

ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
FOR THE
CITY OF BOMBAY
FOR THE YEAR
1945-46.

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CONTENTS

PART I

STANDING COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF THE REPORT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Accompaniments.

	PAGE.
1. FINANCIAL—	
Report of the Chief Accountant, with Appendices	25-114
2. REVENUE—	
Report of the Assessor and Collector	115-119
Report of the Election and Town Duty Officer	121-122
3. ELECTIONS—	
Report of the Election and Town Duty Officer	123-149
4. PUBLIC WORKS—	
Report of the City Engineer	123-124
Architectural—	
Repairs to Municipal Buildings and Municipal Building Construction...	124-126
Buildings—	
Private Building Construction (including set-backs)	126
Mechanical—	
Workshops	126-128
Pumping and Compressor Stations	128-129
Inspection of Factories, Motor Transport, etc.	130-131
Works—	
(i) Construction—	
Roads, Footpaths and Drains (New Works) and Improvement of Private Streets	131
(ii) Maintenance—	
Repairs to Roads, Trainways, Traffic Islands, etc.	131
Crushers and Asphalt Plant	134
Public Lighting	135
Repairs to Drains and Sewers	136-137
Disposal of Town Refuse	138-149
Statements	151-157
5. ESTATES AND LAND MANAGEMENT—	
Report of the Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Improvements)	151-152
New Schemes	153
Disposal of Lands	155
Collection of Revenue	156
Land Acquisition and Management (Municipal)	156-157
Mahim Development Schemes	158-161
Statements and Appendix	163-202
6. WATER WORKS—	
Report of the Hydraulic Engineer	203-207
7. FIRE BRIGADE—	
Report of the Officer Commanding, Fire Services	209
8. GARDENS—	
Report of the Superintendent	210
9. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUMS—	
Report of the Curator	211
10. MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES	

	PAGE
11. GENERAL STORES—	
Report of the Controller of Stores	... 212
12. LICENCES—	
Report of the Superintendent	... 215—216
13. MARKETS—	
Report of the Superintendent	... 217—220
14. PRINTING PRESS—	
Report of the Test Audit Officer (who is in charge of the Press)	... 221—222
15. K. E. M. HOSPITAL AND SETH G. S. M. COLLEGE—	
Report of the Dean	... 223—249
16. LEGAL ASSISTANT	... 251
17. EDUCATION—	
Report of the Schools Committee	... 253—260

PART II

18. PUBLIC HEALTH—	
Health Officer's Report	... 1—35
Report of the Medical Officer-in-charge, Arthur Road Hospital	... 35—42
Report of the Medical Officer-in-charge, Maratha Hospital	... 42—43
Report of the Municipal Analyst	... 43—51
Report of the Superintendent of Vaccination	... 52—53
Vital Statistics of Health Officer's Report	... 55—80
Summary of Sanitary Inspections	... 79
Table showing Meteorological Data	... 80

REVIEW OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR 1945-46.

The Municipal Commissioner's Administration Report for the year 1945-46 sets out in detail the working of the Municipal machinery for the year under review. The War is over but the hope expressed by the Standing Committee in the last year's Review, that handicaps as a result of the War situation preventing development of the Municipal administration would disappear, has not been realised. If anything, the situation is more acute to-day than ever before and the Municipal administration finds itself faced with a herculean task of maintaining and augmenting the civic services.

2. Dr. Jos. Alban D'Souza, B.A., L.M. & S., was the Mayor of Bombay during the year. Mr. S. L. Silam, B.A., LL.B., was the Chairman of the Standing Committee Corporation. and Mr. V. A. Karapurkar, F.C.I., (Eng.), was the Chairman of the Improvements Committee. Mr. Salebhoy Abdul Kader 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 page 2 of the report.

3. Mr. U. M. Mirchandani, I.C.S., continued to hold the office of the Municipal Commissioner for the year. Commissioner.

4. After a lapse of 9 years, the General Tax was again increased during the year by 1 per cent, and was recovered from lands and buildings in the City at 12 per cent. Other rates of taxation levied by the Corporation remained unchanged during the year. Financial.

5. At the beginning of the year the Opening Cash Balance was actually Rs. 69.08 lacs showing an improvement by Rs. 5.08 lacs over that of the previous year. Likewise, Variations in Income. the actual income of the year, viz., Rs. 487.37 lacs, showed improvements both in the budgeted amount, viz., Rs. 447.09 lacs, and over the actuals for the previous year, viz., Rs. 429.78 lacs. These increases are attributed to increase in the General Tax, revision of the rateable values of several properties in the City, change in the mode of levy of Town Duty on Timber, etc. The actual total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 493.13 lacs, which was less by Rs. 3.60 lacs than the budgeted amount of Rs. 496.73 lacs, but more by Rs. 80.18 lacs than the actual for the previous year, viz., Rs. 412.95 lacs. The expenditure includes an amount of Rs. 55 lacs credited to the Post-War Reconstruction Fund, otherwise the actual expenditure incurred on various services is Rs. 438.13 lacs. The actual income and the expenditure for the year show a deficit of Rs. 5.76 lacs. If, however, the amount of Rs. 55 lacs credited to the Post-War Reconstruction Fund is removed from the expenditure side, the year's working shows a surplus of Rs. 49.24 lacs against the anticipated surplus of Rs. 5.36 lacs. After adjustments of Advances during the year, the closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 60.20 lacs against the budgeted balance of Rs. 7.35 lacs.

There was an increase of Rs. 40.28 lacs in the actual income over the budgeted amount of Rs. 447.09 lacs. The principal heads which contributed to this increase were (1) General Tax—Rs. 10.08 lacs of which Rs. 9.53 lacs were realised from the Public due to increase in General Tax and revision of rateable values of properties including those of the Royal Western India Turf Club; (2) Town Duties—Rs. 3.96 lacs; (3) Interest and Profit on investment of Surplus, Loan and other Balances—Rs. 1.91 lacs; (4) Water Works—Rs. 3.24 lacs; (5) Street Cleansing and Conservancy, etc.—Rs. 4.13 lacs—partly due to increased realisations under Halalkhore Tax as a result of revised valuations of properties and partly due to recovery of arrears for Special Service rendered to the Military authorities; and (6) Markets and Slaughter Houses—Rs. 4.12 lacs due to realisations of more than anticipated receipts for Fair Ground and Feeding Fees, etc.

The sale proceeds of surplus land during the year amounted to Rs. 4.35 lacs against Rs. 5.07 lacs in the previous year. As the total realisations fell short by Rs. 5.65 lacs of the amount of Rs. 10 lacs to be credited to revenue from this source, the deficit (Rs. 5.65 lacs) was transferred from the Land Sales Reserve Fund to revenue. As a result of this transfer, balance in the said Fund stood at Rs. 14.91 lacs against Rs. 19.96 lacs at the beginning of the year.

6. As stated above the actual expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 493.13 lacs which was less by Rs. 3.60 lacs than the budgeted amount of Rs. 496.73 lacs. The final Variations in Expenditure. sanctioned grants, however, amounted in the aggregate to Rs. 537.21 lacs, which includes the amount of Rs. 19.15 lacs of the unexpended grants of previous years renewed for expenditure and Rs. 21.33 lacs of additional grants sanctioned during the year.

Adjustments in items of expenditure by transfers of grants without affecting the total Budget provision for the year amounted to Rs. 6.37 lacs. In the last three years, the total of such transfers amounted to Rs. 11.01 lacs, 9.44 lacs and Rs. 5.68 lacs, respectively.

The principal items which contributed towards decrease in expenditure were (1) Education Primary—Rs. 1.75 lacs mainly due to less contribution required to be made to the Schools Committee ; (2) Supply of Milk to undernourished needy children attending Municipal Schools—Rs. 1.13 lacs due to less number of children having taken advantage of the scheme ; (3) Maintenance of Roads—Rs. 1.87 lacs ; and (4) Public Lighting—Rs. 2.03 lacs.

