

MUNICIPAL REPORT

FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Your Council in presenting their half-yearly Report, have to state that very important changes have taken place in most of the departments under their control. Mr. Pickwood, the late Secretary, having resigned Office at the end of June, has been succeeded by Mr. Gould, and your Council being convinced of the expediency of the accounts of this Municipality being kept with greater precision than was heretofore to have been expected from the composition of the Staff, considered it advisable to abolish the office of Assistant Secretary, and create that of Book-keeper and Accountant in substitution; Mr. Johnston having been appointed to the new Office, and with whose business capabilities there is every reason to feel satisfied. In consequence of there being greater demands upon the space in the building known as the Central Police Station, and following up the recommendation embodied in the last annual report, a house has been taken affording suitable office accommodation and quarters for the Staff, which is situated on the opposite side of the road.

Police.—Your Council, taking advantage of the facilities afforded for an increase to the Police Force, by the ordering home of the 31st Regiment, largely augmented the Police establishment in May last, by the admission of 92 discharged soldiers of that corps, all of whose military antecedents offered fair hope of their settling down creditably in their new career. The Force being thus brought up to a strength of 155 of all ranks, since then from various causes it has fallen to 133, distributed in the following manner.

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Central Station | 71 |
| Louza „ | 27 |
| Hong-que „ | 35 |

Total....133

But though the late Council deemed a force of 155 men necessary for the maintenance of law and order, this number has appeared too large, as the requirements of the settlement have been more clearly defined. A police force of 125 men of all ranks is now held to be amply sufficient, which number will be gradually reached by future vacancies being left unfilled.

The general behaviour of the police force has been good, and though the offences recorded in the daily charge sheets for May and June were unusually numerous, this slight break-out may fairly be attributed to the sudden change from military to civil life, by which so many of the lately enlisted constables were doubtless affected. Your Council have found the greatest advantage result from the establishment of recreation rooms at the various stations, by which the temptations for men to leave their quarters have been greatly lessened. At the central station, are a library, reading, and bagatelle rooms, and a skittle ground in course of preparation, whilst temporary bagatelle rooms are in a use at Louza and Hong-que. The health of the force has been good. Your Council have in contemplation a scheme for the better regulation of the force, embracing an improved system of rewards and punishments, and a graduated scale of pension on retirement, all of which are in their opinion loudly called for, the interests however of existing members of the force, will be unaffected by these arrangements, which are to be prospective only in operation.

Your Council have accepted with regret the resignation of Mr. Superintendent-Ramsbottom, whose health has been gradually failing him, but have pleasure in stating that he will continue the duties of his office until relieved by a compe-

tent successor from England. Mr. Ramsbottom has had the management of the police force for nearly three years, and it is mainly through his exertions that the present satisfactory state of discipline and efficiency has been attained; and your Council bear willing testimony to his having been a most reliable and zealous officer.

Arrangements have been made for the engagement of an experienced London officer as Superintendent of police, and two subordinate officers as an experimental measure, have likewise been applied for.

Water Police.—A Sergeant and three constables have been employed since the commencement of August, in preserving order amongst the crews of Cargo Boats and sam-pans and at the jetties. This establishment, if it should hereafter be pronounced desirable, would serve as a nucleus for the formation of a really serviceable force of Water Police.

Engineer.—Your Council have pleasure in reporting that the services of a competent Civil Engineer have been secured. Mr. Clark, for four years in the employ of the Great Northern Railway Company, the last two years of which as principal Assistant Engineer, arrived at Shanghai on the 25th July and assumed charge of all Municipal works on the 18th August. This gentleman brought with him the highest testimonials, and for some time prior to his departure from England, was engaged in visiting works, whose inspection it was thought, would be of advantage to him on his arrival here. It is to be regretted that circumstances did not permit of the negotiation with Mr. Clark being sooner concluded, as for obvious reasons, the supervision of an experienced Engineer would have been desirable from the period at which the recent system of drainage commenced. Your Council had however the assistance of Mr. Carlile in carrying out the late improvements, and can bear witness to his being a most indefatigable public servant. Since this report was first drawn up, a complaint from which Mr. Carlile has suffered for the last 18 months, has necessitated his early departure for England, and the

appointment he held not being essentially requisite at this season of year, will remain open until in the opinion of the Municipal Engineer, the progress of public works shall demand additional supervision.

