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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS:

THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES.

WITH STATISTICAL TABLE.

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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS.

By substituting twenty-eight Metropolitan Borough Councils for 127 separate local bodies (viz., twenty-nine Administrative Vestries, forty-four Non-Administrative Vestries, twelve District Boards, one Local Board of Health, twelve Burial Boards, nineteen Boards of Library Commissioners, and ten Boards of Baths and Washhouses Commissioners), the London Government Act, 1899, has revolutionized the machinery of London Local Government. At most 1,680 elected, and 308 co-opted, members will take the place of 4,732 elected and 581 ex-officio and appointed members. On the other hand, the City Corporation, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the Boards of Guardians are left untouched, and women have been unjustifiably deprived of the right to sit on the Councils.

As Lord Salisbury told the House of Lords (26th July, 1899):—"These Councils differ very little from the vestries. They have one or two additional powers . . . but beyond that the change is only a change of the area of jurisdiction and a change of name." On the day on which the new Borough Councils come into office after the 1st November, 1900 (or a day six months sooner or later as appointed by the Lord President of the Council), the powers, duties, property, and liabilities of the elective Vestries, District Boards, Commissioners or Boards under adoptive Acts, and all bodies administering local Acts, will be transferred to the Borough Councils for the areas within which the former bodies operated. But powers or duties referring to a limited part of the borough may either be continued or cease to be exercised as provided by a scheme under the Act.

Electorate.

The electorate consists of the parochial electors enrolled on the Local Government and Parliamentary registers, *i.e.*, occupiers (males—including peers—spinsters, widows, and married women whose husbands are not qualified); service voters, lodgers, and freeholders, as for Parliamentary elections—providing the conditions of residence, etc., are fulfilled. This is the widest electorate in the country, and the right to vote may be exercised in every borough for which the elector is registered. The revised list of voters must be issued before 20th October in each year, and comes into operation on 1st November.

Constitution of Council.

A Borough Council consists of a mayor, aldermen and councillors—the total number of aldermen and councillors not to exceed seventy. One-third of the members will retire annually, unless the Council determine, after a resolution passed at a special meeting by two-thirds of those present and voting (being also a majority of the whole

Council), that the whole shall retire triennially, when the Local Government Board may approve this alteration. One-third forms a quorum.

The *Mayor* must be "a fit person" elected annually by the Council "from among the aldermen or councillors or persons qualified to be such"; he may be paid, if the Council so determine; and during his year of office and the following year he will be a justice of the peace for the County of London.

The *Aldermen* must be one-sixth of the number of councillors, and are elected by the Council from among the councillors or persons qualified to be such. They hold office for six years, half retiring triennially. An alderman cannot vote in the election of an alderman.

Councillors must be electors within the borough or residents of at least a year's standing, including ministers of religion. Disqualified are women, aliens, persons receiving poor relief (other than medical relief) within twelve months, persons convicted of crime or insolvent within five years, paid officials of the Council, and persons concerned in borough contracts (except as shareholders in a joint-stock company, or as interested in sale of lands or loan of money, etc.). Disqualification occurring after election, election as alderman, non-attendance for six months except for illness or with consent of the Council, vacate the seat, but not ceasing to be an elector or resident. Elections are by ballot, held on the 1st November, or, if that day is Sunday, then the following day. For electoral purposes each borough is divided into wards by Order in Council, and a number of councillors, divisible by three, is allotted to each ward, regard being had to the rateable value as well as to the population of the wards. In practice, the mean between them is taken. Ward areas may be subsequently altered by order of the Local Government Board after inquiry.

Committees may be appointed and must report to the Council. Except so far as the Council direct, their acts do not require approval, but they cannot levy rates, raise loans, or spend money beyond the sum allowed by the Council. The library committee may consist partly of persons not members of the Council. Borough Councils may appoint joint committees for matters of common interest, and may delegate to them any powers except to borrow money or make a rate. There are two statutory committees, the Assessment and Finance Committees (see under Financial Powers).

Each council must appoint a *Town Clerk*. This officer is not only the chief of the staff, but also the professional adviser of the Council. He prepares the voters' and jury lists, and acts as Returning Officer at elections. All precepts from other authorities are sent to him, and he signs all orders for payment.

Financial Powers.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

All accounts of the Borough Councils and their committees must be audited by the district auditors appointed by the Local Government Board. There must also be a special audit of the expense of promoting and opposing Bills.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A finance committee must be appointed to control the borough finances. Except in the case of precepts from another authority, no order for the payment of any sum may be made except by resolution of the Council passed on a recommendation from the finance committee, and all such orders must be signed by three members of the committee and the town clerk. No liability exceeding fifty pounds may be incurred except on a resolution passed by the Council after due notice on an estimate submitted by the finance committee.

LAND.

Land cannot be sold without the consent of the Local Government Board, and when used as an open space cannot be sold at all. Borough Councils are also given powers to buy or lease land, for local purposes, under the Local Government Act, 1888, sec. 65, subject to the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts.

LOANS.

The Borough Councils may borrow money on the security of the rates for any purposes of the Metropolitan Management Acts, subject to any sanction of the County Council. An appeal lies to the Local Government Board if the County Council refuses its assent, attaches conditions, or does not consent within six months. The sanction of the Local Government Board is needed for loans on the security of the Library Rate, and, under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, for loans to provide sanitary conveniences, premises, etc., for disinfection, buildings for post-mortem examinations, and coroners' courts. Money may either be raised in the open market or borrowed from the County Council or from the Public Works Loans Commissioners.

RATES.

All the expenses of the borough must be met out of the General Rate, which includes the poor rate and the old "general," "lighting," and "sewers" rates. It is to be assessed, levied, and collected under the Poor Law enactments. When a borough comprises more than one parish, the amount to be raised must be divided between the parishes according to their rateable value, subject to any provision required for the adjustment of local burdens. If any adoptive Act or other Act does not extend to the whole borough, the expenses thereof must be levied as an additional item of and along with the General Rate over the area to which the Act extends. In many cases, therefore, there will be great differences in rating within a borough. Any tenant who could have reclaimed from his landlord all or part of the sewers rate may reclaim an equivalent portion of the General Rate; the landlord generally contracts out of the sewers rate.

