1940.

Survey 1 Standard of Housing By law approx. by B. CP. 4P. Cttee. June 10.

CITY ARCHIVES

LOCATION 27-E-1
FILE NO. 30

(B) hov. 18, 000) abstracted from report of brigging, c & o R. contree

Re Survey for Standard of Housing By-law.

The Special Committee consisting of Alderman Corey (Chairman), Building Inspector and Medical Health Officer, submitted a report in connection with the above.

The Chairman (Ald. Corey) submitted a report on the same question, recommending:

- (1) That the Special Committee above mentioned be empowered to compile a draft for a proposed Standard of Housing By-law, similar in some respects to that in force in Toronto, but with certain modifications, to allow for different climatic and other conditions; and
- (2) That a special meeting of the Building Civic Planning and Parks Committee be called for next Monday morning, November 25th, to consider the full report as well as the advisability of the adoption of the proposed by-law.

RECOMMENDED that the recommendations contained in the Chairman's report be approved, and a special meeting, therefore, of the Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee be held on Monday, November 25th, at 10 A.M., and a draft by-law be submitted for consideration.

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appea. by S. CP. 4 P. Cite. Time 10.

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BUILDING, CIVIC PLANNING & PARKS COMMITTEE - NOV. 25, 1940.

Pursuant to the recommendation contained in the report of the Committee, dated November 18, 1940, the Building, Civic Planning & Parks Committee held a special meeting on Monday, November 25, 1940, at 10:10 A.M., to consider the reports in connection with the recent housing survey, and also the draft of proposed by-law to establish a standard of housing.

Present: Alderman Corey (Chairman), His Worship Mayor J. Lyle Telford, M.D., M.L.A., Aldermen Bennett, Buscombe, Cornett, Greyell, Jones, Miller and Wilson.

The Committee begs to recommend to Council the adoption of the following report:

The following documents were read:

- (1) Report of the Special Committee comprising Alderman Corey, the Medical Health Officer and the Building Inspector, re Housing Conditions in the City, dated November 20, 1940.
- (2) Report of the Building Inspector, being supplementary comments on the recent Housing Survey, dated November 20, 1940.
- (3) Report of the Medical Health Officer relative to the health conditions in the area recently surveyed, dated November 25, 1940.
- (4) Draft of proposed By-law to fix a Standard of Fitness for human habitation to which all Dwellings shall conform.

After discussion, it was agreed that the further consideration of the proposed By-law be deferred until the next regular meeting of the Committee, to be held on December 9, 1940.

The Committee then adjourned.

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pra. by B. CP. 4P. Citer. Time

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appea by B. CP. & P. Cetter Time

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by B. CP. & P. Citer.

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BAD	BAD		
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POOR	FAIR	FAIR	
POOR FAIR	POOR	FAIR	
BAD	FAIR BAD	FAIR BAD	DEMOLITION RECOMMENDED
FAIR POOR	POOR	POOR	SHOW IN THE BATTAGE
BAD	BAD	BAD	PERMIT ISSUED B-8-40 TO REPAIR. DEMOLITION RECOMMENDED.
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	"	POOR	
POOR AIR	Poor	BAD	
POOR	G00D	BAD	
POOR	GOOD FAIR	BAD BAD	
FAIR	FAIR	BAD	
200R	POOR POOR	BAD	
POOR	FAIR	BAD	
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AIR	FAIR	BAD FAIR	
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POOR	FAIR	POOR	
AIR	FAIR	FAIR FAIR	
BOR	FAIR POOR	POOR	
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AIR	FAIR	BAD	DWAIER OPERATING
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B. CP. 4 P. Cottee Time 10.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT CITY OF VANCOUVER PARTI													0										
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appea by S. CP. & P. Cottee Time 15

CITY OF VANCOUVER ..

