

Hogg, Gower, Laurie, Nye, Howe, Smith, Michie, Dallas, Cunningham, Webb, Hancock, Whittall, Probst, Page, P. Loureiro, Carter, Gamwell, Turner, R. Miller, Jarvie, Shearer, Wardell, Wright, Reid, Wheelock, Kahn, Rev. J. Hobson, Dr. Sibbald, and others not renters.

W. H. Medhurst, Esq., H.M. Consul, as Senior Consul present, took the Chair:—

The CHAIRMAN begged leave to open the Meeting with a few prefatory remarks as to its object. The Meeting was properly an annual one, and should have been convened long since, but circumstances had combined to make this impossible until this moment. Now that it had been called there was much and important business to be done. First, they would have to transact the usual annual business, such as passing of accounts, election of new officers, &c. With reference to the latter it would be proposed to increase the number of Councilmen, the work having become too onerous for three men, even were they all "Tates" in indefatigable attention to duty. Secondly, the Meeting would have brought before it the report of the Defence Committee. Thirdly, they would have to discuss the question of drainage. The foul and filthy condition of the back settlement had become a notorious nuisance. It was the talk of the place, it had been taken up by the press, and it had even become the subject of pulpit fulmination. The Chairman did not however agree with the worthy Chaplain and others who declaimed against the nuisance, in ascribing the fault entirely to the Chinese. They were a foul race as regards their habits, it was true; but they had not obstructed the drainage. The Chairman remembered the day a few years ago when all the land now covered by the Settlement was efficiently drained by large tidal ditches. These ditches had been successively filled up by purchasers of land without reference to their utility, and without providing any substitute, by which means the drainage had been gradually done away with. This had been more especially the case in the western part of the Settlement. The fault was therefore with the Renters, not with the Chinese, and it was but fair that the Renters should repair it. If they did not do so it was clear that they must take the consequences, which in the approaching summer might be frightful. The fourth matter to be submitted would be the question of lighting. A proposition on this head was in the hands of a gentleman present and would be read to the Meeting. Next would come the proposition for the incorporation of the Hongkew or American side in the limits of the Municipal system. That suburb was every day gaining in importance as a portion of this Settlement, and it was essential that the order and security prevalent on this side should be extended to that. Of course the annexation might increase the expenses of this Municipality, for the settlement on that side would not be able perhaps to pay its own expenses. But this would be only fair, seeing that the disorderly characters which congregated there were the refuse of our population, and would not find those precincts a refuge but for the strict police system exercised within these limits. A proposition in favor of the annexation would at any rate be presented to them. The only other business would be the reading of the minutes of the last Meeting, which the Chairman would proceed with at once.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held 2nd February, 1861, were then read.

Mr. W. G. HOWELL proposed that the minutes just read be adopted.

Mr. WHITLOW seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Mr. TATE read the Report of the Council for 1861—as follows:

REPORT.

The Municipal Council for 1861 have the pleasure of submitting to the Land Renters their report for the past year.

Roads.—When this Council took office in February 1861, the general state of the Roads of the Settlement was decidedly bad, from causes which were very fully set before you in the Report of the previous Council. To remedy this, therefore, was one of the first duties to which the present Council addressed themselves, and the work done has been as follows:—

All the roads in the Settlement, including the Bund, have been re-metalled, and the majority of them served with a coating of shingle in addition. Side-walks have been laid down in Park Lane from the Bund to the Maloo; in the Maloo on both sides as far as the Race Course; in Rope Walk Road from the Bund to Barrier Road, and in a portion of North Gate Street. The Maloo has been considerably raised and two surface drains have been made through its entire length. The Road opened by the Council of 1860, leading across the Maloo, has been carried through to the Soochow Creek after much difficulty. A new Road has also been opened recently, at the head of the Maloo, being a continuation of the Shakkoo, and 30 feet wide. This new road is carried through to the Soochow Creek and serves as the second line of defence of the Settlement (see Report of Defence Committee). Through the centre of this road a main drain has been cut at the request of the Special Committee for Defences and Improvements.

The line of road in continuation of Fives Court Lane, has been extended westward up to the new Shakkoo Road. Boundary stones have been laid down (with the sanction of the land-

owners) marking the line of road in continuation of Rope Walk Road to the Race Course. The old Chinese graveyard near Bowwan's lot having been levelled and built upon, the ditch near it has been filled up and the road raised. Kirk's Avenue has also been carried through to the Louza, the road made and metalled.

The Council have reason to expect that an ample supply of shingle will shortly be contracted for, to be brought in boats from the beach outside Woosung. The Secretary has this contract in a forward state. The heavy expenditure incurred for broken brick and other unsatisfactory material will thus, it is hoped, be curtailed.

Jetties.—Two new jetties have been constructed on the Bund. They are built of Singapore beams, paved with granite slabs and furnished with posts and ring-bolts. The jetty opposite Messrs. Fogg & Co.'s is undergoing repair. A portion of the Bund on the Yang-kin-pang has been rebuilt, and tenders are invited for the completion of the work.

Sampans Licenses.—Your Council have organized a system of licensing the sampans plying for hire at the jetties, and 276 boats are now registered and numbered. The scheme cannot yet be considered complete, but in a short time it is believed the whole will be rendered effective and prove a salutary check on an unruly portion of the native population of the Settlement.