Assessment.—Where a borough comprises the whole of one or more unions, the Borough Council appoints one assessment committee for the borough, but where a poor law union extends over two or more boroughs, the Board of Guardians continues to appoint an assessment committee for the whole union. In either case, the

valuation list is prepared under the Metropolis Valuation Act, 1869. All rates are paid by the tenant, and the rent which he might "reasonably" be expected to pay, if he paid rates and taxes and the landlord bore the cost of repairs and insurance, is taken as the gross annual value of his holding. Owners and occupiers may be called upon to provide all particulars necessary for valuation purposes. To arrive at the rateable value a maximum (which in practice is the actual) rate of deduction is authorized according to the class of hereditament. Houses and gardens under £20 gross value, one-fourth; under £40, one-fifth; £40 and over, one-sixth; buildings without land, not liable to inhabited house duty, and of a gross value of £20 and under £40, one-fifth; ditto of £40 and upwards, one-sixth; land with buildings not houses, one-tenth; land without buildings, one-twentieth; mills and manufactories, one-third; tithe, railways, and other rateable hereditaments, "in each case according to the circumstances and the general principles of law." Churches, chapels, ragged schools, public elementary schools, volunteer quarters, and certain scientific and literary institutions supported by voluntary contributions are exempt from rating. Government property is valued by the Treasury, and a voluntary contribution made to the rates in respect thereof. Under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, the occupiers of agricultural land, *i.e.*, "any land used as arable, meadow or pasture land only, cottage gardens exceeding one-fourth of an acre, market gardens, nursery grounds, orchards or allotments" are exempt from half the rates except those where they are already exempt to the extent of one-half. In order to secure uniformity of assessment, rules for ascertaining gross and rateable values according to the nature of the tenancy were agreed on at the Assessment Conferences, 1890, 1894 and 1899, between the County Council and the Vestries, but these are not legally binding.*

After the valuation list has been examined and amended by the surveyor of taxes, it goes before the assessment committee, to which any aggrieved person may appeal. A further appeal lies to the justices sitting in special sessions, and finally to the quarter sessions of the County of London, from which an appeal can only be taken on points of law. Full publicity is given to the lists, and notice must be given to the occupier when an assessment is increased or a new hereditament inserted. An occupier for part of a year is only liable for a proportionate share of the rates. If a house has been built or altered in value in the course of any year after the valuation list has been made up, the officials or any ratepayer may cause a fresh assessment to be made, and in this case there is no appeal from the assessment committee. A new valuation is made every five years, beginning 6th April, 1871, but a supplemental list is also made every year, including all alterations which have taken place during the preceding twelve months.

Compounding (32 and 33 Vic. c. 41).—When the rateable value does not exceed £20, the owner may enter into a written agreement with the overseers to pay the poor rate, receiving 25 per cent. com-

* See Report. No. 168 of Council's publications.

mission. Or the Borough Council may order all such owners to be rated subject to an allowance of 15 per cent., and if an owner expresses his willingness to be rated on all his houses, whether occupied or not, he may have a further reduction not exceeding 15 per cent. He forfeits his commission if he is six months in arrear; the occupier may then pay the rates and deduct them from his rent, but is liable to distraint if he makes default after notice.

Demand Note.—Not only the borough rates but also the rate to meet a precept from another authority (except the contributions to the Local Government Board for the Common Poor Fund and the expenses of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, both of which fall on the guardians) are collected by the Borough Council. They must all be levied on one demand note in a form approved by the Local Government Board, stating the rateable value of the premises, the rate per £, the period and purposes of the rate, the amount in the £ required for each purpose, and the effect of the Equalization Act.

Equalization of Rates.—Under 57 and 58 Vic. c. 53, the County Council must every year form a fund equal to a 6d. rate on the valuation for the year, the contribution from each parish being according to its rateable value. This fund is apportioned among the boroughs and among the parishes in a borough, according to their population as determined every year by the Registrar-General. When the grant is greater than the contribution, the difference is paid to the parish, and when it is less the parish pays the difference; but when the total of contributions from the parishes in a borough is less than the grant to the borough no payment is required from any parish therein comprised. The equalization grant must be expended first on the purposes of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, then on lighting, then on streets, and an annual return must be made showing the mode of expenditure. When the Local Government Board has made an order setting a time for the performance of a duty under the Public Health Act, 1891, it may also order the defaulting Borough Council to be deprived of all or part of its equalization grant, which goes to increase the fund for the following year. It is specially provided that nothing in the London Government Act of 1899 shall affect the Equalization of Rates Act, except in so far as areas are altered. Including the rates for the expenses of central bodies, 69 per cent. of the rates in the Metropolis are now levied equally over the county.

Overseers.—The Borough Council takes over all the duties of overseers with regard to valuation lists and collection of rates. The town clerk takes over the duties of overseers relating to the preparation of voters' and jury lists in the borough.

Administrative Powers and Duties.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.

Borough Councils can adopt the Baths and Washhouses Acts, 1846-96, by a majority vote, and then provide and manage public baths and laundries, or temporarily convert a bath into a gymnasium. The Acts have been already adopted in thirty-five parishes, and

the Baths Commissioners, where they exist, are absorbed into the Councils. The legal charges are: baths for laboring classes, cold 1d., hot 2d.; baths of any higher class not to exceed 3d. and 6d.; swimming baths, 2d., 4d. and 8d., according to class; washhouses, 1d. for first hour, 3d. for two hours together. The statutory maximum charge for the first hour's use of a washhouse is generally disregarded. At three baths a gymnasium is provided during the winter, six are licensed for music or dancing, and others are fitted up as halls. Deptford Baths, and eleven others, are supplied, wholly or partly from their own wells. Three of the new Boroughs start without public baths or washhouses, and nine have only part of their district provided with these institutions.

BILLS, PROMOTING AND OPPOSING.

The London Government Act, 1899, gave Borough Councils the same powers of promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament, and of prosecuting or defending any legal proceedings necessary for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their borough, as are conferred on Borough Councils outside London by the Borough Funds Act, 1872. No Bill can be promoted or opposed except (i) after a resolution of an absolute majority of the Council at a special meeting, (ii) with the consent of the Local Government Board in respect of matters within its jurisdiction, "and, in respect of other matters, the approval of a Secretary of State," a local inquiry being held if necessary, and (iii) the consent of the owners and ratepayers of the district as expressed by resolution or, if required, a poll. After deposit of a Bill a further special resolution of the Council is required before proceeding. No Bill can be promoted for the establishment of gas or water works to compete with existing companies. Where a Parliamentary Committee has decided that promotion of or opposition to a Bill is unreasonable or vexatious, no powers are given under this section. No payment can be made to a member of a Council as counsel or agent in connection with Bills.

