

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 parish of Aldershott, in the county of Southampton / by William Ranger, Superintending Inspector.

Contributors

Ranger, William, 1800-1863.
Great Britain. General Board of Health.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode ... for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1857.

Persistent URL

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

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

OF THE PARISH OF

ALDERSHOTT,

IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq., C.E.,
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.

1857.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 15th day of June 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, Supply of Water, and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ALDERSHOTT, in the County of Southampton; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

T. TAYLOR,

Whitehall, 12th May 1857.

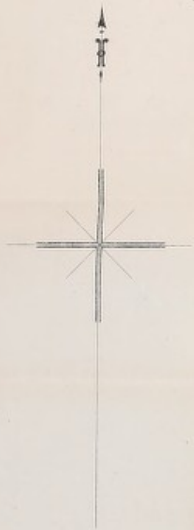
PLAN
OF THE
(PARISH OF ALDERSHOT,
WITH THE
Proposed District.

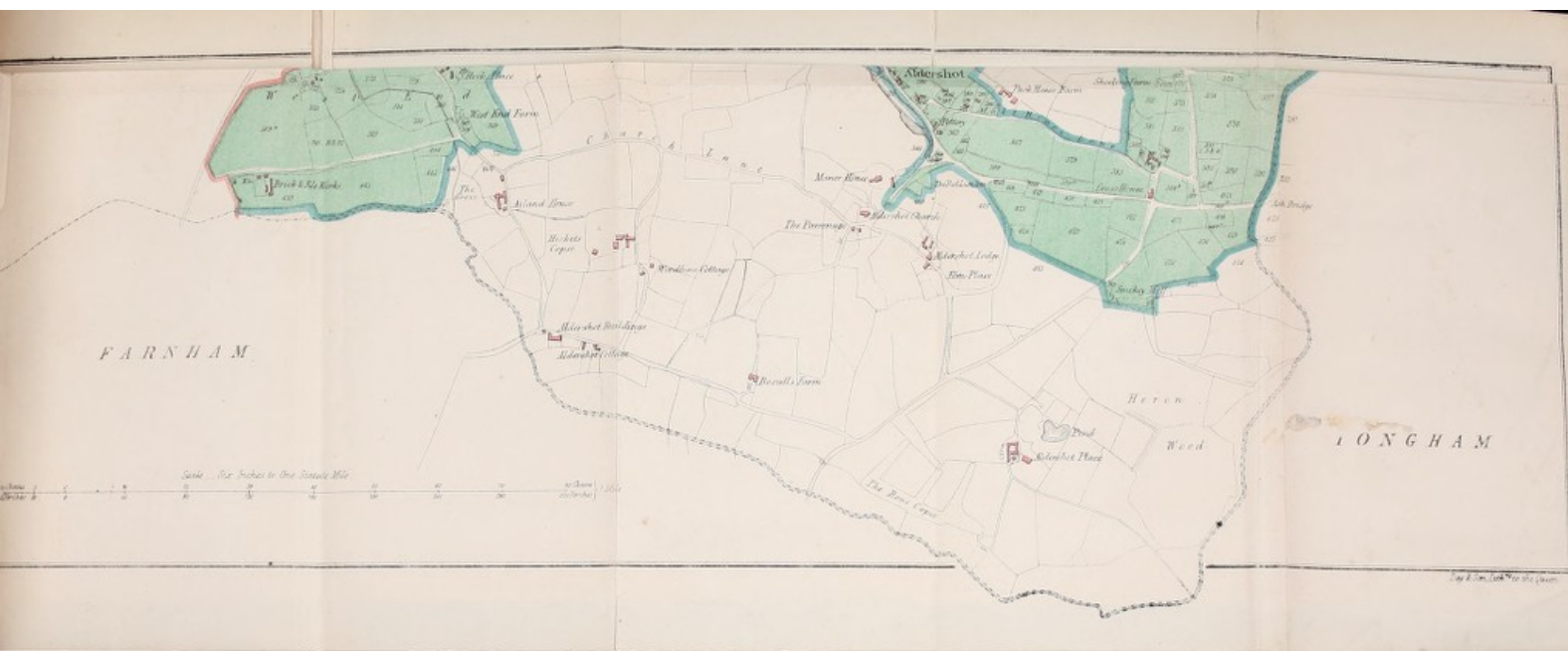
