

Reports by various committees on the origin and progress of the public works belonging to the town, and the vital experience resulting from the administration of the Sanitary Acts in Leek, from the year 1855 to 1894 / Leek Improvement Commissioners.

Contributors

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Leek Improvement Commissioners.

REPORTS

BY

VARIOUS COMMITTEES

ON THE

Origin and Progress of the Public Works

BELONGING TO THE TOWN,

And the Vital Experience resulting from the Administration
of the Sanitary Acts in Leek,

FROM THE YEAR 1855 TO 1894.



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REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

In presenting their last Report, the Committee can allude to the fact that during the 40 years the Improvement Rates have been levied large and valuable properties have been acquired, and some entirely paid for during that period, without the rates having exceeded the amounts mentioned in the Improvement Act of 1855, viz., 6d. in the £ for Cemetery Purposes, 1s. in the £ for the Paving and Sewering Rate, and 1s. 6d. in the £ for General Purposes. The General Purposes Rate in 1872 was only 1d. in the £, owing to the profits derived from the Gas Works at that period being considerable, and placed to the credit of the General Purposes Account.

The rates for the current year are 2s. 3d. in the £ as against 2s. 4d. in the £ last year, these include 1d. each for Public Library and Technical Instruction Purposes. As showing the increase in the Town, a rate of 1d. in the £ in 1856 realized £65, in 1894 the same rate amounts to £170.

The total amount borrowed by the Commissioners (including £6500, the old debt on the Gas Works.) is £91,555, of this there has been paid off £55,068 12s. 8d., leaving owing at the present time £36,886 7s. 4d. The schedule below gives the amounts of the various loans and the purposes for which they were raised, and the amount owing on those loans not paid off. The reports of the various Committees printed herewith give some further details as to the properties purchased.

The Towns Land Trustees since 1862 have contributed to the Commissioners' Funds £1685 towards the improvement of Stockwell Street, Brook Street, Abbey Green Road, Broad Street, West Street, and the purchase of the Covered Market Site.

It is believed that Leek was the first Town in Staffordshire possessing its own Water and Gas Works, Cattle and other Market and Fair Tolls and privileges, Town Hall Buildings, Isolation Hospital, Public Baths, Free Library, Cemetery, Recreation Grounds, Town Yards, Stables, &c. It is hoped their successors will appreciate and take care of the various properties handed over to them with only a small amount of debt.

SCHEDULE OF THE VARIOUS LOANS, REPAYMENTS, AND
BALANCES OWING.

Purposes for which loan was required.	Amount.		Repayments.		Balance owing.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Gas (including £6,500 owing in 1855)	8800	0 0	8800	0 0		
“ —New Holder, &c.	4000	0 0	1356	10 7	2643	9 5
“ —Purchase of Land, &c.	900	0 0	200	0 0	700	0 0
“ —Sulphate Plant, Boundary Wall	600	0 0	394	14 2	205	5 10
Water Purchase and Extensions	20900	0 0	18800	0 0	2100	0 0
General Purposes	2500	0 0	2500	0 0		
Market Rights and Tolls	4400	0 0	4400	0 0		
Cemetery—Original Purchase, &c.	4200	0 0	4200	0 0		
“ —Extensions Purchase	3000	0 0	244	19 0	2755	1 0
“ — “ Laying Out, &c.	500	0 0	74	10 5	425	9 7
No. 1 Drainage District	2700	0 0	2700	0 0		
No. 2	3600	0 0	3600	0 0		
Covered Market—Site	3000	0 0	2180	0 0	820	0 0

Cattle Market—Purchase, Construction, &c.	6500	0	0	2305	14	7	4194	5	5
Cattle Market—Completion	600	0	0	19	16	6	580	3	6
Westwood Recreation Ground, &c.	1385	0	0	469	5	5	915	14	7
Brook Street Improvement	1350	0	0	300	0	0	1050	0	0
Isolation Hospital—Erection, &c.	2200	0	0	500	0	0	1700	0	0
Broad Street Improvement	1800	0	0	500	0	0	1300	0	0
Town Hall—Purchase	5300	0	0	1134	11	4	4165	8	8
—Extensions.....	2470	0	0				2470	0	0
—	300	0	0	197	7	1	102	12	11
Town's Yard—Site, Building, &c.	2700	0	0	82	8	2	2617	11	10
Belle Vue, Westwood Road, &c.—Improvement	1450	0	0	108	15	5	1341	4	7
Land in Barn Fields—Purchase	1150	0	0				1150	0	0
Red Lion Hotel—Purchase	3700	0	0				3700	0	0
Ball Haye Road Improvement	500	0	0				500	0	0
—Land									
Ball Haye Road Improvement	750	0	0				750	0	0
—Works									
Surface Water Drainage Works.....	700	0	0				700	0	0
	£91955	0	0	£55068	12	8	£36886	7	4

A total sum of £1,238 4s. 11d. is also invested in Censuls towards the extinction of debt.

REPORT OF THE WATER COMMITTEE,

The Water Works were purchased from the Earl of Macclesfield for £11,000. the purchase money being allowed to remain on mortgage of the property. At the time the transfer took place 2117 Dwelling-houses were included within the limits of the Act, of which about 1260 only were supplied with water from these Works, leaving the large number of 800 houses and upwards unprovided, or but partially supplied from other sources, with this prime necessary of life. The gross income then amounted to £586, and the average outlay for repairs and maintenance, &c., to about £70. It is but bare justice to his Lordship's Agents to say, that, by the production of books, accounts, &c., they afforded every facility to the parties on whom the task of negotiation was devolved by the Commissioners, to get at the true and intrinsic value of the property; while on the other hand, justice to those parties demands the statement, that they laboured strenuously—as they felt it incumbent on themselves, as the servants and representatives of the Ratepayers generally, to do—to secure that Property on the best and cheapest terms possible. The Committee consider this speculation on the comparatively low, but still important ground of remunerative return, a good one; and that by cautious and judicious management, the Works may, in a few years, be made, not merely to pay their way but to yield a fair surplus or profit. Already has the number of houses supplied from the Town Works risen from 1260 to 1732, and the gross rental from £586 to £727. On higher grounds,—for bringing the sanitary condition of the Town into a sound and healthy state, this acquisition is indispensable. In justification, if justification be necessary, of the course which the Committee took of recommending the Water Works to be acquired by private treaty, rather than by recourse to the alternative of a reference, as provided by the Act, the following citation from an Act of Parliament, which passed in 1827, may suffice—In section 1 of this Act, it is enacted, that “Where the rent or Annual “Value of such Dwelling-house, or part of a Dwelling-“house” as may be supplied with Water by the Earl of Macclesfield, “shall not exceed Fifteen Pounds per annum, a Rent per annum not exceeding one shilling and “sixpence in the pound upon such Rent or Annual Value,” may be charged by the Earl; “and where such Rent shall be “above Fifteen Pounds per annum, a rent per annum not “exceeding two shillings and sixpence in the Pound upon “such Rent or Annual Value,” may be charged “and every

"such Rent shall be payable according to the actual amount
 "of the Rent of such Dwelling-house, where the same may
 "be let, and the amount of such Rent can be ascertained; and
 "where the same is not let, or where the amount cannot be
 "ascertained, according to such Rent as such Inhabitant
 "shall be assessed to the Rate for lighting, washing, cleansing,
 "and improving the said Town of Leek, or Inhabited House
 "Duty, at the option of the said Earl, his Heirs or Assigns—
 "Provided, nevertheless that the said Earl, his Heirs, or
 "Assigns, shall not be entitled to receive from any such In-
 "habitant, in respect of any one house or tenement more than
 "the sum of Five Pounds in any one year, for such supply;
 "nor shall the said Earl, his Heirs, or Assigns, be obliged
 "to furnish such supply to any Inhabitant for less than 10s.
 "in any one year, unless the said Earl, his Heirs or Assigns,
 "shall think fit so to do." Then follows a Clause relating to
 "Special Contracts in the case of Brewers, Curriers, Dyers,
 "Innkeepers or other person or persons requiring a supply of
 "Water for other purposes than those of his or her own Family
 "House Consumption, or persons requiring a supply of Water
 "for Baths, Tanks, Fountains, Ponds, Pools, or Water-closets,
 "&c." Hence, for every Cottage, however low its rental, the
 sum of ten shillings might be demanded; for a House *let*
 at £10, fifteen shillings; for one at £16, £2; at £20, £2 10s.;
 at £30, £3 16s; and for a House of £40 value, £5 per annum.
 In case of a reference, these large powers would unquestion-
 ably have been recognised by the Referees as an element in
 the calculation of value. By a Table prepared by a member
 of the Committee, it is shown that, had the Water Rents
 been levied on the scale laid down in the Act alluded to, the
 income, in respect of the 1260 houses supplied by the Earl of
 Macclesfield, would have amounted to more than £1220.
 The Committee, therefore, fully believe, that, as the result
 of a reference, the price of the Water Works would have been
 increased to the extent of several thousand pounds.