Taxes.—Your Council have pleasure in pointing out a very large increase in the amount of Chinese taxes for the past year; the Council of 1860 estimated the probable amount of Chinese House and Land Taxes for the year 1861 at Tls. 12,000, being a large advance on previous years. But so great has been the influx of Chinese and the consequent increase of house accommodation, that no less than Tls. 27,500 have been collected, and it is very certain that this amount will be far exceeded during the year 1862. Your Council would here mention that the exertions of their Secretary have in no small degree contributed to this result. Constable Eldridge has been active and diligent as collector of these Taxes; and it has been deemed advisable to relieve him of all Police duty, so that his whole time is now devoted to this important branch of Municipal business.

With regard to the "Foreign House and Land Tax," the Council regret to say no effectual measures have been organized to make out the new assessment so much needed. A competent person, who should visit and re-assess each building in the Settlement, has been sought for, but as yet without success. It is believed that the present assessment does not include more than one half of the property liable to taxation; while of the houses and buildings now taxed, there are very few, if any, the rental of which should not be largely increased. The attention of the Land Renters is particularly directed to this matter.

Police.—The following Report has been presented by the Inspector:—

POLICE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1861.

On the Council taking office at the beginning of this year the Police Force was very much under its establishment; but was from time to time recruited by men from the regiments at Hongkong, which enabled the Board to remove men that had repeatedly misconducted themselves. In the month of June, the Force was up to its full strength and in the most efficient order. In which state it remained for three months, when a great demand for foreigners by the Chinese became apparent, from the fact of men that had hitherto been contented with their situations and very well conducted, committing themselves in order that they might obtain their dismissal to take service with the Chinese, for the exorbitant wages that were said to be given.

The Council during the past year provided iron stretchers for the men from Hongkong, and a Library was also opened. A canteen was established in which the men could obtain the best beer and porter at cost price, which, with the skittle alley that was provided by funds presented by Rowland Hamilton, Esq. (the Chairman of Council in 1860), proved a great source of amusement to the men, and kept them very much in barracks during the last warm season.

In October of the past year a Detachment Station was formed at the Louza, and a Sub-Inspector, 3 Sergeants, and 10 men were organized, and posted in the Chinese Quarter, which brought the strength of the Force up to one Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, 6 Sergeants, and 44 Constables. In February of the present year a second Detachment was formed at Hong-kew, and one Sub-Inspector, 2 Sergeants, and 12 Constables were at once organized, and placed in temporary barracks, which has had a very salutary effect upon the hitherto unruly native population resident upon that side. This augmentation increased the Force to 1 Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 8 Sergeants, and 56 Constables.

The general conduct of the men during the past year has been very good.

WM. RAMSBOTTOM,
Inspector of Police.

Shanghai, 27th March, 1862.

With respect to the establishment of the Police Force on the Hong-kew side, your Council have not committed this Municipality to its continuance; the Force also is paid for by the residents and land-owners on the Hong-kew side. But it is much to be desired that the so-called American Settlement (which is really under the jurisdiction of no one but the Taou-tai) should be placed under the same Municipal government as that existing on this side.

An application for increased pay has been made by the men of the Police Force, who state that owing to the recent very serious increase in the price of provisions they are not able to live comfortably and save anything from their pay. After due consideration an increase of Tls. 5 per month to men of all ranks is recommended.

An application for increased pay has also been received from Inspector Ramsbottom, based on the grounds that the formation and control of two additional stations, one of them outside of the present Municipal limits, has largely added to the work and responsibilities of his office. When Inspector Ramsbottom was appointed to the Force, his charge numbered less than 30 men, all in one barracks; but at present the Force at its full establishment is 67 men of all ranks in three barracks, and very shortly the number will be increased to 80 men. Under these altered circumstances, and also taking into consideration the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which the Inspector has discharged his duties, the Council recommend an increase to the present pay of £100 per annum.

Arrests.—The return of prisoners for the year is laid on the table. The arrests amount to 1,852 against 845 last year.

Licensing.—Active measures were taken by your Council in the early part of the year to carry out the scheme for licensing the native shopkeepers and others within the Settlement; and in accordance with a resolution passed at a special General Meeting of Land Renters, the Council addressed the Hon. Mr. Bruce on the subject. By order of the Board the Secretary shortly afterwards (12th April, 1861) again addressed H.M. Minister on this important subject; both of these communications have remained unconsidered.

Of the four Treaty Consuls, Consul Smith alone determined to await the answer of the Government at Washington on this head, although it seems clear that the Land Regulations have already received the sanction of his Government.

Wharfage Dues.—At a General Meeting of Land Renters held on the 8th April last, the Council were authorized to negotiate with the Commissioner of H.M. Customs with regard to the employment of a special clerk to obtain from the Custom House books a correct return of Imports and Exports, thus relieving the Community from the trouble of furnishing these returns as heretofore. The Commissioner of Customs consented to furnish these statistics from the 1st July last, but circumstances appear to have arisen which have prevented this desirable arrangement from coming into action so soon as was hoped; the community will be asked to furnish their own returns once more, say to the 31st December, 1861, since which date the Commissioner of Customs has taken charge of the work. The income from this important source will thus, it is believed, be largely increased.

The Council would bring prominently to your notice the great necessity that exists for a revised tariff of Wharfage Dues on imports and exports. The present scale of charges, formed as it was on the more circumscribed limits of our commerce of 6 or 7 years ago, is utterly inadequate to deal justly with the many articles of cheap Japanese and native produce, which are now so extensively landed and shipped at our jetties. To levy the same wharfage tax on a small bundle of saw-wood worth Tls. 3 as on a bale of shirtings worth Tls. 100 is an obvious injustice.

Drainage.—On this important topic, it would have been the duty of your Council to have addressed you carefully and at some length, had there not been called into existence by recent emergencies a Special Committee for Defences and Improvements, whose peculiar attention has been given to this point. It is therefore only necessary to say here that the Report of this Special Committee on Drainage and Water Supply, which report has lately appeared in the public papers, has the cordial approval of the Council.