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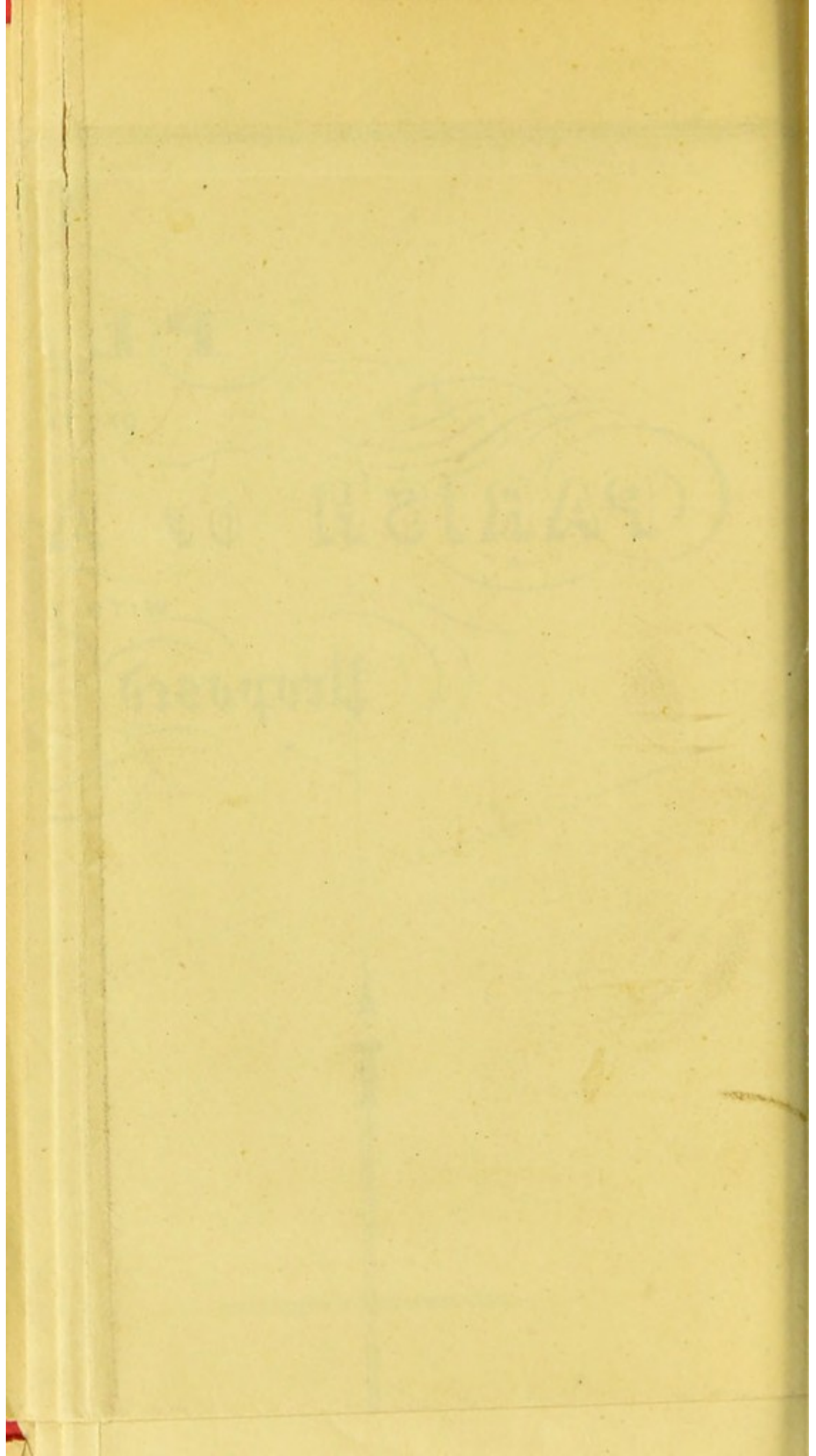
North Camp

South Camp

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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Report of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library, Astor Lenox Tilden Foundation, for the year ending June 30, 1900.

Presented to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on June 12, 1900.

By the Board of Trustees.

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

Report to the Right Honourable W. MONSELL, M.P., President of the General Board of Health, on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, Supply of Water, and Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ALDERSHOTT, in the County of Southampton. By WM. RANGER, Esq., C.E., Superintending Inspector.

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SIR,

Whitehall, 16th March 1857.

IN obedience to your instructions, and after notice duly given, I visited Aldershott, in the county of Southampton, on the 11th day of March 1857, and held sittings at the Royal George Hotel there on that and the following day.

