

# SENATE . . . No. 276.

---

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

SENATE, May 25, 1887.

The Committee on Drainage, to whom was referred the Report of the Commission appointed to consider a general system of drainage for the valleys of the Mystic, Blackstone and Charles rivers, beg leave to say that the question of sewage disposal, as treated in the Report of the Commission, engaged the early attention and careful study of the committee, and has not ceased to be a subject of anxious thought and inquiry, not only in its general aspects, but especially in its relation to specific petitioners and the recommendations contained in said report relative to the Mystic Valley and lower Charles River basin.

Conceiving it to be their duty to confer with, and as far as possible ascertain the views of, the communities included in each of these proposed systems, the committee gave duly advertised hearings, of which notice was also given in writing to the several towns and cities, addressed to their respective clerks. Nearly all of said cities and towns were represented at one or more of said hearings. It appeared that the proposed Charles River system would be acceptable to Newton, Waltham and Watertown, while Cambridge and Somerville, represented by their mayors and others, were intensely hostile to its adoption. The Mayor of Cambridge expressed grave doubt as to the adequacy of the Boston main drainage system for their future needs, and considered the proposed pumping station as a probable nuisance to be avoided. He

strenuously objected to being tributary to two systems, and insisted that if a very large amount of money is to be expended for improved sewage disposal, it must be for a system of undoubted capacity for the entire city for many years. The City Solicitor of Boston claimed that, in view of the Stony Brook overflow, it would be wise to delay carrying into execution the plan of the Commission, which was not contemplated by their engineer.

The hearing on the proposed Mystic Valley system showed a marked lack of confidence in the recommendations of the Commission, and, save a single town, a disinclination to adopt them until further investigation shall have demonstrated more clearly their utility and wisdom. Doubtless, in the minds of some, the low level of the proposed filtration area contributed in no small degree to stimulate doubt, while others preferred, if practicable, a union of the Mystic and the north side of the Charles River in a system of tide-water disposal, and urged immediate legislation making provision for further investigation and report, that final action be not too long delayed.

The committee are deeply impressed with the gravity of the situation, and the pressing necessity for early relief for many of the municipalities comprised in these areas. Without in any way undervaluing the able report of the Commission, or the suggestions therein made, they are of the opinion that definite and satisfactory results will be sooner reached by immediately supplementing their work, in these two valleys, than by inactive delay. The expense to each city and town will be small compared with the value of the end to be attained.

With the least possible delay in reaching conclusions and the adoption of plans, it will be several years before any large work can be completed and made available, and the maturing of such plans will undoubtedly have to be prosecuted under the supervision of the State.

Your committee, therefore, report, in part, the accompanying Resolve.

For the Committee,

JNO. K. C. SLEEPER.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

### RESOLVE

Relating to Sewage Disposal in the Mystic and Charles River Valleys.

1 *Resolved*, That the State Board of Health is hereby  
2 authorized and directed to consider and report a general  
3 system of drainage and sewerage for the relief of the  
4 valley of Mystic River, and so much of the valley of  
5 Charles River, if any, whose relief in the opinion of said  
6 board is to be sought in conjunction with the Mystic  
7 Valley system, and for such cities and towns, or parts of  
8 cities and towns as may, in the opinion of said board, be  
9 best relieved by the use of said system; and so much of  
10 the report of the commissioners appointed under resolve  
11 approved May 28, 1884, as relates to the cities and  
12 towns, or parts of cities and towns, which said board  
13 shall incorporate in the system to be reported under this  
14 resolve, is hereby referred to said board for its further  
15 consideration, and it shall be the duty of said board, —

16 *First.* To designate the cities and towns, and parts of  
17 cities and towns, which shall be tributary to and embraced  
18 in the district and system so to be reported, and to define  
19 the same by their report, with plans and maps.

20 *Second.* To define and show, by suitable plans and  
21 maps, such trunk line and main branches as it shall  
22 recommend to be constructed, with outlet.

23 *Third.* To define the methods by which said cities  
24 and towns, or parts of any city or town, may utilize said

25 trunk line and main branches as an outlet of a system of  
26 sewerage and drainage for said respective cities and  
27 towns, and said parts of cities and towns, and to show  
28 the same by plans and maps.