BUILDING.

A Borough Council may (a) order the removal of dangerous or inconvenient projections or obstructions in front of buildings; (b) prescribe precautions for safety of passers-by during building operations; (c) license wooden structures; (d) remove unauthorized sky-signs, power being reserved to the County Council to act in default; (e) remove obstructions in streets; (f) appeal to tribunal appointed, one member each, by the County Council, the Royal Society of British Architects, and the Surveyors' Institution, when aggrieved by a decision of the Superintending Architect as to the general line of buildings in a street. Concurrently with the County Council it may (a) upon a justice's order demolish buildings when it has obtained a conviction for contravention of the London Building Act, 1894; (b) take proceedings when timber is stored in an unlawful manner. With these exceptions, the County Council alone administers the London Building Act, 1894.

BYE-LAWS.

A Borough Council can make bye-laws in regard to most of its specific duties, and also "generally for the good rule and government of the borough, and for the prevention and suppression of nuisances not already punishable in a summary manner" (Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, sec. 23). Public advertisement thereof must be made; two-thirds of the Council must be present at the meeting for adoption; they must not conflict with any Act of Parliament or any bye-law of the County Council; they have to be specifically approved by the Home Secretary; and they may be vetoed by the Privy Council. Bye-laws under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, require to be confirmed by the Local Government Board, instead of the Home Secretary. Penalties up to £5, and 40s. for each day's continuance of offence after notice may be imposed.

CANAL BOATS ACT, 1878.

The Local Government Board entrusts to certain Borough Councils the duty of registering canal boats and enforcing the Board's bye-laws as to number, age, and sex of inmates, cleanliness, and precautions against infectious disease. Persons suffering from infectious disease may be removed and the boat detained for disinfection.

CEMETERIES.

Borough Councils may, by resolution, adopt the Metropolitan Burial Acts, 1852 to 1885, and provide and maintain burial grounds, erect chapels and mortuaries, reserve unconsecrated ground, etc. The Acts have been adopted in twenty-nine parishes, and existing Burial Boards will be absorbed in the Councils. Eight Borough Councils have no cemeteries of their own, and four have them for part of their district only. There are 640 acres of burial ground in the county, only sufficient for five years at the rate of one interment per grave. In 1897, the County Council asked thirty burial authorities if they wanted powers to establish crematoria; eleven answered "yes," one "no," five had no opinion, and thirteen gave no reply. Powers have not yet been obtained.

DRAINAGE.

The County Council is responsible for the main sewers scheduled in the Metropolitan Management Act, 1855, and for such other sewers as it may declare to be main sewers; the Borough Councils are responsible for the construction and maintenance of all local sewers and drains, subject to the bye-laws made by the County Council. A Borough Council may transfer its powers to the County Council with the latter's consent. The sanction of the County Council is required for new sewers. In new streets the Borough Council may construct the sewers, charging all or part of the expense to the owners of property; or with the consent of Borough and County Councils the owners may make the sewers at their own expense, and the Borough Council may make a contribution from the rates. A Borough Council may insist on new houses being built with satisfactory drains, water supply, and sanitary arrangements, and on any

house being connected by a sufficient drain to a sewer, when there is one within a hundred feet; in either case it can do the work and charge owner. It may also order the draining or cleansing of ponds, courts and ditches. Its consent is required for the erection of buildings on or under sewers, for the alteration of drains and the branching of drains into sewers, and for plans and material of drains. Its officers may enter any house in the daytime after twenty-four hours' notice, or without notice in emergency, and examine the drains or apparatus, and the owner must carry out any works necessary to put them in a proper state or be charged with the expense thereof.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

Under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, a Borough Council may obtain a licence from the Board of Trade for the supply of electricity for all purposes except for telegraphs and telephones, three months' public notice being given after passing of resolution to apply. A licence runs for seven years, and may contain provisions as to the supply, safety of public, prices, inspection, etc. The Board of Trade may also proceed by a Provisional Order, which is afterwards confirmed by Parliament.

The consent of the Borough Council is required before any private undertakers can obtain a licence or provisional order within the borough, unless the Board of Trade dispense with it for special reasons. It may make bye-laws for the safety of the public, and its consent is needed for the opening of roads and the erection of overhead wires. Within six months after the expiry of forty-two years, and of every subsequent period of ten years, from the passing of a Provisional Order Act, or after the expiry of any shorter period provided by that Act, a Borough Council may take over a private undertaking at the "fair market value" of all lands, buildings, works, materials, and plant, due regard being had to their nature, condition, and "suitability for the purposes of the undertaking," but without any addition for compulsory purchase, goodwill, or future profits. All disputes must be referred to arbitration.

The following public authorities have lighting works in operation :—

	Opened.	Capital.	Net Profit, 1898.
Hammersmith ...	1897 ...	£72,425 ...	£1,428
Hampstead ...	1894 ...	125,410 ...	8,340
Islington ...	1896 ...	191,300 ...	2,206
Newington ...	1899 ...	50,000 ...	—
Shoreditch ...	1897 ...	90,082 ...	3,184
St. Pancras ...	1892 ...	241,994 ...	4,175

The following authorities have works under construction :— Battersea, capital £102,000; Bermondsey, £15,000; Fulham, £108,166; Hackney, £242,367; Poplar, £77,000; Whitechapel, £60,500. Bethnal Green and Stoke Newington have obtained orders. Fourteen Boroughs start with their area given over to profit-making companies for electric lighting, and in four others the Councils have powers over part of the districts only.

FLOODS, PREVENTION OF (THAMES), ACT, 1879.

Borough Councils and owners of land must make and maintain flood works and river banks ordered by the County Council, and to raise funds may levy a rate charging only the parts benefited.

GAS.

Under the Metropolitan Gas Act, 1860, secs. 27-29, a Borough Council may appoint or join in appointing examiners to test gas, and may provide testing apparatus.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The Borough Councils are the local authorities under Part II. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Periodic inspection of the borough must be made, and, in particular, of any house against which four neighboring householders have complained.