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RTIAL HOUSING SURVEY

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INSPECTIONS BY R. STARTUP

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BY CITY COUNCIL SAHITARY 45 COMVENIEN K R R 8 1 1 16 16 12 4 Building Department Novomber 20,1940. 10 7 1 2 1 2 3 1 2 5 1 2 Report of City Owned Promises included in Housing Survey 4 10 Attention is called to the fact that included in 3 14 the survey are 11 proporties owned by the City and listed 4 10 below: 1 11 24 3533 The 11 dwellings house some 79 adults and 21 children; 5 10 38 persons are reported to be on relief. Many of the promises are in a deplorable condition. 5 2 3322 One very bad example of these City owned houses is Report No. 168, 1232 Powell Street. Foundations, exterior and 15 roof are all in a very bad condition; the interior very dilapidated, and exceedingly filthy; the plumbing is also in a deplorable state with leaky connections. It is occupied by 1 1 6 adults and 6 children; the family is on relief. 12 The City is in receipt of a monthly rental amounting to \$175, but it may be pointed out that some of the dwellings are 24 2 2 2 2 sub-let as evidenced from information received on Report No. 3 111 where the City rent is \$15, but the occupants of the house pay 11 1 4 16 a combined rental of \$29. 15 Location Report No. 615 Hamilton 3 717 Cambie 19 745 Cambie 10 21 534 Homer 34 951 Richards 42 526 Homer 46 1353 Richards 54 1027 Richards 60 1232 Powell 168 734 West 6th Ave. 198 1862 East 20th Ave. 207 Sc 5 2 28

Building Department

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Novomber 20,1940.

Report of City Owned Promises included in Housing Survey

Attention is called to the fact that included in the survey are 11 properties owned by the City and listed below:

The 11 dwellings house some 79 adults and 21 children; 38 persons are reported to be on relief. Many of the premises are in a deplorable condition.

One very bad example of these City owned houses is Report No. 168, 1232 Powell Street. Foundations, exterior and roof are all in a very bad condition; the interior very dilapidated, and exceedingly filthy; the plumbing is also in a deplorable state with leaky connections. It is occupied by 6 adults and 6 children; the family is on relief.

The City is in receipt of a monthly rental amounting to \$175, but it may be pointed out that some of the dwellings are sub-let as evidenced from information received on Report No. 3 where the City rent is \$15, but the occupants of the house pay a combined rental of \$29.

Report No.	Location
3	615 Hamilton
19	717 Cambie
21	745 Cambie
34	534 Homer
42	951 Richards
46	526 Homer
54	1353 Richards
60	1027 Richards
168	1232 Powell
198	734 West 6th Ave.
207	1862 East 20th Ave.

survey | Standard of Housing By. capped by B. C. & P. Cottee. Time

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of the City Council, City Hall.

> A Report of Housing conditions in certain sections of the City, details of which have been gathered through a survey authorized by the City Council on June 14th, 1940.

For convenience the districts covered have been numbered 1 to 6, but it must be understood that only a few dwellings in each of these were examined and no attempt made to estimate the number of premises which may be in a similar condition to those investigated. It can be taken for granted however, that the reports submitted indicate a general condition of the older dwellings in the said districts, and similar results would obtain if the number of premises inspected were multiplied.

District Boundaries

Hastings Alexander 2nd Ave. Miscls. Pender

N. Pender Hastings 4th Ave. Prior Beach Granville S. Pacific Clark Granville Glen E. Cambie Burrard Main Main W. Granville Chilco

To better understand the unfortunate housing conditions which exist, a typical survey from each of the districts is given below.

Examples

Interior

700 Block Cambie Street (Report No. 20) DISTRICT 1

44 (24 males, 9 females, 11 children under 10 years) Occupants

Accommodation 5 bedrooms, 15 housekeeping rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 toilet rooms.

Sanitary Conveniences 3 w.c's, 3 sinks, 2 baths, 1 basin, 1 slop sink.

Roof not leaking but poor condition, Eaves troughs and down pipes in bad repair, Exterior woodwork rotted, front porch and steps poor condition, general dilapidation.

Walls and wall paper very filthy and cracked, hardware missing from doors, halls and basement stairs dark and filthy,

bath and toilet rooms filthy, basement washroom very dirty, woodwork decayed.

All fixtures filthy, sink waste wrapped with tape, basement toilet out of repair and closed, Plumbing gas hoses under pressure.

Five children under 5 years living in basement rooms, Housekeeping condition whole building infested with bed bugs and rats, matresses, bug infested and dirty, smell of gas from hose under pressure.