The above is an Extract from the Committee's Report issued April,
 1858.

In the spring of 1861 the Committee found it necessary to
 adopt measures for protecting the Water rights of the Town
 in view of the fresh powers the Staffordshire Potteries Water
 Works Company sought to obtain from Parliament, and after
 much enquiry and expense they were able to do this.

During the year 1862 it was considered desirable to obtain an additional supply of Water from certain springs at Upperhulme on the Report of Mr. Bateman, C.E., who had been called in to advise the Commissioners, which was accomplished by agreement with the Mill owners on the Churnet and the Dove, subject to the Commissioners providing means for furnishing other water to the Churnet. In order to do this, it was decided to construct a Compensation Reservoir at Upperhulme, but owing to the unreliable nature of the soil the land was sought elsewhere, and ultimately, on the Report of Mr. Bateman, C.E., a site on Blackshaw Moor was obtained from the Earl of Macclesfield. The accepted tender for making the Reservoir was £2700, and this and other works, including the formation of the Collecting Tank at Upperhulme, and the enlargement of the Main leading from thence to Leek from 6in. to 8in., were executed at different periods, extending to 1867.

In 1870 a revision of the Charges for Water supplied by meter was made, resulting in a graduated charge, according to quantity used.

In 1871 further arrangements were made with the Earl of Macclesfield and the late Sir John Harpur Crewe, Bart., for collecting certain Springs above the Mill at Upperhulme, subject to the conditions of a Lease from his Lordship, extending over 60 years at a nominal easement, and from Sir John Harpur Crewe of one for 21 years.

In 1879 the charge for Water supplied for domestic purposes was reduced from 11d. to 10d. in the £ on the annual value of all tenements assessed at more than £5. During the summer of this year a supply of Water was furnished to the Union Workhouse and the inhabitants of the higher portion of the Ashbourne Road by laying pipes from the Mount Pleasant Reservoir down Knivedon Lane. An improved supply has since been furnished to this district by the construction of a Brick Tank to receive the surplus from the 8in. Main during the night.

In 1882 a further reduction of 1d. in the £ on the domestic supply was made.

In 1884, by altering the basis of assessment from the Annual value to the Ratable, a further important reduction was made.

On January 1st, 1888, the charge for Water supplied by Meter was reduced by the abolition of the graduated scale and the adoption of the uniform rate of 6d. per 1000 gallons.

As and from 25th March, 1888, the charge for Domestic Supply was reduced to 8d. in the £ on the Ratable Value—the present price.

In August, 1893, after prolonged negotiation, the Water rights of the Mill at Upper Hulme were purchased by the Commissioners for the sum of £1,700, thereby securing to the Inhabitants a Supply of Water direct from the Springs to the Town.

Total amount of Bonded Debt ..	£20,900
Paid off	£18,800
Balance owing ..	£2,100

Which on the present rate of repayment will be extinguished in about 4 years.

JOHN N. PLATT,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE FIRE BRIGADE AND BATHS COMMITTEE.

PUBLIC BATHS.

We find that on May 5th, 1853, a requisition was signed by 42 Ratepayers of Leek and Lowe, asking the Overseers to call a meeting to determine whether Public Baths should be established in Leek.

May 16th, 1853. It was unanimously resolved by the Ratepayers in vestry assembled "That the Act to encourage the establishment of Public Baths and Wash-houses, the 9 and 10 Vic. and the 10 and 11 Vic., be adopted for the Township of Leek and Lowe, in the Parish of Leek, in the County of Stafford, and that the Public Baths be erected as soon as possible." It was also unanimously resolved "That the following gentlemen, being Ratepayers of the said Township of Leek and Lowe, be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for carrying the said Act into execution:—Messrs. John Russell, Hugh Sleight, Robert Hammersley, Joshua Brough, Thomas Carr, Thomas Birch, and John Ward. And that they be empowered to borrow not more than £1000 on the security of the Poor Rates of the said Township."—JOHN DAVENPORT, Chairman.

A copy of the resolution passed at this meeting was sent to the Home Secretary asking for his approval, and on the 1st June, 1853, following, the approval of the Home Secretary, Lord Palmerston, was forwarded to the Baths Secretary, Mr. W. Challinor.

June 21st, 1853. Tenders were received for carrying out the plans submitted by Messrs. Francis, Architects, London, which had been approved, and that of Mr. John Mathews, Builder, was accepted at £1043.

The funds necessary for the works were raised by means of a loan of £1500 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, and about £840 from local subscriptions and temporary loans. The cost, inclusive of site and erection and fitting up the Baths, was £2422 17s. 4d.

June 12th, 1854. The Baths were opened this day at noon for the use of the public.

February 27th, 1874. The last instalment of £1500 was paid. See report for the year ending March 1st, 1874.

"The Commissioners in their Twentieth Annual Report have the high gratification of stating that the last instalment of the loan, obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners in 1854, has been discharged, and the Baths are no longer weighted with a Government debt."—W. CRITCHLOW, Chairman.

April 7th, 1874. The Leek Improvement Commissioners approved a recommendation from the General Purpose Committee that they should take over the management of the Baths with all the powers, rights, duties, capacities, liabilities and obligations connected therewith.

At a Vestry Meeting duly called and held at the Vestry Room on Thursday, the 16th April, 1874, Mr. Brough, the Chairman, and Mr. Henshaw, Clerk of the Leek Improvement Commissioners, attended and handed in the foregoing resolution, which they stated had passed the Board of Commissioners on the 7th April, 1874.

"Resolved that such resolution be approved, subject to the understanding that in case the sum of £78 15s., paid by the Overseers on the Baths Account in February last, be disallowed, the amount be refunded by the Leek Improvement Commissioners, see 35 and 36 Vic., cap. 79, latter part of sec. 9."—THOMAS SHAW, Chairman.

No one who has carefully gone over the minutes and reports of the Leek Public Baths Commissioners from 1853 to 1874 can be otherwise but impressed with the wisdom, resolution and generosity so freely and ungrudgingly exercised in the establishment of the Baths, and it may be interesting to a few if we here annex the names of those who so kindly assisted in the spread of wholesome and cleanly habits amongst us.

The average number of baths during the management of the Leek Public Baths Commissioners was 9784. This has been increased under the management of the Leek Improvement Commissioners for their first 10 years to 17,367, and from 1884 to the present year to 18,232, nearly double the number since the Baths were handed over as Town property.

The Financial Account of the Baths since they were taken over by the Town's Commissioners may be fairly considered satisfactory, seeing that as a rule they have been a serious loss in many places, no such result, all things taken into account, need be apprehended by the ratepaying public of Leek. The receipts have been £3099 15s. 9d., and the expenditure £3575 7s. 9d., but as a set-off for the deficiency, or apparently adverse balance, we have two plots of land costing (1855) £100 and (1882) £108 16s. 6d., that may be now valued at £250, and the extension and re-roofing of the Baths costing £359 3s. 5d. This does not include ordinary expenses, such as new boilers, painting and general repairs, amounting to £393 11s. 8d., which have been duly paid out of the receipts.

There are few towns, if any, offering greater advantages in charges for baths than the Leek Improvement Commissioners have done; schools, workshops, and clubs being liberally treated with. Sooner or later the Swimming Baths will have to be considerably enlarged if more business is to be done and more interest taken in them.

The property in Bath Street, recently purchased by the Commissioners, and at no present loss to the Ratepayers until wanted, has cleared the way for utilizing the land adjacent that has hitherto been comparatively useless.

Reviewing the Baths, now to be handed over to the incoming Urban Councillors, the Commissioners may reasonably congratulate the Town in having acquired a most valuable property, which during the last 20 years has not incurred a 2d. rate for the entire maintenance thereof.

Twenty years ago the Leek Public Baths Commissioners concluded their last report for the 20 years preceding in the following words, and if only as a matter of gratitude "in memoriam." Let us finish our 20 years of management by quoting them:—

"So much has been said in former reports in favour of cleanliness and the frequent use of the Baths as conducive to health, that it is superfluous repeating it here. There can be no doubt they are an invaluable boon to the Town, and the Commissioners cannot conclude their report without again expressing a hope that they may every year become more extensively patronized."

For list of Subscriptions see next page.

FIRE BRIGADE.

We are indebted to the *Fireman* for some of the following extracts, dated August 1st, 1894:—

LEEK. "The earliest record we have of the protection against fire is that about 1735. The first Earl of Macclesfield provided a fire engine of the 'Newsham' make, which was in charge of the Water Bailiff. The next step was the purchase of an engine by the Earl of Macclesfield from Tilley, of London, and called 'Lord of the Manor'; this appears to have been under the charge of Edmund Clee, then Water Bailiff. After the Improvement Act of 1855 the Commissioners took over the engine, &c., and it was manned by men under the Town Surveyor.