The following Tabular Statements shew the works that have been performed during the past half year.

DRAINAGE.

| Locality. | Length of Drain. | Size of Drain. | When completed. |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | Feet. | 1863. |
| Hankow Road. .. | 26 Chang. | 3 x 2 | 3 April, |
| Canton " .. | 31 " | 3 x 2 | 14 May, |
| Peking " .. | 57 " | 3 x 2 | 6 June, |
| Soochow " .. | 161 " | 3 x 2 | 15 " |
| Foochow " .. | 138 " | 3 x 2 | 21 July, |
| Keangse " .. | 300 " | 5 x 3 | 27 " |
| Keangsoo " .. | 294 " | 3 x 2 | 11 Augt. |

SMALL DRAINS WITH WATER CHANNELS.

| Locality. | Length of Channel. | Gully Holes. | When completed. |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | | 1863 |
| Soochow Road, .. | 26 Chang | { 14 a corners | June |
| Foochow " .. | 323 " | 33 " | July |
| Keangse " .. | 34 " | 13 " | July |
| Honan " .. | 22 " | 8 " | Aug. |
| Shantung " .. | 21 " | 8 " | Sept. |
| Hangchow " .. | 163 " | — | " |
| Keangsoo " .. | 661 " | 51 " | " |

ROAD SHINGLING & C.

| Locality. | Length of Road. | Description of Shingle. | When completed. |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Hankow Road, .. | 26 Chang | Brick | 1863 April |
| Honan " .. | 155 " | " | May |
| Hangchow " .. | 145 " | " | June |
| Yuen Ming Yuen Rd. } | 120 " | " | June |
| Kiang-se Road .. | 430 " | " | July |
| Shantung " .. | 121 " | Stone | " |
| Pekin " .. | 100 " | Brick | " |
| Two small Streets, | 80 " | " | " |
| Keangsoo " .. | 421 " | " | Aug. |
| Fuhkeen " .. | 345 " | " | " |
| Canton " .. | 200 " | " | " |
| Soochow " .. | 161 " | " | Sept. |
| Sung-keang " .. | 140 " | " | " |
| Foochow " .. | 141 " | Stone | " |
| Tai Wang " .. | 71 " | Brick | " |

Police Barracks.—A wing has been added to the Central Police Station, giving an accommodation of 10 Rooms, and has been occupied since the 1st July.

Bunding Yang--King--Pang.—Was commenced in March, and will be completed in November. The material used has been granite stone.

Works.—The Works contemplated for the ensuing six months comprise:—

Drainage.—Continuing the drain in Honan Road from Hankow Road to Soochow Creek, taking up a portion of the old drain in Shantung Road, now partially filled up, and forming a new one to Nanking Road, also construction of a drain in Canton Road, from Keangsee to Keangsoo Roads, and to lessen the chance of an accumulation of deposit, it is proposed that it shall be egg-shaped, and every precaution will be taken to make it as smooth inside as possible. All bends and junctions will be of as large a radius as practicable. The drainage of streets running East and West will be proceeded with as seems expedient.

Roads.—The Roads running North and South when metalled will be lowered as much as is consistent with the stability of the drains. The present manholes will be sunk about 9 inches to permit of the metalling being spread over them, but the position of each will be indicated by the letters M.H. on the adjacent wall.

Metalling.—When the stock of pebble shingle in possession is expended, it is intended to take into use broken granite of such size as will pass freely at any angle, through a ring 2½ inches in diameter. The cost of this will equal the highest price paid for pebble shingle.

Water Channels.—To be formed of granite cubes 12 in. by 6 by 4, sixteen in. wide and about three inches deep, they will discharge through vertical openings in the curb of the foot way. It has been considered desirable to discontinue the present description of brick water course, the material being extremely perishable, and not possessing sufficient strength to sustain the wheels of a vehicle, and it will be absolutely necessary when paths are formed. The difference in cost is estimated at candareens 75 additional per chang of 10 feet lineal.

Gully Holes.—New ones will be sunk two feet below the bottom of the small subsidiary drains in order that the deposit from the roads may be intercepted.

