

Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the sewerage, drainage, and supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the inhabitants of the township of Batley, in the West Riding of Yorkshire / by William Ranger, Superintending Inspector.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

14370

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS

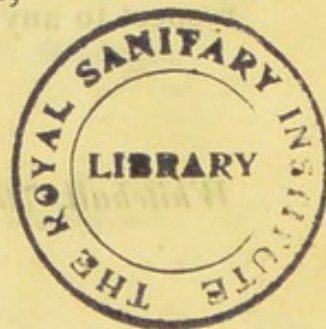
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF

BATLEY,

IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1852.

REPORT

OF

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 25th day of January next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Township of BATLEY, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

C. MACAULAY, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 7th December 1852.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Township of BATLEY, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

London, 2A, Pall Mall, August 16, 1852.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the following Report on the sanitary condition of the Township of Batley, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, at which place a preliminary inquiry has recently been held under the provisions of the Public Health Act :—

INTRODUCTION.—The petition to your Honourable Board praying for the preliminary inquiry bears date the 5th of June last. It is signed by 218 out of the 1,934 ratepayers who reside in the township. The petition briefly requests your Honourable Board to order an inquiry in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act; but, I may state, on the authority of one of the chief promoters of the inquiry, that the memorialists forwarded their petition in the hope that the wished-for investigation might result in the discovery of some means for effectually supplying the township with water, of which, unfortunately, there is now a very great and general scarcity amongst all classes of the population.

Before entering upon a detailed description of the condition of Batley at the time of the inquiry, which is the more immediate object of the present Report, I think it right to notice certain peculiarities connected with this place, which will compel me to deal with the Report upon it in a manner different from that I usually adopt.

In the first place it is important to notice that Batley is seated in the midst of a densely populated manufacturing

district, in which there is no one town of preponderating size or influence; on the contrary, there are in close vicinity to each other, several places, but villages a few years ago, which have now grown into towns of considerable size and importance. The largest of these is Dewsbury. Immediately to the north and north-west of it are Batley, Gomersal, Heckmondwike, Liversedge, and Cleckheaton. Thus in a limited area, of less than 17 square miles, there are six distinct seats of manufacturing industry, the largest of which does not number more than about 14,000 inhabitants, although the united population falls little short of 50,000.

Of these towns Dewsbury is the only one to which the Public Health Act has yet been applied; Batley and Heckmondwike form the subject of this and an accompanying Report, but no petition has yet been presented from the townships of Gomersal, Liversedge, or Cleckheaton.

Your Honourable Board are aware that it is much more difficult to suggest efficient remedies for the cure of evils existing in places of limited extent, such as those I have mentioned, than for towns of a larger size and greater pecuniary resources. In the case of the latter, the inhabitants have the means of completing, by their own unaided efforts, such works of drainage and water supply as they may require; but in places of a limited size the inhabitants are unable to carry out really efficient improvements, because their means are generally too small to enable them to construct works fully adapted for this end. But in both cases the evils to be remedied have, in proportion to their extent, equally injurious effects upon the places which are exposed to their influence; so that towns of comparatively limited size, such as Batley and Heckmondwike, will require the application of efficient remedial measures, and the construction of carefully arranged improvement works, as much as places of larger population, and much greater pecuniary resources.

I have considered it advisable to make these prefatory remarks, in order that your Honourable Board may the more readily perceive my reasons for treating this Report, and more particularly that portion of it devoted to the consideration of the water supply of Batley, in the manner I have done.

OPENING OF THE INQUIRY.—The preliminary inquiry, on which the present Report is founded, was held at Batley, in the large room of the Wilton Arms inn; intimation of the

same having previously been given in the manner prescribed in the Public Health Act, viz. by affixing printed notices to the doors of the various places of public worship in the district, and by inserting advertisements of the proposed inquiry in the newspapers which have the chief circulation in the town and neighbourhood

The following is a list of the gentlemen who were present during the inquiry, and by some of whom I was accompanied in my subsequent examination of the town, and of those portions of it which were described as the most unhealthy, or as the most deficient in proper sanitary arrangements:—the Rev. Andrew Cassels, M.A., Vicar; Messrs. John Jubb, J. T. Marriott, Thomas Wilby, Robert Clapham, Thomas Dean, William Knowles, Samuel Jubb, William Hall, John Whitaker, John Blackburn, John Sharp, Benjamin Exley, Abraham Walker, William Bailey, George Thornton, John Day, Henry Akeroyd, Henry Brearley, Joseph Chadwick, &c., &c.

THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THE TOWNSHIP.—Mr. *W. Hall*, assistant overseer of the township, stated,—

“ That the rateable value of the township was 18,639*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The poor rate was 10*d.* in the pound, and the amount excused in each rate was about 14*l.* Three rates of 10*d.* each had lasted for two years.

“ The gas and highway rate was 10*d.* in the pound, and three rates of this amount had served during the last two years.”

The following is the half-yearly statement, showing the number of paupers relieved, and the amount of money expended by the township of Batley, for the half year ended the 25th day of March, 1852:—

In-door adults.

Males	-	-	6
Females	-	-	3
Children under 16	-	-	3

Out-door adults.

Males	-	-	17
Females	-	-	52
Children under 16	-	-	38

Total - 119

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In-maintenance - - -	21	7	11½			
Out-door relief to regular paupers -	123	13	3			
Maintenance of lunatics in asylums -	55	19	0			
Extra medical fees or payments -	2	0	0			
Vaccination fees - - -	8	12	0			
Registration fees - - -	19	3	0			
Expenses of funerals of paupers dying in the workhouse - - -	1	16	2			
Valuation expenses - - -	5	5	0			
Salaries of officers, and other common charges - - -	116	3	4			
Total expense of the poor	-	-	-	353	18	10½

Expenditure by the township.

County rate - - -	62	10	8			
Costs of proceedings before justices	0	8	0			
Costs of law proceedings - - -	0	13	7			
Assistant overseer's salary - - -	17	10	0			
Other expenses - - -	4	14	0			
Total expenditure by the township	-	-	-	85	16	3
Total expenditure for the poor and the township - - -	-	-	-	439	15	1½
Balance in favour of the township at the end of the half year - - -	-	-	-	244	3	6½

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The following is a list of the Board of Surveyors, for the year commencing 25th March 1852 :—

Mr. Thomas Wilby,
 „ David Wilson,
 „ Thomas Dean,
 „ John Jubb,
 „ Joseph Jubb, jun.
 „ Joseph Chadwick.
 „ John Gledhill.

