ated for his services not by a fixed salary, but by a percentage commission, specified by ordinance, on the amount collected, this mode of payment will act as a stimulant to industry and ~~efficacy~~ efficiency.

I cannot refrain from using, and with pleasure too, this opportunity of bearing public testimony in favor of the two officers above alluded to, viz: the Register and the Collector for the city. I have found them both courteous and obliging and displaying an energy and activity in the discharge of their duties, which prove them qualified for the responsible position they have so long occupied.

The City Commissioner's report of his official transaction is very elaborate, and contains much valuable information and many practical and useful suggestions. I respectfully ask for it that earnest attention and consideration which its importance demands. You will observe that the indebtedness created by this office is very large. I cannot charge this upon the present incumbent; it may have been accumulating for years, but it never the less exists, and their is an absolute necessity for your immediate interference.

I am convinced that past legislation, so far as it has been employed in contracting debts for such magnitude in this branch of city service, without means in the Treasury for their liquidation, - looking forward to the taxes of future years, and upon future generations to furnish funds for their extinguishment, was unwise. it is neither just nor expedient to lay upon those who shall succeed us, onerous liabilities for improvement in our day. Would it not be more prudent, and in all respects better to contract such debts as may be met promptly, and without serious inconvenience?

The Port Warden's report will accompany this this communication; it is also worthy of attentive perusal. You will observe that the appropriation made by the City Council which preceded you, was insufficient to pay for the repairs required by the "steam dredging machine", attached to his department and therefore was not used. He asked for an additional appropriation, in order to bring that machine into effective operation.

The communication from the Board of Health, you will find to be most valuable documents, not only for their statistical information therein embodied, but for the wise and very judicious suggestions, relative to the health, cleanliness, and general health of the city and citizens. All will cheerfully admit their capability for the position they have so well filled, and that they have discharged their duties

with great energy and assiduity, deserving the highest commendation of all their fellow citizens.

I would specially invite your attention to that portion of the Commissioner of Health's report, which relates to a place of deposit for garbage &c. It is absolutely necessary that a suitable locality for the disposition, both of garbage and all other city offal, be speedily secured.

It has been suggested, that by chemical process and combination of these offals, a valuable compost for agricultural purposes might be manufactured, and by its sale a revenue be realized to the city treasury, going very far toward paying, if not defraying entirely, the demands upon it for cleaning the streets &c. of the city. Would it not be well to have an experiment made under the supervision of the Board of Health, or others competent to mak the test.

The Report of the Physician to the Marine Hospital presents a strong claim upon your particular attention. He also has displayed great judgment and energy in the performance of his duties: and whilst exercising a just regard to economy of expenditure, shows the institution to be at this time, perhaps, in more efficient condition than when he entered upon his official term.

Permit me also to call your attention to the report of the Visitors of the Jail - the Inspectors of Weights and Measures - the Inspector of Long and Dry Measure and the Inspector of Charcoal - all of which you will find accompanying this communication. You will also find the annual statement of the "Assessors of taxes", showing the basis of taxation for the past eight years, and also the basis for the present year.

The Report of Trustees of the Alms house - City Commissioners of Public schools - House of Refuge and City Auditors &c, I have not yet received, but will hand them to your Honorable body as soon as they are presented to me.

Permit me to direct your view to that portion of city property know as the old Tobacco Warehouse property, which fell to the city by the division of the Alms house property with the country. At present it produces a revenue of about three hundred dollars ($300) annually, but a judicious change of rentage would probably increase that sum to at least six hundred dollars ($600) I would, however recommend that said property be sold, and the proceeds applied to a reduction of the public funded debt. I would also recommend the sale of all the unproduc