided to 789 cases.

During the year as in the past, the Poor Box Charity Fund continued to render to deserving poor patients much needed relief which otherwise could not ordinarily be given out of the Municipal Fund. Besides relief in the shape of blood transfusion, issue of Penicillin and other costly drugs, necessary appliances are also supplied to deserving cases from this Fund. Donations received for this Fund are thus faithfully and fruitfully applied for relieving medical, surgical etc., necessities of the deserving cases.

36. During the year, the Corporation took over from the Military Authorities their Hospital situated at Dharavi with the temporary building structures and equipment for a sum of Rs. 4.45 lacs. After making necessary alterations to suit civilian requirements a start was made with 50 beds to relieve congestion at the K. E. M. Hospital. It is proposed to ultimately provide 300 beds thereat to meet the need of a general hospital in the North of the City.

37. The management of these institutions was taken over by the Corporation from 1st November 1946. The Hospital with its fully equipped out-door and in-door equipments provides necessary facilities for clinical instruction to the students of the College attached to it. The College is affiliated to the Bombay University for pre-clinical courses from November 1946 and has on its Roll 284 students including 48 lady students. (Out of 57 candidates who appeared for the final L.C.P.S. Examination only 15 passed.) The hostel accommodation is limited to 45 students only, and consequently many applications had to be rejected for want of accommodation. The Hospital had an accommodation for 160 beds. The total number of in-patients admitted during the period was 1,342, the highest number treated on a single day being 156. The Dental College had on its Roll 66 Students of which 55 were males and 11 females. The number of patients treated at the Clinics at the College during the period was 10,705. The expenditure incurred on the three institutions during the period under report amounted to Rs. 1.02 lacs. The Standing Committee hope that in the subsequent reports detailed information about the working of the institutions will be incorporated so as to acquaint the Corporation of the work done therein and the progress made since the taking over of the institutions by them.

38. Of the 86 fresh admissions including 6 extra students from C. P. and Berar made during the year, 65 were males and 21 females 82 of those students were single, 1 married and 3 betrothed. Their average age at the time of admission was 19.2 years. At the end of the year, 590 students were on the roll of whom 457 and 133 were, respectively, males and females. Of this number, 63 males and 7 females were post-graduate students including research students. For clinical instruction in the diseases of children the students are sent to the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children. Out of 505 candidates sent up from the College for various examinations 292 passed the whole examination.

The total expenditure including the cost of maintaining hostels came to Rs. 2.80 lacs against Rs. 2.61 lacs in the previous year. Both these amounts are exclusive of payment of Dearness Allowance which in the year of report came to Rs. 0.48 lac against Rs. 0.25 lac in the last year. The total expenditure amounts in the two years preceding the last year were Rs. 2.66 lacs and Rs. 2.75 lacs. The gross cost per student worked out to Rs. 539 and the net cost to Rs. 252.3 against the corresponding figures of Rs. 502.6 and Rs. 259.3, respectively, of the last year.

The revenue of the College by way of tuition fees, hostel rent, etc., amounted to Rs. 1.49 lacs against Rs. 1.42 lacs; Rs. 1.35 lacs and Rs. 1.31 lacs in the previous three years.

In all 167 male students were housed in the Hostel. This was in excess of the standard accommodation available, but had to be resorted to meet the demand of the students who could not otherwise secure accommodation in the City. Likewise, 46 lady students had to be provided hostel accommodation of whom 18 were put in vacant room in the new Nurses' Home. The total expenditure incurred on the hostels was Rs. 21,785 against which the income derived was Rs. 19,010.

39. The disturbances in the City which started in September 1946 had very adverse effects on the general progress of education as revealed in the heavy decline in the number of pupils on all sides. A large number of schools had to be kept continuously or intermittently closed and schools in non-affected areas worked with irregular attendance. While the total number of pupils in different Municipal Schools at the close of the year showed a decline, being 1,02,510 against 1,20,713; and 1,18,646 in the previous two years, the number of schools and classes showed an increase of 5 and 1, respectively, over the number of the previous year, being 397 and 25, respectively, against 392 and 24 in the year 1945-46 and 389 and 23 in the year 1944-45. The increase of 5 in the number of schools was each under Gujarati "Boys" and "Girls" Schools, Tamil, Telugu, Kanarese, Malayalam, etc., Schools, Hindi Schools and English Primary Schools. One Class was opened on the Hindi Schools side. The total number of teachers engaged was 3,687 against 3,675; 3,383; 3,003 and 2,615 in the last four years. Of this number 515 were ordinary non-permanent teachers. It is to be noted that during the year in 216 Aided Schools against 211 in the previous year, the number of pupils rose to 47,451 from 46,476; 42,464 and 40,008 in the previous three years.