I employed parts of that time in the inspection of the district.

PETITION, &c.

The petition was received on the 14th of February last. It is signed by 35 persons, all of whom are rated to the relief of the poor within the parish. The total number of persons so rated is 321, as certified by Reuben Attfield, collector of rates within the parish.

NOTICES.

The notices required by the Public Health Act, 1848, appeared in the *Hampshire Telegraph* and *Sussex Chronicle* of the 21st February, and the *Sussex Express* and *Surrey Standard* of the same date. Copies of the notices were also posted to the places in the parish where notices are usually posted.

DESCRIPTION, &c.

Aldershott (St. Michael), a parish in the hundred of Andover, Odiham, and N. division of the county of Southampton, 3 miles (N.E. by N.) from Farnham, and 4 miles from the Southampton and London railway, is situated on the road between Farnham and Guildford, and comprises 130 acres, of which 731 are arable, 550 pasture, 130 woodland, 20 sites and gardens, 19 hops, and 2700 common.

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The parish is in the union of Farnham, sub-district No. 1 of district No. 40. The southern part of the parish, to the extent of about 2,750 acres, has been purchased by the Government, and is now occupied by the southern camp. The Basingstoke canal passes within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the village.

GEOLOGY.

The district belongs geologically to the lower tertiary formation of the plastic clay series, containing coloured sands and a stratum of *pan*, which is very near the surface, and impermeable. The surface of the common is generally heath and peat, resting upon the sands known as the Bagshot series, which cover an area of about 300 square miles. To this series the camp and its permanent buildings are at present confined.

LOCAL ACTS.

There are no local Acts in force in this parish for any of the purposes to which the Public Health Act, 1848, relates.

It has no local authority but the parish officers and highway surveyors.

HOUSES, &c.

In 1841, the total number of houses was 139. Of these 136 were inhabited, and 3 uninhabited.

In 1851, there were 163 houses, 159 inhabited and 4 uninhabited. The total number at this time, built and entered upon the rate-books, is 308. Of these

	£
132 are rated under - - -	5
78 at £5 and under - - -	10
31 at £10 „ - - -	15
18 at £15 „ - - -	20
18 at £20 „ - - -	25
7 at £25 „ - - -	30
25 at £30 and upwards.	

About 50 houses were being erected at the date of my inquiry.

POPULATION.

The number of inhabitants in 1801, was 494. There was a gradual increase to 875 in 1851. The numbers being in 1811, 498; in 1821, 525; in 1831, 665; and in 1841, 685. At the present time, the population is estimated at more than 2,000.

RATEABLE VALUE.

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The rateable value of the parish, as returned by Mr. Attfield, the assistant overseer, is £4,161 17s. 0d.

The amount of the Poor-rate, during the five years ending March 1857, and the sums collected, were respectively:—

Rate of Assessment in the £.					Collected.		
	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
1853	-	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	325	14	5
—54	-	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	404	16	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
—55	-	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	193	7	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
—56	-	2	9	-	342	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
—57	-	3	6	-	552	8	7

HOTELS AND BEER-HOUSES.

The public houses and places for the sale of beer at the present time are 43, or about 1 in 7 of all the houses finished and rated.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water for domestic purposes is obtained from draw wells, private pumps, and streams. But, in some cases, it is not free from pollution.

Mr. *B. Nichols* stated,—

“The drainage of the Pavilion Hotel pollutes a spring which supplies several cottages of his, and furnishes, besides, water for 40 or 50 cows and horses in his farm yard.”

Mr. *G. Terry* said,—

“That, generally, there is a separate well to each house, although, in some instances, there is one only to two houses.

“The wells and cesspools are generally about 20 feet apart. The depth of the wells varies from 15 to 20 feet. That of the cesspools is about 6 feet.”

DRAINAGE.

The natural drainage is by means of two separate valleys with outfalls into the “County stream” or “Blackwater,” which forms the northern boundary of the parish.

This stream is a tributary to the “Wey,” having its outfall into the Thames a short distance only above the present source of a large portion of the London water supply.

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The drainage is at present defective, partly from the state of the stream itself, partly from the consequences of works connected with the camp.

Mr. *Allden*, a resident in the parish for the last 56 years, stated,—

“That about one-third of the land cultivated is undrained. In case of rapid thaws or heavy falls of rain, the waters do not get sufficient vent, and the land at the side of the ‘stream’ is on those occasions flooded.”