Paths.—It is considered that all streets having a clear width of 22 feet should have a road 18 feet wide, and a foot path four feet wide. Streets above that width to have foot paths proportioned to the increase, and these works would be undertaken as particular roads might require repair. It has been decided to metal with broken granite, the portion of Nanking Road and the Bund. Granite stone channels 16 inches wide will be formed, one next the wall and the other at the side of the curb to the foot path, and the present foot path will be increased to a width of four feet.

The Bund.—An estimate was prepared for some improvements in this locality. It was intended to have a path of eight feet wide next to the Hongs. A road thirty feet wide in the middle, and the remaining space with an average width of thirty feet, would have made an excellent promenade. Trees could have been planted at regular distances inside the curb of the promenade next the centre road, and would in due course of time have constituted an agreeable shelter from the sun. The funds, however, at disposal altogether invalidated these arrangements.

The want of yard or suitable place, for the storage of the various materials made use of in the Engineer's Department has led to the accumulation of large quantities of stone and shingle on the bund. This lengthened obstruction of the thoroughfare your Council much regret, and trust that ere long, the bund will cease to be a depository for building or other materials, the property either of the Public or of private individuals.

Jetties.—A timber jetty is being constructed on the Soochow Creek, length one hundred and thirty feet, width twelve feet, with steps at end, and according to contract should have been completed on the 17th October or thereabouts, an allowance being made for wet weather.

Latrines.—It is proposed to erect four new cells, a Cook House, Lavatory, Latrines, &c. &c., at the Central Police

Station, also to build two or three latrines in parts of the settlement standing most in need of them.

Buildings in Progress.—A small dead house and dissecting room in the Pootung Cemetery. A shed the length of the compound, New Municipal House, for reception of barrows, tools, carts, &c. Alterations to barrier gate at lower end of the Maloo, giving increased width to road, and two side gates for foot passengers.

Hong-Que Bund.—This work has been let to a native Contractor and will cost about \$648. It is proposed to remove present loose stone coping where necessary, and to raise the road on an average eight inches all over, this will allow of its being metalled next spring.

Survey of Settlement.—Your Council hope at an early date to carry out a comprehensive and accurate survey of the settlement, until which is completed they feel that there will be in very many instances, the greatest uncertainty as to particular boundaries and limits, and in the identification of property.

Bridges.—The Bridge connecting the Bunds of the English and French settlements has become almost dangerously unsafe, and it has been proposed to replace it with an iron superstructure and stone abutments, though on this point nothing can be done without the concurrence of the French Municipal Council.

Nuisances.—Your Council have in view the development of a scheme which may result in both sides of the Yang-King-Pang being efficiently protected from the reception of the refuse and offal of the settlements, and have pleasure in stating that in this matter the French Municipal Council have intimated a willingness to meet them half way.

Taxes. Wharfage Dues.—Your Council gave their early attention to the re-adjustment of the rates on Imports and Exports on a fairer basis, but in as much as the proposed alteration in the tariff would have involved a loss of from twenty to twenty two per cent. on the receipts, and having in view, (under sanction) the gradual supercession of the Jetties now in use by others of improved structure and greater durability, they did not feel justified in de-

priving themselves of the means by which alone these improvements could be satisfactorily carried into effect. Your Council thoroughly endorse the opinion of their immediate predecessors, that the sum of \$4,000, paid by H. E. the Taotai in commutation of Wharfage Dues chargeable to Chinese traders, does not adequately represent the value of the merchandize exported or imported by them, and like the Council of 1862, have solicited the kind offices of the various Treaty Consuls in impressing upon the mind of H. E. that the sum of Taels 15,000 is below what would be leviable were the foreign Tariff applicable to the Chinese.

Chinese House Tax.—The collection for the half year ending 30th June has amounted to Taels 46,296 or within Taels 3,804 of the estimated receipts. The Rev. M. T. Yates has spared no exertion that might conduce to an equitable assessment, and from his familiarity with the vernacular, there have been very few instances in which the assessments has been objected to.