When a house is unfit for human habitation the Borough Council must proceed summarily against the owner or occupier; a fine up to £50 may be imposed and the house closed. The tenant must then get seven days' notice and his reasonable removal expenses from the Council, recoverable from the owner. If the house is not forthwith put in a proper state, the Council may order the owner to demolish same (subject to an appeal to quarter sessions), and after three months may do the work and charge the cost on the premises.

On the complaint of a medical officer or four inhabitants, the Council may (subject to an appeal to quarter sessions) order the demolition of any "obstructive" building which makes other houses unhealthy or prevents the removal of a nuisance, and may within a year buy the site. Compensation is fixed by a Local Government Board arbitrator, and where neighboring houses are raised in value by the works he must charge the owners with a corresponding share.

In the case of small unhealthy areas, the Borough Council must submit to the Local Government Board, after notice to all owners and occupiers, a scheme for the improvement of the area. Before confirming the scheme the Board must hold a public enquiry, and it may insist on such provisions for the rehousing of displaced persons "as seem required by the circumstances." The area may be bought either by agreement or under Local Government Board arbitration. Compensation must be based on the fair market value after deducting the cost of repairs and the extra rent due to overcrowding; if a house cannot be made fit for habitation, only the value of the land and materials must be paid. The County Council may contribute towards the expense. All action taken must be reported to the County Council, and where the Borough Council has been a month in default the County Council may act in lieu and recover its expenses. The County Council must report all areas of not more than ten houses to the Borough Council, and all disputes as to whether the work should be done by the Borough or County Council must be referred to the Home Office.

So far, fifteen clearance schemes are at present in progress or awaiting confirmation by the Local Government Board. They

provide for the re-housing of 3,190 out of 5,080 persons displaced, and the cost is estimated to be £216,000, about half of which will be borne by the County Council.

The London Government Act, 1899, empowers a Borough Council to adopt Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, within the borough, and erect "lodging houses for the working-classes." Very wide powers are given, for the term "lodging houses" includes "separate houses or cottages for the working-classes, whether containing one or several tenements," and a "cottage" may include a garden of not more than half an acre in extent, and £3 in value. Land may be taken compulsorily with the consent of the Home Secretary, or a contract may be made for the purchase or lease of houses hereafter to be built, or existing houses may be bought and adapted. After seven years the houses may be sold if too expensive. Paupers are not eligible as tenants.

LABOR BUREAUX.

After the distress of 1892, when 100,000 persons were said to be out of work, Labor Bureaux were started by the vestries of Battersea, Hackney, Islington, St. Pancras, and St. Martin's and Strand (jointly), in order to find employment. They mainly attract casual workers and unskilled laborers. Including the Salvation Army and Y.W.C.A. Bureaux, 19,293 applicants registered in 1898, and work was found for 10,507; 12,626 situations were offered by employers.

LIBRARIES.

The Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893, have already been adopted in thirty-eight districts, and Borough Councils, which take over the existing Library authorities, may adopt these Acts by majority vote at a special meeting. Seven Boroughs start with no public library within their area, and seven others have libraries for part of their district only. A Library Rate of 1d. in the £ may be levied to provide "public libraries, public museums, schools for science, art galleries, and schools for art," and the Council may borrow on security of the rate with consent of the Local Government Board. The library and museum may be free. Persons not members of the Council may be appointed to the Library Committee. Sixteen public libraries are open on Sunday. Whitechapel has a museum, and sends three members to the Board of seventeen trustees for the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Camberwell, with the aid of private donors, has established the Lord Leighton Memorial Art Gallery, where it holds exhibitions and accommodates a School of Arts and Crafts maintained by the County Council. Shoreditch, out of money received for letting space for advertisements, set up a Technical School, now taken over by the County Council.

OVERHEAD WIRES (LONDON) ACT, 1891.

Borough Councils must enforce the County Council's bye-laws regulating strength, placing, etc., of overhead wires, may appoint inspectors, and may require the removal of dangerous wires.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

Borough Councils may take land by gift or purchase for use as an open space. In 1897, the vestries and district boards managed only 212½ acres of open spaces out of London's total of 7,000 acres. Local bodies sometimes object to bearing the whole expense of an open space which may be used by persons from other districts, but the County Council meets this grievance by contributing towards the purchase, and occasionally towards the maintenance of open spaces not under its own control. No ground used as a park or open space can be sold.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Borough Councils are sanitary authorities entrusted with the carrying out of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891; they must also observe and enforce the County Council's bye-laws, and may make bye-laws regarding their own duties. The County Council may prosecute in default of a Borough Council, and charge all expenses to the latter. On complaint by the County Council that a Borough Council has defaulted in the performance of any duty under this Act or under any bye-law, the Local Government Board may, after inquiry, order the duty to be performed within a set time, and in case of non-performance may enforce the order by writ of mandamus, or may appoint the County Council to perform the duty at the expense of the borough; the equalization grant may also be withheld. This power has been found, in practice, inoperative; but it enables the County Council to attend to complaints.

A qualified medical officer of health must be appointed in each Borough, removable only by the Local Government Board. An adequate number of sanitary inspectors, approved by the Local Government Board, must also be appointed, and the number may be increased by the Board at the instance of the County Council; about one to 2,500 houses is considered the minimum for efficiency. Half of the salaries of medical officers and inspectors falls on county funds. Periodic inspection must be made for the detection of nuisances, and any premises may be entered by day or during business hours. After notice has been served requiring abatement of nuisance, offenders may be proceeded against before a summary court and an order obtained for the abatement of a nuisance, for the prohibition of its recurrence, or for the closing of a dwelling-house. In the last two cases an appeal lies to quarter sessions. The Borough Council may execute the necessary works and charge defaulting owner; it has also the option of taking cases to High Court.

Animals.—Offences are: keeping an animal so as to be a nuisance or injurious to health, and keeping swine within forty yards of a public place. Unfit places may be closed. Under County Council bye-law, "noisy" animals may be held to be nuisances.

Bakehouses.—The Borough Council enforces the Factory and Workshops Acts regarding the cleanliness, ventilation, and sanitary condition of retail bakehouses, and the prohibition of new underground bakehouses.

Dairies.—The Borough Council registers dairymen, inspects dairies, and enforces the bye-laws of the County Council for securing the lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage and water-supply of dairies, the cleanliness of vessels for the sale of milk, and the prevention of infection. The County Council may act in default. (See also "Infectious Diseases.")

Dwelling-houses.—The Borough Council must make and enforce bye-laws for the registration and inspection of houses let in lodgings (not "common lodging-houses") or occupied by more than one family, the number of occupants, and sanitary condition.