From an inspection of the stream itself it is evident, that sufficient attention has not been paid to the removal of the *sedges* and other obstructions, and hence the evil of which Mr. *Allden* complained.

With regard to the obstructions of the drainage said to be caused by the alterations made in the surface of the ground and roads in forming the camp, Mr. *Elsley* stated—

“That evil resulted in his premises, which are situated on the confines of the camp, from the obstruction caused by stopping up the natural watercourse, and the non-substitution of other channels for carrying off the land drainage. The effect has been, to throw back a large quantity of water into his cellar. It is a new cellar used for keeping beer, &c. The house was opened in January 1856; it was perfectly dry, until the land drainage was obstructed, but now, when it rains, he is under the necessity of employing men for several hours to bail out the water.”

Mr. *J. Wilson*, stated—

“That since the roads have been raised the water lies on the surface immediately in front of his premises. His house was built before the alteration was made in the height of the road.

He has since then raised the floor of his shop several inches, and also the ground in front. Still, for want of a channel in lieu of the watercourse, which has been stopped up, the water lies on the surface, and he is now deprived of the means of drainage, although there was no difficulty in this respect before the obstruction took place.”

SEWERAGE.

The populated part of the parish until lately was nothing more than a small village, and as such unsewered, the drainage being into watercourses and ponds.

Mr. *Elstone* stated—

“He has resided in the parish about 30 years. Hitherto there has always been adequate means of drainage. The necessity for sewerage may be dated from the time of establishing the camp.”

Mr. *Sears* stated—

“That prior to the establishment of the camp, the parish was in a very healthy state, but as soon as the camp was laid out a variety of places were established for different purposes. The liquid refuse from these (places) is now thrown out upon the surface of the ground, and forms a nuisance. This state of things is confined, however, to the different properties situated immediately on the confines of the permanent camp.”

Mr. *Alden* said—

“There is no public sewerage. He thinks it is highly necessary something should be done in this matter as early as possible.”

Mr. *G. Terry*, builder, stated—

“That, on the North Lane estate, comprising an area of about 10 acres, and now laid out for building purposes, about 1,500 feet of sewers have been laid down for the purpose of surface, not house drainage. The house refuse is to be kept in cesspools, the cesspool system having been adopted by all the builders.

“It is a rule with him to make one cesspool to each house at the average cost of five pounds; those made by himself are impermeable. He believes the other builders have not taken the same precaution on account of the expense attending it, their cesspools are permeable. It has not been possible to lay down a system of sewers, there being no power to enter upon lands for a proper outfall. He would willingly defray his portion of the cost of the necessary works, if power was given enabling them to get an outlet.

NUISANCES.

Nothing has been done in this parish under the provisions of the Nuisances Removal Act, 1855.

In 1856 it appears by the return of the Surveyors of Highways that no nuisances existed in the parish at that date.

Mr. *G. Terry* stated—

“That nightsoil from the camp is deposited in a field near to some houses he is building. It is most offensive. At times his men are unable to remain at their work.”

In making the inspection, my attention was directed to several foul ditches. Ponds for watering cattle by the sides of the highway are also foul.

HIGHWAYS.

The total length of public highways, exclusive of turnpike roads, until 1856 was $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles. In 1856 an Act (19 & 20 Vict. c. 66.) was obtained for extinguishing various roads,

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paths, and ways, and providing others, giving power to take gravel for the repair of the roads ; subject, however, to the approval of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary for the War Department for the time being.

In addition to the highways several new roads have been laid out, and others stumped out, for the purpose of obtaining additional building frontages. The repair of all these will probably hereafter be thrown upon the parish.

It is not the object of this report to go into the subject of road-making in detail ; but, seeing the large increase in the length of roads already indicated, and the change of the parish from a thinly to a thickly populated district, it is important that such precautions should be taken at the outset as will ultimately avert heavy costs for road repair. The points demanding immediate attention are, the providing a sound, dry, and firm foundation, and also giving to the surface a proper inclination and curvature to prevent the lodgment of water. At present there is no evidence of any attention to these conditions in either the old or new roads under the charge of the surveyors of highways, or in those set out by persons engaged in building speculations. A continued neglect will, sooner or later, throw a heavy charge on the ratepayers.

There is another point connected with the new streets, to which I think it necessary to direct attention ; for want of precautions as to levels and range lines, the houses adjoining each other, in many cases, have their door sills and floors on different levels. In each case, no allowance has been made for increase in the height of the surface of the ground outside, although experience shows that such increase invariably takes place, and cannot be prevented even by laying down pavement.