It will be within the recollection of all that in May last an attempt was made by the Chinese authorities to levy a house tax, surreptitiously almost, in the Municipality by means of foreign collectors, and that your Council caused the said collectors to be arrested and brought before their respective Consuls for punishment. To settle at once however regarding the right on the part of the Chinese to tax, such right never up to that time having been enforced, even allowing it may have existed, seemed to them the most desirable course to pursue. A meeting was kindly called for that object by H.B.M. Consul on the 12th June, H. E. the Taotai attending. The resolutions then passed having been published it will not be necessary to recapitulate them. Your Council would wish to remind you that with reference to the eight per cent on Chinese rentals being paid to the Taotai, they carried out simply the spirit of one of the suggestions contained in the letter addressed to Sir Frederick Bruce by a committee appointed by the land renters generally. In the treaty it may be ob-

served, one clause provides that all local matters are to be settled by agreement between H.B.M. Consul and the Chinese provincial authorities, to this, particular attention is directed. Since the institution of this tax certain difficulties have been developed in its collection. In several Chinese houses, foreigners have taken up their residence, who of course hold themselves exempt from its operation, whilst on the other hand numbers of Chinese are to be found in foreign built edifices. Your Council have been of opinion that the tax applies to the occupant, not to the building, and have endeavoured to carry out this principle. It must be confessed that in this way a very considerable loop hole to evade payment is afforded to the dishonest. Again, many instances occur of houses being tenanted for a portion only of the period for which the tax is charged or in some instances not at all. The staff of collectors employed is far too small to enable it to be determined accurately what houses have been let and what have not; and another means is afforded to the dishonest of evading the payment which is due.

Foreign House and Land Tax.—The Foreign House Tax up to the present time, though in a majority of instances falling upon the tenants, has always been collected from the owner; of late several cases have occurred in which owners have objected to pay, their tenants having left the premises before the debit notes were sent in. It would be desirable if possible to collect the Tax directly from the tenant, and now that your Council see their way to effecting this, they trust that the receipts will in future be duly ensured. By the new assessment list this Tax has been raised in amount from Taels 4,000 to Taels 23,000 per annum. Your Council trust that by an early and complete survey of the settlement a better system of land registration than the present one may be practicable, rendering less difficult the identification of each original registration, together with the now constantly increasing sub-division.

Licences.—Seventeen Taverns in this settlement, and twenty six in Hong-que

are under Municipal Control, yielding a revenue of Taels 6,450 per annum, also eleven Chinese Shopkeepers here, and seventeen in Hong-que, are licensed to retail Foreign Liquors in quantities not less than a single bottle, which produces Taels 4,200 per annum.

One thousand seven hundred Sampans have been numbered and licensed, the sum of Taels 2,430 having thus been realized.

One hundred and fifty two Sedan Chairs have been licensed and numbered since 1st November 1863, the date of the scheme being carried into effect, and the sum of Taels 295 has been received.

Post Office.—Your Council have used their utmost efforts to put this establishment on a proper footing. They were anxious to secure the co-operation of the Hongkong Authorities, but have not been in any way successful. In order to render this Office self supporting, and a real benefit to the Community at large, letters from all Chinese and Japanese ports should pass through it. Certain proposals were conveyed through a private medium to the Hongkong Authorities, the chief ones being, that stamps should be issued in Hongkong to frank letters despatched to or from Shanghai, and that two-thirds of the total sum realized by issue of such stamps should be credited to Hongkong and one third to Shanghai. Had this arrangement been carried out, the necessity for an Imperial Office would have ceased, and economy with greater facilities of delivery have been ensured. The authorities in the South, however, did not deem it expedient to adopt these views, and explained in set form that they could not entertain relations with a body of men who had no legal standing, and your Council being indisposed to waste their time in arguing this much mooted point, have therefore refrained from further movement in the matter. They trust however that the Local Post Office, notwithstanding the checks alluded to, will prove itself a useful institution and be competent to the discharge of wider duties should such hereafter prove requisite.

Lighting.—Your Council trust that ere long the plans of the Gas Company may

be sufficiently developed to admit of some satisfactory arrangement being concluded with regard to the effective lighting of the settlement.

Fire Engine.—A powerful hand Engine of the following description was to have been shipped from Boston for this port at the expiration of six weeks from the date of latest advices. Six inches diameter of cylinder and thirty-six inches stroke of piston, with hose and hose carriage, drag ropes, buckets, lanterns, extra spanners and extras of such parts as may be lost or injured. The estimated cost is \$2,300 (American) and the Engine is reported to be a more powerful one than any ever used in the city of Boston.

Street Calls.—Your Council, acting upon the expressed views of Mr. Medhurst late H. B. M. Consul at this port, have suppressed the noisy cries of the street coolies, a measure which they venture to hope has been approved of by the community, and which was effected without the arrest of a single coolie.