There is an average attendance of five members of the Board at each meeting.

The Highway Surveyors are the only body in the township for carrying out any of the arrangements contemplated by the Public Health Act. The public lighting of the township also is vested in their hands.

The following is a return of the receipts and expenditure on account of the highways of the township of Batley, from 1849 to 1852 :—

For the year ending 25th March 1849.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance of last year	-	36	19 10	Day labour	-	373	16 9
Railway company for damages	-	100	0 0	Team work	-	173	19 11
Arrears of rate, 1846	-	5	6 1½	Materials	-	83	18 3
„ 1847	-	68	13 11	Contract work	-	29	18 0½
Rate, 1848	-	582	9 8½	Incidental expenses	-	27	10 0
J. Richardson, in full of compromise and interest	5	5	0	Rent of quarries	-	1	0 0
For young trees, &c. in widening Healey-lane	1	11	0	Tradesmen's bills	-	66	2 8
Stone sold to sundry persons	-	73	1 4	Balance in hand	-	117	1 3½
	£873	6	11		£873	6	11

For the year ending 25th March 1850.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance of last year	-	117	1 3½	Day labour	-	339	10 8½
Arrears of rate, 1848	-	28	18 6	Team work	-	118	9 11½
Collected of rate, 1849	-	593	16 1	Materials	-	14	8 10
Stone sold to various persons	-	9	9 4	Contract work	-	25	4 11
				Incidental expenses	-	27	8 4
				Tradesmen's bills	-	219	3 1½
				Balance in hand	-	3	19 4
	£749	5	2½		£749	5	2½

For the year ending 25th March 1851.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance of last year	-	3	19 4	Day labour	-	334	6 8
Arrears of rate, 1848	-	10	0 11½	Team work	-	247	18 7
Arrears of rate, 1849	-	52	12 2	Materials	-	170	9 6
Arrears of rate, 1850	-	654	17 1½	Contract work	-	62	5 0½
Rate, 1851	-	338	17 1½	Incidental expenses	-	62	15 0½
Stone sold to sundry persons	-	51	5 10	Rents of quarries	-	7	2 6
				Tradesmen's bills	-	193	9 3
				Balance in hand	-	33	5 11½
	£1,111	12	6½		£1,111	12	6½

For the year ending 25th March 1852.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance of last year	-	33	5 11½	Day labour	-	361	17 2
Disallowed by the magistrates in last year's accounts	-	25	4 0	Team work	-	255	19 9½
Balance of rate, 1850	-	23	15 9½	Materials	-	67	0 6
Collected of rate, 1851	-	350	14 5	Contract work	-	109	2 9
Do. second rate	-	589	14 0	Incidental expenses	-	33	10 9½
Stone sold to several persons	-	9	8 6	Tradesmen's bills	-	206	40 8½
For compensation from railway company for damages to the highways	-	100	0 0	Rent of quarry	-	1	0 0
				Balance in hand	-	97	0 11½
	£1,132	2	8		£1,132	2	8

MORTALITY.—Mr. *Henry Brearley*, Registrar of births and deaths for the Batley district, stated,—

“That the total amount of deaths registered by him since the 1st of August 1850, was 438; the first entry in the register book of deaths in his possession being stated as above, and the last on the 6th of July 1852.

“The causes of the deaths from epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases were as follows:—

Small-pox	-	-	5
Measles	-	-	21
Scarlatina	-	-	12
Whooping cough	-	-	3
Croup	-	-	3
Thrush	-	-	3
Diarrhœa	-	-	3
Bloody flux	-	-	1
English cholera	-	-	3
Asiatic cholera	-	-	1
Typhus fever	-	-	9
Hydrophobia	-	-	1
			<hr/>
			65
			<hr/>

“14 per cent. of the total mortality, therefore, is caused by deaths from zymotic diseases.”

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.—*W. Knowles*, Esq., surgeon, said,—

“That in September and October last he had attended numerous cases of typhus fever. The disease was particularly rife in Newsome’s-fold, a place adjoining a large common privy; in one house next to it there were five persons ill; in another, on the opposite side, there were two, and several more in the houses opposite. The entrance to the fold or yard in which this privy was situated was blocked up with offensive matter, and the smell was quite overpowering. There was scarcely a house in the fold in which he had not had cases of fever. The general health of the population was better than usual, but he had been in constant attendance on some one or other of the people living in the fold since last September. In a yard behind and adjoining Newsome’s-fold he had also had cases of fever. In 1847, typhus fever was prevalent amongst the Irish living at Brown-hill. He had no doubt in his own mind that the numerous cases of typhus fever he had attended had been occasioned by the accumulation of filth in the immediate vicinity of the dwellings where the cases had occurred. Small-pox was then and had been for some time previous prevalent in the town; in some instances he had as many as four cases in one house. The supply of water was very bad, and the sewerage and drainage were most defective. There was also a great want of proper ventilation in the houses of the poorer classes, particularly in those occupied by the Irish.”

George Allbutt, Esq., stated,—

“That he was able to corroborate the testimony of Mr. Knowles as to the unhealthy and unwholesome condition of both Newsome’s-fold and Brown-hill. He attributed some of the mortality to the overcrowding of the houses, which was common in these two localities. In New-street, also, there had been a good deal of fever; so much so, indeed, that it might now be considered endemic; and it has also been prevalent in the direction of Heckmondwike. He had attended at different times a good many cases of fever in Chapel-fold and Burnley’s-fold. There had been several cases of fever at Carlinghow; but since the beck that ran past that place had been covered in, the fever had abated.

“The drainage was very imperfect, and the people were compelled to throw every species of refuse on to the surface of the streets.

“There had been a considerable immigration of Irish into Batley and the neighbouring townships during the last few years, and these people were most filthy in their habits; so much so, indeed, that much of the disease prevalent amongst them might be attributed to their extreme uncleanness. There was a very general want of ventilation in the houses of the working population.

“As to the general condition of the place, particularly with respect to the water supply, he could only say that for a great number of years he had been an advocate for the establishment of waterworks; for he believed that, if proper steps were taken, a good and abundant yield might be obtained in the neighbourhood. If the people of Batley wanted water, they ought, in his opinion, to lay their heads together to devise the best system, and to put their hands in their pockets to raise the requisite funds to carry out the same. He believed the Earl of Wilton would afford the town every facility he could to obtain a better supply of water.”