7. The Opening Balance on 1st April 1945 on account of Loan Funds excluding Trust Funds was Rs. 7.61 lacs against Rs. 9.27 lacs, Rs. 17.30 lacs and Rs. 11.42 lacs in the previous three years. During the year the amount of loan raised was Rs. 23.49 lacs against which the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 22.38 lacs of which Rs. 17.33 lacs were spent on works and other charges ; Rs. 5.05 lacs were repaid to the Land Sales Reserve Fund against the outstanding balance of Rs. 16.46 lacs. Thus, the unspent balance left at the close of the year stood at Rs. 8.72 lacs. It is very significant to note that the Budget Estimates for expenditure out of Loan and Trust Funds during the year amounted to Rs. 43.30 lacs which was the highest for the quinquennium period beginning from 1941-42. The Revised Estimates were increased to Rs. 50.32 lacs which was the second highest for the said quinquennium period, the highest being Rs. 52.41 lacs in the year 1941-42. But the actual expenditure for the year under report amounted to Rs. 17.05 lacs only ; the actuals thus fell short of the Budget and the Revised Estimates by 61 and 66 per cent., respectively. Times out of number the Standing Committee have commented on this disparity but it appears that these comments have been studiously ignored by the departments and they continue to ask for more and more grants for Capital Works when perhaps they are conscious that due to paucity of materials and labour and due to other factors, they are not able to complete even half of the Capital Works Programme. The percentages of disparity of 61 and 66, it may be noted, are the highest for the quinquennium period.

Outstanding debt on 1st April 1945 was Rs. 1379.18 lacs. To this was added the amount of Rs. 23.49 lacs raised during the year. Deducting the amount of Rs. 107.65 lacs repaid during the year, the outstanding debt at the close of the year was Rs. 1295.03 lacs.

8. The book value of investments of the Sinking Fund at the end of the year stood at Rs. 339.88 lacs. Valuing the Municipal and the Improvement Trust Debentures at par, the market value of the Sinking Fund Investments at the close of the year came to Rs. 365.48 lacs which together with the amount of interest accrued upto 31st March 1946, viz., Rs. 3.11 lacs and cash of Rs. 323 in the Imperial Bank of India, brought the total amount of Sinking Fund to Rs. 368.59 lacs against Rs. 339.96 lacs which should have accumulated in the Sinking Fund upto 31st March 1946. The excess in the Fund thus amounts to Rs. 28.63 lacs, which sufficiently secures the loan liabilities of the Corporation.

9. The total income under this Account during the year was Rs. 100.96 lacs against Rs. 102 lacs and Rs. 95.45 lacs of the previous two years. The total expenditure for the year came to Rs. 102.05 lacs against Rs. 99.53 lacs and Rs. 97.95 lacs of the last two years. The net deficit for the year was Rs. 1.08 lacs.

The ex-Trust Loan liabilities at the commencement of the year were Rs. 1583.66 lacs against Rs. 1612.81 lacs and Rs. 1617.88 lacs at the beginning of previous two years. No loan was raised during the year while an aggregate amount of Rs. 5.98 lacs was repaid of which Rs. 5.43 lacs were repaid to Government and Rs. .55 lac to the debenture holders out of the 5½ per cent. loan of Rs. 25 lacs. The outstanding liabilities at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1577.68 lacs of which the liability to Government was only Rs. 562.19 lacs.

The Opening Balance of the year in this account was Rs. 130.60 lacs against Rs. 118.08 lacs in the previous year. During the year receipts from sale proceeds of lands and buildings came to Rs. 28.88 lacs against Rs. 36.12 lacs in the previous year. The expenditure incurred out of this account was Rs. 3.72 lacs. After meeting the deficit of Rs. 1.08 lacs in the General Account, the unspent balance at the close of the year stood at Rs. 154.13 lacs.

The actual expenditure on Schemes during the year came to Rs. 3.72 lacs against Rs. 4.23 lacs and Rs. 4.97 lacs in the previous two years. The total expenditure on all Schemes upto the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1904.13 lacs of which Rs. 14.66 lacs represented discount and other charges on loans.

On 1st April 1945 the amount of Sinking Fund was Rs. 348.66 lacs. With addition of interest, etc., on realisations amounting to Rs. 15.65 lacs and the Sinking Fund Instalments of Rs. 5.70 lacs, the amount at the end of the year in the Sinking Fund stood at Rs. 370.01 lacs. Valuing the Improvement Trust and Municipal debentures at par, the market value of investments in the Sinking Fund came to Rs. 373.71 lacs. With the amount of interest accrued upto 31st March 1946, viz., Rs. 1.30 lacs and cash of Rs. 265 in the Imperial Bank of India, the total amount in the Fund came to Rs. 375.01 lacs against Rs. 318.57 lacs to which the Fund should have accumulated on 31st March 1946. The excess in the Sinking Fund Investment was Rs. 56.44 lacs.

The total amount of loans on Improvement Schemes account outstanding on 1st March 1946 was Rs. 1578 lacs of which Rs. 367 lacs were borrowed from Government and the balance, viz., Rs. 1211 lacs represented loans raised by issue of debentures, of which Rs. 735 lacs were borrowed from the public.

10. During the year a Special Fund called the Post-War Reconstruction Fund was created and a sum of Rs. 55 lacs was credited to that Fund out of general Municipal Revenue to meet expenditure on services affecting the sanitation and health of the City and on amenities which were very necessary to be provided in the post-war period.

11. The Corporation continued to conduct the Government Subsidised Milk Scheme and Government had deposited with the Corporation Rs. 13.50 lacs to meet the expenses of the Scheme. The total expenditure on the Scheme during the year was Rs. 212.49 lacs and the receipts realised on account of sale of milk amounted to Rs. 107.29 lacs.

12. During the year after the lapse of a period of 9 years, the General Tax levied on properties in the City was increased by one per cent., while the other rates of taxation continued to be the same. Similarly, there was no variation in the rate of water supplied by meter measurement except in the case of (1) the Textile Mills, (2) the Race Course, and (3) the Bombay Port Trust properties. The other rates varied according to the purpose for which water was used and ranged between As. 10 and Rs. 2 per 1,000 gallons.

The number of properties shown on the Assessment Register during the year was 50,571 against 49,631 and 49,016 in the preceding two years. Of the 50,571 properties, only 41,492 were assessed to General Tax, while 1,620 properties were exempted under the Municipal Act and 6,376 plots were not taxed as 2,998 were small plots of waste lands, etc., and 3,378 were Municipal plots. Further, 1,083 Municipal properties were exempted from General Tax. During the year 214 properties were demolished, while 1,241 and 967 properties were newly-erected and enlarged, respectively. There were increases of 1,413 and 716 in the number of single room tenements (2,36,901) and flats or blocks (40,540) over that of the previous year, viz., 2,35,488 single room tenements and 39,824 blocks or flats, but the number of double room tenements showed a decline of 568 in the year, being 52,069 against 52,637 in the preceding year.

The rateable values of properties show an increase over the last three years' values, being Rs. 16,71,69,555 on 31st March 1946, against Rs. 16,00,98,370; Rs. 15,93,54,514 and Rs. 14,63,63,848 on the corresponding date in the preceding three years. It is reported that the value works out to Rs. 72-11-0 per head of population against Rs. 69-10-0 in the preceding year.

The total number of vehicles and animals taxed during the year including those taxed under the Public Conveyance Act was 30,058.

During the year the basis of wheel tax from hack-victorias, labour and hand carts with and without rubber tyres, was revised and they were granted a rebate of one anna in a rupee on the lines of similar rebate granted by Government for tax levied by them, on motor vehicles for the reason that the vehicles had to pay tax for the whole year in advance instead of for each quarter as in the case of other vehicles.

During the year 87,552 and 90,528 bills were issued, respectively, for property and wheel tax of which 86,166 and 85,947, respectively, were for the year under report and the remaining in each case were for previous years. The total gross demand amounted to Rs. 427.59 lacs, of which Rs. 408.33 lacs related to property taxes and the balance, viz., Rs. 19.26 lacs, to wheel tax. The collections against these demands, amounted to Rs. 361.99 lacs and Rs. 15.74 lacs, respectively, giving a percentage in each case of 89.64 and 86.07, respectively. The percentage of the total recovery to the total demand worked out to 89.49. The outstandings of Rs. 44.37 lacs at the end of the year were reduced to Rs. 27.76 lacs on 30th June 1946, by recovery of Rs. 16.16 lacs, and by recalling or cancellation of bills for Rs. 0.46 lac. Of this outstanding amount, a sum of about Rs. 2.75 lacs is due from the Royal Western India Turf Club for the disputed rateable value of their properties. Another large outstanding of Rs. 8.24 lacs is from the Government of India for premises requisitioned or structures constructed by them. It is disputed that the Central Government properties are not liable to be taxed in the absence of any central legislation authorising such levy. The Standing Committee hope that this dispute will soon be settled and the Corporation will not be deprived of its legitimate dues especially at a time when it is in need of funds to meet the ever growing liabilities. Outstandings against the private rate-payers amounted to Rs. 13.50 lacs against the demand of about Rs. 287.09 lacs, which comes to only 4.7 per cent.