Land - \$11,000.00 Improvements - \$2,550.00 Rental (reported by tenant) - \$55.00 per month, (estimated 12 persons in receipt of shelter allowance) Assessment

800 Block Hornby Street (Report No. 87) DISTRICT 2

21 (14 male, 7 female) Occupants

Accommodation 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 7 bedrooms, 9 housekeeping rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 toilet rooms.

Sanitary Conveniences 2 w. c's, 9 sinks, 2 baths, 1 basin.

Foundations poor, building one foot out of plumb Exterior

at rear, No eaves troughs or down pipes,

Exterior trim decayed and falling away,

General dilapidation.

Floors and stairs out of level, Interior

doors and windows ill fitting (settlement), plaster cracked, paper loose and very dirty,

Toilet bowl on rear porch removed, and Plumbing

connection open to sewer, laundry trays cracked and leaking.

Housekeeping condition

Rooms dirty, some dark rooms, First floor bathroom locked, used by tenant only.

Land - \$9,345.00 Improvements - \$2,400.00, Assessment

Rental (reported by tenant) - \$65.00 per month.

400 Block, Keefer Street (Report No. 130) DISTRICT 3

10 (4 males, 3 children under 10, 3 children Occupants

under 16) - Chinese.

Accommodation 1 bed living room, 1 kitchen, 1 bedroom, 1 housekooping room, 1 bathroom.

Sanitary Conveniences 1 w.c, 1 sink, 1 bath.

Foundation poor, house out of plumb, supported by adjoining building, roof leaking, Exterior

no eaves troughs or down pipes, porches and steps in state of collapse,

general dilapidation.

All in bad shape, plaster badly cracked and Interior

dirty.

Sink waste broken and leaking into walls, and drains under building; toilet connections Plumbing

leaking and tied with cloth; water supply

almost nil.

7 children occupy one room opening on to the Housekeeping condition father's room.

Improvements - \$600.00 Rental (reported by tenant) - \$15.00 per month. Assessment

DISTRICT 4 600 Block East Hastings (Report No. 160)

Occupants 20 (14 males, 3 females, 3 children under 10 yrs.)

Accommodation l living room, 1 kitchen, 8 bedrooms, 1 house-keeping room, 1 barber shop, 1 taxi office, 1 bathroom.

Sanitary conveniences 2 w.c's, 1 w.c. outside, 3 sinks, 1 bath.

Exterior Roof leaking, no eaves trough or down pipes, broken windows, woodwork bare,

general dilapidation.

Interior Very old and dirty.

Plumbing Bath waste leaks through ceiling, sink wrapped with cloth.

Housekeeping conditions

Sleeping rooms rented at \$1.00 per week,

Barber shop run by Japanese woman, 3 living

rooms at rear, 2 are dark, occupied by man and

wife and 2 boys. Toilet for Barber shop and

Taxi office in building at rear in filthy condition.

Assessment

Land - \$1,535.00 Improvements - \$1,450.00

Rental (reported by tenants) - \$47.00 per month,

(2 men in receipt of shelter allowance)

DISTRICT 5 1700 Block W. 2nd Ave; 1700 Block Pine; 5 dwellings on 2 lots (Reports Nos. 183-7)

Occupants 33 (9 males, 9 females, 5 children under 10, 10 children under 16)

Accommodation 6 living rooms, 5 kitchens, 15 bedrooms, 5 bath-

Sanitary Conveniences 5 w. c's, 5 sinks, 5 baths, 3 basins.

Roof leaking, no eaves troughs or down pipes, foundations poor, some buildings out of plumb, All steps and porches in state of collapse.

All trim decayed and falling off.

General dilapidation.

Interior Wall plaster cracked and dirty, some ceilings wet from leaks, posts decayed in some cases, very unsatisfactory conditions.

Plumbing All in deplorable condition, fixtures broken, and wrapped with cloth etc.

Housekeeping conditions

Four houses infested with bed bugs, and cockroaches,
evidence of rats; houses are generally filthy with
damp or flooded basements.