"In 1870 a Volunteer Brigade was formed in addition to the existing Paid Brigade, and a new manual engine, the 'Fire Fly,' was purchased by the Commissioners. The Volunteer Brigade was under the command of W. S. Brough, Esq., and the Paid Brigade was supervised by Mr Robert Farrow, the Sanitary Inspector."

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE LEEK PUBLIC BATHS.

	£	s.	d.	Brought forward.....	£	s.	d.
John Davenport, Esq.	736	15	0
Earl of Macclesfield	5	0	0
Mr. Joshua Brough	5	0	0
" Miles Simpson	5	0	0
Dr. and Mrs. Carlyle	5	0	0
Mr. Carr	5	0	0
Messrs. Challinor, Badnall and Co.	5	0	0
" Lovatt and Gould	3	3	0
Mr. W. Phillips	3	0	0
" Hugh Sleigh	2	2	0
Mrs. Wansey	2	2	0
Mr. J. H. Hacker	2	2	0
Trustees of Ballhay Estate	2	0	0
Rev. Jer. Barnes	2	0	0
Mr. Thos. Birch	2	0	0
Smith Child, Esq., M.P.	2	0	0
Mr. Sam. Clowes	2	0	0
" W. Critchlow	2	0	0
Jno. Cruso, Esq.	2	0	0
Mr. Geo. Davenport	2	0	0
" C. Flint	2	0	0
A Friend, per Mr. Brough	2	0	0
Mr. Samuel Goodwin, Manchester	2	0	0
" Robt. Hammersley	2	0	0
" W. H. Hammersley	2	0	0

During the twelve-and-a-half years of Captain Brough's management we have the following record of the Brigade:—"It was formed and kept together as a Volunteer Brigade by his great influence, his untiring efforts, and at considerable personal expense."—Report, 1884.

In 1884 the Brigade was reorganised and formed into a Paid Brigade, directly under the control of the Town Commissioners, and the command given to Mr. Micah Carding, who had been a member of the Volunteer Brigade since 1870, and under his superintendence the Brigade has been strengthened and many improvements made in the working of the department. Captain Carding has been held in the highest esteem by the Commissioners, and the Town has to regret that he has been compelled to resign on account of ill-health and pressure of business. We have great pleasure in announcing that A. H. Wardle, Esq., has taken over the command of the Brigade.

The present appliances are two manual engines, one hose cart, one telescopic fire escape, ladders, &c.

The Brigade consists of Captain, Lieutenant, Secretary Engineer, Sub-engineer, and 15 Firemen, none being resident at the Station. The town is well supplied with hydrants and valves, and a good pressure can be concentrated at any required place in a very short time.

Although numerous fires have occurred since the Commissioners succeeded to the control of the Brigade with the exception of Messrs. Booth's and Tatton's fires, none of a very serious character have resulted.

To sum up. The "Newsham," that primitive and ancient piece of mechanism as a fire extinguisher, is now for its valuable antiquity waiting to be consigned to a place in our Moorland Museum.

Whether the "Newsham" and "Lord of the Manor" were in requisition during the largest and most disastrous fire of our century in Leek, ending in the total destruction of Wreford's Mill, in London Street, we have been unable to gather.

Are our present appliances able to cope with a fire of this magnitude? is a question for manufacturers in particular and the new electorate to consider and decide upon.

W. SHUFFLEBOTHAM,
Chairman

GAS COMMITTEE.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE GAS WORKS.

In the spring of 1826, a Joint Stock Company issued a scheme for raising £5000, by 200 shares at £25 each; these were all subscribed for, excepting two, and the capital was called up as the works proceeded. In 1828 the town was lighted with Gas. In 1830 the capital had been all subscribed and expended, and one pound per Share more was required to complete the works to their then extent. The profits on the Gas manufactured to that time had also been expended in extending the works. The Shareholders received no dividend until the commencement of 1832, and then only 10s. per share. At the end of 1832, a dividend of 12s. 6d. per share was declared. In 1833 no dividend was paid. In 1834 £1 per share was declared. Afterwards they were let to pay £1 5s. per share.

The price of Gas for some years was 12s. 6d. per thousand cubic feet, which, however exorbitant it may appear at the present time, was less than was charged at Manchester at the same period. By a printed Report of the Police Commissioners of that place, it appears that their price was 14s. in 1828, and 10s. in 1835. The use of Gas was then becoming very general, and the effect which reductions had from time to time upon this necessary article of commercial life became apparent from the introduction of it not only into manufactories and shops, but into private houses, and all places where illuminating power was felt to be desirable; and with the larger returns, and frequent reduction, the profits were not diminished, but rather increased.

In 1845 the Commissioners under the old Act purchased the Works for the sum of £6194, including legal expenses. They were much censured at the time by many of the inhabitants, but they had great confidence that the purchase would prove a beneficial one to the Ratepayers in a few years, and they have not been disappointed.

In 1848 they reduced the price from 9s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet, in 1850 to 7s. 6d., in 1852 to 7s., and in 1855 to 6s., with a graduated discount when the consumption reached certain quantities. The consumption has gone on rapidly increasing. In the half-year ending December, 1846, it was 806,912, and in the half-year ending December, 1856, 2,893,000

exclusive of the Public Lamps. The Works have now become an important source of revenue, and the Committee are of opinion that from its profits they will be enabled to pay over such sums to the General Purpose Fund as will be equal to a Cemetery Rate of 6d. in the pound, which may now have to be collected, thereby reducing the other Rates by that amount, and if the works are judiciously managed, they entertain strong hopes that the money which has been expended in the purchase and formation of the Cemetery may be repaid from these works, and a further reduction in the price of Gas to the consumers shortly be made.

When the new Act came into operation, the Works, at a low valuation, were considered to be worth £7532. The late Gas Commissioners had then a balance in their favour of £769.6s. 6d. Since that time they have expended upwards of £1000 in laying down an independent Main, from the Works to the lower end of Mill Street, and other Mains and extensions in different parts of the Town; together with new purifiers, lamps, and lamp pillars, branch pipes, &c.

The Statement published in June, 1855, shows that the Gas Committee advanced £450 towards paying for the expenses of obtaining the New Act, and the Statement of 1856 also shows that a further sum of £450 had been advanced for the like purpose, making a total of £900; of this amount £354 16s. 9d. was due from the Gas Account, being its share of the expenses incurred in obtaining it (the New Act); the balance £545 3s. 3d. has since been repaid by the General Purpose Account, which has enabled the Gas Committee to pay a *Surplus Fund* of £745 3s. 3d. to the General Purpose Account after providing for the current expenses of the ensuing quarter.

When the Works were first erected there were 100 Public Lamps lighted; in 1853 there were 132, which were at that time lighted from the middle of September till the first of April; at the present time there are 158, lighted from the first of September to the first of May, the hours during which they are burning being from sunset to five o'clock in the morning.

The following is extracted from the Reports of Committee April 1858.

From the year 1858 the demand for Gas continued steadily to increase, and in 1863 a reduction in the price was made. The particulars of this and other reductions which may be referred to will be found in the subjoined table. In 1865 the need of larger

works was felt and the Committee concluded that with the addition of a new Coal Shed, new Retorts, and a new Gasholder the manufacturing plant would meet the requirements of the Town for several years. Also that it was necessary to take up the 6in. main in Broad Street and replace it with a 13in. main, and to make various important alterations of the mains throughout the Town. These works were taken in hand and gradually carried out during a term of years.

In 1868, referring to the Holder before mentioned, the Committee informed the Board that additional room was needed to enable them to complete their extensions, either by purchasing land near the existing site or removing the manufacturing plant to land near the Canal and the Railway Sidings, so that the cost of carting coal &c., (about £40 per annum at that time) might be saved. The former plan was ultimately adopted and in 1868-9 a Retort House, capable of holding 100 Retorts, and a single-lift Gasholder, 80 feet in diameter and 20 feet high, to hold 100,000 cubic feet of gas with the necessary tank were erected. The Board adopted the practice of providing and laying service pipes free of cost (if not on private property or more than 25 feet from the main). The cost of these extensions was about £2000.

In 1870 a further reduction in the price was made. In 1870-1 the extensions were completed by the erection of new Purifying House, enlarged Purifiers and Boundary Wall, at a total cost of about £4560. As contemplated by the Committee, these sufficed for the requirements of the Town for several years.

In 1872, by adopting the principle of allowance or discount for prompt payment of accounts, the Board reduced the price of Gas by 3d. per 1000 cubic feet on all accounts so paid.

In the year 1875, in order to relieve the pressure upon the Retorts, an Exhauster and Engine were added to the Works at a cost of over £300.

In the winter of 1877 the consumption of Gas had increased to such an extent as to call for additional storage room, and it was decided to invite tenders for the construction of a Tank and the erection of Telescopic Gas Holder, 80 feet in diameter, with two lifts of 30 feet each, and capable of holding 300,000 cubic feet of Gas. These tenders were obtained, but in consequence of the interest caused by the development of Electric Lighting, the Board decided to pause awhile, and the subject was deferred for 12 months. At the expiration of that time the work was proceeded with, and in 1879-80 carried out, at a cost of about £4000.