The total amount of exemptions from General Tax allowed to different properties during the year came to Rs. 12.56 lacs against Rs. 11.46 lacs, Rs. 11.30 lacs and Rs. 9.98 lacs in the preceding three years. The Standing Committee desire that a fuller explanation for these exemptions may be stated in the report, as these show a tendency towards an increase during the last four years.

During the year, the claims received for Drawback and Refund numbered 85 and 1,941, respectively. In the preceding two years the claims for Drawback were 361 and 6,938 and those for Refund were 1,452 and 4,448. Of the claims received during the year under report 8 and 1,485, respectively, were admitted and the amount allowed came to Rs. 667 and Rs. 83,637, respectively. Complaints against the assessments fixed during the year and against those originally fixed numbered 1,486 and 2,212. While 58 appeals were made against rateable value. During the year, the principle of assessing cinema theatres on "Capacity basis" was well established. Similarly, the Railway Administrations having disputed the Municipal mode of assessment, viz., the contractors' basis, the matter was referred to the arbitration of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chagla when an arrangement was arrived by which it was agreed that the rateable value of the two Railway undertakings should be ascertained on "annual profits" basis on the principles of the English Railways Valuation of Rating Act, 1930, so far as they are applicable to India, except in regard to certain premises.

13. The rate of taxation continued to be the same, viz., 7 per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on properties having rateable values of above Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 500, respectively, in each case. The net demand was Rs. 102.03 lacs against which the amount collected was Rs. 91.53 lacs and refund and drawback allowed amounted to Rs. 29,799 and Rs. 361, respectively. The collection amounted to Rs. 89.7 per cent. of the demand.

The Urban Immovable Property Tax.

14. During the year of report while the gross realizations of Town Duties showed an increase of Rs. 1.97 lacs over that of the previous year, the refunds showed a decline of Rs. 19 lac, the respective amounts for the year being Rs. 26.89 lacs and Rs. 4.68 lacs against Rs. 24.92 lacs and Rs. 4.87 lacs of the preceding year. The net revenue derived from this source during the year was Rs. 22.21 lacs against Rs. 20.06 lacs and Rs. 16.90 lacs of the previous two years, respectively. Principal increases were from Grains, Wines and Spirits, Ghee and Timber and amounted, respectively, to Rs. 1.15 lacs, Rs. .65 lac, Rs. .31 lac and Rs. .64 lac over the net revenue of the previous year. There were, however, decreases in revenue from Sugar, Beer and Firewood and they came to Rs. .55 lac, Rs. .02 lac and Rs. .05 lac. The increase in receipts from Timber during the year was nearly Rs. .2 lacs over that for the year 1942-43 mainly due to the departmental valuation of Timber.

Town Duty.

The number of claims for refund showed a decline over that for the previous two years, being 5,527 during the year against 5,667 and 5,880 of the two previous years, respectively, and the amount refunded was Rs. 4.68 lacs against Rs. 4.87 lacs and Rs. 3.83 lacs of the previous two years.

During the year 2.91 lacs packages of Sugar, Jaggery and Mollasses were stamped and 4,772 packages of Ghee and its substitutes were sealed with Municipal marks for identification upon re-export against 4.07 lacs and 3,009 packages, respectively, in the previous year and the fees recovered therefrom amounted to Rs. .17 lac against Rs. .21 lac, Rs. .26 lac and Rs. .49 lac of the preceding three years. Though the gross collections and net revenue show an increase over the previous year's amounts, the departmental collection of Town Duties on goods coming into the City from the three Causeway viz., Mahim, Sion and Chembur, shows a decline of Rs. .30 lac over the previous year's collections. The amount collected during the year was Rs. 2.51 lacs against Rs. 2.81 lacs of the last year. In the two years preceding the last year, the collections so realised amounted to Rs. 1.87 lacs and Rs. 1.26 lacs, respectively.

Town Duty is one of the sources of revenue of the Corporation from which a substantial amount should be realised to meet the growing recurrent liabilities on the Municipal finances. The amended Schedule which has long since been submitted to Government for legislation is further proposed to be modified so that besides increasing the list of articles on which duty can be levied, duties on the existing articles be enhanced to secure additional revenue. Now that the popular ministry is in the Province and legislatures have resumed their work, the Standing Committee hope that Government will very soon undertake legislation to amend Schedule H to enable the Corporation to secure larger revenue from this source.

15. In accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, the Election Roll was revised and published on 20th December 1945. The total number of voters in all the 19 Wards of the City increased to 3,33,863 against 3,19,480; 3,08,467 and 2,76,960 in the preceding three years. Similarly, the Registered Trade Union Constituencies contained 241 names of delegates against 106 in the previous year. During the year, in all eight casual vacancies in the office of Councillors occurred of which seven were in the General Wards and one in the Bombay Chamber of Commerce constituency. As necessary, Sections of the Municipal Act pertaining to elections on Adult Franchise basis have been revised, the preliminaries for holding the General Elections in 1947 commenced from 1st February 1946. The City has been divided into 34 Wards for conducting elections on Adult Franchise basis.

Elections.

16. The total number of properties in charge of the Architectural Branch during the year report increased to 2,448 from 2,330 and 2,271 in the previous two years. The Architectural. total Budget grant—Revenue and Loan Works—assigned for works under the control of this Branch amounted to Rs. 19.73 lacs. Against this provision, the actual expenditure came to Rs. 10.46 lacs, i.e., 53 per cent. of the total Budget grant. This low percentage of expenditure is due to the curtailment of several constructional works due to high cost of materials and difficulty of obtaining them. For similar reasons several New Works and Special Repair Works were also deferred. The Branch supervised the works of constructing 300 and 100 one-room tenements at Arthur Road and Widala, respectively, provided for dishoused victims of the Dock explosions of 14-4-1944. As the World War II had come to an end, the Branch also carried out works of repairs, overhauling and reinstating in their original condition buildings which were requisitioned for A.R.P., etc., purposes before releasing them to the original owners.

50 plans and 61 major estimates amounting to Rs. 58,251 for different works were prepared by the Design and Drawing Section, while 1,796 estimates amounting to Rs. 30.75 lacs were prepared by the Repairs Section for New Works, Special Repairs Works, etc.

17. The total number of applications received for the construction of new buildings or alterations and additions to the existing ones, during the year was 2,938 against 2,373 and 1,581 in the preceding two years. The amount paid for set-back compensation during the year was nearly the same as in the previous year, being Rs. 1.61 lacs against Rs. 1.59 lacs of the preceding year. By this acquisition the area added to roads admeasured 725.74 square yards at a cost of Rs. .06 lac against 4,215.93 square yards at a cost of Rs. .24 lac in the preceding year. Out of 1975 notices issued against house owners for removal of unsafe buildings or portions thereof, 1,263 were complied with and the remaining 712 were pending at the close of the year. There were 53 cases of house collapses during the year. Out of these in 15 cases 32 persons were injured and in 4 cases 12 persons were killed. In the remaining 38 cases there was no casualty. Out of 1,679 notices issued for the removal of unauthorized projections, 1,356 were complied with. A gross income of Rs. 1.27 lacs was derived for granting permits for temporary projections, such as, stall-boards, weather frames etc., while the total expenditure incurred thereon was Rs. .33 lac, yielding a net income of Rs. .94 lac. The corresponding figures for similar permits in the previous year were Rs. 1.34 lacs, Rs. .36 lac and Rs. .98 lac, respectively.

The paucity of building materials continued during the year and there was a further decline in the construction of new tenements. During the year 52 one-room tenements, 11 two-room tenements and 6 larger tenements were constructed against 57, 18 and 8 in the previous year and 159, 83 and 106, respectively, in the year 1943-44, while 14 one-room tenements and 10 two-room tenements were demolished during the year. The extreme over-crowding in the City caused by increase in civil population and requisition of buildings for military or Government personnel and offices continued in the City. The Standing Committee feel that it is high time that some measures are taken in the matter by Government and the Corporation so as to secure adequate housing accommodation for the stabilized population of the City. Revised Municipal Building Bye-laws were confirmed by Government in the year and came into force from 1-3-1946.