With regard to the sanitary condition of the Settlement, many and great difficulties have to be contended with, and it will need the greatest activity and vigilance during the ensuing few months to keep pestilence at arm's length. In Mr. Carlile, as Inspector of Roads, and Mr. Howes, as Inspector of Nuisances, your Council trust they have secured valuable and active servants. It is recommended that several large public latrines should be at once built at suitable points in the Chinese quarter; the influential native inhabitants have expressed to the Council their willingness to assist in their formation by subscriptions if necessary.

Lighting.—On this head also, nothing need here be reported, as a scheme for lighting the Settlement with gas is to be laid before you to-day by a Committee especially organized for that purpose.

At a special meeting of Land Renters held on the 6th June last, a resolution was agreed to, requesting all Consuls, other than those having Treaty obligations with China, to obtain from their respective Governments such a special authorization of the existing Land Regulations here, as should establish their legality beyond question. To those applications, letters in the affirmative have been received from Mr. Heinsen, Consul for Hamburg, and Mr. Kroes, Vice-Consul for the Netherlands.

New Names for Streets.—H. B. M. Consul has kindly placed at the service of the Council an excellent scheme for the uniform and simple re-naming of the streets of the Settlement. Such names to be conspicuously placed in Chinese and English characters at the street corner.

Increase in the number of Members of the Council.—The duties which devolve on Members of this Council have of late increased so rapidly as to make the burthen unreasonably heavy when it falls on one or two persons only. Your Council think that the public service would be better attended to if the number of Members elected to seats at the Board were increased from three to five.

Secretary.—The Council have much pleasure in referring to the Secretary's labors during the past year in terms of entire approval. In positions frequently of considerable difficulty and with a pressure of work on the office unknown in previous years, Mr. Pickwood has displayed much tact and ability; while, by his recent close attention to, and skilful conduct of, an important action against the Secretary of this Council in the Hongkong Supreme Court, he has brought to a favorable issue a case involving results of much moment to our Municipal constitution.

Night passes.—The restrictive measures which your Council (acting with the advice of the Defence Committee and the consent of H. B. M.'s Consul) have thought it necessary to adopt, have been attended with great success. It is gratifying also to believe that the respectable portion of the native inhabitants fully recognize the necessity for, and value of, the pass system. The present scheme is to issue passes for a term of three months, calling all in at the end of that term and making a new distribution.

Finances.—Owing to pressure of work on the Treasurer; your Council have not been able to prepare the Balance Sheet for the past year duly audited in time for the present meeting. The sole reason for this delay is that a small error exists in the cash account which prevents the accounts balancing to a point, and for the discovery of the discrepancy the Treasurer claims a day or two's indulgence. Open sketches of account of receipts and expenditure for 1861, also of estimated receipts and expenditure for 1862, are, however, laid before you, and the figures will it is believed be found highly satisfactory. The Balance after payment of all expenses to date is about Tls. 9,600. In addition to the current expenses of the year, the balance of the cost of extending the Bund, namely Tls. 2,000, has been paid off.

In the account of estimated income and expenditure for 1862, your Council have felt it safe to estimate the income from Chinese House and Land Tax at a further large advance; they do not change the figures for Foreign House and Land Tax, though a new assessment would certainly yield Tls. 4,000 a 5,000 more income. Altogether it will be seen that after allowing liberally for the maintenance of a very full Police Force and making due provision for the repairs of roads and jetties, &c., &c., it is estimated that the income for 1862 will exceed the expenditure by about Tls. 21,000. It must be carefully remembered that no provision has been made for the drainage and water supply so greatly needed; your Council think it best to leave this matter untouched, and entirely in the hands of the Special Committee before alluded to. They cannot, however, close this Report without again strongly urging on their fellow residents the great necessity that exist for prompt and extensive sanitary measures, and their conviction that the resources of the Municipality cannot be taxed too closely or too stringently for this purpose.

J. PRIESTLEY TATE,
Chairman and Treasurer.

SHANGHAI, 31st March, 1862.

Mr. E. WEBB proposed that the Report of Municipal Council for the year 1861 be adopted, and the accounts passed.

Mr. E. CUNNINGHAM seconded the motion.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. TRAUTMANN begged leave before the election of the new Council, the next business in the list, to propose:

"That before choosing gentlemen for the Municipal Council for the coming year it be resolved that none but *bona fide* foreign Renters of Land shall be able to become members of the Municipal Council."

Mr. BAKER begged leave to second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman premised with regard to the new Council that five names of gentlemen willing to serve had been put in his hands by the present Council, viz.: Messrs. Cock, Michie, Brand, Nye, and Turner, and if these were acceptable they might be considered in the Ballot.

Mr. NYE objected. He had already served before.

Mr. Grew's name was thereupon suggested in the place of Mr. Nye's.

The new Council was then balloted for, and the votes appeared as follows:—

Mr. Michie,	48 votes.
" Cock,	47 "
" Turner,	41 "
" Brand,	41 "
" Grew,	31 "
" Cunningham,	10 "
" Nye,	10 "
" Hambury,	5 "
" J. Hogg,	3 "
" J. Thorne,	2 "
" W. G. Howell,	1 "
" Probst,	1 "
" Carter,	1 "
" Page,	1 "
" Gwyther,	1 "

The first five gentlemen were declared duly elected as Members of the Municipal Council for 1862.

The Rev. J. HOBSON proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the retiring Council, and more especially to Mr. Tate.