In 1879 a further reduction in the price was made, in addition to increasing the allowance from 3d. to 6d. per 1000 cubic feet for prompt payment.

The year 1881 was marked by the retirement of Mr. Dickinson from the Management of the Works after a term of office of 27 years, during which he witnessed their growth from a producing capacity of 6,000,000 cubic feet to 33,000,000 per annum. Mr. Norfolk was appointed his successor.

In 1882 the price of Gas was further reduced, and again in 1883. At this time, with Gas at a low price and the increasing use of it for other than lighting purposes, the Board decided to hold an Exhibition of Gas Appliances in the Concert Room of what is now the Town Hall. The room was filled with a thoroughly representative class of exhibits, and great interest was shown by the large number of persons who visited it during the week it remained open—the number being fully 3000. The practical results at the present time are evidenced by the use of over 100 Cookers let out on hire, and a good number of Cookers and Gas Fires purchased by consumers, leading to a marked increase in the day consumption of Gas.

In 1885 the differential scale of charges for Gas was abolished, and one uniform charge of 2s. 11d. per 1000 cubic feet adopted, or if paid promptly, 2s. 5d. per 1000, which appears to be the lowest price charged in any town in the United Kingdom with a population of between 10,000 and 15,000 inhabitants.

The fluctuations in the market price for Residuals and the difficulty experienced in obtaining competing tenders for the same, induced the Committee to consider the question of manufacturing the ammoniacal liquor produced at the works, and after many enquiries and due consideration, they decided to recommend the Board to authorise the purchase of Plant for the purpose of such manufacture, and this was agreed to in June, 1887; the cost, inclusive of altering building, being about £400. The Plant has been in operation ever since, and there is every reason to believe that it will prove advantageous to the Town in future.

The consideration of this question also led to the knowledge that Mr. Byrom was disposed to sell the field adjoining the Works on the Newcastle Road, a portion of which was

eventually purchased by the Board, not only securing facilities for future extensions, but also enabling the department to carry on its operations more advantageously. The Local Government Board after enquiry sanctioned loans for both the foregoing projects, and the money was obtained at a low rate of interest.

Date.	Total Annual Make of Gas.	Lamps.	Sold to priv'te Consumers.	Prices.	Gas and Meter Rentals.
Dec. 1855 6 months.	3,639,000	158	2,642,700	6/-	733 1 7
Year 1856	7,358,000	158	5,330,900	6/- 5/6 5/-	1491 13 7
" 1860	10,139,000	172	7,420,400	5/6 5/- 4/6	1895 14 8
" 1870	20,845,000	197	14,391,400	4/8 4/4 4/-	3053 19 7
" 1880	32,835,000	254	24,888,100	4/- 3/10 3/8	4272 18 9
" 1884	40,314,000	278	31,404,100	3/3 3/2 3/1	4265 18 2
" 1887	44,877,200	283	35,490,700	2/11	4395 17 3

Prices of Gas in Leek supplied by the Commissioners under the Act of 1825:—

Year 1835 per 1000 cubic .. 12/6

" 1845 " " " .. 9/6

Commissioners under the Act of 1855:—

Year 1855 per 1000 cubic feet	..	6/0			
" 1856 " "	6/0	5/6	5/0		
" 1858 " "	5/6	5/0	4/6		
" 1863 " "	4/8	4/4	4 0		
" 1870 " "	4/3	4/0	3/9	Allowance of 3d. per 1000 for prompt paym't	
" 1872 " "	4/3	4/0	3/9		
" 1879 " "	4/3	4/0	3/9	Allowance of 6d. for do. do.	
" " " "	4/0	3/10	3/8		
" 1882 " "	3/6	3/5	3/4	do. do. do.	
" 1883 " "	3/3	3/2	3/1	do. do. do.	
" 1885 " "	2/11	uniform charge		do. do.	
" 1887 " "	2/11	"		do. do.	

The above is an Extract from the Reports of Committee, April, 1888.

In 1889 Contracts were entered into for the construction of Woodcroft Road, on the westwardly side of the Works, and extending from Newcastle Road to the land belonging to the Towns Land Trustees, at the expense of the owners of land on each side, the cost of the Commissioners' share being about £165, and for a Boundary Wall to the land purchased from Mr. Byrom at a cost of £286 5s.

Plans for a New Dwelling-house for the Manager were also approved, and Contracts entered into for its erection, at a cost of about £520.

On the 2nd November, 1890, Mr. Ward, who had been Chairman of this Committee for 22 years, died, and Mr. Booth was appointed to succeed him.

In 1891 it was deemed necessary to make additions to the Plant, and the Board authorised the purchase of a New Engine, Boiler, and Rotary Exhauster, Two Purifiers with Valves and Connections, and 12in. Station Governor, also New Lime Shed. These works were carried out during this and the following year at a cost of about £800.

In 1892 the Retort House was improved by the removal of the old dangerous roof and the substitution of a new one, re-slatted, at a cost of £245.

Gas made in the year 1893 ..	57,714,000 cubic feet
Gas Delivered	44,902,700
No. of Lamps	325
Gas and Meter Rentals ..	£5580 16s. 4d.

Although through all these series of years the consumption of Gas has constantly increased and the price brought to so low a point, it has been a matter of regret that the occupiers of cottage houses, as a rule, have not used it. To remedy this, in June of this year it was recommended by the Committee, and sanctioned by the Board, to extend the Gas Supply by means of providing internal fittings and small Cookers with pre-payment or Penny-in-the-Slot Meters. This system has been appreciated by those for whom it was intended, and there are up to this time about 150 Meters, &c., fixed, and a similar number of applications on the books, so that success seems assured and a real want met.

T. H. BOOTH,
Chairman.

MARKETS AND ESTATES COMMITTEE.

MARKETS AND FAIRS.

At the time of the Leek Improvement Act, 1855, coming into operation on the 1st of August of that year, the Market Rights and Tolls belonged to Mrs. Grosvenor, who then resided at Stockwell House, and Mr. Edwin Rooke, of Leeds, joint owners, from whom they were purchased by the Commissioners in 1859 for £4140, in addition to £302 6s. for expenses connected with the transfer. From that period up to the year 1874, the Cattle Fairs were held in the streets, chiefly St. Edward Street, Church Street, Sheep Market, and Stockwell Street, and in the Old Cattle Market at the east end of Derby Street. During these years the question of purchasing land and providing a Smithfield was frequently discussed by the Commissioners, who for a long time hesitated to act under their powers and cause the cattle to be removed from the streets on Fair Days, but ultimately their hands were strengthened by a decisive vote of the rate-payers and inhabitants at a public meeting held at the Swan Hotel, and accordingly in 1872 negotiations were entered into with Mrs. Shoobridge and others for the acquisition of the land on the eastwardly side of Haywood Street, now used as the Cattle Market. The land was subsequently purchased, and in 1874 it was laid out and fenced, and in part paved. The New Smithfield was first used at the Fair held on the 14th October, 1874, but a portion of the land adjoining Leonard Street was appropriated and used as a Town Yard for storing and working flags, paving sets and other materials until 1894, when the materials were finally removed to the New Town Yard on the recently acquired site on the westwardly side of Cruso Street. The extended portion of the Cattle Market was laid out, fenced, and a portion paved, and was first used at the Fair held on the 17th October, 1894.

In 1877 a building which had been for many years used as a Shade for Twisting Silk, situate on the southwardly side of London Road, and 7 Cottages in the rear, were purchased as an adjunct to and for use in connection with the Smithfield. The ground floor of the Shade was converted into a Refreshment Room or Coffee Tavern, and a room with conveniences for use by persons resorting to the Cattle Market for settling

sales and purchases. The first floor is now used in conjunction with the Coffee Tavern, and the upper storey is occupied by the Local Volunteers as a Meeting Room and Armoury.

The Smithfield has cost, for	£	s.	d.
Land and first laying out	3326	17	10
Shade and Cottages, and alterations ..	2875	2	2
Share of making Haywood and Leonard Streets	298	0	0
Estimated cost of New Collector's Lodge and extension in 1894 ..	600	0	0
Total	£7100	0	0

Authority was obtained to borrow the above sums, repayable by instalments over a series of years dating from the periods of borrowing. The sum of £4400 was raised in respect of the original purchase of the Market Rights in 1859, and the last instalment of that loan has been paid in the present year, 1894, so that the ancient Market Rights now belong to the Town absolutely free from debt. The above mentioned sum of £7100 is also in course of annual liquidation, the balance now owing being about £4770.

For the first three years after the purchase of the Market Rights the Tolls were leased for £277 per annum. During the 10 years prior to the removal of the Cattle Fairs from the streets the average annual receipts from Market and Fair Tolls were £368 5s. 8d., while in the last ten years they have amounted to £596 9s. 2d., to which may be added £112 14s. 4d. yearly for octtage and other rents.

COVERED MARKET SITE.