18. There was a decline in the total volume of sewage received at the Dadar Purification Works, which amounted to 3653.88 million gallons, giving an average of 10.28 million gallons per day, against 4057.48 and 4558.11 million gallons in the preceding two years. Crude sludge digested amounted to 18.25 million gallons, the same as in the previous year. The total volume of gas generated was 20,868,100 c.ft. i.e., an average of 57,173 c.ft. per day against 62,761 c.ft. per day in the previous year. The decline is attributed to leaks from the hoarding roof of the Digestion Tank which is under repairs. The potential income calculated at Rs. 4 per 1,000 c.ft. of gas generated amounted to Rs. .83 lac while only 12,845,700 c.ft. of gas generated was economically used and the total income derived therefrom was Rs. .39 lac against Rs. .30 lac in the previous year. The increase in income is due to the extension of sludge gas supply to the Wadia group of hospitals. Due to a mechanical trouble in the high pressure sludge gas compressor plant, the lorry fitted with sludge gas cylinder could not run on sludge gas. It is now proposed to have another compressor as a stand-by to prevent break down of the service in future. The Standing Committee hope that due precautions will be taken in the matter by the executive so that while in future the Municipal fleet of vehicles are run on sludge gas, the breakdown of the compressor plant does not dislocate the service. It is unfortunate that the compressor plant should have been allowed to remain unused for one full year.

19. During the year the City had approximately 267,393 miles of roads against 264,705 and 263,57 miles in the preceding two years. During the year 725.74 square yards were added to roads from the set-back lands acquired in the different parts of the City. Three new Traffic Islands were laid out as a traffic amenity and two temporary islands were made permanent during the year. The total number of street lamps at the end of the year was 10,864 which exceeded

the total of the previous year by 26. The candle power of gas lamps varied from 70 to 4,000 and of electric lamps from 40 watts to 500 watts. There is one lamp of 1,500 watts at Sandhurst Bridge. Due to disturbances in the City at the close of the year (in February 1946) about 2,060 gas lamps, 393 electric lamps and 14 Incandescent Oil lamps were damaged involving a damage to the extent of Rs. .70 lac, a claim for which has been lodged with Government. Due to improvement in the supply of road materials a considerable area of the long deteriorated roads could be repaired and restored to normal conditions. Similarly, 1,399 square yards of *kutchra* foot-paths were paved and 5,244 square yards surface-dressed.

20. Two trains of an average of 34 wagons each were despatched every day to Deonar for transport of the bulk of the City's refuse. During the year thus 22,929 wagons were sent against 21,873 in the last year. With an average of 12 tons per wagon, the quantity of refuse removed to Deonar was 2.75 lacs tons against 2.62 lacs tons during the previous year. The total cost of removal and disposal amounted to Rs. 3.43 lacs against Rs. 3.30 lacs in the previous year, showing a slight decrease of 1/4 anna per ton. The rate per ton worked out to Rs. 1-3-11 against Rs. 1-4-2 per ton of the last year.

21. The making of a Town Planning Scheme for the Mandvi area devastated by explosions in the Dock area and subsequent fires in April 1944, was sanctioned by Government during the year. The work of surveying buildings covered by the Scheme and of the preparation of the valuation statements was taken in hand. In the meanwhile 185 permits were granted to owners to put up temporary structures in the area.

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 41 per cent. remained to be developed and of the developed area 7.6 per cent remained to be leased. The average value of the leased plots is Rs. 20 per square yard, while that of the plots remaining to be leased is estimated at Rs. 23 per square yard. These figures are the same as of the previous year and require some elucidation in future reports.

147 plots covering an area of 2.01 lac square yards i.e., about 41.5 acres against 89 plots in the previous year covering an area of 2.13 lac square yards (44 acres) were let out or leased at a total value of Rs. 48.50 lacs against Rs. 49.63 lacs in the previous year. One plot of land measuring 100 square yards was sold out-right at Rs. 1,000. Out of the plots disposed of in 1945-46 or earlier, 3 plots were surrendered to or re-entered by the Corporation covering an area of 1,643 square yards and having a capital value of Rs. 1.25 lacs, yielding an annual rent of Rs. 6,924. Thus the total number of plots disposed of upto the end of the year came to 3,841 covering an area of 52.24 lac square yards (about 1,059 acres) valued at Rs. 1,035.36 lacs, yielding an annual rental of Rs. 36.25 lacs. Of the 147 plots leased during the year, 57 plots were from the Sion-Matunga Estate and 44 were from the Worli Extension Scheme 58.

During the year an amount of Rs. 27.86 lacs was received by way of commutation of ground rent or premium i.e., Rs. 12.96 lacs from commutation and Rs. 14.90 lacs from premium. The total amount so received from 1934-35, i.e., since the amalgamation of the ex-Trust with the Corporation, comes to Rs. 255.42 lacs.

The Department was in charge of 610 acquired or surrendered buildings containing 5,247 tenements of which 3,898; 685 and 274 were, respectively, one-room, two-room and larger tenements. In the course of the year 6 buildings were sold, one was demolished and two were transferred to the Vacant Land Register, leaving at the end of the year 601 buildings with 5,148 tenements of which 3,843, 629 and 309 were one and two-room and larger tenements. The rents realised from these buildings aggregated to Rs. 6.62 lacs against Rs. 7.94 lacs; Rs. 7.49 lacs and Rs. 6.62 lacs in the previous three years. The fall in rents is due to the sale of buildings and non-receipt of Municipal dues from the Military Authorities and the Government of India Departments in respect of requisitioned properties.

The gross rental demand of ex-Trust Chawls was Rs. 9.64 lacs which was the same as last year, while the net demand after excluding vacancies and concessional rents came to Rs. 9.32 lacs. Against this demand, the annual rent collected amounted to Rs. 8.40 lacs i.e., 90.17 per cent. of the net demand. Deducting from Rs. 8.40 lacs, the amount of Rs. 6.47 lacs spent as expenses, the net income came to Rs. 1.93 lacs.

The average population in ex-Trust Chawls during the year was 50,144 against 48,996 and 45,168 in the previous two years. The death rate in these chawls was 7.9 per 1,000 against 7.4 and 5.8 per 1,000 in the previous two years.

22. The total quantity of water supplied to the City and the Suburbs during the year from various sources was 42,266 million gallons which gave an average daily supply of 115.79 million gallons against the total quantity of 41,802 million gallons and 41,820 million gallons in the previous two years with a daily average of 114.52 million gallons and

114.26 million gallons, respectively. Average daily supply to the City was 110.93 million gallons. Taking the population of the City as per census report of 1941, viz., 14.90 lacs, the average daily supply in the City per head per day worked out to 74.45 million gallons. While taking the City's population on the assumed total of 25 lacs, the average per head per day came to 44.37 gallons. The maximum and the minimum daily supply per day came to 126 and 104 million gallons, respectively. The percentages of water supplied for domestic and other purposes were 51.495 and 48.505, respectively, i.e. the total quantity of water supply given purely for domestic use was 21,753.29 million gallons against 26,045.14 million gallons in the previous year, when the percentage for domestic and other purposes stood at 62.31 and 37.69, respectively.

In all 2,052 properties were supplied 9631.52 million gallons of water by meter measurement which gave a percentage of 22.82 of the total supply, against the supply of 8952.55 million gallons to 2,039 premises in the last year when the percentage to the total supply was 21.41. As in the last year, of this metered supply, 82 mills consumed 2383.50 million gallons representing the highest percentage of 5.69 in the group of such properties. The next highest percentage of 4.23 was in respect of metered supply to the Suburbs which consumed 1773.09 million gallons. The group which consumed the least quantity of metered supply was 6 Flour Mills with 7.77 million gallons giving a percentage of 0.017. The total revenue from metered supply was Rs. 83.28 lacs showing an increase of Rs. 13.66 lacs over the previous year's income of Rs. 69.62 lacs from this source. Due to the difficulty of securing meters as also their spare parts for repairs, 45 connections were charged on their discharging capacity and 11 on *pro rata* basis, while small trade concerns had to remain unmetered.

The Distribution and Waste Prevention Branch attended 1,132 fire calls against 796 of the previous year to regulate water supply according to the needs of the situation. This gives an average of over 3 calls per day. It is reported that the number of fire calls during the year is the highest recorded so far.

The Department continued to maintain as in the previous year, 78 drinking fountains, 17 cattle troughs, 37 drinking fountains with cattle troughs, 61 stand post hydrants and 2 dipping wells for gratuitous supply to the general public.

The Department also maintained gardens along the slopes of Gibbs Road and Ridge Road, the Sir Pherozshah Mehta Gardens, the Joseph Baptista Gardens and the Ladies' and Children's Gardens at Ridge Road. The last three gardens competed under different classes at the Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show held in March 1946, and carried away several prizes in cash and Cups.