Assessment Land - \$1,010.00 Improvements - \$2,550.00
Rental (reported by tenants) - \$61.50 per month.

appea by S. CP. 4 P. Cites The

Exterior

The exterior appearance of practically every building Appearance examined is deplorable. Usually the worst sections are the front and rear steps and porches. Roofs are generally bad while eaves troughs and down pipes are non-existent. In nearly all cases the trim is in a state of decay. No repairs or painting has apparently been attempted for many years. This condition is of course common to very many dwellings which are not actually covered by the survey.

Generally speaking interior conditions reflect the Interior Appearance outside appearance of the buildings, dirt and decay are visible on every hand.

The main structure of most buildings is fairly sound, Condition although in some cases failure of foundations has caused the of Structures dwelling to fall out of plumb with subsequent tilting of floors and straining of the interior structure.

Of all the features examined, the sanitary conditions Plumbing of these dwellings are the most deplorable. In many cases the plumbing is ancient and badly battered, toilets, sinks and baths are leaking and often patched with putty or rags. Much illegal plumbing has been installed without vents, so that sewer gas comes directly into the fixtures. These installations also constitute a grave danger of back syphonage of sewage or waste water. Among the illegal plumbing installations are Japanese baths. These are invariably connected to the plumbing in the house by simply breaking a hole in the soil pipe, thereby venting sewer gas into the building. The odour of cooking gas is often noticeable owing to defective rubber hose.

In the strict sense of the word a condition of overcrowding does not exist but the buildings in which large Conditions numbers of persons reside are generally utterly unsuited for such a purpose, having been originally built as family dwellings and their conversion creates a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. There is a great lack of sanitary conveniences and facilities for the storage and cooking of food. It is impossible in this summary to give full details of housekeeping conditions. These can be obtained from the individual survey sheets which show unsatisfactory basement quarters, the crowding of children and adults, and in some cases dwellings infested with vermin.

The survey shows that in most cases sheds, walks and and fences fences are in a state of collapse while the yards are often filled with debris, thereby adding to the general squalor of the surroundings.

Details of persons on relief or in receipt of shelter allowances or pensions, living in the dwellings surveyed, were difficult to obtain, but from the information gathered it is Persons suggested there are some 300 persons including children in this on Relief category.

In connection with 176 dwellings examined, the assessed Assessment, Taxes and value is as follows: (this figure is subject to 4% rebate; no figures are given as Rentals Information gathered from tenants show a gross rental of \$55,128.00 or 9.4% of the assessed value.

An examination of the reports show a wide variation in the rentals obtained; usually larger rentals are paid where the dwellings are sub-let, regardless of the condition of the building.

Housekeep-

Tax Sale Lands A separate report is attached covering such dwellings included in the survey as are now owned by the City.

Demolitions

It will be noted that in the survey some 33 dwellings are recommended for demolition. These are receiving the attention of the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. Corey, Chairman, Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee.

Stowart Murray, Medical Health Officer.

Andrew Haggart, Building Inspector.

AJH:P

Survey / Standard of Housing & capture by B. CP. & P. Cittee. The

Building Department

November 20,1940.

Report of City Owned Promises included in Housing Survey

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168	734 West 6th Ave.
198	1862 East 20th Ave.
207	

Expra. by S. CP. & P. Cite. June

Building Department, City Hall, Nov. 20th, 1940. To the Chairman & Members of the Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee. Gentlemen: I beg to submit the following suplementary comments on the recent Housing Survey: The survey has been confined to buildings which are obviously down at heel and no attempt made to inspect all such buildings in the various districts, it may be said, however, that the number examined could be tripled. Obviously in many cases the tenants are not in these places by choice, but from necessity and the rentals obtained are not conducive to owners keeping the buildings in a state of repair. The buildings are principally rented properties, from which the owners probably received a nominal rental, while the lessee sublets the rooms in an endeavour to make a living.

The survey has centered mainly on properties contained in business districts where assessed improvements are low in comparison to land values. This is possibly the reason for such dilapidated conditions, and a feeling among property owners that the revenues derived do

The development of these business sections with the resultant high speculative real estate values caused residents to erect dwellings in other parts of the City. the remaining houses are rented and generally allowed to deteriorate until they reached their present stage. The Zoning By-law aids in the prevention of a similar condition arising in the future.

not warrant any expenditure on the buildings.

