

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Winnipeg – assembled. The Report of Your “Health”, “Fire” and “License” Inspector is as follows: Immediately on appointment, your Inspector procured himself a copy of By-Laws Nos. 12, 15 & 17. Carefully perused their contents and had them copied for future guidance.

Health

At the present season of the year the By-Law affecting the health of the city being in his opinion the most important, your Inspector paid a visit to several localities in the city which from their reputed filthy state required immediate attention. He ordered the premises requiring it to be thoroughly cleaned and the filth removed to a proper place inside and if said could not be found to cart it outside of the city. The Inspector has great pleasure in stating that almost every person he visits appeared to recognize the necessity of thorough cleanliness, and promised to have the provisions of the By-Law complied with as soon as practicable.

Your Inspector experiences a difficulty in his duties from not having a “Board of Health” committee of the Council to whom he could look for instructions in important cases, and he would respectfully recommend that if not already appointed, such a Board be established.

He would also recommend that orders be given to have the drains on the west side of Main Street open and kept open, from the store of Mr. Bentley to Wright’s bridge so that the stagnant water in cellars and excavations on this side of said street could be pumped out and run into the cooley at the said bridge.

He would further request that steps be taken to restrain pigs from running at large as he finds that when water is pumped out of cellars or after a shower of rain these troublesome animals root, roll and bury themselves in the drains, thus producing the worst kind of stagnant waters to the danger of the health of the citizens.

On inquiries your Inspector finds that a great deal of the sickness so prevalent at this season of the year, may be attributed to great extent to the overcrowded state of hotels and boarding houses, five or six persons being in many cases crowded into a sleeping apartment in an upper story of dimensions barely suitable to accommodate half the number. Knowing how difficult a matter this is to remedy, your Inspector will refrain from making any recommendations to your Hon. Body, but will feel it his duty to strongly urge on the inmates and proprietors of such houses to have their rooms properly ventilated and to reduce the number of boarders to their capacity of accommodation.

Your Inspector would respectfully recommend that steps be taken to have the privy on the jail grounds in front of the Registry office immediately removed to a less dangerous locality; as on inspection he finds that it is dangerous to the health of persons residing in the immediate vicinity. The place is erected right under the windows of Mr. Wrights residence, and the effluences arising therefrom must be highly dangerous to the health of the inmates of Mr. Wright’s building. He also finds that the space between the offensive building and the cellar is so small that if not removed it will render the latter building almost useless.

Fire

Your fire Inspector begs to report that in many cases where stacks of hay and other combustible material have been built too near buildings and in violation of By-Law No. 17, he has ordered their removal and in every case the owners promised to have them properly moved in a few days.

Your Inspector would recommend that a clause be added to this By-Law preventing more than a certain quantity of gunpowder coal oil and other combustible material from being kept in stores in thickly settled parts of the city, as the danger from these sources will increase towards the approach of winter.

He would further recommend that lacking proper supply of water and fire engines, that the formation of a hook and ladder company be encouraged to be composed chiefly of property holders and supplied with appliances for tearing down or removing wooden buildings so as to impede the progress of fires in certain parts of the city, should unfortunately such take place during the coming fall and winter.

Licenses

Your Inspector reports thirdly that he has not as yet commenced his official tour for the inspection of hotels, taverns and other licensed places being occupied in the preparation of books required by the said By-Law No. 17, but before next regular meeting of the Council he hopes to be able to do so, and to assure your honorable Council that the provisions of the By-Law are more particularly those clauses relating to the early closing of drinking places, and the proper observation of the Sabbath in such places, will be strictly enforced.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
Stewart Mulvey
"Health", Fire and "License" Inspector.
Winnipeg, Aug. 10th, 1874