The number of short supply complaints was 3,223. It is reported that many of these complaints could be traced to ill-feelings between the landlords and the tenants as a result of the operation of the Rent Restrictions Act. The Standing Committee hopes that the executive will not enter into merits or demerits of these ill-feelings but will strive their utmost to attend to these complaints.

In 66 cases against 99 and 165 cases of the previous two years, sanction of the Standing Committee was obtained for severing water connections for non-payment of taxes, etc. However, only in 32 cases against 27 and 34 of such cases in the previous two years, the water supply was actually closed. It was subsequently restored on compliance with Municipal requirements.

Due to sporadic disturbances in the City damage to Water Works to the extent of Rs. 15,000 was caused, and a large quantity of water was also wasted. Repairs were promptly attended to by the staff very often at great personal risk.

385 miles of water mains against 378.38 miles in the last year of sizes varying from 57" to 3" were maintained during the year. It is gratifying to note that the mains were so efficiently maintained that only 15 bursts against 17 in the last year occurred on various mains and those were promptly repaired.

The number of connections on different premises was 52,163 against 51,752 of the previous year, showing an increase of 411.

The total expenditure incurred out of Loan Funds for laying new mains and other works amounted to Rs. 6.84 lacs against Rs. 6.42 lacs and Rs. 8.03 lacs. It will be an interesting comparison if the budgeted amount and the percentage thereof to the actual amount spent is given in the report so as to enable the Standing Committee to know how far the actuals fall short of the demands made by the department at the commencement of the year.

Several schemes of improvement of water supply in general were designed during the year. 89 estimates amounting to Rs. 149.97 lacs were prepared out of which plans and estimates for about Rs. 50,000 were sanctioned by the Corporation.

Preliminary work on the detailed survey of the Bhivpuri Scheme for utilizing the tail waters of the Bhivpuri Power Station for augmenting the City's water supply was taken in hand almost at the end of the year. A Special Officer of the grade of Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Government of Bombay, was appointed for the purpose to work under the supervision and instructions of the Hydraulic Engineer.

23. During the year under report, the Fire Brigade received 1,230 calls against 895 and 779 in the previous two years including more than one call received for one fire. Of these, 736 calls were for actual fires including 15 calls for fires outside the City limits. There were 383 false alarms and 11 calls for Special Rescue Services. The Standing Committee desire that in future a more detailed information may be given about the attendance on calls outside the City limits, such as, the name of the locality, the distance covered, the number of appliances employed, and the time for which the appliances were outside the City limits. Though there was an increase of 156 over the previous year's number of actual fires, the total loss caused was only Rs. 38.34 lacs showing a decrease of Rs. 13.53 lacs over the loss of the previous year. Of this loss, Rs. 24.18 lacs represented insured property. The highest estimated loss in one serious fire amounted to Rs. 5.12 lacs when about 6 tons of cinematograph films stored in a Film Distributing office were destroyed. At this fire 5 persons were burnt to death and 15 persons were severely burnt all over bodies. The second highest estimated loss was Rs. 3.21 lacs which was caused to a textile mill in the City. The highest number of fires, viz., 107, occurred in February 1946 probably caused by the disturbances that occurred then. The lowest number was 30 in July 1945. As compared with the previous year, the casualties by fires during the year do not reveal a satisfactory statistics. 12 persons were burnt to death, 40 suffered fatal injuries and 123 received minor injuries. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 6, 5 and 51, respectively.

An approximate quantity of 71.94 lac gallons of water was used at fires of which only 48.63 lac gallons were drawn from Municipal mains against 57.73; 56.38 and 58.23 lac gallons in the immediately preceding three years with a total quantity of 71.69; 67.99 and 61.73 lac gallons, respectively, played on fires in those years.

From Appendix III to the Report it is revealed that the number of actual fires during the year, viz., 737, was the highest for the decennium. This evidently shows that fire risk in the City is on the increase with increasing development of the hitherto undeveloped parts of the City and with the increase in the number of hazardous trades and occupations carried on in the City. The Standing Committee here would therefore desire to say that the Department should be vigilant in its inspection of properties and try to find out places where combustible or inflammable articles are manufactured or stored and also see that they are properly isolated from residential and other surroundings with a view to minimising the loss of life and property.

The Ambulance Service in charge of the Brigade continued to be in great demand. With the increasing demand, there were difficulties in securing necessary replacements of the spare parts, tyres, tubes, etc. Consequently attendance to calls from outside the City limits had to be restricted to special circumstances only. During the year, the Service attended to 1,586 accident calls, 1,704 maternity cases and 3,786 hire calls against 1,475; 1,636 and 4,227, respectively, in the previous year. The total number of persons carried was 7,314 against 8,243 in the previous year, while receipts from attendance on hire calls amounted to Rs. 18,800 against 21,871 during the previous year. The total mileage covered by the ambulances was 47,828 against 55,096 miles in the previous year.

24. As in the previous year, the Superintendent of Gardens was in charge of 18 gardens, 4 fountains, 2 Bandstands, 7 Traffic Islands, 3 Open Spaces, 48 Recreation Grounds, 1 Statue and 3 Ornamental Hedges. The Recreation Ground at the Gilder Tank Reclaimed Site was handed over from 1st September 1945 to the Schools Committee. The play activities from this site were transferred to the triangular plot between Reynolds Road, Reisch Street and Club Back Road. The number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens during the year was 27.48 lacs against 26.35 and 23.05 lacs in the previous two years, giving the daily average of 6,779 during the year and an annual average of 24.75 lacs for the last five years. The Victoria Gardens entered several competitions at the Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show and won 2 Cups, 4 First Prizes and 8 Second Prizes. In order to provide recreation to visitors to the Victoria Gardens and other public places of resort, 21 Band and 26 Indian Music performances were arranged of which 9 each were held at the Victoria Gardens. Besides, Music was also relayed from Gramophone Records at some of these places.

The Zoo Section of the Victoria Gardens had new additions in birds, animals and reptiles secured as presents, purchased or got in exchange. Botanical specimens were continued to be supplied to educational institutions and prominent visitors and students were taken round the gardens.

25. As the Museum was closed for three months from 1st November 1945 to 31st January 1946 for urgent repairs, it was kept open to the public for 233 days only against 307 and 314 in the preceding two years, respectively. The total and the daily average attendance of visitors stood at 11,63,403 and 4,993, respectively, against 16,36,384 and 5,330

respectively, of the previous year. It is reported that a large number of ladies and children visited the Museum on Wednesdays when the Museum is kept open for them only. In their Review of the report for the year 1944-45, the Standing Committee had remarked that the Corporation should have been apprised of this practice before its introduction, but those remarks have not been answered even in this year's report. The number of pupils from Primary and Secondary Schools that visited the Museum during the year was 6,690 against 10,544 in the previous year.

26. During the year 668 books in Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu and English were purchased and 5 foreign magazines and important Indian periodicals were subscribed for the different Municipal Libraries and Reading Rooms: 3,70,101 persons attended the Municipal Libraries against 3,77,677 readers in the previous years. A little more detailed information of this activity taken up by the Corporation would be useful to determine what service it renders to the public. Information about cost of maintenance, issue of books, etc., to the public, advantage taken by ladies, etc., would be useful.

27. During the year 88 tenders against 77 last year were invited for purchases of stores and 1,467 market rate enquiries against 1,473, in the last year were made for securing articles which were not in stock or for which no contracts were entered into. 57 contracts against 56 in the preceding year were made for various schedule articles. The value of stores or materials purchased during the year amounted to Rs. 19.88 lacs against Rs. 18.21 lacs in the preceding year. Of this amount, the value of articles of Indian manufacture amounted to Rs. 18.30 lacs and the balance, viz., Rs. 1.58 lacs, was for foreign goods. 20,865 indents or sales-memos were received from the different department for stores against 20,188 in the previous year. 3,763 orders were placed with contractors and others for supply of stores, etc., against 3,887 and 3,442 in the previous two years.

The total turn over of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 39.38 lacs against Rs. 36.50 lacs, Rs. 33.12 lacs, Rs. 26.31 lacs and Rs. 29.09 lacs in the preceding four years. Thus the year's turn over was the highest for the quinquennium period. This increase is attributed to increased demand for materials and higher rates for articles. In spite of cessation of hostilities, the scarcity and high rates of materials continued resulting in the highest amount for purchases made during the last five years.