When the medical officer of health certifies that any house or part thereof is "so overcrowded as to be injurious or dangerous to the health of the inmates, whether or not members of the same family," proceedings must be taken, and the house may be closed if two convictions are obtained within three months, even though against different parties.

In all houses satisfactory ashpits, waterclosets, etc., must be provided and a suitable water supply laid on; defects found on inspection must be remedied, or the works will be executed at owner's cost. An appeal lies to the County Council.

An underground room used separately as a dwelling-place must be seven feet high (three above ground) with a paved area in front four feet wide; if the area is six feet wide, the height of one foot above ground suffices. Proper sanitary conveniences, fireplace, drainage, etc., must be provided. In case of structural alterations an appeal lies to the Local Government Board.

A house unfit for habitation, including one without the prescribed water-fittings, may be closed.

Before a new house can be occupied the Borough Council must certify that there is a proper water supply, but an appeal lies to the police magistrate; bye-laws must be made as to cleanliness of cisterns, etc.; and proceedings must be taken against any water company not reporting within twenty-four hours the cutting off of the water supply of a dwelling-house.

The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1891, exempts from house duty houses structurally fitted in the opinion of a medical officer of health for occupation as separate tenements at an annual rental not exceeding £40. The medical officer must personally examine the house and fill up a certificate for the Surveyor of Taxes. The Metropolitan Branch of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health has recommended that the certificate should depend upon compliance with the provisions of the London Building Act, 1894, as to height and area of rooms, upon provision of sufficient water supply and water closets on each floor, upon efficient drainage and adequate accommodation for washing clothes. It is plain that the proper administration of this Act is of great importance for all dwellers in tenements and flats.

Factories and Workshops.—The Borough Council must see that every workshop and workplace which is not a factory subject to the provisions of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1878, is kept clean and free from effluvia, is so ventilated as to render innoxious any

gases, dust, etc., and is not so overcrowded as to be dangerous to health; further, that every factory, workshop, or workplace is provided with proper sanitary conveniences for each sex separately. It may also require the cleansing or limewashing of any workshop, or any workplace, or any factory which is not under the Factories and Workshops Acts. The Home Office throws practically the whole enforcement of the provisions of the Factory Acts regarding "domestic workshops" upon the Borough Councils. In case of general default by a Council, the Home Office may order a factory inspector to act, and in case of particular default after the factory inspector has given a month's notice, the inspector may take any necessary proceedings—in both cases at cost of Council.

Food.—A medical officer of health or sanitary inspector can enter any premises and seize any article of food which is exposed or being prepared for sale if it appears to him to be unfit for food. A magistrate may order it to be destroyed, and may impose fine up to £50, or six months' imprisonment with hard labor.

A public analyst must be appointed in each Borough with the approval of the Local Government Board. Borough Councils must enforce the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875-1899, specially directing their officers to take samples of articles exposed for sale or in course of delivery, for the purpose of detecting the admixture of ingredients injurious to health or prejudicial to the quality of the article. The sale of any article or food or drug "not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded" is also an offence. The Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture may act in default of a Borough Council at latter's expense. Vessels containing condensed milk which is separated or skimmed must be conspicuously labelled. Borough Councils must also enforce the Margarine Act, 1887, as to labels; register manufacturers and wholesale dealers in margarine and margarine cheese; and see that these articles do not contain "more than 10 per cent. of butter fat." Borough Councils must also enforce the Sale of Horseflesh Act, 1889, requiring a visible sign on shops where horseflesh is on sale as human food, empowering seizure of suspected meat, etc.

Hospitals.—A Borough Council may build temporary or permanent hospitals for the use of the inhabitants of the borough, or combine with another Council for that purpose, or contract for the use of a hospital. This power is not confined to infectious disease hospitals, but no London local authority has yet exercised it. The cost of maintenance of a non-infectious patient, who is not a pauper, in a hospital is recoverable as a simple debt, but not after the expiry of six months from his death or discharge.

House Refuse must be removed gratuitously at regular periods by the Borough Council; occupier can only dispose of it himself if it is not removed for seven days, and then must give notice. Trade refuse must also be removed, but for a reasonable charge, disputes to be settled by a police magistrate. The Council may order the removal of "any accumulation of obnoxious matter."

Infectious Diseases (i.e. smallpox, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, scarlatina, and typhus, typhoid, enteric,

relapsing, continued, or puerperal fevers, and other diseases added by the County or Borough Council with approval of the Local Government Board).—Cases must be notified to medical officer of health by medical attendant or relatives. The Borough Council must disinfect infected premises, clothes, etc., gratuitously, and provide proper premises for that purpose; it may, with a magistrate's order, remove infected persons to hospital; it may inspect and, after inquiry, close dairies anywhere when suspected of being a source of infection; it must carry out the Local Government Board regulations for the supply of medical aid and accommodation, cleansing, etc., in epidemics; it may provide ambulances, free temporary shelter or house accommodation, and, with the consent of the Local Government Board, a temporary supply of medical aid and medicine for the poor. It also enforces the law against the vacating or letting of infected premises, the exposure of infected persons in public places or vehicles, the engaging of infected persons in any occupation, and the detention of corpses in living rooms. The example of Battersea and Camberwell Vestries in circulating notices as to the importance of disinfecting rooms after consumption and offering disinfectants free, may be commended.

Mortuaries must be provided, and the "decent and economical" interment of the dead may be undertaken. The County Council can enforce the provision of a building for post-mortem examinations, which must not be in a workhouse.

Public Sanitary Conveniences may be provided and, if desired, fees charged for same.

Offensive Businesses.—On the complaint of a medical officer of health, or two doctors, or ten inhabitants, that any building used in any business causing effluvia is a nuisance or dangerous or injurious to health, the Borough Council must take summary proceedings; and unless the person responsible can show that he has taken the best practicable means for abating the nuisance he is liable to a fine up to £50. It may also make and enforce bye-laws for preventing nuisances arising from any offensive matter running out of any manufactory, shop, etc., into a public place; and may object before the Local Government Board to bye-laws proposed by the County Council for the regulation of offensive trades, but it must enforce them when made.

River Pollution.—Concurrently with the County Council a Borough Council may enforce the Rivers Pollution Act, 1876, against any person polluting a stream flowing past or through the borough.