THE WATER SUPPLY.—By referring to that portion of the evidence which bears on the question of the water supply, your Honourable Board will perceive that the most crying evil in Batley is caused by the great and increasing want of water amongst all classes of the population. This scarcity of one of the first necessities of existence has been created by two causes; first, the rapid extension of the population; second, the draining of the wells of ordinary depth by the sinking of collieries in the neighbourhood of the town. Thus each year has seen Batley growing larger and more populous, and has at the same time witnessed the supply of water growing more and more scanty.

The little water that can be obtained is bad in quality; that from the stream being much polluted, whilst the water from the wells is so hard as to be unfit for either cooking or washing purposes.

The pollution of the streams is unavoidable in a case like the one now under consideration. The district being studded

with mills in every direction, the waste water, and refuse matter from them are, in most cases, carried down to the nearest stream, whilst the water is still further deteriorated by being made, in many instances, the recipient for the sewage and other refuse from the dwelling-houses in the district.

I think it is unnecessary on the present occasion to devote any part of my Report to an enumeration of the evils that are produced by a scanty supply of water, as the evidence I received proves most conclusively that all classes of the population are fully aware, by painful experience, how prejudicially they are affected by the want of water, both as regards their health and their pecuniary interests.

The price the inhabitants of Batley are now paying for water is extremely high, for scarcely one of the persons, who gave evidence on the cost of the water, appeared to be paying less than from 3*d.* to 4*d.* a week. These sums are paid to the carriers who come round the town with carts, and retail the water to the inhabitants at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for three gallons. This water is brought from a well in the neighbouring township, and is of much better quality than any to be had in Batley itself.

When it is remembered that many of the persons who pay these weekly sums, are little, if at all above the class of working men, it will be seen how heavily, in proportion to their means, the poorer classes of the town are taxed for a most scanty and insufficient supply.

Were it it not, however, for the water from the before-named well, the inhabitants would be almost totally deprived of water; for the best public well yields a supply so small, in proportion to the wants of the town, that the people are compelled to go themselves, or to send their children at all times of the night to get water. Here they are compelled to stay, sometimes for hours together, before they can fill their can or kit, the usual name for the vessel used at Batley to carry water in.

In many cases, to eke out the supply, the people collect the rain-water from the house-tops, and by this means secure a very welcome addition for household use. But even with this assistance, they are obliged in most cases to pay, as I have already stated, from 3*d.* to 4*d.* a week for water brought by the carriers.

It is impossible to form anything like an estimate of the total amount which the town is now paying for water only; because to make the calculation a correct one, there should be reckoned not only the direct cost of the water, but the value of the labour which is expended in fetching it.

But the cost, even in direct money payment, amounts to a very heavy sum, at least when the size and resources of the town are considered; for if the ratepayers only (who are 1,935 in number), are estimated to expend 3*d.* a week, it will be found that their united annual expenditure for water alone amounts to 1,257*l.* I am aware that this estimate is greatly under-stated, as the total population of the township is nearly 9,500.; but even the above-named amount would yield a dividend of 10 per cent. upon an outlay of 12,000*l.*, if that sum were spent in the construction of proper waterworks.

It is requisite I should mention, that previous to the inquiry the people had been much worse off than at the period of my visit, for during the long and unparalleled drought of last winter and the spring of the present year, the scarcity of water had naturally been greatly aggravated.

I do not think it requisite to notice the remarks of Mr. Clapham, one of the agents to the Earl of Wilton, because that gentleman did not call in question the accuracy of any of the statements made respecting the scarcity of water, but confined himself to an account of former negotiations between the Board of Surveyors and the Earl of Wilton's chief agent, for the improvement of the supply.

It did not form part of my duty to inquire into these matters, but to give a full and faithful account of the condition of the town with respect to its means of water supply, and to offer such suggestions as I deemed best for its future improvement.

This brings me to the question of how the present scarcity of water can be converted into abundance, and the dearness and impurity of the present supply changed into one of cheapness and excellence.

I am, on the present occasion, enabled to enter upon this part of the subject with more certainty, because I have made a detailed examination of the country near Batley, with a view of discovering how far a good and sufficient supply of water could be obtained for Dewsbury, to which place the Public Health Act has been already applied, and where I have been instructed by the Local Board to lay down a system of sewerage and water supply in accordance with its provisions. The result of this examination is such as to satisfy me that the only way to obtain a good supply of water at a moderate cost for the use of Dewsbury or the neighbouring towns, is to combine that place with the adjoining townships for the purposes of the water supply.

At present, each of the townships I have mentioned at the commencement of my Report, viz., Batley, Dewsbury,

Heckmondwike, Gomersal, Liversedge, and Cleckheaton, require a considerable supply of water both for domestic and trading purposes; but the formation of the district and the yield of water are such, that it is impossible to find, in combination at least, sources of sufficient magnitude and purity to give each of the towns a separate and independent supply. Under these circumstances the only means by which water can be furnished is to unite the different towns in one, and discover a source or sources of sufficient magnitude to supply the whole of them abundantly at a moderate rate. I have every reason to believe this can be done, and that it is, moreover, the only way by which the different townships above mentioned can be effectually supplied with water.

I need not say that in any place to which the Public Health Act is applied, cheapness in the water supply is an indispensable condition, because the 76th section of the Act provides that it is only where water can be afforded to a house at a cost of not more than 2*d.* a week, that the Local Board can require owners, &c. of property to lay it on to their premises. For a supply of water to exceed this stipulated sum, therefore, is to defeat one of the main objects of the Act, viz., the giving to the poorest class of houses that constant and abundant supply of water, which is so frequently wanting even in places where public companies are established, because one of their chief objects must necessarily be to obtain a fair return for the capital invested; and this is not so likely to be secured by the extension of their works in poorer districts as in those of a better description.

Again, it would, in my judgment, be most inconsistent with the policy of the Public Health Act if, on the present occasion, I were to suggest the adoption of a particular source for the exclusive use of Batley, when such a recommendation might have the effect of depriving some of the other townships in the neighbourhood of a supply of which they stood in equally great need. It is true that they have not all petitioned for an inquiry, but it would not, in my judgment, be the less unjust to deprive any of those places of a portion of their too scanty supply, and to take it for the use of another town, merely because the latter had come under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

I am not aware of the feeling in those townships where no preliminary inquiry has as yet taken place, but I know that in their general condition, and especially as regards their supply of water, they are in much the same situation as Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, and Batley, at all of which

there is ample need for the application of remedial measures. I would beg, therefore, respectfully to suggest the propriety of urging on the ratepayers of the townships of Gomersal, Liversedge, and Cleckheaton to unite in some common and comprehensive system of water supply for the whole district. Such a measure could not fail to lighten the local burdens, and, above all, to give each township a good and abundant supply of water, at a cost and on a completeness of system that can, in my judgment, only be satisfactorily secured by the joint exertions and co-operation of the whole of them.