In 1864 the then Commissioners purchased from William Watt, Esq., for £3200, the three shops at the north-east corner of the Market Place now occupied by Mr. Carding, Mr. Gosling and Mr. Howes, together with the block of buildings on the southwardly side of Stockwell Street, extending from the Market Place to the residence of Miss Flint, and the buildings and land at the back, comprising a total area of about 2840 square yards, as a site for a future Covered Market, an object which was contemplated when the Local Act was applied for in 1855, and special authority for which was conferred on the Commissioners by that Act. It was not until 1870 that the gradual reduction of the

charge on the rates in respect of the above £3200 was commenced, but in that year a bonded debt of £3000 was established, of which about £800 only remains unpaid, and the last instalment is due in 1900, when the property will be free from the debt. During the 3 years ended 25th March, 1893, up to which date the accounts were last audited and published, the property has yielded in rents an average yearly income of £193 11s. 9d., being about 6 per cent. on the original purchase money, and has for some years contributed £50 annually to the General Purposes Account in reduction of the rates, beside furnishing the instalment of £90 a year to the Sinking Fund and paying all expenses in connection with the property.

RED LION PROPERTY.

In September, 1892, the Commissioners by an almost unanimous vote decided to purchase the Red Lion Hotel and the adjoining Shop, Stables and Yard, at the price of £3650, for the purpose of obtaining an approach from the centre of the Ancient Market Square to the Covered Market Site acquired from Mr. Watt in 1864, and with the view of utilising the Site of the Shop, Stables and Yard for the erection thereon of a suitable Shelter for the accommodation of persons selling Butter, Eggs and Poultry, and providing urinals and other conveniences for those attending the Market. It is not intended to erect a General Covered Market as part of the present scheme, but it was necessary to keep faith with the Local Government Board, who sanctioned the borrowing of the money for the purchase of the Red Lion property, to take steps towards the erection of the Shelter referred to as part of a future Market, and accordingly competitive plans will shortly be advertised for, leaving the final arrangements to be determined on by the forthcoming Urban District Council. The growth of the Market, and the Town population, the want of space and the amount of traffic necessitate further accommodation, apart from the more humane question in these days of physical and social improvement of making reasonable provision for those resorting to the Market with provisions and articles needed by all.

The facts already mentioned amply justify, it is submitted, what has been done in the past; and it must also be borne in mind that by the establishment of fortnightly Cattle Markets, and the provision of accommodation and conveniences, more up-to-date than in the days of our grandfathers, much larger

numbers of persons are brought to the Town by Railway and other conveyances, thereby indirectly but surely causing the employment of more people and contributing to the trade of local Shopkeepers and others. From a return recently obtained it appears that about 320 more persons arrive at the Town by Railway alone on Cattle Market days than on the alternate Wednesdays.

TOWN HALL.

The Town Hall in Market Street was purchased from the Union Buildings Company in 1884 at a cost, inclusive of furniture and fittings, of £5300, and in 1887 a further sum of £2770 was expended in the purchase of additional premises on the southwardly and westwardly sides from Captain Byrom, and in providing additional ante-rooms and means of ingress and egress. Although the original purchase was opposed at the time, it is now generally acknowledged the Commissioners acted wisely in acquiring the property. They originally conducted their business, and held their meetings in rooms of the old chapel at the corner of Derby Street and Russell Street where the Congregational Church now stands, and afterwards in the building now belonging to the Liberal Club in Russell Street, but the accommodation was totally inadequate, and the purchase of the Union Buildings probably saved the Town an expenditure of from £7000 to £10,000 in the erection of a new Town Hall. The present income from letting the Hall and rooms, including £200 taken into account as the rent of the Public and other Offices used by the Commissioners and their officers, is about £430 per annum. The money borrowed for the purchases and improvements was £8070, repayable by instalments, and a balance of about £6738 remains owing.

WESTWOOD RECREATION GROUND.

About two and a half acres of land adjoining Beggar's Lane was purchased from the Rev. Geo. Horatio Davenport in 1879, at a cost, including the erection of a Shed, &c., of about £850, and the adjoining field, containing about the same area, and with an extensive frontage to Westwood Road, has been ever since rented from the Churchwarden of the Parish Church of St. Edward's, Leek, as Trustee of Wm. Watson's (a Grocer, of Leek.) Charity, at an annual rental of £16. The fence between the purchased and rented lands was removed, and the two fields have been laid out and provided with Swings and other appliances for the use of the inhabitants as a Recreation Ground.

PICKWOOD RECREATION GROUND.

This land, comprising about five acres, was presented to the Town by William Challinor, Esq., M.A., of Pickwood, and by him conveyed to the Commissioners for the purposes of a Public Recreation Ground, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria. It was formally opened on the 21st June, 1887, amidst general rejoicings in celebration of the Jubilee, when the Town was profusely decorated, an ox roasted in the Market Place, and the school children and poor people entertained, and there was a long procession through the streets and to this Recreation Ground where speeches were made. The land has since been provided with Swings, Shelter and other conveniences. Roads and paths have been formed, and suitable parts of the land planted with trees and shrubs.

PUBLIC CLOCK.

The only public Clock under the control of the Commissioners is that in the Tower of St. Edward's Parish Church, in connection with which there are chimes playing a number of tunes on the eight bells. By arrangement with the Vicar and Churchwarden the clock is kept in order and attended to by a person employed by the Commissioners, and lighted at a cost of about £30 annually.

PUBLIC FOUNTAIN.

The handsome bronze Fountain at the bottom of the Market Place was presented to the Town in the year 1876 by William Challinor, Esq. (the donor of the Pickwood Recreation Ground,) for the use of persons resorting to the Market and for the public generally. It is erected on the site of a building formerly known as the Old Town Hall, the ground floor of which was for a long period used as a News-room, and the upper room was at one time used as a Police Court, and for the purposes of the Local Savings Bank. The old building was taken down in the year 1874, and the site partly appropriated as a standing place for persons selling Butter and Eggs, the approach to the Market Place being at the same time considerably widened and improved.

THE WASTE.

Although the extensive piece of land, known as the Waste, is just outside the boundary of the Leek Improvement Act District, it may not be out of place here to record that it is controlled by the Town Lands Trustees for the benefit of the

Freeholders and inhabitants of the Ancient Township of Leek and Lowe, the greater part of which Township is comprised within the newly constituted Parish of Leek under the Local Government Act, 1894, and which Parish is co-extensive with the existing Urban Sanitary District of Leek, being a circle of 1500 yards from the gas lamp in the centre of the Market Place. The rights of the herbage of the Waste belonged until recently to Captain Byrom, from whom, with dwelling-house, plantation and trees, compensation paid £150; in 1890 they were purchased by the Town Lands Trustees. The land has been laid out, and in parts planted, and roads made by William Spooner Brough, Esq., J.P., the son of a former Chairman of the Board of Leek Improvement Commissioners. The Waste is becoming an attractive public resort, and to a large extent supplies the want of an additional Recreation Ground at the Buxton Road and Ball Haye Green end of the Town.

GENERAL.

In concluding their labours as the Markets and Estates Committee of the Leek Improvement Commissioners, and transferring their duties to the new Urban District Council, whose members will be chosen by a more extended and representative electorate and a better system of voting, the Committee trust that the future management of the affairs of the Town will be attended with as little friction and with as much economy in the future as in the past, and that the forthcoming Council will further the interests of the Town and its Markets and Fairs, and the true welfare of the inhabitants in every legitimate way.

THO. SHAW,
Chairman.

15th November, 1894.

REPORT OF THE PAVING AND SEWERING COMMITTEE.

This Committee held its first meeting on 30th October 1855, Mr. Geo. Massey being the Chairman, and Mr. Dale, Surveyor.

On the 27th December, 1855, it was ordered that the Donkey and Cart then used for collecting Street Sweepings be sold.

The first estimate of expenditure, namely, for the year ending March 25th, 1857, was £549 18s. 6d.

In November, 1856, this Committee recommended that two Brick Tanks for the reception of the sewage in the north district be constructed at a cost of £292, on land belonging to the Misses Gaunt. This amount included the making of 314 yards of 2ft. Brick Sewer.

In November, 1857, Mr. C. Slagg was appointed Town Surveyor, and the First Annual Report of this Committee is dated April 8th, 1858, but nothing of importance is mentioned therein, except the preparation of a scheme for sewer-
ing the south district.

In the next Report, namely, for the year ending March, 1859, mention is made of the sewer-
ing of the south district which had been commenced, Mr. Mathews being the Contractor, and the amount of his contract was £1600. A Report was furnished by Mr. R. Rawlinson as to the Sewage Scheme prepared by Mr. Slagg, which he considered well adapted for the Town.

1859-60.—In the Report for this year mention is made of the sewers in the south district having been completed. The widening of Canal Street, or what is now known as Broad Street, was also undertaken, this was from the Railway Station to near the present junction with Cruso Street. Mr. Jas. Morris was the Contractor, and the amount of his contract was £362 4s. The additional cost of land and buildings being £487 15s. The improvement of the gradient of Canal Street was also undertaken by Mr. J. Morris for £160.