May I remark there can be no suggestion that Vancouver is in any sense a City of slums. The approximate number of dwellings erected, or in course of erection, in Vancouver is 53,582 and of these only 207 have been surveyed; even if this number where increased to only 207 have been surveyed; even if this number where increased to 2000 it would only represent about 3.7 per cent of the total number.

The figures quoted below give some indication of the approximate number and relative value of dwellings, together with the number of licensed Apartments etc. in the City.

Approximate number of dwellings - 53,582 (December 31st 1939) approximate number \$3000 or less, 46,346 Houses erected during 1940, 1346 average cost \$2740.00

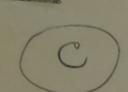
Mear 1940. Number licensed Apartments etc. - 1,026 1,816

I should also like to draw attention to the fact that if a standard of Housing By-law brings about the demolition or closing of a number of premises it may be exceedingly difficult, under present conditions, for the occupants to find more suitable accommodation elsewhere, as there seems to be still a shortage of houses in the City where, as there seems to be still a shortage of houses in the cansavailable at a rental commensurate with the present occupants means.

Yours respectfully, BUILDING INSPECTOR.

AH/KM.

supera by B. CP. 4 P. Citer Time



RE HOUSING SURVEY

Memorandum on Health Conditions

A check on health conditions relative to the area covered by the partial survey reveals the following:

Tuberculosis

The survey covers certain school districts and a check of known tuberculosis cases in those districts shows the following:

School	T.B. Cases Positive Sputum	Other T.B. Cases	Total T.B. Cases
Lord Roberts Dawson - Aberdeen Central School Strathcona Seymour McDonald	7 3 6 5 6	79 76 68 101 	86 79 74 106 62
	27	380	407

In the district West of Beatty Street, 126 houses were surveyed and a check with known cases of tuberculosis revealed only three cases in these houses -- two in one and one in another. This is not to say that there are no other cases, unknown to the Department.

It is a fact that there is a greater proportion of tuberculosis cases in this area than other parts of the City. Many of them are single persons who, by reason of their disease, are in poor financial circumstances and live in the rooming-house district as being the limit of their means. Many others are transients. The disease would therefore not appear to be the result of environment. However, the presence of so many cases in an acknowledged over-crowded area cannot but be viewed with a degree of alarm.

Physical Defects Found in Schools

A study of the medical reports of these schools does not show an abnormal number of defects requiring correction.

Venereal Diseases

The list of venereal disease cases received monthly from the Division of Venereal Disease Control shows that the preponderance of cases attending the Clinic reside in the district under survey. This is due in part to the economic status of the people residing there, whose only possible source of treatment would be the Free Clinic, and also the social strata to which many of them belong, with certain tendencies apparently inseparable from it.

Communicable Diseases

It cannot be said that there is a large number of communicable disease reported from this area. However, the over-crowded conditions would undoubtedly be a serious factor in the spread of disease should an outbreak occur.

Transients

In the district West of Bute Street, there is a school enrolment of 800, and of these, only 150 are constant throughout the year. This shows the drifting nature of the population in this rooming-house area.

Nature of Population

A great number of single men and women find quarters suited to their needs. There is also evidence of broken homes, shown by the large occurrence of delinquency which is brought to the attention of the Health Unit Office, requiring the services of the Mental Hygienist.

This condition arises through the concentration in one area of otherwise more or less homeless people, in quarters too meagre to properly house a family, and inadequate to provide proper parental control. The gang element of improperly controlled children is very much in Orientals The over-crowding in unfit premises seems to be inseparable from the Oriental life. This, together with the fact that the children of both Chinese and Japanese are compelled to attend schools for their own nationals in the evenings offers a combination of over-work and poor environment which cannot but be detrimental to the health of the children. Stewart Murray, Medical Health Officer. Nov.25/40.