Mr. REID seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM then read the report of the Committee for Defences and Improvements, as follows:—

REPORT UPON THE DEFENCES.

The Committee make their report as concise as possible, believing that brevity will be as agreeable to the community as it is convenient to themselves.

Finances.—On this head alone explanations at some length are necessary.

The sanguine expectations entertained of the readiness of the wealthy Chinese to contribute liberally for the fund, proved delusive, for though every exertion was made, and that without loss of time, no unanimity of action could be induced among them, and the result promised to be that the burden would fall upon a few of the most public-spirited, unless some system of distribution could be devised.

So large a sum exacted from three or four individuals would have been unjust even if possible, and the Committee approved of the suggestion that time should be allowed to mature and carry out a plan of collection that would best reach those most benefited.

The plan adopted by the Chinese assembled in Connoo, was to obtain from all houses rented by Chinese two months rent, one half of which was from the landlord, one half from the renter. By this means they reached the owners of real estate, who, besides being generally wealthy, are, with the house renters, the most immediately benefited by protection.

The real estate owners, both Chinese and foreign, with a few exceptions, agreed to the proposition and the collection has commenced. It is placed under the supervision of the Council and H. M.'s Consul, in order that no advantage may be taken by the collectors to levy other dues, real or pretended, under cover of this. An ill advised attempt of the Chinese to obtain the aid of the Taoutai's authority, an assistance not at all required, was immediately detected by the vigilance of a foreign renter largely interested in real estate, and the contribution is carefully made voluntary.

The Chinese directors of the collection confidently assure the Committee that the amount will not be less than Tls. 55,000 to Tls. 60,000, which statement is confirmed by the books of the Council. These show that one month's total Chinese rents amount to between 30,000 and 40,000 Tls., which allows sufficient margin for those who lack the means or the willingness to contribute.

The amount, when collected, will be handed in, as received, to the gentlemen appointed by this meeting. As yet no portion has been paid. The Committee have expended Tls. 25,000, of which Tls. 20,000 have been furnished by a few public-spirited Chinese as an advance in anticipation of the collection.

The actual expenses will be about 44,000 to 45,000 Taels, and there will therefore remain some 10,000 Taels, which if placed at interest in a public loan giving 10 per cent interest, would produce sufficient yearly revenue to keep the works in order.

Attached is an account of expenditure and outstanding contingencies.

Works of defence.—The street barricades have been built as originally proposed, there being eleven in all, of Singapore wood, and four of China wood, which are to give place to others when the neighbouring buildings are improved. There still remains to be done some work upon these lines for which provision is made in the estimate for contingencies.

The Shakkoo has been opened through to Soochow Creek, by the energetic assistance of H. M.'s Consular officers. A work in every respect of great public importance and absolutely necessary in any system of drainage. The outer line of defence has been completed under the able direction of Colonel Moody and his officers. The redoubts are nearly finished and will be mounted with 32 lb. naval guns, for the use of which the community are indebted to the kindness and earnest interest in the protection of the place, of Rear-Admiral Sir James Hope.

The towers and blockhouses first suggested proved unnecessary and were discarded.

The tide gate near the Soochow Creek is still to be constructed, also a picket house at that end of the line, and a powder hulk to be purchased; for all of which allowance is made in the estimates.

The claims for compensation for damage upon this line, have all been satisfactory and reasonably adjusted with the renters concerned.

Those upon the Shakkoo line mostly remain open; but if that street becomes the important thoroughfare expected, a profit may be ultimately realized upon the land taken.

Hongkew defences.—The Committee accepted the direction of the defence affairs of that portion of the Settlement at the request of the residents. They have confined their proceedings to the establishment of a police force under the direction of the Municipal Council, but at the expense of the local residents and renters, and the opening of a wide military road, running from Wil's Bridge into the country, turning at right angles in order to cross the bridge on the Kongwau road, and then passing down the whole length of the settlement at the distance of 500 yards from the river. This road was opened at the suggestion, and will be mainly carried out by the enterprise and energy of Mr. Hambury, under an arrangement with the authorities which will save that community nearly the whole expense.

The Committee strongly recommend the incorporation of that quarter into the general municipal system.

Preservation of the defences.—The Committee recommend that the completion of the works be entrusted to the hands of two persons appointed by this meeting, with power to place the care of the works and the funds in the hands of the Municipal Council as soon as the former are finished. That the Council be requested to take charge and keep them in order, applying the income from the fund so far as it will go, and providing any further expenditure from the public revenue.

The Committee think it unnecessary to make a separate report upon lighting the Settlement.

They feel themselves quite incompetent to form an opinion upon details; but, on general principles, would recommend the Community to place the matter in the hands of the private Company lately formed, only conditioning that the pipes shall be laid under the supervision and authority of the Council, that their plan shall embrace the whole Settlement, and that their works shall be located when they will not be a nuisance to the Settlement.

Shanghai, 20th March, 1862.

E. CUNNINGHAM,
JAMES HOGG,
J. PRIESTLEY TATE,
J. WHITTALL,
EDWARD WEBB.
Committee.

Account of expenditure upon the defences to March 31st with memo. of outstanding contingencies:—

	Dollars.	Taels
Excavating the Creek...	1,519.80	13,308.66
Fortifying defences on outer line.....	390.21	1,472.60
Work on bridge and abutments.....		279.00
Opening the Shakkoo.....	405.35	
Claims paid on Shakkoo line		700.00
Paid on account		
Barrier Road		
and Shakkoo		
lines barricaded.....	4,760.20	
20 Watch boxes.....	440.00	
Guard house at		
Soochow Creek	200.00	
Coolest for gates,		
uniforms, &c.,	263.85	5,604.05
Repairs and Sundries for		
Blank House.....	223.00	406.00
Advertising.....		1.50
Deposit at the Oriental		
Bank on account of		
four 32 lb. guns,		
loaned for the use of		
the community.....		1,549.15
	\$2,598.32	Ts. 23,441.86
	\$2,598.32 at 80 cts.	2,078.40

Amount paid out... Tls. 25,520.26

OUTSTANDING CONTINGENCIES.