Slaughterhouses.—The County Council licenses slaughterhouses and knackers' yards. Borough Councils must enforce the County Council's bye-laws, may oppose the issue of a licence, and may inspect during business hours. The County Council may act in default of the local authority. Conviction for having unsound meat may entail loss of licence.

Smoke.—All furnaces and steamboats must consume their own smoke, as far as practicable, or the Borough Council (and it alone) may proceed summarily against the owner, occupier or employee. Similarly with a chimney (not of a dwelling house) sending forth black smoke.

Tents and Vans.—Borough Councils may make bye-laws for promoting cleanliness in and the habitable condition of tents, vans, etc., and for preventing overcrowding and the spread of disease.

Water.—Borough Councils may provide public wells and fountains, close private wells on a justice's order, require the provision of a constant water supply, and appeal to the Board of Trade under the Metropolis Water Act, 1871, with respect to the regulations of water companies supplying the borough.

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TRAMWAYS.

Borough Councils may make complaints as to rates and charges, traffic facilities, etc., before the Railway Commissioners under the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888 (sec. 7), without proof that they are aggrieved. The consent of the Borough Council is required under the Tramway Act, 1870, before a provisional order can be issued for the laying of a tramway within the borough, but its consent may be dispensed with if two-thirds of the line lies in the districts of consenting authorities.

Borough Councils can compel canal companies to fence the banks of canals which are accessible to the public.

STREETS.

The Borough Council is the authority for the "paving, lighting, watering, cleansing, or improving" of the borough. With the consent of the County Council it may extend or improve any street or canal-bridge in the borough, taking land compulsorily for the purpose; but in large works it is usual to join with the County Council. Landowners must lay out all new streets to the full width of forty feet for carriage and twenty feet for passenger traffic. Borough Councils may take over new streets and pave them at cost of owners, and may require the owner of any court, passage, or public place not a thoroughfare to pave same. A street may be closed during alterations after notice to the Councils of contiguous boroughs. The Act of 1899 transferred to the Borough Councils $11\frac{1}{4}$ miles of main roads formerly vested in the County Council, which contributed £7,345 towards their maintenance by the vestries. The consent of the Borough Council is required before any person or company can break up the pavement or surface of a street, and the work must be done under supervision by the Council's officers, and the street must be reinstated in former condition. The Councils alone, and not any occupier or owner, are responsible for the sweeping and cleansing of streets, pavements, footpaths, etc., and must make and enforce bye-laws for the prevention of nuisances arising from dust, ashes, and filth in streets. If they create a nuisance in the removal or disposal of refuse, the County Council, with the consent of the Local Government Board, may take summary proceedings.

Dust Destructors.—Street refuse, as well as house refuse, is the absolute property of the Borough Councils, and its disposal is one of the problems of large towns. Newington finds it profitable to treat its refuse so as to make it saleable as manure. Battersea, Lewisham, Poplar, St. Luke's, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Westminster,

Whitechapel, and Woolwich have dust destructors in which the refuse is burned, and Bethnal Green, Fulham, and Hackney will construct similar furnaces in connection with their electric lighting schemes. Shoreditch uses its destructor to heat its libraries and baths and to generate energy for its electric works. Mr. Hammond, the distinguished engineer, in his report* to the Hackney Vestry, estimated the ultimate saving from the destructor at £4,000 yearly, the cost of collection alone being 5s. a ton when a central site was used for its deposit, instead of 8s. a ton as at present.

TRANSFER OF POWERS.

The local authorities have had power to transfer their drainage duties to the central body since 1855. Under the London Government Act, 1899, the County Council may transfer to the Borough Councils the highways of certain bridges, towards the maintenance of which it contributes £308, and the highways of the Victoria and Albert and Chelsea Embankments, which cost it now £10,950, in consideration of an annual payment by the County Council, to be fixed in case of dispute by the Local Government Board. Under the latter Act, also, the Local Government Board may, on the joint application of the County Council and the majority of the Borough Councils, make a Provisional Order, requiring confirmation by Parliament, transferring to all the Borough Councils any power exercisable by the County Council and *vice versa*. The expenses of the transferred power shall be met as fixed in the Order.

VOTERS' AND JURY LISTS.

The preparation of these lists is transferred from the Overseers to the Town Clerk of each borough.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The powers of the Woolwich Board of Health to maintain its market (net income £525) and to contribute towards technical education are continued to the Council of the new borough. Any powers of a Vestry relating to church affairs, the collection of church-rates, and any interest in church property are by scheme to be vested in the incumbent and churchwardens and not transferred to the Councils. Buildings in a churchyard belonging to any authority whose powers are transferred to the new Councils will vest in the Council concerned. The nominees of the Borough Council will be substituted for Overseers as Trustees for any charity. Finally, Borough Councils may "acquire, hire, erect, and furnish such halls, buildings, and offices as they may from time to time require."

Minutes, Reports, etc.

The Borough Councils must keep minutes of the proceedings at their meetings, and accounts of their receipts and expenditure. Any ratepayer can, "at all reasonable times," examine these minutes and accounts, and make copies and extracts therefrom free of charge.

* *Municipal Journal*, 24th February, 1899.

An Annual Report of all proceedings, and of works completed and in progress, including the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, must be published and supplied to any person on payment of twopence.

An annual list of estates, charities, bequests, etc., belonging to the borough, with the application thereof, must also be published.

The Borough Councils and Labor.

The Councils may either give their work out to contractors or may adopt the principle of direct employment. The former plan is the more usual, the latter the more profitable. Since October 10th, 1895, Battersea Vestry has done all its work through its Works and General Purposes Committee. Up to March 25th, 1898, it expended on works £41,054, saving £539 on the estimate; in 1898-9 it spent £9,829, and for the following year proposes to spend £141,059, including the construction of baths, electric-light station, wood-paving and sewers. "After allowing for the exclusion of the ordinary highway, cleansing and repairing works of the parish, a sum of £66,375 may be added to the foregoing for works executed during the period named, viz., the 10th October, 1895, to the 25th March, 1899, for general repairs to plant, repairs to sewers and sewers cleansing, repairs to private drains and new drains, mason and paviors' work, and repairs to gas and water trenches, etc."* The Vestry are now considering the establishment of a municipal printery. Another recent example is that of Poplar, which saved £693 on an estimate of £14,990 for paving works carried out by its own workmen in 1898-9.