The unserviceable stores, C. I. and other scrap were sold by public auction and the amount realised therefrom was Rs. .44 lac against Rs. .40 lac and Rs. .25 lac in the preceding two years. The highest rate realised by sale of C.I. scrap was Rs. 131 per ton against Rs. 130 in the last year.

The value of stores on hand at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 10.38 lacs against Rs. 9.99 lacs, Rs. 10.06 lacs, Rs. 7.71 lacs and Rs. 6.42 lacs in the immediately preceding four years.

28. During the year 25,751 licences and permits were issued under different Sections of the Act administered by the Department, against 25,263 and 24,829 of the preceding two years. The amount collected therefrom amounted to Rs. 2.63 lacs against Rs. 2.54 lacs and Rs. 2.49 lacs in the previous two years. Fees for 125 licences amounting to Rs. 1,092 were outstanding at the close of the year while the corresponding figures for the previous year were 96 and Rs. 796.

In their last review the Standing Committee had suggested that no permit or licence be issued or renewed until payment therefor had been made. From the increase this year, both in the number and the amount outstanding of such licences, it appears that this suggestion has not followed up. The Committee therefore once again reiterate the suggestion and hope that it will be adopted by the Department.

There was a loss of revenue of Rs. 9,971 against Rs. 18,259 of the previous year due to the disuse or demolition of old licensed places.

Receipts amounting to Rs. 1.41 lacs were received from 2,116 permits issued for advertisements during the year. These compare favourably with the figures of the two preceding years when the fees collected amounted to Rs. 1.35 lacs and Rs. 1.15 lacs, respectively, for 2,571 and 2,470 permits. The Standing Committee desire to point out that with the cessation of hostilities and development and progress in post war trade, commerce and industries, there will be increasing display of advertisements requiring Municipal permits and that therefore the executive should be vigilant to trace out every such advertisement so as to secure the legitimate Municipal dues.

43,272 hawker and squatter licences were issued during the year giving a total income by way of fees of Rs. 2.03 lacs. In the previous two years such licences issued were 45,517 and 41,663 which, respectively, realised Rs. 1.92 lacs and Rs. 1.86 lacs. An amount of Rs. .37 lac against Rs. .31 lac and Rs. .32 lac in the previous two years was recovered during the year as expenses for removal of encroachments.

The Licence Department instituted during the year 2,198 prosecutions for offences under Sections 328, 328-A, 394 and 412-A of the Municipal Act, against 2,654 and 4,017 prosecutions instituted in the previous two years. The total amount of fines inflicted in 451 convicted cases was Rs. 11,069 against Rs. 9,011 in the previous year.

The total revenue of the department increased to Rs. 6.07 lacs during the year, from Rs. 5.81 lacs and Rs. 5.30 lacs in the last two years.

29. 172 mass raids (99 by day and 73 by night) were carried out during the year against 123 Administration of Shops and Establishments Act. the Act.

Of the 58,546 visits and re-visits paid to different establishments during the year, against 42,083 of the last year, 42,262 were to shops while the balance was made up of 6,959 to commercial establishments, 125 to places of amusement and 9,200 to restaurants. During the year 3,688 new prosecutions were instituted against 2,538, 3,495 and 3,146 in the preceding three years. Out of 3,983 prosecution cases including 295 pending at the close of the previous year, 3,495 cases were disposed of resulting in conviction in 3,447 cases in which the total amount of fines inflicted came to Rs. .66 lac giving an average of Rs. 19-4-8 per case against Rs. 21-8-0, Rs. 19-7-4 and Rs. 14-6-0 of the preceding three years.

A grant-in-aid of Rs. 49,993 for the year 1944-45 against Rs. 69,259 in the previous year was sanctioned by Government. The reason for the decrease in the grant-in-aid is not mentioned in the report under review. Representation should be made to Government requesting them to reimburse the Corporation for the entire expenditure incurred under this head.

30. As a result of minor increases in stallage, etc., charges, the total gross receipts from 17 Municipal Markets. Municipal markets amounted to Rs. 20.63 lacs against Rs. 20.12 lacs of the previous year. 14 markets yielded an increased realisation of Rs. .97 lac while 3 others showed a fall of Rs. .02 lac giving a net increase of Rs. .95 lac in stallage charges only. Squatters fees and Scale Shed fees from the Arthur Crawford Market yielded Rs. 4.23 lacs showing an increase of Rs. .80 lac over the realisations of the previous year. During the year 22 Private Markets and 2 private slaughter houses were licensed but the Standing Committee is very unhappy to find from the Report that licence fees amounting to only Rs. 49,532 against Rs. 2.12 lacs in the previous year were realised from 15 private markets and one slaughter house. The outstanding license fees included deposits of the previous years in respect of the Grant Road Private Market and the Byculla Vegetable Market which still continued to be held in deposits. Similarly, licence fees of 6 private markets and 1 slaughter house were held in deposit, but the amount thereof is not mentioned in the report; while the licence fee of one private market was in arrears. In this case also the amount and the period of arrears are not stated. It appears that the dispute about the licence fees payable by some licensees of the private markets awaits settlement for past some years. The Standing Committee hope that these disputes will not be allowed to continue unsettled for an indefinite period of time and that early measures will be taken to promptly credit to the Municipal Account the amount due to the Corporation in this respect. The Standing Committee suggests that if a licensee persists in prolonging the issue of settling the fees payable by him, the Commissioner may consider the desirability of suspending the licence in the meanwhile so as to prevent the licensee from carrying on his business and thus depriving the Corporation of their dues.

The number of outside meat shops during the year was the same as in the previous year, viz., 187, but it is not understood why there has been a decline in the amount of licence fees realised from these shops. It is reported that the amount so realised during the year was Rs. 9,074-8-0 against Rs. 9,541 in the previous year. Unwholesome articles exposed for sale in different markets, etc., weighing 6.95 lac lbs. were destroyed during the year.

There was a marked decline in the number of animals of all sorts brought to the Fair Ground at the Bindra Slaughter Houses during the year as compared to the previous year's figures. The number of Buffaloes, Cows and Bullocks, and Sheep and Goats brought to the Fair Ground during the year were 6,461; 91,055 and 14.17 lacs while the corresponding figures for the previous year were 9,499; 82,225 and 15.15 lacs, respectively. The total number of animals slaughtered during the year, viz., 13.84 lacs, also shows a decline over the previous year's total of 15.02 lacs. The amount of slaughter fees, etc., realised during the year was Rs. 5.32 lacs. The highest number of animals slaughtered, viz. 1.34 lacs, was in March, 1946 and the lowest number, viz., .87 lac, was in April 1945.

31. Due to conditions created by the World War II, the City became a centre of attraction for people who came in large numbers from far and wide with the result that overcrowding which was already intense became still more acute with no additional accommodation available for incoming population. Whereas according to the Census Report of 1941, the population of the City was 14,89,883, according to the figures obtained from the Controller of Rationing, the total number of individual cards was 25,33,034. In spite of such a tremendous increase in population, the general health conditions of the City were maintained at the normal level. For statistical purposes of this report, the Census figure of the population has been taken, otherwise the death rate would be in fact much lower if calculated on the actual population during the year.

During the year the number of live births recorded was 53,170, i.e., 3,737 less than in the previous year, but 14,010 more than the average of the decennium (1935-44). Of these registered births, 27,285 were males and 25,885 females against 29,144 and 27,763, respectively, of the last year. Thus the proportion of males to females remained the same as in the last year, viz., 105 males to 100 females. The birth rate on the census population was 35.7 per thousand. The highest number of births (5,776) was in December 1945 and the lowest number (3,600) in April of the same year. The number of stillbirths reported during the year was 3,398 against 3,374 and 3,129 in the preceding two years. Out of 56,568 births (including stillbirths) registered in the City during the year, 44,708 or 79 per cent. took place in the Maternity Homes and hospitals against 72.9; 81.1 and 75.8 per cent. in the immediately preceding three years.

In the five Municipal Maternity Homes 129 beds were maintained and 8,961 women against 9,795 in the last year were admitted and the number of cases confined in these Homes was 7,996 against 8,744 in the preceding year. The maternity and pre-school age child welfare activities require further fostering if the rates of maternal and infantile mortality are to be lowered to the minimum particularly among the poorer and ignorant classes. The work done at the clinics attached to the Maternity Homes requires to be supplemented by a vigorous propaganda through Health Visitors in their districts by tracing out prospective mothers and advising them to attend ante-natal clinics and maternity homes for the safety of their health and of the infants to be born. The Health Visitors paid during the year 50,712 visits against 60,997 and 45,422 in the previous two years. The decline in the number of visits over the previous year's number has not been explained in the Report. In their review last year the Standing Committee had remarked that a more intensive campaign on the part of these Health Visitors would considerably contribute towards the reduction in infant mortality; but it appears that that suggestion has not been pursued. The Standing Committee hope that better results will be reported by these Health Visitors in the future.