Balance due on account of	
bridge.....	1,000.00
On account of parapet....	683.00
On account of inner lines	1,850.00
Estimated cost of tidal gate	1,050.00
Do. do. picket house	500.00
Do. do. powder hulk	1,500.00
Do. do. of new gates	
on the two inner lines	1,000.00
Painting barricades &c.,	
&c.	400.00
Estimated amount of claims	
on the outer line....	12,000.00
	19,983.00
Deduct estimated proceeds	
of mud sold.....	800.00
	19,200.00
Total expenditure, actual	
and estimated.....	Tls. 45,000.00

Mr. E. M. SMITH objected to that portion of the report which referred to the mode of reimbursing the Committee for the money they had expended. He stated that, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee, the interpreter of the Municipal Council and a policeman had been placed at the disposal of the Chinese who had guaranteed the requisite amount of money to pay for works of defence, &c., and that these men had induced the Taoutai to issue a proclamation calling upon all Chinese renters of houses in the Settlement to pay them no less a sum than two months' rental, and stating that if they failed to do so they would be severely punished. Mr. Smith went on to say that as two months' rental of houses occupied by Chinese exceeded three hundred thousand taels, and as the sum required by the Defence Committee amounted to about sixty thousand taels, he was of opinion that these men were devising plans for a gigantic squeeze. He remarked that the confiding way in which the Chairman had placed the matter in the hands of these Chinese afforded every facility for extortion, for no check was held by the Municipal Council to control them; and the Secretary of the Municipal Council

was not prepared to say whether the amount already collected was one or fifty thousand! Mr. Smith observed that the interests of a great many land renters would be directly interfered with if things were allowed to be managed in this way, and that if the small end of the wedge was once inserted it would lead to no end of abuse on the part of Chinese officials and those acting under cover of their authority. Mr. Smith instanced what had resulted from first accepting an offer on the part of the Chinese in the Louza district to pay for an additional police force, and then allowing them to collect under the authority of the Municipal Council, a tax from almost every house in the settlement. He produced a bundle of Chinese receipts—bearing on the face of them a private seal—which were given for various amounts his tenants on the Yang-king-pang had been forced to pay as a contribution towards maintaining an extra number of policemen in the Louza district. Mr. Smith suggested that the portion of the report referred to be objected to.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM replied to Mr. Smith's remarks. He said the simple facts were that Mr. Smith when on the Committee had not been able to suggest any practicable scheme for raising the money by Chinese contribution, though it was his sanguine declaration that had led the Committee to think the wealthy Chinese would eagerly subscribe. He never produced a wealthy Chinaman of any sort to the Committee and never suggested any other mode than to issue a chop from H.M.'s Consul requesting the wealthy classes to contribute; when it was said such a request would have no effect he then added that they should be made to pay. Such coercion not meeting the views of the Committee, they had resorted to the only mode open to them, and that was to leave the Chinese to manage the matter themselves, taking every precaution in their power that there should be no abuse. The best and most effective precaution was the check of the Municipal books and machinery, and of that they had availed themselves; and if Mr. Smith intended to assail that, he assailed the whole system of tax collections and should have come prepared to offer some better system in its place. To conclude, he would remind the meeting that they must raise in some manner Tls. 45,000, and if they rejected this mode, they would need to proceed at once to devise some other method.

After a further rejoinder from Mr. Smith, the Chairman begged to state that with reference to the Taotai's proclamation Mr. Smith had called on him a few days ago to complain of the collection of the contribution by a policeman and linguist, supported by a Taotai's proclamation making the payment of two months' rent obligatory on all Chinese, and had shewn the receipt books employed by the Collectors. The proclamation the Chairman had asked him to procure, when he would be told what would be done about it. Mr. Smith did procure the document, and it proved to be as described. This being manifestly improper, the Chairman had seen the members of the Committee, and after conversation with them had arranged with the Taotai that he should rescind his proclamation, and that another by the Consul should be substituted declaring the contribution to be entirely voluntary. The Chairman had also suggested that the word "tax" in the receipt should be altered to "voluntary contribution." All this had since been done, and the Chairman thought this would be sufficient to meet Mr. Smith's objections. As regards the irregularity noticed by Mr. Smith in the matter of the tax for additional police at Louza, the Chairman thought it would be more in order for Mr. Smith, if he had any charge to make against the police executive, to notify the Council thereof; and to lodge his plaint formally with the Consul, when no doubt proper redress would be given.

Mr. SMITH, not satisfied with this explanation, proposed that the mode adopted by the Defence Committee for reimbursing themselves for any outlay be substituted for some more honorable way of collecting money, and that this Meeting express its disapproval of the Municipal Council's interference in the matter in any way.

No seconder of the motion came forward.

Mr. WEBB wished to know whether Mr. Smith was prepared to suggest some other mode of procuring the sum required. It was positively needed and must be got.

Mr. REID expressed every confidence in the Defence Committee, and therefore proposed that their Reports should be accepted and approved.

Mr. HOWELL seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN requested a suggestion for a new Committee, as the present one had by their report resigned their functions.