The Municipal grant for the year amounted to Rs. 69.29 lacs against Rs. 60.07 lacs; Rs. 52.71 lacs; Rs. 46.43 lacs and Rs. 41.60 lacs in the previous four years. Against this large amount spent by the Corporation, the Government grant-in-aid amounted to only Rs. 9.75 lacs including Rs. 0.28 lac for English teaching Aided Schools, control of which has been taken over by the Schools Committee since the year 1943-44. (The Standing Committee here would once again desire to impress upon Government the necessity of increasing the amount of the grant-in-aid particularly when the Municipal share is mounting up and when the Corporation have to incur additional expenditure as a result of revision of grades, payment of Dearness Allowance, etc., consequent upon the rise in the cost of living over which factor the Corporation have no control. Besides, the grant of Rs. 69.29 lacs, the Corporation had also to incur an expenditure of Rs. .81 lac on the Schools Committee's Head Office met out of the General Municipal Fund.

The average cost per pupil on the number of pupils on rolls (1,02,510) was Rs. 64.01 against Rs. 47.11; Rs. 42.2; Rs. 44.5 and Rs. 52 for the previous four years. Calculated on the average number of pupils on rolls throughout the year (1,13,237), the cost per pupil worked out to Rs. 58.04 against Rs. 48.04; Rs. 46.7; Rs. 47.9 and Rs. 54.4 for the previous four years. These tremendous increases in the averages are attributed to the granting of grades to teachers according to qualifications by the removal of the former rule of a fixed proportion of trained and untrained teachers and the enhanced rate of Dearness Allowance. These two factors were in existence in the previous year too.

The total amount of grants paid to Aided Schools was Rs. 3.56 lacs against Rs. 3.29 lacs; Rs. 2.82 lacs; Rs. 2.12 lacs and Rs. 2.16 in the previous four years. The amount of Rs. 3.56 lacs was paid after applying a cut of 6½ per cent. on the total assessed amount of Rs. 3.78 lacs. The total expenditure incurred by these schools amounted to Rs. 23.72 lacs against Rs. 22.97 lacs and Rs. 17.44 lacs in the previous two years. With 46,907 as the average number of pupils on the rolls of these schools, the cost per pupil works out to Rs. 50.5 against Rs. 49.9 and Rs. 42.7 in the last two years. This average, however, compares very favourably with the Municipal average. The cost per pupil to the Municipality by way of grant comes to Rs. 8.2 against Rs. 7.5 and Rs. 6.9 in the last two years.

The teaching of Hindustani was further stimulated during the year, as about 30,900 pupils belonging to groups of schools other than Urdu and Hindi came within its scope from June 1946. During the year 128 teachers for Hindustani teaching were prepared.

1,128 pupils received vocational instructions in 12 different Central Schools where subjects like Carpentry, Tailoring, Clock repairing, Printing and Binding, and Signboard Painting are taught.

40. Against the demand for 80 tons of paper for printing Rolls for General Elections, etc., Government gave a release order for 40 tons only, this quantity was further reduced to about 35 tons due to the inability of the paper mills to supply the full quantity. As, however, the General Elections were postponed after the work had been two-thirds completed, the saving was used for general Municipal purposes. During the year, the Press had to

cope with the new demand resulting from the taking over of the management of the Bai Yamunabai L. Nair Charitable Hospital and its attached institutions. The normal requirements of the other departments also showed an increase with the result that the paper stock came down. The total quantity of paper consumed during the year was 60.75 tons against 43.25; 40.5; 31;37 and 53 tons during the preceding quinquennium.

As the Press was unable to cope with the work of printing the Voters' List consisting of about 8 lac names, the work had to be distributed to other Presses at rates varying from Rs. 13 to Rs. 28 per page.

The Literacy Class started in 1943-44 for teaching English by the Basic Method to the Press workers ceased to function from 1st September 1946, as those who desired to have training had completed the course.

The Profit and Loss Account and the *Pro forma* Balance Sheet as on 31st March 1947, reveal that the transactions of the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 3,617 on the total turnover of Rs. 3.04 lacs against the surplus of Rs. 2,646 and Rs. 2,513 on the total turnover of Rs. 2.15 lacs and Rs. 2.18 lacs, respectively of the previous two years. The strength of the labour staff is on the increase, being 148 against 136; 120; 110 and 113 of the previous four years.

41. This Department has been in existence since 1931 but a very brief report of its working has been annually submitted. In their reviews of the last two years' reports the Committee had asked for a more detailed information of its working, but such information is absent also in the report under review.

Legal Assistant's Department.

During the year, the Department received 4,340 files and addressed 2,096 letters to outside parties or their legal advisors, while legal advices and opinions were given on 135 documents.

The report contains information about the number of High Court Suits, etc., attended to by the Department but no mention is made of the result of those cases or references even though this information was sought for in the review of the previous year's report.

42. This year also the reports of the Municipal Chief Auditor have not been included in the Administration Report. Since the receipt of the Report by the Committee from the Commissioner, the Municipal Chief Auditor has submitted his reports which will be forwarded to the Corporation in due course.

Audit.

43. In conclusion, the Standing Committee desire to record their high appreciation of the very able and valuable services rendered by Mr. U. M. Mirchandani, I.C.S., Mr. N. V. Modak, C.I.E., and Mr. B. K. Patel, I.C.S., whose high administrative ability and financial acumen were of great help to the Committee in the administration of the civic affairs of the Corporation.

Acknowledgement.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE,
Bombay, 14th January 1948.

V. B. GANDHI,
Chairman, Standing Committee.

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