29 *Fourth.* To cause such surveys and levels to be made  
30 as will enable said board to determine with accuracy the  
31 location and grades of said trunk line and main branches,  
32 and also such surveys and levels in said cities and towns  
33 and parts of cities and towns as will enable said board  
34 to determine with accuracy the methods by which said  
35 cities and towns and parts of cities and towns may re-  
36 spectively utilize said trunk line and main branches and  
37 to report such methods by plans showing the main lines  
38 by which each may so provide for itself a system of sew-  
39 erage and drainage with its outlet into said trunk line or  
40 main branches.

41 *Fifth.* To define the size and capacity of said trunk  
42 line and main branches and the materials of which they  
43 should be constructed and manner of construction, and  
44 such other particulars as will enable said board to deter-  
45 mine the probable expense thereof.

46 *Sixth.* The expenses of surveys, maps, and plans  
47 made to show the method by which any city or town, or  
48 part of city or town, may utilize said trunk line and  
49 main branches shall be separately kept, and the same,  
50 showing the amount expended in each, together with  
51 the expenses of the location and grade, maps and plans  
52 of said trunk line and main branches, together with all  
53 other expenses in the premises, and the items thereof,  
54 shall be reported to the governor and council, and all  
55 such costs and expenses shall be paid out of the treasury  
56 of the Commonwealth, on bills to be approved by the  
57 governor and council; and the several amounts so paid  
58 as the expenses incurred in any city or town, to show  
59 how such city or town, or part of city or town, may utilize  
60 said trunk line and main branches, shall, on the requisi-  
61 tion of the governor and council, be repaid to the Com-  
62 monwealth by said city or town, and the amount so paid  
63 by the Commonwealth as the expenses incurred for the  
64 location of said trunk line and main branches, maps,

65 plans and other expenses and costs, shall be repaid to the  
66 Commonwealth by the cities and towns wholly or in part  
67 composing the district for which said system of sewerage  
68 and drainage shall be reported, in such amounts and  
69 proportions, and at such time and in such manner as  
70 the Legislature shall hereafter provide.

71 *Seventh.* Each city or town which wholly or in part  
72 said board shall consider should form a part of the ter-  
73 ritory to be embraced in the system to be reported shall  
74 be notified thereof by said board as soon as said board  
75 shall determine the cities and towns and parts of cities  
76 and towns which shall constitute said sewerage and drain-  
77 age district. Said notice shall contain the names of the  
78 cities and towns wholly, and shall designate the portions  
79 of the cities and towns not wholly but in part, incor-  
80 porated therein, and each of such cities and towns may  
81 confer with said board in respect to such drainage and  
82 sewerage system, and on request in writing be heard by  
83 said board on matters relating to the method of its  
84 utilizing said trunk line and main branches and the sur-  
85 veys, levels, maps and plans to determine and show the  
86 same, and under the superintendence of said board may,  
87 at its own expense, make its said surveys, levels, maps  
88 and plans for the use of said board, but all questions  
89 upon which any city or town shall desire to be heard  
90 shall be submitted to said board in writing with such re-  
91 quest.

92 *Eighth.* Said board shall also consider whether any  
93 city or town within such district can more advantage-  
94 ously provide for itself a system of sewerage and drain-  
95 age by itself and not as a part of said general system  
96 (and shall hear such city or town thereon, if it shall so  
97 request), and shall also make report thereof.

98 *Ninth.* To ascertain and report the cost of the con-  
99 struction of said trunk line and main branches and out-  
100 let, and of the annual expense of operating the same,  
101 and also what cities and towns, or parts of cities and  
102 towns, would be obliged to pump their sewage or any  
103 part thereof, at what places, the cost of the works there-  
104 for, and the annual expenses thereof.

105 *Provided, however:* The whole amount expended un-  
106 der the provisions of this resolve shall not exceed the  
107 sum of ten thousanddollars; and reports under the same  
108 shall be made by the State Board of Health to the Gen-  
109 eral Court on or before the first Wednesday of January,  
110 eighteen hundred and eighty-nine.