Mr. GOWER proposed that the affairs of the Defence Committee remain in the hands of the present Committee till finished, and be then passed over to the care of the Municipal Council.

Mr. HANCOCK seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. ASHTON was of opinion that the Committee would be doing the community a favour by continuing their functions.

The CHAIRMAN then called the attention of the Meeting to the Report on drainage which had appeared in the papers during the last few days and which no doubt Mr. Cunningham would now read.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said it was scarcely necessary to take up time by reading the report after its publication, more especially as Mr. Smith had a scheme which was more generally approved of by the public, although likely to be much more expensive.

(From the Daily Shipping & Commercial News of March 27.)

The Undersigned beg to present to the Community their report upon Drainage that there may be time for consideration of the propositions suggested, before the General Meeting on the 31st inst.

EDW. CUNNINGHAM,
JAMES HOGG,
J. PRIESTLEY TATE,
EDWARD WEBB,
J. WHITTALL,

Committee on improvements.

REPORT UPON DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY.

DRAINAGE.

In view of the absolute necessity of immediate measures, the Committee are compelled to consider this subject under two heads:—

First.—The adoption of some system, however imperfect and temporary, for present relief from the intolerable evils resulting from the damming up of all the water outlets of the central quarter of the Settlement.

Second.—The best plan for the complete drainage of the whole Settlement that they can obtain, and suggestions as to the mode of obtaining the required means.

To accomplish anything effectual, it is essential that the district lying between the Shikloo and the Boundary Creek should be at once laid out in streets, in accordance with the Land Regulations. Nothing can be done in draining till the avenues are made, along which the drains must pass.

The Committee recommend that two new roads parallel to the Shikloo be made, and for convenience in this report, they will give them the temporary names of the Sikh Road and Soochow Road. The Sikh Road to be on the line of the old Driving Course, reaching from creek to creek, and passing the Sikh Barracks and Major's factory. The Soochow Road to be opened midway between that and the Boundary creek. The present lines of roads from the east to be continued to the Boundary Creek.

That wide and deep ditches through which the tide will flow be dug from creek to creek along both the Soochow and Sikh Roads, similar to that already dug in the Shikloo.

That the present ditch in the Shikloo, be piled and covered temporarily with planking until the autumn, when the drain can be laid. In this crowded thoroughfare the ditch cannot remain open on account of the inconvenience to the public. The question of covering in the other two ditches in the same manner to be left to the committee appointed.

That any open ditches and ponds be made to drain into one of these three passages, and surface drains be conducted into them along the sides of each cross street.

That the Council be particularly requested to keep these three tidal passages open and unobstructed until time and circumstances allow of their being replaced by suitable drains.

These measures will unquestionably clear that part of the town of the stagnant waters now poisoning the air. However objectionable these open tidal ditches may seem to some, it is the only mode available to us of removing at once an unbearable and most dangerous nuisance.

Experience teaches us that the tide will keep them sufficiently free from noxious exhalations for purposes of health, even in hot weather.

These three drains by the aid of proper side or cross drains will clear the surface as far east as Barrier Road, and from that road to the river bank the ground is already sufficiently drained to answer another season.

In case the community determine to defer the construction of a comprehensive system of drains, the Committee recommend that as soon as bricks can be obtained, barrel drains of an oval shape 3 feet by 5 feet, be constructed along the Shikloo and Soochow roads to replace the ditches already recommended, and one of 1½ by 2½ feet along the Sikh Road on levels that shall serve when the whole system is laid down.

The cost supposing bricks were again plentiful would be:—

Length about 4,000 feet. Tals
2 lengths... 8,000 800 ch. at 40. Tls. 32,000
1 length.... 4,000 400 ch. at 14. " 5,600

Totals 37,600

For complete drainage of the Settlement, the Committee beg to present to the Meeting the following system, which is in many parts derived from the valuable suggestions of Colonel Moody, to whom the Committee are under many obligations for his very ready and cordial assistance and advice.

The objects to be obtained are:—

A system of drainage that will touch all parts of the Settlement between the River and the Boundary Creek and the Soochow and Yang-king-pang Creeks.

Some means of cleansing the main drains by forcing clean water through them.

The system proposed:—

1st.—To lay deep drains of the largest size, say 3 by 5 feet oval, along the Soochow, Shikloo, Barrier, and Bridge Roads, falling from the Yang-king-pang to the Soochow Creek, and buried 5 feet under ground at the highest point.

2nd.—To lay medium drains of second size, say 1½ by 2½ ft. oval, along the Sikh, Cemetery and Church Roads, falling from the Yang-king-pang to the Soochow Creek, buried 2 feet under ground at the highest point.

3rd.—To lay drains of the same size, say 1½ by 2½ ft. oval, along all the streets from East to West in the following manner:—

Beginning on the outer line, those from the Boundary Creek to fall to the Soochow Drain and empty there. In the next section, commence

at the Sikh Road and fall to the Soochow Drain, and also empty there. In the next section, commence at the Sikh Road and fall eastward to the Shikloo. In the next section, commence at the Cemetery Road and fall to the Shikloo Drain. In the next section, commence at the Cemetery Road and fall eastward to the Barrier Road. In the next section, commence at Church Street and fall eastward to Bridge Street; and in the next, fall to Bridge Street or the river.

4th.—The heads of the four large drains in the Soochow, Shikloo, Barrier, and Bridge Roads to be open to the Yang-king-pang, though not draining in that direction, and to be provided with traps.

5th.—The Yang-king-pang to be provided with suitable tide gates, that it may be made a reservoir of clean water for the flushing of the whole system of main drains at low water springs.