Com tee hor. 18/40 ALDERMAN H. L. Corey evidence. VANCOUVER, B.C. November 18, 1940 His Worship the Mayor and Members of the Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee. onildren. Your Worship and Gentlemen: Today the Committee, which has been supervising the housing survey, is submitting its preliminary report. A more detailed report, together with findings, will be available to all Aldermen not later than Wednesday of this week. I hope that these will be studied carefully. Nov. 25/40. A reference to the terms of appointment of this Sub-Committee would not indicate that they included the duty of making recommendations. Therefore, I would recommend that this same Sub-Committee be empowered to compile a draft for a proposed Standard of Housing By-Law, similar in some respects to that in force in Toronto, but with certain modifications, to allow for different climatic and other conditions. I would further recommend that a special meeting of the Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee be called for next Monday morning, November 25th, to consider the full report, as well as the advisability of the adoption of the proposed By-Law. I would not like to see the matter unduly hurried, and believe that it should be given very serious consideration. However, a report has been delayed to some extent because Mr. Startup, the Surveyor, was delayed in his work for several weeks, by having to do the work of another member of the staff who was I would appreciate it very much if some finality might be reached within a reasonable period, so that appropriate action might be taken before the end of this year's work. Sincerely yours, ALDERMAN HLC: MH

By Bldg etc com the CITY OF VANCOUVER CITY HALL OFFICE Building November 15th, 1940. Chairman and Members of the Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee, City Hall. Re: Survey for Standard of Housing By-law Dear Sirs: The Undersigned Committee who were appointed by Council on June 17th, 1940, to arrange for a comprehensive housing survey in certain sections of the City, so as to provide the necessary details for consideration in connection with the proposal to establish a standard of housing by-law, beg to report as follows: The services of Mr. R. Startup of the Health Department were secured for this work, and the Committee wish to express their appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Startup carried out the difficult task assigned him. A total of 207 dwellings have been investigated in six different sections of the City, and details are now available as to the exterior, interior, and sanitary conditions of the premises examined, together with information regarding housekeeping conditions of the occupants. The survey has only just been completed and the Committee are preparing a detailed statement, copies of which will shortly be placed in the hands of the Aldermen, however the Committee feel the information gathered is of such importance that a special the information gathered is of such importance and discuss the meeting of the Council should be called to examine and discuss the full report, and therefore respectfully recommend that this be done. Respectfully submitted, & PARKS COMMITTEE AJH:P

RECEIVED BY CITY CLERK 10V 2 1998

CITY OF VANCOUVER

Building OFFICE

CITY HALL

November 24, 1939.

Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee, City Hall.

Dear Sirs:

The Special Committee appointed to investigate and report upon the feasibility of establishing a Standard of Housing By-law similar to the one in operation in the City of Toronto, and to prepare a draft by-law for the consideration of Council, begs to report as follows:

A great deal of information regarding housing conditions in certain sections of the City has been accumulated in recent years. These records are, however, mainly devoted to the general appearance and squalor of certain premises and the over-crowding and unfortunate condition of the occupants. There is a great lack of technical condition of the occupants what repairs would be required to details necessary to determine what repairs would be required to raise the standard of such buildings.

Poor housing conditions in Toronto and Vancouver are much alike in many ways but climatic conditions play an important part and while a standard of housing by-law for Vancouver would be and while a standard of housing by-law for Vancouver would be similar in form, there would probably be considerable variation in detail.

The Committee has considered the problem from every angle and feel that without these necessary technical details it would be more or less useless to attempt to draft a by-law at the present time.

The Committee begs to recommend therefore, that when the estimates for 1940 are being reviewed, most favorable consideration be given to the appointment of a person competent to survey be given to the appointment of a person competent to survey dwellings and report fully upon the structural and sanitary condition of such premises, and to gather details as to the social dition of such premises, and to gather details as to the social and housekeeping conditions of the occupants; the person so and housekeeping conditions of the staff of the Building Department appointed to be attached to the staff of the Building Department for a period of six months, and that an amount necessary to cover the salary of such inspector for this period be included in the 1940 estimates of the Department.

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Building, Civic Planning and Parks Committee, November 24, 1939. It is felt that the information obtained in this manner will undoubtedly warrant definite action being taken towards the establishment of a housing standard. Respectfully submitted, AJH:P