



THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE WHAT FURTHER MEASURES, IF ANY, ARE REQUIRED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE PROMPT AND EFFICIENT REMOVAL OF SWILL AND HOUSE OFFAL FROM THE CITY LIMITS.

(Presented to the City Council November 12, 1866.)

To the Honorable City Council of the City of Providence :

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to inquire what further measures the public health demands for the prompt and efficient removal of swill and house offal from the City limits, respectfully

REPORT

That, having given the matter careful consideration, they are of the opinion that a radical change in the whole system of collecting our swill and house offal is demanded; and that the only way to insure the work being satisfactorily done, is for the city to own the carts and horses, and collect the swill itself.

The reasons, principally sanitary, that have forced your Committee to this conclusion, are very ably set forth in a report on the removal of swill and house offal and other subjects, made by the Superintendent of Health to the Board of Aldermen, June

25th, 1866; and it would only be a work of supererogation to repeat what has been already so well said. That course is pursued in Baltimore and some other cities, and gives complete satisfaction. But, while your Committee are so strongly of this opinion, they deem it inexpedient to recommend the adoption of that system, until a sufficiently liberal policy shall prevail in our City Government, that will place other departments in as relatively an advanced position as that would be. Unlike most other large cities, Providence does not own horses for its highway and other departments, where horses are in constant requisition, and hence, to erect stables and to care for the eight or ten horses alone, that would be required for the city swill carts, would demand an expense utterly disproportioned to what would be needed, if all the horses, used for City purposes, were owned by the municipal body. Your Committee indulge the hope that the time is not far distant, when our City, like, so many of its sister corporations, will own the horses for the purposes for which they are now hired; and should that time ever arrive, then, and not till then, in the opinion of our Committee, would it, from pecuniary considerations, be advisable for the City to collect the swill of its inhabitants.

The expediency of hiring horses for city swill carts was also considered, but your Committee are of the opinion that unless the whole system can be perfected at once, it would be better to wait until it can be.

If the City does not itself remove the swill, the contract system, in the opinion of your Committee, is the next most desirable one, and as that is the one now in use here, your Committee, for the reasons hereinbefore enumerated, are of the opinion that no further measures for the more prompt and efficient removal of swill and house offal are expedient at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

H. ROGERS, JR., *For the Committee.*

November 12, 1866.