The total number of deaths recorded from all causes, during the year was 40,215 against 41,882; 34,165 and 25,177 in the years 1944, 1943 and 1942, respectively. This total number was 7,931 and 8,422 more than the average annual mortality of the last 5 and 10 years, respectively. According to the census figure, the death rate per 1,000 living was 27 (while according to the actual population reported above, it came to 17.5) as against 28.1 in 1944 and 22.9 in 1943 and 24.8 the average of the last 10 years. 25.2 per cent. of the deaths were among infants below 12 months. Of the total deaths, 22,198 were among males and 18,017 among females. The corresponding figures for the last three years were 23,131; 19,167 and 14,309 for males and 18,751; 14,998 and 10,868 for females. The male and female death rate each showed a decline of 1 in the last year's rate being 23 and 33 respectively, against 24 and 34 in 1944. As in the previous years the diseases of the respiratory system claimed the highest number of deaths, viz., 13,763 i.e., 8.6 per 1,000 of the population. The second group was congenital debility and diseases of early infancy which claimed 4,469 deaths giving .3 per 1,000. The third group was the old age-3,486 or 2.3 per 1,000 and the fourth group was Tuberculosis which accounted for 1,981 deaths, i.e., 1.3 per 1,000 of the population.

32. The total number of cases of infectious diseases reported during the year was 4,902 against 7,603 and 5,706 in the previous two years. Of these, 4,771 or 97.2 per cent. were reported by the District Registrars and 131 or 2.8 per cent. by the medical practitioners. No case was notified by Hakims and Vaidyas. Can this fall in the number of cases be regarded as an improvement in the City's health index, especially in regard to infectious diseases or an apathy on the part of the authorities to adopt measures for securing a correct data of the prevalence of such diseases in the City? The report of the City Fever Hospitals tells a different story, viz., that the average number of patients treated during the year was 189 per day and the highest number remaining on one single day was 296.

33. At the free Venereal Diseases clinic, during the year 12,598 patients attended for prophylaxis. The total number of venereal diseases cases treated during the year was 14,979 of which 13,291 were males and 1,688 females. The daily average of patients for diagnosis and for prophylaxis was 558.8 against 593.2 in the last year. As a result of propaganda carried on by the staff, the popularity of the institution increased as could be seen from the increased attendance, etc. Venereal diseases are a social evil and being kept hidden through sense of shame are difficult to be dealt with and then they form a potential danger to the population of the City.

34. The number of new cases treated at the nineteen Municipal Dispensaries during the year was 2,09,792 against 2,20,910; 2,13,894 and 1,68,960 in the previous three years. Of the total new cases, 1,33,004 were males and 74,788 females. The total attendance of patients was 7,37,237 against 7,71,482 and 7,78,427 in the last two years. 105 visits against 133 and 233 in the last two years were paid by the Dispensary Medical Officers to patients in their houses. In addition to this dispensary work, two part-time Lady Doctors and Lady Doctors in charge of five Maternity Homes also treated women and children at the dispensaries and the clinics attached to the Homes. The number of new cases treated at such dispensaries was 26,023 of whom 20,922 were women and 5,101 children against 29,120 in 1944. The total attendance at these dispensaries was 1,19,810 which includes 11,008 visits by Lady Doctors to patients in their homes.

35. During the year, a series of Health Education Meetings and exhibitions were arranged. For propagating health knowledge to the widest possible circle, education is carried on through the painted word, the pictorial message or visual instructions by means of magic lantern lectures or cinema films. This branch was started in 1942 and has been endeavouring to achieve its aim of broadcasting health knowledge through various media.

36. The number of beds maintained in the Hospital remained the same as last year, *viz.*, 510. The distribution of these beds reserved for men, women and children also remained the same as in the preceding year, *viz.*, 325, 145 and 40, respectively. During this year also due to conditions created by the war, no additional work was taken up. 16,221 new in-patients against 16,745, 14,804 and 12,782 of the previous three years, were admitted during the year in the Hospital for treatment. On numerous occasions, extra patients over the scheduled number had to be admitted during the year. The maximum number on a single day was 609 which made their nursing and care extremely taxing for the authorities. In spite of less number of in-patients treated during the year than the last year, the daily average number of in-patients rose to 556.30 from 547.3 and 481.4 of the previous two years. The average number of days each patient was resident worked out to 11.51 against 10.87 of the last year. Of the total number of 16,723 in-patients treated in the Hospital including 502 patients of the previous year, 6,532 were cured, 5,415 were discharged and/or relieved, 2,684 left the Hospital against medical advice and 1,547 died during treatment. At the end of the year 545 in-patients remained in the Hospital. The total number of operations performed on in-patients was 6,683 against 5,606 of the previous years. As a result of disturbances created by the R.I.N. Strike in February 1946, 511 casualties of military firing were treated in the Hospital of which 289 were admitted as in-patients. The average cost per in-patient per day showed a further rise and worked out Rs. 4-12-8 against Rs. 4-3-4, Rs. 3-15-10 and Rs. 3-4-8 of the last three years. Likewise, the average cost per in-patient admission also showed an increase and was Rs. 58-2-10 against Rs. 50-14-11, Rs. 46-11-10 and Rs. 42-6-1 of the preceding three years.

The total number of new out-patients treated during the year was 1.50 lacs including 27,755 casualty patients against 1.46 lacs in the previous year. The daily average worked out to 474 against 414 in the last year. The total number of out-patient attendance was 5,07,773 against 4,75,725 and 4,71,136 of the previous two years which gave a daily average of out-patient attendance of 1,634.53 against 1,542.7 and 1,505.59 of the previous two years. The average cost per out-patient attendance showed a slight decline over the last year's cost, being Re. 0-7-7 against Re. 0-7-11 and Re. 0-7-2 of the last two years. However, the average cost per out-patient admission remained the same as in the last year, *viz.*, Rs. 1-9-6 against Rs. 1-8-5 of the year 1943-44. The total number of operations on out-patients was 11,921 against 11,899 and 12,067 of the last two years.

The Poor Box Charity Fund continued to render relief to needy poor patients of such a nature as could not be met out of the Municipal Fund, e.g., blood transfusion, costly drugs, injections, travelling expenses, etc. 82 patients received benefit out of this fund at a cost of Rs. 939.

Under the School Clinic Department of the Hospital during the year 6,538 children against 8,799 and 11,535 in the previous two years received treatment. Of this number, 1,219 were new children. 6 children were admitted as in-patient and treated for various disorders. The total cost of the Clinic was Rs. 10,028.

37. During the year, 86 new admissions were made of whom 85 were single and 1 married. The average age of these applicant students was 19 years. In all there were 519 under-graduate students on the Roll at the close of the year of whom 123 were lady students. The number of Post-graduate students was 69 of whom 13 were ladies. Clinical instructions in diseases of children continued to be given at the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children. Out of 482 students sent up for different medical, etc., examinations 238 passed the whole examination against 498 and 250, respectively, of the previous year. The College was recognized for the D.L.O. and D.V.D. diplomas of the Bombay University and this is the only College so recognised. One student appeared and was successful in the D.V.D. examination. Arrangements are also made to secure recognition for the D.A. diploma of the University.

The total expenditure on the College and the Hostels attached to it amounted to Rs. 2.61 lacs exclusive of Rs. 0.25 lac spent for payment of Dearness Allowance against Rs. 2.62 lacs; Rs. 2.66 lacs and Rs. 2.75 lacs in the preceding three years. The gross and the net cost per student worked out to Rs. 502.6 and Rs. 259.3, respectively, against Rs. 534.4 and Rs. 258.5, respectively, in the previous year. The revenue derived by way of tuition fees, etc., came to Rs. 1.42 lacs against Rs. 1.35 lacs, Rs. 1.31 lacs and Rs. 1.24 lacs in the preceding three years, exclusive of fees collected from the Post-graduate students which amounted to Rs. 7,710 against Rs. 5,745 in the previous year.