In case your Honourable Board should think proper to sanction this course, it would, in my judgment, be highly advisable to point out that there was no intention of fettering the free local action of the different townships in case the Public Health Act were applied to the whole of them, but that each Local Board should have the uncontrolled management of all matters of sewerage and the like; the works for the water supply alone being subject to the common management of a Board composed of members selected from the Local Board of each township, and the cost of those works being defrayed in strict proportion to the amount of direct benefit each township received from their establishment.

Some portions of each of the above-named townships are of an exclusively agricultural character, and to these it would not, of course, be requisite to apply the provisions of the Public Health Act. Their exclusion might easily be effected in settling the respective boundaries, which could be so described as to include only those portions to which it was desirable to extend works of drainage or water supply.

As I wish the above remarks to be considered in the light of suggestions alone, I refrain from entering into any details, as to the proportion in which each township should be made to bear the cost of obtaining water and constructing works for the supply of all of them, or as to the manner in which the works should be managed. These points will be proper subjects for the after-consideration of your Honourable Board.

I beg to append to my remarks on the water supply, the following evidence which I received on the subject during the inquiry. I have made a distinction between the general statements respecting the scarcity, and those which were made with a special reference to the cost of the supply as it now exists.

The Rev. *Andrew Cassels*, M.A., vicar of Batley, stated,—

“That the water supply was very limited in quantity, and that much of it was very bad as to quality. He was of opinion that it was high time some steps should be taken to secure to the town the blessing of so essential an element of health and comfort as a good and abundant supply of water.”

Mr. *John Jubb*, a resident ratepayer in Batley, said,—

“That there had been a great scarcity of water in the more densely populated parts of the township. There was but one public well which afforded a supply of good water, and the demand for it was so great in consequence, that people had to go to it at all times of the night, and to wait sometimes two or three hours before they could get any. The want of water was not so great formerly, but of late years the extension of the collieries in the district has drained many wells to which the people used to resort for water. The greater part of the water now used was bought from carriers, who got the water from a well in the township of Morley, and who obtained a livelihood by retailing it to the people in Batley. During the long continued drought, at the end of 1851 and the commencement of 1852, many families had to buy every drop of water they required from the carriers, and the demand was so great that the latter were unable to procure a sufficient supply for the wants of the town. He was persuaded in his own mind that the health of the people suffered much from the combined effects of a supply of water, which was bad as regarded both quantity and quality.”

Mr. *J. T. Marriott* confirmed the foregoing evidence, by stating,—

“That he had seen from 30 to 40 people waiting for water round the public well, of which Mr. Jubb had spoken. The most they could get at a time was a kitful, holding about three gallons, and for this quantity he had known the poor people go to the well as late as 11 o'clock at night, and as early as 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.”

Thomas Dean, Esq., said,—

“That he resided in that part of the township which adjoined Heckmondwike, and that the water supply near his own house was as deficient as it could be anywhere else. He had seen the people trying to get water from the public well at 9 or 10 o'clock at night.”

Mr. *Wilby* said,—

“That he believed the village of Carlinghow was very badly off for water, but that an ample supply could be obtained by sinking for it. The beck was in so polluted a state that the cattle refused to drink it.”

Mr. *Samuel Jubb* stated,—

“That the working classes, as a body, were most anxious that steps should be taken for the supply of water. They were more

especially desirous to have water fit for cooking purposes, as that they now got was not only most scanty in quantity, but also most objectionable in quality. Scarcity of water had, in fact, become a public cry in the township; and it was the want of water that had given life to the present movement for the application of the Public Health Act to their district."

— *Stubley*, a resident ratepayer, said,—

"That his family were six in number, and that he paid 2*d.* a week for water. He had a rain-water butt at the back of his house, but he was also compelled to keep one of his children, who was 9 years of age, at home to fetch water from the common well. The supply from it was very bad, both in quantity and quality; and his child was exposed to much evil in consequence of the quarrels that were continually arising at the well."

E. Taylor said,—

"He begged to offer his testimony in support of that of the last witness. He was equally badly off for water, and he was also compelled to keep one of his children employed in carrying it from the common well."

J. Willans said—

"That the water at Carlinghow was so polluted that the cattle refused to drink it."

J. Hepworth said,—

"That he had been badly off for water, but his landlord had built him a rain-water tank. Even with this help, however, he had to pay 2*d.* a week for water. He would much like to see the town better supplied."

Mr. H. Ingram said,—

"That the water was of very inferior quality. His wife had been laid up with diarrhœa for a considerable time, and her medical man attributed her illness to the bad water she was compelled to drink."

Mr. Wilson said,—

"That there was great room for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the district, but that the scarcity of water, especially amongst the labouring population, was the most crying evil. He had water on his own premises, but it was very hard. For soft water he paid 2*d.* a week additional."

Mr. J. Blackburn, a resident, said,—

"That he had laid out in constructing water-tanks as much as 12*l.* and 20*l.* at a time, on separate properties of which he was the owner. He had sunk a well to a depth of 50 yards, and at a cost of 50*l.*, but it had turned out a failure. He was quite willing to lend any assistance in his power to remedy the present state of things in the town. To show the scarcity of water for every pur-

pose, he might mention that a man of the name of J. Carr had, to his own personal knowledge, been obliged to lead water, for his cattle during four months, from a distance of a mile. Nor was the cost and labour of bringing the water the only loss he had sustained; he had also suffered in consequence of his cows having fallen off most seriously in their yield of milk, owing to the scarcity of water."

THE COST OF THE WATER SUPPLY.—Mr. *John Jubb* said,—

"That the water was retailed at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for three gallons, and that the charge to a family varied from $3d.$ to $1s. 6d.$ per week, according to their number and requirements."

Mr. *J. T. Marriott* stated,—

"That it cost the poorest people from $4d.$ to $5d.$ a week for water, and that he himself paid $2s.$ a week; the cost would have been more in his own case, but that he had ample provision on his premises for catching the rain water as it fell."

Mr. *B. Clay* said—

"That he was unable to declare that he was short of water. His family were five in number, and he paid $3d.$ a week, or at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ for 3 gallons of water."

Mr. *D. Fox* said,—

"He wished he could get water for less money. He had a family of eight, and he paid $4d.$ a week for his supply, which was so scanty that two or three persons were obliged to wash in the same water."