ARRANGEMENT OF STREETS.

In the course of my inspection at the North Lane division of the parish, my attention was called to a number of new streets comprising 80 or 90 houses.

It is matter for regret, that here, in particular, the well-known laws determining the fitness of sites for human dwellings have been set at defiance. I cannot describe this part of the district otherwise than as "malarious." It is on the confines of the county stream. The sub-soil water stands within two feet of the surface, and in some instances, particularly along the lane itself, it is within a few inches only. As there is a want of sufficient fall, it will not do

here to rely on works of sewerage for rendering "North Town," as it is called, healthy.

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From the nature of the site, and the absence of due precaution in the construction of these buildings, the inhabitants may look forward to a low tone of health, and probably constant fever. A heavy burden will be entailed on the poor-rates by the disease, widowhood, and orphanage which must follow from the unhealthiness of these houses.

These houses are built with brick and covered with slate. They are two stories in height, containing two rooms on each floor with two small rooms at back.

It should be borne in mind that, of all qualities of the air, humidity is the most injurious to human life. Hence the additional importance of avoiding this quarter for building.

Considering the geographical position of the parish and its physical character as a whole, it is, I think, beyond all question an exceedingly healthy region.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Having carefully considered the various statements made to me at the time of the inquiry, and having examined the parish with its present boundary, I have arrived at the conclusion that the district from which the petition emanated is not the most suitable for the application of the Public Health Act, and beg to suggest the boundary indicated upon the plan prefixed to this report, and described in the appendix.

FUTURE DISPOSAL OF THE SEWAGE.

The sewerage works already constructed for the camp, but not yet in operation, have their outfall into the Blackwater river. By what process this sewage is to be disinfected I am not at present aware; seeing, however, that this river is one of the tributaries of the Thames, entering the latter above the point from which a very large portion of the London supply is now taken, I am of opinion that this, *a new source* of pollution, should be most positively prohibited, and that the entire sewage of the camp and parish should be diverted from the county stream or Blackwater river. Arrangements should, if possible be made with the commoners and others for its application to agricultural purposes, for which the district is remarkably well adapted. I do not see why useful and agreeable employment might not be provided for the troops, in con-

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version of portions of the common into garden ground by aid of the sewerage of the camp.

The configuration of the district is for the most part well suited for works of main sewerage. The cost of the works properly chargeable upon the special district rates will not, I think, exceed the sum of £2,500.

FINALLY.

I recommend that the provisions of the Public Act, 1848, be applied to the district shown on the map, and herein-after described.

That the Local Board of Health shall consist of nine persons, of whom six shall be elected for the whole of the district, and the remaining three shall be nominated by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War, for the time being.

The qualification for the elected members shall be £700 property, and £20 rating.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

WM. RANGER,

Superintending Inspector.

To the Right Honble. W. Monsell, M.P.,
President of the General Board of Health.

APPENDIX.

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REFERENCE to LANDS in the PARISH of ALDERSHOTT by which the proposed DISTRICT is bounded.

State.	Content in Acres.	No. on Plan.	State.	Content in Acres.
Meadow - - -	·832	355	Coach House, &c.	·420
Pasture - - -	2·444	408	Shed, &c. - -	·290
Pasture - - -	·834	409	Meadow - - -	2·278
Arable - - -	2·385	416	Meadow - - -	16·392
Arable - - -	11·760	513	Arable - - -	14·259
Arable - - -	·282	531	Common Land,	
Arable - - -	·398		&c. - - -	3·130
Arable - - -	·272	525	Meadow - - -	3·134
Arable - - -	1·232	522	Pasture - - -	·654
Arable - - -	·285	523	Meadow - - -	2·055
Arable - - -	·263	524	Meadow - - -	6·327
Arable - - -	·517	114a	Parish Road -	·871
Arable - - -	1·032	156	Arable - - -	26·311
Arable - - -	·684	214	Arable - - -	2·709
Arable - - -	5·472	300	House, &c. - -	·575
Arable - - -	6·903	301	Meadow - - -	1·584
Arable - - -	9·072	369	Arable - - -	9·126
Pasture - - -	1·958	380	Meadow - - -	1·380
House, &c. - -	·379	378	Arable - - -	3·298
Buildings, &c. -	·448	296	Orchard (part of)	·737
Pasture - - -	·897	295	House, &c. - -	1·253
Plantation - -	·294	288	Hop Garden - -	·984
Lodge, &c. - -	·161	256	Occupation Road	·055