1860-61.—Ball Haye Road, from Stockwell Street to its junction with Rose Bank Street, was widened at a cost of £77.

Tenders were obtained for constructing the north district sewers, that of Mr. T. Grace, amounting to £2500, being accepted.

1861-62.—The trade in the town being in a depressed state, a stone quarry was opened at Ballington Wood, and a number of labourers employed in getting stone for the roads.

The sewers in the north district were completed at a total cost of £2934 14s 10d.

Mr. Joshua Brouch having given the land, Ball Haye Road to the north of the Tan Yard was widened and a Footpath made.

1863-64.—The bottom or east end of Stockwell Street was widened from 26 to 35 feet, and raised in the lowest part 4ft. 6in. The Town Lands Trustees contributed the sum of £100 towards the expenses, and the Leek and Moorlands Building Society gave 40 square yards of land. The amount of the contract was £138.

1864-65.—The Paving and Sewering and Buildings Committees were amalgamated.

1868-69.—Canal Street was paved for a width of 12 feet on the north-west side.

1869-70.—Messrs. Jos. Gould and Son having given the land and set back the wall on the north side of Buxton Road and the east side of Ball Haye Road, a flagged Footpath was formed.

1870-71.—Britannia Street was widened, the Commissioners paying Mr. S. Goodwin the sum of £60 for 96 yards of land.

1871-72.—The Building known as the Town Hall, which stood at the south end of the Market Place, was taken down, the old materials sold, and the site flagged.

The Pinfold in Abbott's Lane was taken down.

1870-75.—West Street was widened and improved at a cost of £1300, towards which sum £300 was contributed by private persons.

1873-74.—A new Stone Yard was provided at the junction of Haywood Street and Leonard Street on a portion of the land purchased for Cattle Market Purposes.

1874-75.—A flagged Footpath was formed on the north side of London Road from Cross Street to Well Street, the owners of the property giving up the land for that purpose.

1878-79.—Abbey Green Road was widened and improved at the south end by setting back the line of buildings on the west side and the formation of a flagged Footpath. Miss Clowes and the North Staffordshire Waterworks Company having given the land and the Town Lands Trustees contributed the sum of £125 towards the widening.

1874.—Property was purchased from Mr. George Hulme and others in order to make Brook Street 36 feet wide. The work was carried out between this year and 1882 at a total cost of about £1600, of which sum Mr. Carr contributed £100 and the Town Lands Trustees a similar sum.

1880.—In this year negotiations were commenced with a view to widening Broad Street, or as it was then called Canal Street, from St. Edward Street to the Railway Station, to a width of 42 feet, the existing width in some portions being only 23 feet. Blocks of property and land being purchased from Mr. H. Sleigh, for which a temporary loan was obtained of £5100. The surplus was then resold, and the whole of the work, including paving and flagging, was carried out for the net sum of £1800. The Town Lands Trustees contributed the sum of £150.

1881-82.—South Bank Street was made of the width of 36 feet, streets made previously being only 30 feet.

1882-83.—The footway, known as Donkey Bank, from Mill Street was improved and paved throughout, the Trustees of West Street School contributing £15 towards the cost.

Ball Haye Road, opposite the Tan Yard, was also raised and improved at a cost of £35.

1883-84.—An amicable arrangement having been made, by which the owners of the adjoining property contributed the sum of £200, Rose Bank Street was provided with flagged Footpaths and otherwise improved.

The Building Bye-laws came into operation.

1884-85.—A scheme for improving Overton's Bank was prepared, and an enquiry held by an Inspector from the Local Government Board.

1885-86.—The County Authority admitted their liability to contribute to the maintenance of the main roads by paying the sums in arrear since 1881 to the extent of one-half of the outlay.

1887-88.—The improvement of Overton's Bank was carried out and completed.

Land was purchased and a new street laid out on the line of Strangman's Walk with a view to improved communication between the Mill Street district and the Railway Station.

1888-89.—A new flagged Footpath, 7 feet in width in the narrowest part, was constructed on the east side of the Market Place.

A portion of Cross Street was widened, paved and improved, Messrs. Brough, Nicholson, and Co. giving the requisite land.

Compton was improved by taking down, setting back and rebuilding the wall on the east side, and the erection of an iron palisade fence against Prospect Place.

1889-90.—The owners having given land in Fountain Street, Well Street and London Road, the two first were considerably widened and flagged Footpaths constructed, and the latter was widened, raised, and a flagged Footpath made on the north side from Well Street eastwards.

1890-91.—A plot of land containing 8000 square yards, abutting on Cruso Street, was purchased for a new Town's Yard, that in Haywood Street being required for the extension of the Cattle Market. The scheme includes the erection thereon of stabling for six horses, loose boxes, harness room, mess room, cart sheds, sheds for working and storing materials, smithy, cottage, etc. The total estimated cost being £2750 for which a loan has been obtained. The land in the meantime is being used as a tip for house refuse, thereby effecting a considerable saving in haulage.

1891-2.—The adjoining owners having given, or sold on easy terms, the necessary land, Belle Vue Road, from Albert Street to the west side of Messrs. Wardie and Davenport's property, was widened to 36 feet, and a flagged Footpath constructed on each side.

Two sections of Westwood Road, namely, from Picton Street to Beggar's Lane, and from Beggar's Lane to North Street, were also widened and improved, and a Footpath constructed on each side.

1892-93.—A complete scheme having been prepared and submitted to them, sanction was obtained from the Local Government Board to borrow the sum of £3000 for the purpose of separating the storm water from the sewage, as complaints were made by the owners of land on which the sewage was used of the deterioration of the value of the sewage during wet seasons by the mixture of storm water, and the probability of having either to treat the sewage at some future time with caemical precipitants or pump the same for irrigation purposes on higher land.

1893-94.—Mr. Joseph Challinor having given the land, a considerable improvement was effected at Compton, between South Bank Street and Cemetery Road, the road being considerably widened, and an asphalted Footpath, 11 feet wide, constructed on the west side.

The necessary arrangements were made and agreements entered into for the widening of Ball Haye Road from Stockwell Street to Ball Haye Brook at an estimated cost, after the re-sale of surplus land, of £568.

Agreements were also entered into for making a new road from Ball Haye Brook to near the entrance to Ball Haye Hall at a cost of £422, towards which private persons have promised contributions amounting to £225. By this means the very steep gradient of the old road can be avoided and greater facilities provided for cart traffic to and from Ball Haye Green.

Arrangements were also made with the Trustees of the late Mr. John Cruso for the acquisition of over seven acres of land, adjoining the new Town's Yard, for the erection of Refuse Destructor, Slaughter-houses, &c., the purchase of this land being subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

GENERAL.

In the above record Improvements have principally been referred to, but in addition to these all the old streets and roads, and such of the new streets as have from time to time been made and adopted, have had to be maintained, and also the whole of the sewers kept in good repair and working order, and all plans of new buildings approved and inspected during construction.

With a view of giving some idea of the growth of the Town since the Commissioners first entered on their duties, it is only necessary to compare a few of the items in the reports for the year ending March, 1856, and for the year ending March 25th, 1894. In the first mentioned year the paving and sewerage expenditure was £288 13s. 5d., the rate being 6d. in the £. In the last-mentioned year the amount expended was £2680 3s. 11d., when a rate of 9d. was levied. In the year 1857-58, being the first year in which a record is kept, the number of new buildings erected and old buildings altered, was 42—in the latter year the number was 141.

ROBERT WRIGHT,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

The Sanitary Committee, in accordance with the order of the Board beg to give a short compendium of the various Sanitary measures and improvements made since the Leek Improvement Commissioners first acted, about the year 1856, up to the present time, during which period a gradual improvement in the health of the Town has been effected, the mean duration of life having increased about 30 per cent., and the average rate of mortality having decreased about 30 per cent. during that period. Our excellent Medical Officer and our energetic Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Farrow, have furnished certain statistics from which it appears that during the decennial period from 1851 to 1860 the average number of deaths was 29·3 in the 1000, while in the period 1881-90 it has been reduced to 19·8 per 1000, and up to 1894 a further slight improvement has taken place, the mortality being little more than 19 per 1000.

These results have been in a great measure accomplished by the Committee the Board of Commissioners and their Officers since the year 1856, in carrying out the extensive system of drainage and sewerage, in improving the ventilation of mill and houses, in doing away with or improving a number of in-sanitary dwellings detrimental to the public health, in obtaining by means of Parliamentary proceedings and otherwise a large and ample supply of pure water from the springs beneath the Roches at Upperhulme in place of the partial and unsatisfactory water supply, and consisting largely of surface water, which had to be relied on previously, to the removal of privy middens and ash-pits in the Town, to the regulation of slaughter houses and lodging-houses, markets, dairies and cowsheds, and in the adoption of the Factory Acts and their application to small factories and workshops, by a careful system of inspection with the view of getting rid of diseased or injurious meat and provisions, and by the erection of an Infectious Diseases Hospital near the Union Workhouse, to which cases of infectious disease can be removed from crowded neighbourhoods and isolated so as to prevent their spread and increase.