Mr. *Shackelton* said,—

"That he was entirely dependent on the carriers for a supply of water for all domestic purposes. His family were five in number, and he paid $4d.$ a week for water."

Mr. *Spedding* said,—

"That he had a family of four in number, and the water cost him on an average $3d.$ a week. He was as scantily supplied as any of his neighbours who had given evidence on the subject."

Mr. *Ibbetson*, a ratepayer, said,—

"That as he had no family he was obliged to carry all the water he used. It cost him $6d.$ a week, or $26s.$ a year, whilst he only paid $4l.$ per annum for his house rent."

Richard Greenwood, clothier, said,—

"That he felt the want of water a very serious evil. His family consisted of eight persons, and he paid from $2d.$ to $3d.$ a week for water of very indifferent quality. He had a good supply of rain-water, or he should have to pay a larger sum."

Mr. *Ingram* said,—

“That he was as badly off for water as everybody else in the place ; it cost him about 3*d.* a week.”

Mr. *Fox* said,—

“That he and his family, who were five in number, were similarly situated. He paid 4*d.* a week for water.”

INSPECTION OF THE TOWN.—In this inspection I was accompanied by several resident gentlemen, and in parts of the district by the medical officer. My attention was particularly directed to the state of the drainage, the accumulations of animal and vegetable refuse, and the absence of means for a due observance of those precautions which are equally for the health and comfort of the inhabitants, and the preservation of the property of the township in a proper state.

The following are the names of some of the places visited ; Stavercroft, Newsome's-fold, the Quarry, Ward's-fold, Day's-fold, Tayler's-fold, Carlinghow, Brown-hill, Healey-lane end, and Clark-green.

Without detailing the condition of the several folds, and the dwellings therein situated, I may premise, for the information of your honourable Board, that in Parson's-fold, containing a population of about 100 persons, there was small-pox at the time of my inspection.

It is right to say, that many of the Irish, formerly residents in Dewsbury, are now living in Batley, but with their habits in no way improved.

The surface of these folds does not appear to have ever been formed ; and they are certainly in a very objectionable state, being made the receptacles for every kind of refuse, liquid as well as solid.

THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.—In my Report on the condition of the sewerage and drainage of the township, I think it more advisable to quote the statements of those gentlemen who gave evidence on the subject, rather than to make my own comments upon it. I do this for two reasons ; first, because the evidence I received is sufficiently full and explicit to make your Honourable Board fully understand the defective nature of the few public sewers that have been laid down, and the utter inefficiency of the house-drains to fully answer their required end ; and in the second place, because it is not expedient, in my judgment, to dwell too much upon evils, which in a great measure owe their existence to the rapid growth of the population, and the absence of adequate legal

means to enable the authorities to carry out any good or proper system of sewerage, or to enforce the construction of house-drains upon owners of private property.

This want of legal powers was pointed out by Mr. John Jubb, one of the highway surveyors, who stated that at the time of the cholera visitation the board of guardians had endeavoured, but without effect, to remedy the sanitary condition of the district by enforcing the provisions of the Nuisances Removal Act.

But, at Batley, as in other places, it was found that the mere removal of evils which were of daily and hourly recurrence did no good, for that the suppression of a nuisance in one part of the township led to its appearance in another, where it had not before existed.

It will be seen also on referring to the evidence, that in some cases the people have been compelled from the want of sewers to resort to certain make-shift arrangements of a very imperfect kind. Thus for instance, Mr. Marriott has stated that it is a common practice for the people to excavate cess-pools in the rock to receive the house refuse, which would otherwise be thrown on the surface of the streets. With these remarks, I may now quote the following testimony, respecting the sewerage, the house drainage, and the privy accommodation :—

Mr. *John Jubb* stated,—

“That the sewerage of the town generally was very defective. In some places there were no sewers at all ; and in others, where they had been constructed, they were laid down on such a bad system that they became choked up, and the offensive matter overflowed and collected in parts upon the surface. There was also a great want of proper powers to compel owners of property to make house-drains in connexion with the sewers ; for in some cases where the latter had been laid down, the persons to whom the houses belonged refused to drain into the public sewers.

“The management of the sewerage was vested in the highway surveyors ; and they had commenced their construction in some of the public streets, but they had not yet been completed. There was an order on the books of the highway surveyors to have all drains and sewers covered.

“Owing to the want of proper sewerage and drainage, and to the absence of any legal means for their abatement, nuisances were abundant throughout the town, in the shape of collections of offensive refuse and the like. The board of guardians had done what they could under the Nuisances Removal Act, but this was found quite inadequate to meet the evil, for no sooner was one nuisance reported and removed, than another of equal magnitude sprang up in a different place.

“There was also very great need for improved privy accommodation, as the amount of it was far below the requirements of the

population. During the last visitation of cholera, some of the nuisances were removed, and some improvements were effected in the sanitary arrangements generally, but the town had partially relapsed into its old state. The immigration of Irish into the district had made it more filthy and unwholesome than it otherwise would have been. These people were, in fact, demoralizing the whole town. During the time of the cholera, the largest number of fatal cases occurred in a cellar where a number of Irish had taken up their quarters."

Mr. J. T. Marriott stated,—

"That the public streets were only partially provided with sewers, and that in other places there were none at all. It was a common practice to make cesspools, or 'sumps,' to receive the refuse matter, which thus escaped through the fissures of the rock. The privy accommodation was also very defective, and where there were privies they were in such a filthy state as to be unfit for use. The want of these places caused the greatest inconvenience to the poor and the labouring classes. There was no proper outfall for the sewage of the town."

Thomas Dean, Esq., said,—

"That he resided at the village of Healey, which was in that portion of Batley which joined Heckmondwike. Typhus fever was often prevalent in the village, which was, moreover, in a dirty condition in consequence of the absence of drainage, and the consequent accumulation of the liquid refuse in front of some of the houses. Typhus fever had also been prevalent at Healey-lane end, where a number of Irish had taken up their abode. There was so much overcrowding in this locality, that as many as four families were found herding together in one small room."

Mr. Clapham stated,—

"That he considered considerable improvement had been effected in the arrangements for the sewerage of the town."

Mr. S. Fox said,—

"That he was much annoyed by the offensive smell which proceeded from an open drain that ran past his dwelling-house."

Mr. A. Ibbetson,—

"Begged to call my attention to a privy close to his cellar window, which was in so offensive a state as to cause a most intolerably bad smell upon his premises."