The "fair wages" clause is introduced into contracts by many of the Metropolitan authorities, but the treatment of employees in most cases falls below the agreed "trade union rates." Battersea and Poplar are the most satisfactory: Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Fulham, St. George the Martyr, and some others, following more or less closely. Except in the case of old men the minimum of 24s. a week is generally observed. Poplar is the first district to raise the wages of dustmen, roadmen, etc., to 30s. per week after two years' service (November, 1899). Outside of Battersea, Plumstead, Poplar, and Woolwich the eight hours' day does not exist, the usual hours per week being 54 to 56½. Most of the local authorities allow one week's holiday and statutory holidays with pay. Half-pay is generally allowed for a varying period during sickness.

Details as to wages, hours, holidays, trade union rates, etc., may be seen in a return prepared for the Vestry of Camberwell in September 1899.

Transitory Provisions.

The task of working out the details as to the transfer of powers is given to a Committee of the Privy Council and three Commissioners appointed by it. The Committee will frame an Order in Council forming each of the areas mentioned in the Act into a separate borough and incorporating a Council therein, and the Order

* Surveyor's Report. See *Municipal Journal*, June 23, 1899.

LONDON LOCAL STATISTICS.

Metropolitan Borough.	Relation to Existing Local Government Districts.	Area Acres.	Open Spaces.		Population.		Inhabited Houses.		Rateable Value.		Expenditure on Borough Purposes.		Debt for Borough Purposes.		Rates, 1896-7.			Density. Persons per habitable acre, 1896.	Overcrowding. Percentage of Population, 1891.	Corrected Death-Rate per 1000 persons living, 1886-95.	Deaths under one year of age per 1000 births, 1886-95.	Sanitary Inspectors.	Baths, Libraries, &c.	Electric Light &c.	Local Government District.
			Total Acres	Percentage of Total Area.	1896	Change since 1891 per cent.	1896	Change since 1891 per cent.	1898 £	Change since 1891 per cent.	1896-7. £	1896-7. £	Growth since 1894-5 per cent.	Total.	For Borough Purposes.	Rate equal to Equalization Grant [-], or Contribution [+]									
Battersea	Battersea Parish	2,169	407	18.7	165,115	+9.6	22,421	+7.9	892,361	+17.4	104,435	175,531	+31.6	s. d. 6 7	d. 17.64	d. -3.14	94	14.20	see Wands'th	158	9	B L E	Battersea		
Bermondsey	includes	1,506	76	5.05	137,585	—	16,568	—	859,366	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	137	23.3	23.7	158	4	B L E	Bermondsey	
	Bermondsey Parish	627	4	0.7	85,475	+0.9	10,246	-8.2	427,839	+3.2	50,283	60,570	+0.9	7 2	12.64	-3.86	59	18.0	22.3	159	2	B L	Rotherhithe		
	Rotherhithe Parish	754	69	9.1	40,379	+2.8	5,273	+0.5	217,508	+7.3	21,453	54,420	+21.3	7 4	22.64	-2.96	96	29.1	25.4	175	1	—	St. Olave's		
	St. Olave's District	125	3	2.4	11,731	-7.8	1,049	-18.5	214,019	+4.9	11,593	400	-20.0	6 0 3	12.28	+5.15	197	34.23	24.1	161	7	B E	Bethnal Green		
Bethnal Green	Bethnal Green Parish	755	99	13.1	129,162	nil	14,922	-9.8	452,976	+6.4	49,571	43,900	-2.9	7 3	15.64	-7.78	60	11.1	19.5	151	12	B L	Camberwell		
Camberwell	Camberwell Parish	4,450	217	4.8	253,076	+7.5	35,220	+4.0	1,176,079	+13.6	124,938	108,651	-8.7	7 0	12.64	-4.65	119	18.58	21.7	155	3	B L	Chelsea		
Chelsea	Chelsea Parish less	650	21	3.2	75,196	+0.4	11,890	-2.7	803,458	+16.5	57,214	93,269	+27.8	6 0	13.14	+0.05	149	—	—	—	1	B L	Kensal Green		
	Kensal Green	144	—	—	21,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	—	see Greenwich	—	6	B	Deptford		
Deptford	Deptford St. Paul's in Greenwich District	1,574	31	1.9	107,273	+5.9	15,504	+4.5	535,333	+11.2	see Greenwich	74,810	+76.6	5 6	10.64	-3.51	193	—	—	—	—	—	—	Finsbury	
Finsbury	includes	588	18	3.06	109,961	—	9,709	—	856,266	—	—	—	—	6 1	11.64	-2.08	213	38.78	25.5	173	3	L	Clerkenwell		
	Clerkenwell Urban Parish	316	8	2.5	65,847	nil	5,910	-6.5	406,279	+12.8	37,496	39,336	+4.2	6 2 3	12.44	+0.25	182	44.24	29.3	150	3	—	St. Luke's		
	St. Luke's Parish	237	8	3.5	41,527	-2.2	3,498	-11.5	362,319	+15.3	26,444	42,491	-43.5	6 8	16.20	+4.51	101	38.08	see Holborn	—	—	—	St. Sepulchre's		
	St. Sepulchre's } Holborn District	19	2	10.5	1,717	-13.0	205	+7.8	61,179	+31.6	see Holborn	4,081	+6.5	5 7	14.01	+3.45	—	—	see Holborn	—	—	—	Glasshouse Yard		
	Glasshouse Yard } Holborn District	6	—	—	733	-5.9	93	+34.7	13,858	+1.2	see Holborn	1,015	-5.7	6 2	—	+5.44	—	—	see Holborn	—	—	—	Charterhouse		
	Charterhouse	10	—	—	137	—	3	—	12,631	-1.3	—	—	—	6 5	20.64	-3.75	69	14.49	Ham'smth	167	6	B L E	Fulham		
Fulham	Fulham Parish	1,701	44	2.5	113,781	+24.1	15,266	+18.6	613,208	+43.7	68,583	109,059	+8.1	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	Greenwich	
Greenwich	includes	3,837	399	10.3	84,429	—	12,822	—	501,088	—	—	—	—	6 0	16.64	-3.23	35	11.17	19.8	148	3	B	Greenwich		
	Greenwich Parish	1,740	—	—	60,779	+6.1	9,426	+4.8	329,187	+13.6	69,462	20,030	+8.7	5 8	5.64	-2.24	69	—	whole district	—	—	—	—	Deptford St. Nicholas	
	Deptford St. Nicholas Parish } Greenwich District	111	—	—	7,722	+12.1	935	+1.4	61,505	+10.1	—	3,513	+3.4	6 9	23.64	-0.77	11	—	see Lee	—	—	—	—	Charlton	
	Charlton	1,236	—	—	13,753	+17.1	2,194	+20.6	79,291	+22.1	see Lee	7,228	+6.3	6 4	11.64	-0.40	3	—	see Lee	—	—	—	—	Kidbrooke	
	Kidbrooke } Lee District	750	—	—	2,175	-5.4	267	-2.2	31,105	+33.7	see Lee	1,599	+9.7	6 6	11.64	-3.72	80	10.83	18.1	138	15	B E	Hackney		
Hackney	Hackney Parish	3,299	618	18.7	213,044	+7.2	29,429	+3.5	1,077,541	+11.9	89,061	91,320	+14.5	—	—	—	—	—	inc. Stoke	Newing'tn	—	—	—	—	Hammersmith
Hammersmith	Hammersmith Parish	2,286	242	10.5	104,199	+7.1	14,538	+3.4	598,207	+11.1	59,650	157,360	+60.1	6 6	15.64	-2.55	51	13.44	20.3	160	7	L E	Hampstead		
Hampstead	Hampstead Parish	2,248	318	14.2	75,449	+10.2	10,347	+8.7	824,666	+23.1	98,989	206,164	+7.6	5 11	17.97	+1.39	39	10.32	14.3	117	4	B L E	Holborn		
Holborn	includes	409	9	2.2	67,425	—	5,635	—	825,140	—	—	—	—	6 6	20.37	+1.63	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	St. Giles	
	St. Giles District	244	8	3.3	38,237	-3.9	3,311	-11.3	439,598	+7.4	42,796	21,574	+3.1	5 9 3	12.32	+1.16	162	29.8	26.2	152	6	B L	St. Andrew's		
	St. Andrew's } Holborn District	111	1	0.9	24,991	-4.8	1,896	-26.4	251,000	+9.9	26,237	18,264	-0.7	6 3	14.66	+4.03	—	38.08	27.7	205	5	L	Saffron Hill		
	Saffron Hill	32	—	—	3,832	-15.0	356	-41.2	94,643	+10.9	—	6,877	-0.4	—	—	+5.22 to +5.95	—	—	whole district	—	—	—	—	Furnival's, Gray's, Staple's and Lincoln's Inns	
	Furnival's, Gray's, Staple's and Lincoln's Inns	22	—	—	365	-13.6	72	-17.3	39,899	-9.2	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Islington	
Islington	Islington Parish	3,109	40	1.2	336,764	+5.5	38,369	+1.3	1,799,033	+8.4	176,183	193,370	+4.2	5 6 1	9.89	-3.14	110	20.25	19.3	147	19	B E	Kensington		
Kensington	Kensington Parish	2,188	12	0.5	170,465	+2.4	21,561	-2.4	2,107,991	+5.4	122,198	160,722	-8.2	5 11	10.71	-2.04	78	17.26	18.7	163	8	B L	Lambeth		
Lambeth	Lambeth Parish	3,941	116	2.9	295,033	+7.2	40,232	+4.3	1,701,786	+11.2	126,463	165,041	+37.0	5 11	14.14	-2.49	77	15.87	20.5	145	13	B L	Lewisham		
Lewisham	includes	7,011	289	4.1	99,962	—	17,287	—	697,133	—	—	—	—	6 9	17.14	-1.30	15	3.59	15.4	136	5	B L	Lewisham		
	Lewisham Parish, Lewisham District	5,773	258	4.5	83,213	+15.1	14,417	+15.0	560,617	+15.0	61,779	75,626	+3.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lee
	Lee Parish, Lee District	1,238	31	2.5	16,749	+2.2	2,870	+2.5	136,566	+1.4	whole district 33,074	18,067	+1.5	7 0	21.64	-0.51	14	—	15.6	117	1	—	—	—	Marylebone
Marylebone	St. Marylebone Parish	1,506	372	24.7	141,188	-0.9	14,612	-5.1	1,605,427	+6.3	94,924	106,181	+59.0	6 0	13.32	+1.76	125	26.78	22.5	140	6	B	Paddington		
Paddington																									