Street Nomenclature.—Your Council regret that no alteration in the existing system of street nomenclature appears practicable, the number of Title-deeds inscribed with the present names being so large as to render any change inexpedient.

Cemetery.—Your Council are persuaded that the time has now arrived for a discontinuance of the practice of interment within the limits of this settlement. The progress of civilization has long since induced dwellers in large European cities to bury their dead in comparatively isolated spots, and your Council, taking into consideration the densely populated state of this municipality, feel that they would be neglecting their duty, did they not publicly call attention to this fact. They would suggest the purchase being sanctioned, of an eligible site for a new cemetery, which might be effected in the district just outside the line of defence and on the right bank of the Sochow creek, the situation alluded to would be nearly opposite the site of the proposed General Hospital.

Incorporation of Hong-que.—Your Council received a communication from

Mr. Cunningham, Chairman of the Hong-que committee of ways and means on the 14th September, enquiring whether they were prepared to incorporate that district with this settlement. Mr. Cunningham's letter on this subject, together with the reply thereto, have already been published in the minutes of the meeting of Hong-que land renters 21st September. Your Council considered that no discretionary power whatever was left to them in this matter, a resolution of land renters on the 31st March 1862, in the first place, stating that the district of Hong-que was to be admitted provisionally into the Shanghai Municipality, whilst the following motion carried on the 4th April last, seemed to dispose of the question finally:—

“That the newly elected Council be recommended to use every exertion to carry into effect the resolution passed at the last annual meeting relative to the incorporation of Hong-que into the present settlement, and to make such alteration there, as if found necessary, to secure either partially or wholly that desirable end.” Your Council required however as a *sine qua non* the report of the Hong-que assessment committee, in order that the revenue derivable from that district might be fairly estimated before any decisive action was taken.

Since then the following protest against the annexation has been received.

Oct 29th, 1863.

Gentlemen, — We the undersigned renters of land in so called English concession, hereby formally protest against the incorporation of the Hong-que settlement with this municipality except on the distinct understanding, that the expenses of whatever nature which may be incurred by the Municipal Council consequent on such annexation, be entirely met with the income derived from the taxation of the Hong-que district.

We are, gentlemen,

Your obdt. servants,

(Sd.) JARVIE, THORBURN & Co.

THOMAS MONCREIFF.

with others, in all 85 signatures.

COUNCIL ROOM,
9th October, 1863.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Municipal Council to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated the 29th ultimo, protesting against the incorporation of the Hongque settlement with this municipality, unless the revenue to be derived from the former district shall be commensurate with its expenses, and in reply am to state that H.B.M. Consul has been requested to convene a Public Meeting of Land Renters about the 28th—31st inst. when the Board trust the important issues which the annexation of Hongque would involve, may be thoroughly discussed.

I am Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Sd.) R. F. GOULD.

Secretary M.C.

To Messrs. Jarvie Thorburn & Co.
" " Shaw Brothers & Co.
" " Thomas Moncreiff.
" " E. M. Smith.
" " Gilman & Co.
" " W. Cameron & Co.
" " Johnson & Co.

And others whose signatures are attached to the protest.

Your Council are glad that an opportunity has occurred for the discussion of the vexed question of incorporation, and would wish to be finally instructed in regard to the matter.

The account between this municipality and Hongque is as follows.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dr.—Amount of Act. rendered | | |
| to 31st August, | Tls. 15,333 56 | |
| Police Force, &c., &c., Sept., | 2,174.11 | |
| | | Tls. 17,507 67 |
| Cr.—Amounts as received to | | |
| 31 Aug., . . . Tls. 3,003.00 | | |
| Do. do. | | |
| 30 Sept., . . . , 1,612 50— | | 4,615 50 |
| Leaving due on 30th Sept., | Tls. 12,892.17 | |

The revenue of Hongque, though estimated at the meeting of the 21st September 1863 at Tls. 22,900, per annum will it is has been since discovered scarcely exceed Tls. 17,800.

Finance.—A statement showing the receipts and expenditure for the past half year is subjoined.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FINANCE.