The above statements prove sufficiently how greatly the township of Batley stands in need of effective sewerage and drainage. The place also is rapidly increasing, so that each year that passes without the application of any remedial measures, the evil is growing more serious and more aggravated. As far as the natural formation of the town is concerned, there need be no difficulty in laying down

an efficient system of sewerage and house drainage. On the contrary, the town is situated for the most part on the side of a hill, and it is owing to this natural drainage, perhaps, that the health of the population is better than in some of the larger towns in the West Riding, where the mortality is much higher than in Batley. But whatever may be its natural advantages in this respect, there can be no doubt that the laying down of good sewerage and house drainage would considerably diminish the amount of sickness and mortality, because they would be the means of putting an end to the collections of offensive matter, which are so frequent in the poorer quarters of the town, and the existence of which have, as stated by the medical men, been in their opinion the cause of the great sickness that is, and has long been prevalent in and near Newsome's-fold, Brown-hill, and places of a similar character. The condition of the houses and the population of these quarters of Batley can never be permanently improved without the application of general improvements, such as those contemplated by the Public Health Act. Where there are no adequate means to provide an abundant water supply, good sewerage, or house drainage, decent privy accommodation, or the like, the greatest care and the best exertions of an individual landlord can have but little effect upon the general welfare of the population.

I am aware that it is superfluous to trouble your Honourable Board with truths so familiar as these, but as the present Report will be hereafter circulated amongst the inhabitants of the district to which it refers, I am anxious to impress upon them the importance and necessity of laying down works of sewerage and drainage. I am reluctant, however, to dwell at great length upon the subject, because I feel that the effectual carrying out of sewerage operations is dependant upon an abundant and cheap supply of water, and that if this cannot be obtained the town would only incur a useless expenditure by constructing sewers or house-drains.

I have already pointed out in my previous remarks, the difficulties attendant upon the question of the water supply, and that the most likely way, if indeed it is not the only one, of overcoming these difficulties, is for each place to combine and obtain a common supply, at the joint expense of all the townships to which its benefits may be extended.

If this most desirable object can be attained, each Local Board will then be enabled to carry out the efficient sewerage and drainage of the district under its jurisdiction. In this portion of the improvement works, each Board ought, in my judgment, to be left to its own independent action.

With regard to the deficiency of the privy accommodation, of which repeated mention has been made in the course of the Report, I am able fully to confirm, from the result of my own personal observation, the statements of the various witnesses on the general want of accommodation, and to the offensive and unwholesome condition of most of the common privies. The Public Health Act gives each Local Board ample power to remedy this state of things, though in this, as in their other improvements, a supply of water will be needed to carry the Act into practical operation.

It would be a costly and in many cases a difficult operation to create a sufficient amount of privy accommodation in the township, as it is now situated; whereas, if an abundant supply of water can be procured at a reasonable rate, and if a thorough system of sewerage is laid down, the providing of proper privy accommodation, together with means to carry off the night-soil, will be not only a most easy, but a comparatively inexpensive operation.

GENERAL EVIDENCE.

The Rev. *Andrew Cassels*, the vicar, said,—

“That he signed the petition for the inquiry, and for the application of the Public Health Act to the district, in the hope that it might have the effect of curing some of the worst evils of Batley, such, for instance, as those caused by the want of ventilation, the absence of sewerage and drainage, and the scarcity and inefficiency of the present water supply. The beck also was in a very bad state, and stood in great need of improvement. A few years ago the mortality amongst the people living near the beck was very great, whole families having been swept away by fever. There was also a very great and general want of privy accommodation; in fact, it was sometimes quite distressing to see the effect produced for want of places of proper convenience. In some parts of the town he believed there was not more than one privy to 20 houses, all of which were probably densely populated.

“The houses in Batley had sprung up so rapidly that the want of proper accommodation was the more keenly felt, as numerous dwellings had been erected without any privies being attached to them. The want of ventilation was in many instances very apparent, and its effect was seen in the unhealthy condition of the people who lived in the close and confined quarters of the town.”

Mr. *Sharp* said,—

“That in that part of Batley where he resided, the general sanitary condition was, he believed, good. The only evil that could be considered a serious one was the deficiency of the water supply.”

Mr. *Clapham* stated,—

“That he was the sub-agent for the Earl of Wilton, who was a large owner of property in the town and neighbourhood. His lordship had let land for building purposes on leases of 99 years, but he was not aware that any stipulation was made in them as to the mode of building, or the carrying out of any system of drainage or the like on the property when built upon.

“The building leases for 99 years, however, which are granted by the Earl of Wilton contained covenants by the lessees not to erect or make, or use, follow, exercise, or carry on, or suffer, in or upon the demised premises, or any part thereof, any manufacturing trade, business, or employment whatsoever, which is or can be deemed a public nuisance, or a private annoyance or inconvenience.

“With regard to the present inquiry, or to the subsequent application of the Public Health Act to the district, he was not aware that any instructions had been given on the subject, as far as the Earl of Wilton’s tenants were concerned ; but he himself was personally opposed to the measure, because he considered that it created ill-will in the place, and brought one person into collision with his neighbour. With regard to the supply of water, about which much evidence had been offered, he was enabled to state that, some time ago, when the Board of Surveyors were anxious to obtain a better supply, they had applied to Mr. *Hampson*, the Earl of Wilton’s head agent, to let them have half an acre of ground to sink a well upon, and that that gentleman had agreed to their request, in consequence of the proposed object, although he had been in negotiation with a private individual about the land, and had so far settled the terms of the purchase that a survey of the property had been made. Mr. *Hampson* was anxious to facilitate as much as he could the procuring of a better supply of water for the use of the inhabitants.”

THE BURIAL GROUND.—It will be seen from the evidence that the Old Churchyard is overcrowded, but this is inevitable in a town like *Batley*, which has increased so rapidly in population during the course of a few years. It would seem however from the statement of the vicar, that there is a prospect of an addition to the churchyard being made very shortly, the Earl of Wilton having presented the township with a piece of land adjoining.

Under these circumstances, I refrain from making any remarks on the state of the burial-ground, more particularly as the Public Health Act does not enable a Local Board to take steps for the establishment of a general cemetery within their district.

The Rev. *Andrew Cassels*, vicar, said,—

“That he had long been an advocate for the opening of a new burial-ground, not only on account of the existing one being already overcrowded, but also because its situation was

such that in the course of twenty years it would be in the centre of a considerable town. The number of bodies in the churchyard was now so great that it was difficult to make a fresh grave without disturbing some of those already existing. He believed that the Earl of Wilton was about to give a piece of ground to add to the existing churchyard."

Mr. J. T. Marriott,—

"Thought that the old burial ground should be closed, and that the extreme wetness of the soil rendered it an unfit place for interments."