must lie before Parliament for thirty days before becoming valid. The production of documents and the attendance of witnesses can be enforced in the performance of these duties, and all expenses fall on the County Council. No parish may be in two boroughs or partly in a borough and partly in the City; parishes may be divided to give a satisfactory area; wholly detached portions of a parish are to be annexed to adjoining areas, except for some "exceptional reason" and in the case of Knightsbridge; detached portions of another county wholly surrounded by the County of London shall become part of the County of London, and when such a portion is part of an urban district adjoining the County of London, the remainder may be annexed thereto (this refers to South Hornsey); detached portions of a London parish surrounded by another county shall be added to that county. The disposal of the anomalous district of Penge is also left to the Committee. Parliamentary boundaries must not be altered.

A "scheme" must also be prepared "for the adjustment of the powers, rights, privileges, franchises, duties, property, and liabilities" of existing local authorities in the district, except as regards the School Board and police; for the abolition or continuance of such authorities, including, besides vestries, local boards and commissioners under the adoptive Acts, the Ely Place Commissioners, the Crown Estate Commissioners, Gardens and Estates Commissioners, Borough Market Trustees, the Whitechapel Hay Market Trustees, the City Corporation as regards Southwark, the Dean and Chapter of St. Peter's, Westminster, and the Court of Burgesses, Westminster; for the definition of parish boundaries and the arrangement of wards; for the conferring of the powers of a Parish Council; for the appointment of trustees of parochial charities; for such adjustments as are necessary to prevent injustice in the incidence of rates or the discharge of liabilities or otherwise, especially such adjustments as are required for the due carrying out of the adoptive Acts; for the transfer of existing officers; and for the repeal or modification of local Acts, except the London Building Act, 1894.

Local authorities and persons affected may oppose "schemes," and as Part XI. of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, is embodied in the Act of 1899, the Committee must consider objections, and, "if they think fit," submit the scheme either to Parliament or to the Queen in Council. But a scheme must be laid before Parliament if a petition is presented by a local authority affected, or from one-twentieth of the number of owners and ratepayers together, or from owners and occupiers of one-twentieth of the value of rateable property in the area affected (sec. 213).

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