The Report and tables showing the details of the sanitary results during four decennial periods up to 1890, mainly prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Farrow, are appended. These show that the percentage of deaths from zymotic or preventible causes, which was 25·89 in the

decennial period 1851-60, has fallen to 8.58 in the decennial period 1881-90, being a reduction of nearly two-thirds, and also that the infant mortality has been reduced from 187.8 in the first decennial period to 141.1 in the second, being the ten years ending 1890, while, as stated before, there is a slight further improvement from 1890 to the present time.

We would finally remark that the gain in pecuniary value to the Town during these periods by the saving of life and reduction of sickness must also represent a large annual amount.

In conclusion, your Committee think they are justified in observing that public opinion—since the time of the Town's Improvement Act of 1847, which was the first leading Sanitary Act—has gradually grown up in favour of Sanitary measures. It has been shown that a marked reduction of death-rate and sickness has followed the completion of water works, drainage, sewerage works, and of other Sanitary requirements. That many causes of disease are preventible, and that much chronic sickness and incapacity for work are the result of sanitary negligence, and that the constant relation between the health and vigour of the people, and the welfare, prosperity and absence of crime in the State has been abundantly proved. It is trusted, therefore, that those who possess the necessary qualifications will aid in working out among their own localities measures so largely affecting public interests.

Auspicious Health, thou ever welcome power,
Whose blessings mortals next to life implore,
With so much lustre your bright looks endear,
That cottages are courts when these appear,
Mankind, as you vouchsafe to smile or frown,
Find ease in chains, or anguish in a crown.

WILLIAM CHALLINOR,
Chairman.

OBSERVATIONS OF R. FARROW, SANITARY INSPECTOR, AND CERTAIN STATISTICS FOLLOWING.

In a Report written in the "Leek Vital Statistical Record" by Mr. Farrow, dated 1856, it was remarked:—"The necessity of a complete and accurate system of registering disease, both fatal and otherwise, will, I feel sure, at some future time, be admitted by every advocate of sanitary pro-

"gress to be the very alphabet of sanitary science. Without
 "a correct knowledge of the history and specific intensity of
 "diseases it is impossible to expect complete success to
 "attend our efforts to prevent the spread of even, what are
 "called, filth diseases; to be able to point out the special
 "localities of special diseases; to be able to give the specific
 "intensity of diseases connected with sex, age, occupation,
 "modes of life, and the external influences by which people
 "are affected, is to enable the sanitary student to determine,
 "without doubt, the true predisposing causes of disease.
 "That the sanitary operations of the future will be placed
 "upon this basis, I have not the smallest doubt. I believe
 "the day will come when the copious contents of the "Leek
 "Vital Statistical Record" will be deemed to be the best
 "historic reference relating to the physical experience,
 "health and life, and therefore the wealth of its people."
 The useful knowledge obtained by careful systematic action
 taken upon these lines has from time to time indicated the
 direction in which the powers of the Board could be wisely
 exercised in promoting the best interest of the population.
 The beneficial results of the action taken by the various
 committees are clearly shown in the following abstract tables,
 compiled from the detail Vital Statistical Records, especially
 with regard to public water supply and drainage; the aboli-
 tion of cesspools; the removal of cattle fairs from the public
 streets; improvements in the sanitary condition of factories
 and Workshops; the establishment of public baths; the
 provision made for extramural interment of the dead; and
 the adoption of notification of infectious disease, and the
 provision of isolation hospital accommodation in 1872.
 Systematic Vital Statistical Records reveal the weak points
 in sanitary administration and enables the authority to dis-
 cuss many important matters that would otherwise pass un-
 noticed. In consequence of the marked difference in the
 percentage of children suffering from infectious disease
 attending the various schools within the town during the
 last few years, the important subject of school hygiene has
 forced itself to the front, and is receiving special attention.
 If we insist on the compulsory attendance of children at
 school we ought to see that they are placed in the very best
 possible hygienic surroundings.

I was asked the other day by a student of Vital Statistical
 Science to briefly state in figures what the Commissioners
 had done during their existence to benefit the community at
 large. My reply was, they have reduced the average
 annual rate of mortality during the last thirty-three years
 30 per cent, and increased the mean duration of life 30 per
 cent., which implies a great diminution in the rate of sickness.

Table shewing the mean Population, the number of Births and Deaths, and the average annual number of Births and Deaths to 1000 persons living, and the mean Age at Death of males, females and persons within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during each of the undermentioned periods of the 40 years ending 1890.—(W. H. H.)

Periods.	Mean Population	Total number of		Average Annual Number of		Mean Age at Death of		
		Births and Deaths		Births and Deaths		Males	Females	Persons
		Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths			
1851-60	9635	3440	2819	35.7	29.3	Years. 23.5	Years. 25.9	Years. 24.8
1861-70	10752	3516	2540	32.7	23.6	29.1	34.7	32.0
1871-80	12098	4167	2734	31.4	22.6	30.8	32.3	31.5
1881-90	13496	4146	2668	30.1	19.8	32.7	35.9	34.3
The average experience of the 3 years ending 1893 was					19.8			

NOTE.—Had the vital experience of the 10 years ending 1860 continued the mean after-life of every child born would have been 29.3 years; by the continued experience of the 10 years ending 1870 it would be 41.9 years; by the continued experience of the 10 years ending 1880 it would be 42.3 years; and by a continued experience of the 10 years ending 1890 it will be 46.5 years.

Table showing the mean population, the total number of deaths from all causes, from 19 Zymotic causes, and Phthisis, and the average annual rate of mortality to 1000 living from each group during the under-mentioned periods of the 40 years ending 1890, within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act.

Period of years.	Mean Population	Total Number of Deaths from all causes.	Average Annual rate of Mortality to 1000 living.	Total Number of deaths from 19 Zymotic causes.	Percentage of total deaths from Zymotic causes.	Average Annual Zymotic death rate to 1000 living.	Total Number of deaths from Phthisis	Average Annual death-rate from Phthisis to 1000 living.
1851-60	9635	2819	29.3	730	25.89	7.57	491	5.09
1861-70	10752	2540	23.6	410	16.14	3.81	409	3.80
1871-80	12098	2734	22.	382	13.99	3.15	281	2.32
1881-90	13496	2668	19.8	229	8.58	1.70	281	2.08

INFANT MORTALITY.

Table shewing the number of Births, the number of deaths under the age of 1 year, and the rate of mortality under the age of 1 year to 1000 Births registered within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during the under-mentioned periods of the 40 years ending 1890.

Periods.	Number of		Rate of Mortality to 1000 Births R'gist'rd
	Births.	Deaths under the age of 1 year	
10 years 1851-60	3440	646	187·8
10 years 1861-70	3516	573	162·9
10 years 1871-80	4167	670	160·7
10 years 1881-90	4146	585	141·1

Percentage of Illegitimate Births registered within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act during the under-mentioned periods of 40 years.

Periods of Years.	Percentage of Illegitimate Births.
10 years 1851-60	9·7
10 years 1861-70	8·8
10 years 1871-80	8·5
10 years 1881-90	6·8

Number and Value of lives lost at the under-mentioned ages under 65 years, within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during four periods of the 40 years ending 1890, and the cost of maintaining each sick person at the rate of 5s. per week. These values are on Dr. Farr's data for labourers.

Age.	Value of each life.	1851-60.		1861-70.		1871-80.		1881-90.	
		Lives lost.	Total value.	Lives lost.	Total value.	Lives lost.	Total value.	Lives lost.	Total value.
under 5	£ 30	1160	£34800	884	£26520	1043	£31290	931	£27936
5 and under 10	81	196	15876	90	7270	82	6642	67	5427
10 " 15	155	144	22320	59	9145	57	8835	38	5890
15 " 20	213	131	41003	117	24921	86	18318	70	14910
20 " 25	240	118	27320	93	22320	81	19440	78	17720
25 " 35	233	177	41241	183	42639	148	34484	181	42173
35 " 45	199	150	29850	176	35024	186	37014	162	32238
45 " 55	158	156	24648	188	29704	184	29072	189	29802
55 " 65	74	182	13468	216	15984	200	20720	289	21386
		2414	£250526	2006	£213527	2147	£205815	2005	£19736

NOTE.—Had the vital experience of the 10 years ending 1860 continued, the total loss during the 30 years 1861-90 would have been £752,965, instead of £616,878, the actual loss; being a saving of £136,087 equal to £4,536 a year.

Number of Persons under the age of 65 years constantly sick within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during each of the under-mentioned periods of the 40 years ending 1890.