Mr. Thomas Wilby said,—

"That he objected to the old burial-ground being closed, as it had been enlarged in 1839. There was no doubt however that the ground was very wet, for when he had occasion to order a grave on the south side of the churchyard, which he wished to have made nine feet deep, it was found that water was met with at four or five feet from the surface."

Mr. J. Porritt stated,—

"That he had acted as sexton for the last twelve years. The graves of adults were commonly made five feet deep, and those of children three feet. The churchyard on the east, west, and south was a stiff clay, about three feet—below that was a thin soft kind of stone. On the north side there was about four feet of mould, the subsoil being similar to that of the rest of the ground."

"The fees for a burial were as follows:—

Clergyman	-	£	0	1	0	
Clerk	-	-	0	0	8	
Sexton	-	-	0	1	0	for a three feet grave.
			0	4	0	for a five feet grave.
			0	8	0	for a seven feet grave.
For a tomb	-	-	1	1	0	
„ a flat stone	-	-	0	10	6	
„ a head stone	-	-	0	7	6	
„ „	-	-	0	5	0	
„ „	-	-	0	3	4	

Mounding up a grave after interment, 4*d.* or 6*d.*

"The following is a return of the interments in the old burial-ground for the last ten years:—

1842-3	-	-	-	-	118
1843-4	-	-	-	-	99
1844-5	-	-	-	-	130
1845-6	-	-	-	-	115
1846-7	-	-	-	-	143
1847-8	-	-	-	-	136
1848-9	-	-	-	-	145
1849-50	-	-	-	-	254
1850-1	-	-	-	-	118
1851-2	-	-	-	-	150
					<u>1,408</u>

THE PUBLIC LIGHTING.—Mr. *A. Walker* stated,

“ That he resided at Carlinghow-lane, which was on the outskirts of the township. He objected to paying the rate for the public lighting, because there was not a gas lamp within half a mile of his house. He considered the lighting of the streets highly important, but he objected to paying a rate for this object as he received no benefit from it.

“ The lighting was in the hands of the highway surveyors, who levied a rate on the township to defray the cost of the same. This they were empowered to do by a clause in the Act of the company who supplied Batley with gas, which authorized the highway surveyors to levy the rate in question.”

Mr. *Sharp* said,—

“ That his neighbours as well as himself felt it to be a great grievance to have to pay the gas rate, when they had no lamps near them. There was not a public light within half a mile of his house, and he was of opinion that if the inhabitants were made to pay the rate, they had a right to require the erection of more gas lamps. In the neighbouring towns a householder was not obliged to pay the rate if he received no benefit in return ; thus, for instance, at Leeds, no man contributed to the rate, unless he lived within 250 yards of a public gas lamp. Again, at Bradford, the town was divided into districts for the purposes of lighting.”

Mr. *Jubb* stated,—

“ That there was a very general feeling throughout the town respecting the unequal manner in which the gas rates were levied.”

Mr. *Clapham*, sub-agent to the Earl of Wilton, stated,—

“ That he objected to the mode of levying the gas rates. He had no light within a mile of his house, and he considered it very unfair to make him contribute to the rate for the lighting. He had on a former occasion opposed the surveyor's accounts, and the magistrates, in consequence, struck out several sums which had been expended in lighting.”

SUMMARY OF THE POWERS OF THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

The following is a summary of some of the powers conferred by the Public Health Act upon the Local Board of Health in every district where it is applied :—

To undertake the removal (in the case of default on the part of any owner or occupier) of dust, ashes, rubbish, filth,

manure, dung, or soil collected in any house, stable, or place.

To regulate the time and manner of emptying water-closets, privies, and cesspools.

To prevent or diminish the nuisances caused by the recent establishment of offensive trades.

To have the arrangement of all slaughter-houses.

To regulate the number of occupants, and promote the cleanliness and ventilation of common lodging-houses.

To repair all sewers vested by the Public Health Act in the Local Board, and to cause such sewers to be made as may be required for effectually draining the district.

To cause all drains, waterclosets, privies, and cesspools to be constructed, covered, and kept so as not to be a nuisance, or injurious to health, and to be properly cleared, cleansed, and emptied.

To see that no house shall be built or rebuilt without a covered drain, of a suitable size and fall for effectual drainage.

To approve of the level of the lowest floor, and the situation and construction of the privies to be built in connexion with any house newly built or rebuilt.

To give authority, in writing, to the surveyor to examine premises, with reference to the state of any drain, water-closet, privy, cesspool, or ashpit.

To provide conveniences for the temporary deposit and collection of dust, ashes, and rubbish, and the deposit of the sewage, dung, &c. collected by the Board.

To provide and maintain, if they think fit, waterclosets, privies, and other similar conveniences for public accommodation.

To cause a watercloset, or privy, and ashpit, furnished with proper doors and coverings, to be erected at the owner's expense, in any house (whether built before or after this time), which shall, on the surveyor's report, appear to be destitute of this convenience.

To provide that all the streets within the district, including the foot pavements, are properly swept, cleansed, and watered, and the dust, ashes, rubbish, filth, dung, and soil therein collected and removed.

To drain, cleanse, cover, or fill up, at the owner's or occupier's expense, all ponds, pools, open ditches, sewers, drains, and places used for the collection of any drainage, filth, water, matter, or thing of an offensive nature, or likely to be prejudicial to health, with power to pay the whole or part of these expenses out of the special or general district rates.

To order the removal, within 24 hours, of any nuisance arising from swine, or any pig-sty being kept so as to be a nuisance to any person.

To proceed against any person who shall allow the contents of any waterclosets, privy, or cesspool to overflow or soak therefrom.

To take proceedings against the owner or occupier of any house which, on the certificate of the officer of health, shall appear to be in such a filthy or unwholesome condition, that the health of any person is affected or endangered thereby, or that the whitewashing, cleansing, or purifying thereof would tend to prevent or check infectious or contagious disease.

To prevent the occupation of cellars as dwelling-houses, unless certain conditions be attended to.

To cause all highways to be levelled, paved, flagged, channelled, altered, and repaved, as and when occasion shall require.

To compel the owners or occupiers of premises fronting, adjoining, or abutting upon any street (not now being a highway), to put the same into proper repair, and to declare any street (not now being a highway), which shall be sewered, levelled, paved, flagged, and channelled, to the satisfaction of the Local Board, to be a highway, unless the proprietors shall object thereto.

To contract for lighting the streets, roads, and other open places, markets, and public buildings within the district, as authorized by the confirmatory Act.