For the Half-year commenced 1st April and ended 30th September, 1863.

| INCOME. | AMOUNTS. | | TOTAL. | |
|---|----------|------|---------|------|
| | Tls. | Cts. | Tls. | Cts. |
| Wharfage Dues collected to 30th September | | | 23.627 | 46 |
| Chinese House Tax collected to 30th September | | | 50,030 | 83 |
| European House and Land Tax collected to 30th September, ranging } from 1st January 1862 to 30th June, 1863. } | | | 20,533 | 03 |
| Local Post Office | | | 2,523 | 43 |
| <i>Licenses.</i> | | | | |
| Foreign Tavern or Spirit Shops | 3,195 | 58 | | |
| Sampans | 2,430 | 19 | | |
| Chinese Shop-keepers vending Liquors | 1,594 | 50 | 7,220 | 27 |
| Total Income | | | 103,935 | 12 |
| Balance in hand on 1st April last | | | 8,434 | 22 |
| Reward Fund standing at Credit | | | 243 | 78 |
| Temporary Drainage Loan—Loan from Central Bank of Western India | 31,067 | 96 | | |
| Ten per cent. Drainage Loan—Investments during half-year | 2,000 | 00 | 33,007 | 96 |
| Balance Due to Treasurer on 30th September | | | 19,160 | 45 |
| Total | | | 164,841 | 51 |

| EXPENDITURE. | AMOUNTS. | | TOTAL. | |
|--|----------|------|---------|------|
| | Tls. | Cts. | Tls. | Cts. |
| <i>Police Force.</i> | | | | |
| Central Station | 25,711 | 96 | | |
| Louza " | 7,993 | 44 | | |
| Hong-que " | 10,034 | 38 | | |
| Water Police Establishment | 177 | 14 | | |
| <i>Engineers Department.</i> | | | | |
| Salaries of Superintendent of works and Inspector of Roads | 1,360 | 30 | 43,916 | 92 |
| Lighting Settlement | 482 | 59 | | |
| Labour | 6,295 | 30 | | |
| Roads, Repair, Construction and Metalling of | 13,839 | 40 | | |
| Buildings, alterations, additions, including wing added to Police Barracks | 5,903 | 11 | | |
| Jetties, Repair, improving and constructing | 1,214 | 36 | | |
| Repairs to sundry Public Works | 249 | 31 | | |
| Departmental expenses including Mr. Clark's passage from England | 2,122 | 93 | | |
| <i>Bunding and Drainage</i> | | | | |
| Yang-king-pang Bund | 8,000 | 00 | 31,467 | 30 |
| Drainage | 29,709 | 35 | | |
| <i>Nuisance Department.</i> | | | | |
| Salary of Inspector | 550 | 00 | 37,709 | 35 |
| Garbage Boats | 1,309 | 93 | | |
| Latrines cleaning and improving | 181 | 46 | | |
| Labour | 2,061 | 33 | | |
| <i>Office Establishment.</i> | | | | |
| Salaries of Secretary, Interpreter, Accountant, Engineer and Clerks | 10,780 | 30 | 4,102 | 72 |
| Sundry charges: viz. Printing, Stationery, Postage, House Rent, Furniture, Native Employes, &c. | 3,165 | 91 | 13,946 | 21 |
| <i>Post Office.</i> | | | | |
| Paid 2nd Instalment: Hongkong Post Office | | | 975 | 00 |
| <i>Interest.</i> | | | | |
| On Drainage Loans | | | 3,646 | 24 |
| Total Expenditure Tls | | | | |
| | | | 135,763 | 74 |
| Repaid Agra Bank—Temporary Drainage Loan | 25,000 | 00 | | |
| First Payment Ten per cent Drainage Loan: Sinking Fund | 1,900 | 00 | 26,906 | 00 |
| Amounts due by Constables, on account of money advanced them to purchase their discharge from the Army | | | 2,177 | 77 |
| Total | | | 164,841 | 51 |

JAMES COCK,

Treasurer.

The recent improvements carried out in the settlement have necessarily absorbed a large item of the revenue, and your Council, whilst recurring to the subject of money being raised on loan for the prosecution of Public Works, so frequently alluded to at previous meetings, take the opportunity of expressing what they believe to be the general conviction, that the residents of to-day should not be called upon to defray the expenses of improvements, of which the fullest benefit may be reaped by their successors in years to come. They would there-

fore recommend that funds for the carrying on, not only of drainage operations, but road making and all public works of a durable nature, be raised on loan, and be paid off as the finances at the disposal of the Municipal Council permit.