Age.	1851-60.		1861-70.		1871-80.		1881-90.		Average 1861-90.	
	Number constantly sick.	Per cent. of the population.	Number constantly sick.	Per cent. of the population.	Number constantly sick.	Per cent. of the population.	Number constantly sick.	Per cent. of the population.	Number constantly sick.	Per cent. of the population.
under 15	300		206		236		207		216	
15 and under 65	182		194		193		193		193	
Total....	482	5.0	400	3.7	429	3.5	400	2.9	409	3.4

Average annual cost of maintaining sick persons at the rate of 5s. per week each, including medical attendance; and the average annual loss of earnings amongst sick persons from 15 to 65 years of age, within the limits of the Leek Improvement Act, during the under-mentioned periods of the 40 years ending 1800.

1851-60.		1861-70.		1871-80.		1881-90.		Average 1861-90.	
Average annual cost of maintain- ing the sick.	£ 6266	Average annual cost of maintain- ing the sick.	£ 5200	Average annual cost of maintain- ing the sick.	£ 5577	Average annual cost of maintain- ing the sick.	£ 5200	Average annual cost of maintain- ing the sick.	£ 5325
Earnings lost. 1482	0 3 1	Earnings lost. 1590	0 2 11½	Earnings lost. 1582	0 2 7½	Earnings lost. 1582	0 2 4	Earnings lost. 1585	0 2 7½
Cost per head on the population.	£ s. d. 0 13 0	Cost per head on the population.	£ s. d. 0 9 8	Cost per head on the population.	£ s. d. 0 9 2½	Cost per head on the population.	£ s. d. 0 7 8½	Cost per head on the population.	£ s. d. 0 8 9½
7748	0 16 1	6790	0 12 7½	7159	0 11 9¾	6782	0 10 0½	6910	0 11 4¾

A careful analysis of the old local registers of the town shows that, during the 227 years ending 1860, epidemics prevailed throughout 118 years, and that the excess in the number of deaths due to these epidemic waves amounted to 3650. The oldest local registers of births, deaths and marriages (those of the Parish Church) extend back to the year 1634, when the population of Leek and Lowe, and Tittesworth would probably number about 2000.

Previous to the year 1801 no systematic record was made of the ages at death, in the absence of which it is impossible to give the value of life. During the 50 years ending 1850, the average annual rate of mortality to 1000 living ranged from 24.1 to 41.1, the average annual rate for the whole 50 years being 26.4 to 1000 living.

Since the 1st January, 1851, accurate records have been kept upon the compound vital statistical forms.

During the ten years ending 1860, the average annual rate of mortality from all causes to 1000 living was 29.3, and from the 19 causes (class 1, order 1.) scheduled as zymotic, 7.57 to 1000 living. A life table constructed upon the data furnished by the numbers living, dying, and the years of life experienced during this period, gives a mean age at death of only 24.8 years, and a mean duration of life from birth of only 29.3 years, compared with a mean age at death of 32.0 years, and a mean duration of life from birth of 40.9 years for England and Wales, given in the No. 3 English life table.

The Chairman of the Sanitary Committee and most of the older members of the Board will remember that during the whole or the greater part of the decennial period referred to, the town was destitute of proper and sufficient public drainage; the public water supply was intermittent, the works consisting of a rickety, detached piece of patchwork, and the supply of water, both in quality and quantity, was utterly inadequate to the requirements of the population; the old offensive privy-middens and cesspools were universal, and the occupiers had to get their contents removed as best they could; the scavenging department consisted of two old men and a donkey-cart; bye-laws for the regulation of slaughter-houses, lodging-houses, markets, dairies, and cowsheds, and the erection of buildings were not in existence; the cattle fairs were held in the public streets; the burial of the dead was carried out under conditions highly dangerous to health;

the then existing Factory Act did not apply to small factories and workshops; the house accommodation of the working classes was most unsatisfactory, especially in the numerous courts and alleys, little attention was given to the evils of overcrowding; and no public provision was made for the isolation and treatment of dangerous infectious diseases. Such were the principal evils existing during the period under review, which combined to destroy the health, the life, and therefore the wealth of the community. In a word, persons born in Leek under these conditions had on the average but a short time to live, and were surrounded by all kinds of insanitary abominations.

During a period of upwards of 30 years the various powers conferred upon the Commissioners by the Leek Improvement Act, and the several adoptive Acts have been steadily and successfully exercised with a view to the removal of evils known to have been the cause of so much ill-health, suffering, and loss of life in previous years. Hence the improved condition of things shown in Dr. Reid's brief report of his recent inspection and inquiry into the present sanitary condition of the town. Every decennial period since 1860 shows a gradual improvement, the average annual rate of mortality from all causes having been reduced from 29·3 to 19·8 in 1000 living, and the zymotic rate (class 1, order 1,) from 7·57 to 1·44 to 1000 living, and phthisis from 5·09 to 2·08 to 1000 of the living.

A life-table, constructed upon the data furnished by the life experience of Leek during the 32 years ending December, 1892, compared with the experience of the 10 years ending 1860, shows that the mean age at death has increased from 24·8 years to 32·9 years, and the mean duration of life from birth from 29·3 years to 43·6 years.

With a view to ascertain what class of the community had been most affected by the sanitary and other improvement effected by the Board, the late Sir Edwin Chadwick obtained from the Registrar General a classification of the Leek population, with the life experience of each class for a period of upwards of 30 years, from which it appeared that the mean value of life of class 1, consisting of gentlemen and professional men, remained practically stationary; class 2, consisting of tradesmen and shopkeepers, had increased in value 16·6 per cent; class 3, consisting of artisans, &c., 16·1 per cent.; and class 4, consisting of workers in silk, 26·6 per

cent.; conclusively showing that the greatest benefits resulting from the sanitary and other improvements effected accrued to the working community.

Had the death-rate experienced during a series of years previous to 1860 continued, the total number of deaths during the 32 years ending 1892 would have amounted to 11,480. The actual number of deaths that did occur was 8521, showing a saving of 2959 lives, and 5918 years of sickness, according to the data given by the late Dr. Farr. In round numbers the mean death rate has been reduced 30 per cent., and the mean duration of life has been increased 30 per cent. The question may be asked at what cost to the rates has these results been achieved? The short conclusive answer is, the Board commenced its operations with a rate of 2s. 6d. in the £, and after 39 years' work ended with a rate of 2s. 3d. in the £.

The pecuniary saving to the various friendly societies within the town during the period referred to is unmistakably shown by the surplus capital disclosed in the actuaries' quinquennial valuations of their assets and liabilities. The present accumulated capital of these societies in Leek amounts to upwards of £30,000, equal to £2 per head on the whole population of the town.

There undoubtedly exists in the public mind of this country a growing conviction that whatever improvement is effected in the value of people's lives is conducive to a corresponding elevation of their physical, moral, intellectual, social and financial condition. In your mind this conviction has, for a number of years, taken a practical direction; and the evidence disclosed in the foregoing summary of your own experience is respectfully submitted as indicating the direction in which the powers of your successors may be successfully exerted in the future.

R. FARROW,
Sanitary Inspector.

TOTAL ATTENDANCES, 1894.

NAMES.	17 Board Meetings.	COMMITTEE MEETINGS.											Total Attendances.	Total Non-Attendances.
		15 Finance.	12 & Estates.	19 Sewering.	14 Gas.	7 Water.	14 Sanitary.	7 Public Library.	11 Fire Brigs. and Baths.	6 Technical Instrum.	School Attendce.	2 Special Committee		
Adams, John	13	13	8	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	13
Bishton, Thos. H.	14	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	26	25
Booth, Thos. H.	15	10	..	..	12	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	40	19
Brealey, John	10	7	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	1	23	26
Broster, Wm. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Burton, George .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Challinor, Wm.	10	..	..	..	..	1	7	4	..	..	..	..	22	25
Clemesha, J. C.	5	10	..	..	12	7	..	..	7	..	5	..	46	24
Critchlow, J. W.	11	..	2	6	..	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	28	43
Davenport, Henry	8	..	..	6	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	18	51
Goodwin, S. H.	6	7	..	..	..	2	4	2	6	..	..	..	21	41
Hambleton, S. ....	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	11	40
Heath, Isaac.	16	..	..	19	14	..	14	..	..	6	..	2	71	1
Magnier, Peter	14	10	..	..	10	6	..	..	7	..	..	..	47	17
Milner, R. S.	12	..	..	14	..	..	8	4	..	5	..	2	45	20
Morton, Andrew	16	8	7	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	2	43	17
Phillips, Edwin	5	..	..	..	5	3	5	..	..	2	..	..	20	40
Platt, J. N.	11	..	7	..	..	5	..	..	8	..	..	..	31	16
Shaw, Thomas	14	..	11	14	..	..	..	5	..	..	4	2	50	13
Sheldon, John	9	..	4	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	30
Shufflebotham, W.	14	15	11	11	51	12
Sleigh, Hugh	8	8	32
Travis, Samuel	3	..	2	1	6	58
Wright, Robert	12	17	5	1	2	37	22

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DERBY STREET, LEEK.