To fix the level and width of every new street.

To purchase property for widening or improving any street.

To provide, with the consent of the General Board, public walks or pleasure grounds.

To provide such a supply of water as shall be sufficient for the purposes of the Act, and to lease or purchase any waterworks, or to construct waterworks, unless any waterworks company shall be willing to supply water upon terms certified to be reasonable by the General Board, or settled by arbitration, with power to require every house to be supplied with water, where it can be furnished at a rate not exceeding 2*d.* per week, and to construct works for the gratuitous supply of water to public baths or wash-houses.

To purchase or lease by agreement any land or premises for the purposes of the Act.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In the foregoing Report I have confined myself almost entirely to the consideration of the water supply and the sewerage and house-drainage, and I have purposely refrained from calling attention to many points on which I might, under other circumstances, have commented. Thus, for instance, I have avoided alluding to the condition of the dwelling-houses, in which I have found numerous instances of overcrowding, particularly amongst the Irish portion of the population; and in consequence of such overcrowding, as well as the deficiency of the structural arrangements, I also met with many cases of defective ventilation.

Again, I might have dwelt at length upon the filthy state of some of the yards, or as they are locally termed, "folds," in which there were large accumulations of refuse and the offensive matter which had been collected from the densely populated houses built in their locality. I might also have described the effect of the decomposing refuse upon the surrounding population, and have pointed out that where the collections of offensive matter were the greatest, there the attacks of fever and disease were the most rife and the most destructive.

But I have refrained from alluding to these topics because of the peculiar circumstances of the district; for I felt that it would be useless to dilate on the causes of unhealthiness and the necessity for the application of the Public Health Act to remove them, unless I could at the same time hold out some certain prospect of the most crying want of the district being also remedied. I need not say that I allude to the present scarcity of water, to obtain which was the chief motive for the ratepayers of Batley memorializing your Honourable Board for an inquiry under the Public Health Act.

The peculiar circumstances of the district in this respect have already been so fully pointed out that I shall now bring my Report to a close by stating the following conclusions, which I am satisfied the nature of the evidence I received justifies me in drawing.

CONCLUSIONS.

1st. The configuration of the district and its lines of water-shed, naturally suggest alterations in the present boundary of the township. I am, however, inclined to the opinion that, by careful engineering arrangements, and the

special application of the 48th section, those portions of Batley lying within the water-shed of Heckmondwike may be sewered and drained without annexing the former to the latter, or altering the present boundary. It is under these circumstances that I do not advise any alteration therein.

2d. That the position of the town is naturally healthy, and peculiarly well adapted for a complete and cheap system of drainage, but its present state shows how little a good natural position and fall will do if houses and courts (folds) be not regulated by some official power.

3d. That the most serious evils under which the township now labours are those created by the scarcity of the existing water supply, which has been growing more and more scanty, whilst the population has each year been rapidly increasing. That the effect of this scarcity is such as to create and perpetuate habits of uncleanness amongst the poor, who are unable to provide themselves with water sufficient for the most ordinary and indispensable domestic uses, and that it also entails upon them and all other classes of the community so heavy an expenditure, in either money or labour, that the weekly cost of purchasing a few gallons of water for a family of ordinary size, exclusive of their own labour, varies from 3d. amongst the poorest to 1s. 6d. amongst the more wealthy portion of the population.

4th. That whilst such is the condition of all classes of the inhabitants, the natural features of the immediate surrounding district unfortunately prevent me from holding out any reasonable hopes of a good supply of pure water being secured for the exclusive use of the township, unless at an expenditure greater than the district would be justified in incurring, and at the risk of creating hostility amongst, and committing an act of injustice to, the rate-payers of the neighbouring townships, by depriving them of their already too scanty supply.

5th. That under these circumstances the most reasonable mode of affording Batley the supply of water it so greatly needs, is to combine the townships of Gomersal, Cleckheaton, Liversedge, Heckmondwike, and Batley, and to adopt a source or sources of water of sufficient extent and purity to supply the whole of these places as well as the adjoining district of Dewsbury (to which the Act has already been applied), with water on one common system, and on the principles contemplated in the Public Health Act.

6th. That Batley is entirely wanting in proper sewerage or drainage, the few existing works of this kind having been laid down in a very insufficient manner, and on no common system. That as far as the natural formation of the town

is concerned, it will be a matter of no difficulty to sewer the district in such a manner that every species of house and other refuse matter may be carried off speedily and effectually. But that, before this most desirable result can be attained, it is absolutely necessary that a supply of water should be secured to the town, laid on at high pressure, so that a head of water may be at all times available for cleansing the sewers and house-drains. That under these circumstances, therefore, the laying down works of sewerage and drainage, however necessary, cannot be commenced until arrangements have been made for giving water to the town in ample quantities and at a reasonable price.

7th. That the privy accommodation is very deficient, and its condition is such, as in some instances to be prejudicial to health; that the situation and state of the common privies are most offensive, and it is highly essential that some steps should be taken for their improvement.

8th. That the churchyard is overcrowded; but that through the liberality of the Earl of Wilton, there is a prospect of its being enlarged, and additional burial accommodation afforded for the rapidly increasing population.

9th. That the public lighting on the outskirts of the town is insufficient; and that it is most desirable that those inhabitants who are paying rates for the maintenance of the public lights should have more benefit from them than they possess.

10th. That the pecuniary resources of the district of Batley being limited, it is most essential that if any steps are taken to carry out the provisions of the Public Health Act, the strictest economy should be practised in the construction of the whole of the improvement works, so that the town may not be burdened with an excessive amount of local taxation to defray the expenses of the Public Health Act; but that on the contrary it may experience a positive diminution in its present burdens, by the improvement of the general health, and the introduction of a cheap and abundant supply of water.

WHEREUPON I RECOMMEND,—

That the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1848, and the Supplemental Act of 1849, except section No. 50, in the copies of the Act, 1848, printed by Her Majesty's printers, be applied throughout the township of Batley.

I also recommend that the Local Board shall consist of nine members, and that every member at the time of his election, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue

of such election, be resident, as in the said Public Health Act of 1848 is required, and be seised and possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value of 500*l.*, or shall be rated to the relief of the poor of some parish, township, or place, of which some part is within the said district, upon an annual value of not less than 15*l.*

That the fourteen days notice of qualification required by the Public Health Act of 1848, to be given by the owners of property in order to entitle them to vote at the said first election, be given to the person or persons to be appointed to conduct the said election.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RANGER,

Superintending Inspector.

*To the General Board of Health,
Whitehall.*

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