Difficulties have hitherto been experienced in the negotiation of loans, and your Council have been obliged to hold themselves individually responsible for sums loaned to the Public, but it is proposed in future to obviate this inconvenience by giving a lien on Municipal property

The amount raised for drainage operations is as follows :

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Municipal Council 10 per Cent | } Tls. 18,200.00 |
| Drainage Loan and 10 per Cent Sinking Fund..... | |
| Temporary Drainage Loan..... | „ 31,067.96 |
| Total..Tls. 49,267.96 | |

Whilst the cost of Drainage from 1st of August 1862 to 30th September 1863, amounts to Taels 55,411.01.

The large outstanding account with Hong-que, together with the non-realization of the expectations of the Defence Committee in regard to the sum of Taels 3,000, being derived from deeds for frontages in the Shakloo Road, have necessitated the taking up a temporary loan of Taels 25,000, which it is estimated can be paid off out of the current income prior to the termination of the Municipal year, should a settlement of the Hong-que debt take place previously.

With the view of bringing to notice certain subjects that your Council are anxious should be discussed at the ensuing meeting, a summary of the main points on which they consider a distinct expression of opinion would be desirable, is appended.

H. W. DENT, *Chairman*

GEO. F. HEARD.

JAMES COCK, *Treasurer*.

J. KEARNEY RODGERS.

DAVID REID.

The following subjects are especially recommended for consideration :—

1. *Water Police*.—The formation of a Water Police, sufficiently strong in numbers to carry out effectively the harbour regulations and to ensure the maintenance of law and order amongst the large floating population of this port. The nature of their duties would be to act in conjunction with the Harbour Master and Custom House Authorities, and to give effect to Consular warrants for the apprehension of offending seamen; also a Guard Boat would pass along the line of shipping nightly at variable hours.

2. *Yard or plot of Ground available for the storage of Municipal property,*

stone, shingle, &c.—The necessity for a depository of this kind has been shewn in the report, a portion of the space reclaiming itself from the river, in front of the British Consulate, would serve the purpose temporarily.

3. *Chinese Night Passes*.—The propriety of Municipal Fee of One Dollar being paid for each pass issued.

4. *Taxation of Houses of Public Entertainment*.—Opium shops, Tea houses, Brothels, Theatres, Gambling houses, Samsboo shops, etc.

5. *Parapet-Line of Defence*.—The advisability of levelling the Parapet along the line of defence, in the absence of military reasons for its continuance.

6. *Jetties*.—Alterations or Improvements to.

7. *Yang-king-pans*.—The views of the French Municipal Council with respect to this creek will be ascertained if possible prior to the 30th instant.

Land Office.—In the half yearly report for 1862, it was stated that the establishment of a Land office would be agreeable to the Consular authorities: the question of its necessity is referred to the meeting—but the Municipal Council are not prepared to undertake the responsibility of management, unless an annual sum adequate to cover the working expenses, be guaranteed from some other source than existing Municipal Taxes. Pending however any arrangements of this nature, convenience would result from the transfer of land and subdivision of lots being notified to the Secretary, and by those possessing plans of their property permitting copies to be made thereof.

9. *Land Regulations*.—The revision of the Land regulations, and the legal status of the Council are topics that have been too frequently discussed to require a very lengthened introduction, a copy of the alterations and modifications in the existing code, proposed by the committee of the 19th March, 1863, has already appeared in the *North-China Herald* of the 11th April, 1863, and will be laid on the table on the 30th instant.—In this matter, particular attention is requested to Sir. F. W. Bruce's dispatch to Earl Russell of 30 h April,

1863, and published in the *Shanghai Recorder* of 16th ultimo.

10.—*Houses and Land Tax*.—The property of Foreign Houses being numbered by Streets, and this tax being collected from the occupants.

11.—*Wills' Bridge*.

12.—*Iron Bridge across the Yan-king-pang*.—A sketch by Mr. Clark, of an Iron Bridge of the following description (which has been referred to the

French Municipal Council for their consideration) will be laid on the Table on the 30th instant; to be formed of seven wrought iron segmental girders, and would cost approximately £ ,400.

13.—*The cost of works of a durable nature being defrayed by loan*.

15.—*Cemetery*—Removal of?

16.—*Measurement of Ground*.—Number of square feet per mow.