The Yang-king-pang being navigated, could only be closed twice a month for 6 or 8 hours at the height of the springs by permission of the authorities.

The cost is estimated as follows:—

Length of line from Yang-king-pang to Soochow Creek 4000 feet.

4 lines of main drains 16,000 1,600 at 40 64,000
3 lines of medium... 12,000 1,200 at 14 16,800
Length of line from river to Boundary Creek 5,184 feet.

7 lines of drains... 35,000 3,500 at 14 49,000
Tide gates in the Yang-king-pang... 2,000
Traps and sundries... 1,000

Tls. 132,800

By this system only the four main drains would be flushed artificially; but the fall of rain-water is so great, that there is no doubt that the cross drains would be sufficiently cleared by that means.

At the present moment no bricks can be had for even one line of drains—the rebels having cut off the supplies for the avowed object of distressing foreigners—and the system, if adopted, must wait for more propitious times. The representatives of the Community in the matter will find in the files of this Committee, numerous details furnished by Colonel Moody, which will enable them to carry out the system to great perfection if they have the services of an engineer for the important work of laying the levels.

FRESH WATER.

The Committee recommend for this very important object, that the boundary creek be made a reservoir for the supply of the Settlement.

That a steam pump be provided, similar to those used in the docks, for filling the reservoir at the neaps, it being supposed that it would sufficiently fill itself at the springs.

That the water be conducted through iron pipes from the reservoir, along each of the seven streets from west to east, as far as Bridge Street, say 4,400 feet.

That oblong bricked tanks lined with cement, 4 feet wide by 4 deep or whatever is found necessary, and 30 feet long, be built at the corner of every street, into which the iron pipes would lead, at about 2 feet from the bottom.

That these tanks be covered and provided with pumps to which all should have free access.

As the pipes and tanks would be always filled with water at every high tide, it is supposed they would hold enough for use, even in case of fire, to last while the tide was out. Any sediment would be deposited in the tanks which could be readily cleaned at stated intervals. The pipes would of course be provided with filterers and traps, at the point of communication with the reservoir.

The cost is estimated as follows.

7 lines of 4,400 ft. 82,800 ft., 3,280
at Tls. 10 Tls. 32,000
49 Tanks..... " 6,000
Steam Pump..... " 4,000
Pumps and Sundries..... " 1,000

Tls. 43,000.

To serve present wants however, the Committee recommend two lines of brick conductors from the Boundary Creek down the Maloo and King's Road, the cost of which would be about Tls. 12,000, the supply at low stages of tide being easily kept up by the chain pump, which could be made to fill temporary reservoirs at the months of the water-docks.

These two lines of fresh water, ever flowing, would supply the ordinary needs of the whole of that great district, now entirely without supplies.

To recapitulate:—

For temporary purposes:—
Cost of 3 drains in the Shikloo, Sikh and Soochow Roads..... Tls. 37,600

Cost of 2 water-docks and appurtenances..... " 12,400

Tls. 50,000

For a complete system:—

Cost of drainage for the whole Settlement..... Tls. 132,800
Cost of abundant supply of water, " 43,000

Tls. 175,800

The Committee recommend a loan, with provision out of the yearly revenue for interest and a sinking fund, as the readiest means of meeting these requirements.

Also, that the whole matter of drainage and water supply be committed to the Municipal Council, with liberty to appoint a person to give it his particular attention and carry out promptly whatever plan is determined upon.

Mr. SMITH being called on for his scheme produced a drawing of a section of the large barrel drain he built along the centre of Barrier Road. He remarked that this drain had been working for the last six years, and that there was neither a deposit in it, or an accumulation of filth where it empties into the Yang-king-pang. He explained that each tide at its flood dilutes the drainings of the whole neighbourhood and ebbs with the mixture down the river. He thought that the only mode of arriving at anything like effectual drainage of the Settlement, was to construct similar drains along the centre of every street on the Settlement.

He maintained that it was not requisite to obtain a fall, but that the tide would more effectually perform what the slight fall which could be obtained, would fail to do. He estimated that the cost of building drains according to the drawing before the Meeting would be about two hundred and fifty thousand taels. Mr. Smith further explained that by simply placing an iron bar every ten or fifteen feet from wall to wall at the springing of the arch two iron pipes for gas and water could be carried through every

street in the place, and that a stone trap placed so as to open over the joining of the pipes and the side drains leading from the gutters and the different compounds, would not only make the water furnished by the tide available in case of fire, but would enable workmen to enter the drain either for repairing leakage of pipes or removing any obstruction in the large drain itself, or in those running into it. Mr. E. M. Smith was of opinion that if the mode of assessing the Police rate were revised and properly collected, it would place at the disposal of the Municipal Council a sum more than sufficient to carry out the most elaborate system of draining which could be devised. The basis upon which he formed his ideas of what the tax might be made to yield was the large amount his Chinese property on about twenty-five mow of ground paid into the treasury of the Municipal Council; this property could be advanced as a fair estimate, for it was bounded on all sides by wide roads and intersected by a greater number of small ones, than any other plot of ground in the settlement. This twenty-five mow of ground was taxed so as to yield no less a sum than 4,800 Mexican dollars a year. If it were used as a divisor of the whole area occupied by Chinese, and its product multiplied by four thousand Mexican dollars the result would be something astounding—far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

A conversation ensued on the subject of ways and means, the substance of which it was found impossible to catch. No one, however, suggested any proposition for the acceptance of the entire scheme, either as set forth by Mr. Smith or by the Committee, which seemed agreeable to the Meeting.

Mr. How rose to propose that the streets to the west of the Shikloo be opened at once, and the drains through the Shikloo, Sikh, and Soochow roads be made as suggested by the Committee as a temporary measure.