In both the Hostels, the number of students—male and female—remained constant, *viz.*, 146 and 28, as in the previous three years. Due to additional demand from lady students 16 of them were accommodated, as in the last year, in the vacant rooms in the New Nurses' Home. The income and the expenditure of the Hostels amounted to Rs. 18,576 and Rs. 15,140 leaving a surplus of Rs. 3,436

only against the surplus of Rs. 5,604 of the previous year's working when the income and the expenditure were Rs. 18,342 and Rs. 12,738, respectively.

Besides the normal teaching and departmental work, various investigations and research in different branches of medical science were carried out either under the auspices of the Indian Research Fund Association or with the help of a grant from the Seth G. S. M. College and K. E. M. Hospital Research Fund.

38. Due to the propaganda work, such as, holding of mass meetings in educationally backward localities, house to house visits by teachers and peons, parents' gatherings to induce them to send their children of school-going age to Municipal Schools, the total number of pupils in Municipal Schools during the year came to 1,20,713 against 1,18,646 and 1,00,131 in the previous two years. The number of Municipal Schools was increased from 389 in the previous year to 392 in the year of report. Likewise, there was an addition of 1 in the number of Classes which were 24 against 23 in the previous year. For these Schools and Classes the total number of Teachers engaged was 3,675 at the end of the year against 3,383 ; 3003 and 2,615, at the corresponding period of the last three years. The Municipal grant for the year was Rs. 60.07 lacs against Rs. 52.71 lacs, Rs. 46.43 lacs and Rs. 41.60 lacs in the preceding three years, exclusive of the expenditure of Rs. .70 lac on the Schools Committee's Head Office, which is met from the General Municipal Fund. The Government grant for the year was only Rs. 9.69 lacs including an amount of Rs. .24 lac given for English teaching aided schools control of which was transferred by Government to the Schools Committee from the year 1943-44. The Standing Committee here would desire to emphasise the need of an urgent appeal to Government for a substantial increase in the amount of their grant-in-aid for Primary Education especially when we find that the Municipal contribution during the last four years has gone up by Rs. 18.47, lacs i.e., from Rs. 41.60 lacs in 1942-43 to Rs. 60.07 lacs in 1945-46, while the increase in the Government grant has been only a small amount of Rs. .23 lac i.e., from Rs. 9.45 lacs in 1942-43 to Rs. 9.68 lacs in the year of report. For each of the last two years the Government grant was Rs. 9.62 lacs and Rs. 9.36 lacs, respectively.

The average cost per pupil in Municipal Schools calculated on the number of pupils on rolls on the last day of the year was Rs. 47.11 against Rs. 42.2 ; Rs. 44.5 and Rs. 52 for the previous three years. The average cost calculated on the average number of pupils on the Rolls during the year, viz., 1,18,570, worked out to Rs. 48.04 against Rs. 46.7, Rs. 47.9 and Rs. 54.4 for the previous three years. Thus instead of reducing the average cost with the increase in the average number of pupils on the Rolls, the cost of this year has shown an increase. This increase is attributed to the grant of grades and adjustment in salaries in those grade to teachers according to their qualifications and of the enhanced rate of Dearness Allowance to all employees of that department.

The teaching of Hindustani was further expanded during the year under report. Instructors in Hindustani were specially appointed to coach batches of Municipal teachers.

874 pupils received training in different vocational subjects at the different Municipal Central Schools. However, owing to various controls and war-time restrictions it was found difficult to secure the requisite materials for teaching vocational subjects in these Schools:

The total number of aided schools and special institutions during the year increased by 7 being 211 against 204 in the previous year. The number of pupils in these schools likewise showed an increase being 46,476 against 42,464 and 40,008 in the previous two years. Similarly, the number of Teachers—full time and part time—also showed an increase of 135, being 2,039 against 1,904 in the previous years. The total amount of grants paid to these schools during the year amounted to Rs. 3.29 lacs against Rs. 2.82 lacs ; Rs. 2.12 lacs and Rs. 2.16 lacs in the previous three years. The total expenditure incurred by these schools amounted to Rs. 22.97 lacs against Rs. 17.44 lacs in the preceding year. Taking the average number of pupils on rolls at 46,001, the cost per pupil in these schools worked out to Rs. 49.9 against Rs. 42.7 in the previous year, the cost per pupil to the Municipality by way of grants came to Rs. 7.5 against Rs. 6.9 in the last year.

39. As a result of an increased allotment of printing paper by Government to the Press from 30 tons to 36 tons, the stringency imposed in that respect in the previous year was considerably relaxed. Besides doing the normal printing work of different Municipal Departments volume of which is on the increase, the Press also undertook the printing of the Note on Greater Bombay, Report of the Housing Panel appointed by the Government with the Chairman of the Standing Committee as its Chairman, and the Report of the Special Officer (Grades). The total quantity of paper consumed during the year was 43.25 tons against 40.5 ; 31 ; 37 and 53 tons, respectively, in the immediately preceding four years.

For the continuance of the Literacy Class started for the benefit of Press Workers, the Corporation sanctioned a grant of Rs. 800 from the Fines Fund, while an amount of Rs. 450 was renewed for a grant under the same Fund from the previous year's account for the continuance of the Library for the Press Workers.

The Working and the Profit and Loss Account for the year shows a surplus of Rs. 2,646 on the total turnover of Rs. 2.15 lacs against a surplus of Rs. 2,513 on the total turnover of Rs. 2.18 lacs in the previous year. There has been a steady increase in the strength of the labour staff as could be seen from the fact that at the end of the year under report, their number consisted of 136 workers against 120, 110 and 113, respectively, at the close of the previous three years.

40. This Department was created in 1931, but a report on its working has been included in the Administration Report for the last two years only. During the year, the Department received 5,251 files from different Departments and wrote 2,554 letters to outside parties or their legal advisers. Legal advices and opinions were given on 122 documents. It is suggested that in future besides giving the number of High Court Cases, etc., attended to by the Department, information, if possible, may be included about the result of those cases or references.

41. This year also the report of the Municipal Chief Auditor has not been included in the Administration Report. It is presumed that it will be submitted to the Committee independently early.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE,
BOMBAY, 27th December 1946.

DAHYABHAI V. PATEL,

Chairman, Standing Committee.

INDEX.

Administration and Divisions of the City	...	...	...	...	32
Adulteration of Food	...	...	...	...	43
Analyst Municipal, Annual Report of	...	...	...	...	35
Appendix—Supplementary Reports and Tables	...	...	...	...	1
Area and Population	...	...	...	...	35
Arthur Road Hospital—Annual Report	...	...	...	...	24
Basket Privies	...	...	...	...	1
Births and Birth-rates	...	...	...	...	1
Births by Months	...	...	...	...	1
Births by Races	...	...	...	...	2
Causes of Deaths	...	...	...	...	3
Certificates of the Cause of Death	...	...	...	...	7
Cholera	...	...	...	...	9
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	21
Conservancy	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths and Death-rates	...	...	...	...	3
Deaths by Months	...	...	...	...	3
Deaths by Sections	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths by Sex and Age	...	...	...	...	4
Death—Causes of	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Principal Causes	...	...	...	...	17
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	18
Dispensaries—Municipal	...	...	...	...	25
Dogs—Destruction of	...	...	...	...	26
Dogs—Stray	...	...	...	...	6
Epidemic Diseases	...	...	...	...	32
Food—Seizure of and Adulteration	...	...	...	...	5
Health Visitors—Municipal	...	...	...	...	35
Hospitals—Isolation	...	...	...	...	35
Housing	...	...	...	...	3
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	5
Infant Mortality—Prevention of	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	7
Influenza	...	...	...	...	34
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	...	11
Malaria, Ague and Remittent Fevers	...	...	...	...	11
Malaria,—Anti-Malarial Work	...	...	...	...	42
Maratha Hospital—Annual Report	...	...	...	...	6
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	6
Maternity Homes	...	...	...	...	18
Medical Relief	...	...	...	...	6
Meteorology of 1945	...	...	...	...	32
Milk—Adulteration	...	...	...	...	32
Milk Supply	...	...	...	...	34
Notice under Municipal Act	...	...	...	...	6
Notification of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	6
Plague	...	...	...	...	1
Population	...	...	...	...	9
Propaganda	...	...	...	...	34
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	1
Review of the year	...	...	...	...	35
Sanitary Inspection	...	...	...	...	28
School Medical Inspection	...	...	...	...	7
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	31
Social Welfare Work	...	...	...	...	1
Still-births	...	...	...	...	26
Stray Cattle	...	...	...	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7
Vaccination	...	...	...	...	52
Vaccination—Report of the Superintendent	...	...	...	...	15
Veneral Diseases	...	...	...	...	34
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	