Mr. ASHTON seconded the motion.

Mr. GOWER proposed the following amendment:—That the matter of draining be settled at once, and not passed on indefinitely from the Meeting to the Committee and back again; and that the Committee and Municipal Council meet immediately after departure of next mail, and devise some means of raising the necessary funds in a fair manner from the Chinamen and Land Renters as proposed by Mr. Smith.

No seconder appearing, the original resolution was put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. How proposed that the Municipal Council for the current year be empowered to carry out the preceding resolution.

Mr. ASHTON seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. How proposed that the present Committee of Defence be requested to amalgamate with the Municipal Council elected for the current year, and that, after selecting the most desirable scheme for permanently draining the Settlement, their report should be laid before the Land Renters with a week's previous publication.

Mr. CUSHNY seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN observed that a great deal of the present difficulty might have been obviated and the Community saved vast trouble and expense, if private individuals had hitherto been prevented from filling up pre-existing drains and ditches at their discretion, the moment they settled for land. It was not too late he thought to make some restriction of the kind in regard to the new lands in the west, which were moreover our most fruitful source of nuisance just now, and doubtless some gentleman would accept the suggestion and move a resolution accordingly.

Mr. HOWELL quite agreed with the Chairman, and proposed that no ditches nor drains can be closed on any Land without the consent of the Municipal Council, and the provision of adequate drainage under their direction; and that if this be not attended to the Council be empowered to prosecute under Rule IX. of the Land Regulations.

The Rev. Mr. HOBSON seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. HANBURY, referring to the discussion on the question of contribution by Chinese to the defences, said he thought the sense of the Meeting had not been properly taken as to their approval of the mode adopted. He would therefore propose: That this Meeting recommends the new Council to exercise vigilance over the action of the Chinese empowered to collect the sum necessary for the defences, and if it be found that two months' rent is more than sufficient, that a suitable reduction or return, as the case may be, be made in the sum collected.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. HOBSON begged leave to propose that the Municipal Council be

desired to take measures for the entire suppression of vagrancy within the limits of the Settlement.

Mr. HANBURY seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. GOWER proposed that two water-docks be constructed from the boundary creek along the Maloo and King's road as proposed by the Defence Committee in their Drainage Report.

Mr. CAMERON seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. ASHTON wanted to know how far the few votes which were being given (many of the gentlemen having left the Meeting) would affect the formality of the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the absence of the gentlemen who had left would not affect any measures adopted by the Meeting. They had had due notice of the propositions to be laid before the Meeting in the Chairman's opening remarks, and by previous advertisement; they had been aware, too, that the necessary number of voters were present at the outset; and if, under these circumstances they chose to leave, their absence and silence must be construed into consent.

Mr. KING rose to bring the gas lighting proposition before the Meeting. The prospectus of the Company having been published, he had no need to call attention to it. The share list was not full, but a half of the number of shares had been taken up, and he had just got a promise of a hundred more. It only was necessary now to get the consent of the Renters in prospect of the formation of the Company, to grant leave to lay the machinery through the streets of the Settlement.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM moved that the proposed Shanghai Gas Company be authorised to use the streets of the Settlement for laying their mains under the supervision of the Municipal Council, provided the Company is organised within three months from this date.

Mr. MICHIE seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM rose to lay before the meeting a proposition from the owners of property in the Hongkew side for the amalgamation of that suburb in the municipality of the Shanghai Settlement. The proposition he would read, as follows:—

Proposition from the owners of property and residents upon the Honkew quarter for the extension of the limits to include that portion of the Settlement.

The dues and taxes levied upon renters in the British Concession to be assessed there in the same manner.

In case the sum so raised should fall short of the expense of maintaining a Police Force of ten men, the residents to provide the deficiency, either by obtaining aid from the Chinese authorities or, failing that, by voluntary additional assessment.

The Municipal authorities to be found to provide for the public welfare there in all respects as in the British Concession, keeping roads in order, suppressing and removing nuisances, &c., &c.

We agree to carry out the conditions of the above proposition if accepted.

WM. J. BOONE.
G. H. PINDER.
HOWARD & Co.
P. LOUREIRO, for himself
JAMES LOCKHART.
THOS. CRAWFORD.
LINDSAY & Co.
SHANGHAI DOCK COMPANY.
P. LOUREIRO, Chairman
H. HUBBARD.
By Attorney P. LOUREIRO.
ROBERT REID.
DENT & Co.
EDWARD WEBB.
Trustee Sailor's Home.
AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
OLYPHANT & Co.
EDWARD CUNNINGHAM.

Shanghai, March, 31st 1862.

Mr. Cunningham recommended the measure highly, and thought all would concur in its expediency. There was no doubt that the Settlement in question was daily increasing in value and importance as a suburb of Shanghai, and therefore it was in every way to our interest to attach it, and provide for its peace and good order.

The CHAIRMAN thought the obligation went even further. Our efficient police on this side made these limits too hot for the vicious characters induced by our large population, and who all took refuge in that quarter; and it was but fair we should at least take a share in the expense of keeping order in a locality disturbed by people whom we were instrumental in driving there.

Mr. ASHTON enquired the probable expense to this municipality of such an annexation.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM replied that under the proposed scheme not more than 2,000 Taels would be needed over and above the assessment the settlement would in itself provide.

Mr. MICHIE proposed that the Hongkew Settlement be admitted into the Municipal limits on the terms proposed at this Meeting.

Mr. HANBURY seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The proceeding terminated with a unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman.

WALTER MEDHURST,
H.M. Consul.