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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
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**DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL  
HEALTH REPORT**

**For the Year 1948**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :**  
**R. W. EDWARDS, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.**

**SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR :**  
**Ff. EVANS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.**



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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL

REPORT

1948

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE COMPANY  
HAS THE HONOR TO ANNOUNCE  
THE RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL  
MEETING HELD AT THE  
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS  
ON THE 15TH DAY OF  
MAY, 1948.

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dolgelley Urban District Council.

I have the honour of placing before you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Now that we have a full-time Sanitary Inspector for the Urban Area, it was arranged that Mr. Evans should report fully on the work for which he is responsible to the Council.

Progress was made during the year in connection with the construction of the Outfall Sewer, the Public Conveniences, the provision of a new up to date Refuse Collecting Vehicle, matters which are reported upon more fully in the Sanitary Inspector's Section.

Progress was also made regarding the provision of new Houses and at the time of writing it can be recorded that the first post war scheme of 19 houses has been completed and a further 34 houses are in course of erection.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area .. .. .	1,127 acres.
Population .. .. .	2,534 R. G. Estimate.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948)	681
Rateable Value .. .. .	£10,465
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£39
Density of population .. .. .	2.25

### VITAL STATISTICS :

Live Births :	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ..	19	22	41
Illegitimate ..	2	1	3

**Birth Rate** 17.29 per 1,000 of population.

Birth Rate for England and Wales 17.9 per 1,000 of population.

Still Births :	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ..	0	0	0
Illegitimate ..	0	0	0

**Still Birth Rate** NIL per 1,000 of population.

(Rate for England and Wales 0.42 per 1,000 of population.)

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ..	1	0	1
Illegitimate ..	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births : 22.7.

Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 Live Births 34.0.

<b>DEATHS :</b>	<b>M.</b>	<b>F.</b>	<b>Total.</b>
	17	22	39

Death Rate per 1,000 of population : 15.39.

Death Rate for England and Wales : 10.8.

**Other Death Rates :**

		England and Wales.
Tuberculosis ..	0.39	0.51
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02
Influenza ..	0.00	0.03
Pneumonia ..	0.00	0.41

**Principal Causes of Death :..**

Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ..	..	8
Heart Diseases ..	..	5
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	..	4
Nephritis ..	..	5
Cancer (all forms) ..	..	8

With the exception of the one case of Tuberculosis it is to be noted that no deaths occurred from a Notifiable Infectious Disease. Further, no deaths occurred from Diabetes, Pneumonia, Diarrhoea under 2 years, Appendicitis, Puerperal Sepsis and other Maternal causes, Premature Birth, nor from Road Accident.

**Public Health Services : Staff—**

Medical Officer of Health ..	..	1 (part time)
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor ..	..	1 (full-time from 1st Feb., 1948)

**AMBULANCE SERVICE :**

The Ambulance Service was controlled for part of the year by the Ambulance Joint Committee, but was taken over by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, as from the 5th July, 1948.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)**

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases in the various age groups ; no cases were removed to hospital, and there were no deaths.

**TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.**

	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45
Measles	140	2	33	101	3	1	0
Whooping Cough	14	1	9	4	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Measles : 63 males, 77 females.  
Whooping Cough : 2 males, 12 females.

## TUBERCULOSIS :

The following table gives particulars regarding Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year 1948.

Notifications :

New Cases.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0
1—5 ..	0	0	0	0
5—15 ..	0	0	0	0
15—25 ..	0	0	0	0
25—35 ..	1	1	0	0
35—45 ..	0	2	0	0
45—55 ..	0	0	0	0
55—65 ..	0	0	0	0
65 and over ..	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	1	3	0	0

One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred (female aged 53 years, un-notified).

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA :

These will be treated in the Sanitary Inspector's section.

The Town's water supply is still in the hands of a private company. The Public Inquiry to the purchase of the undertaking was held on the 23rd November, to which I submitted the following brief report :—

' This is to testify that, as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Dolgelley, I consider that such an essential service as the supplying of water for public use should be vested in the Local Authority.

To quote the Ministry of Health in its Memorandum on Safeguards to be adopted in day to day administration of Water Undertakings,—only by careful and constant supervision of the supply can the prevention of water-borne diseases be achieved.

This in my view, can be carried out efficiently only when the water undertaker is the local health authority. For this reason, I recommend that my Council be authorised to borrow for the purpose of acquiring the Dolgelley Waterworks forthwith.'

It is hoped that final arrangements for taking over from the company will be completed at an early date.

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ffrangcon Evans.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Cae'rffynnon,  
Dolgelley. 10th August, 1949.

R. W. EDWARDS,  
B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
Year ended 31st December, 1948.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to place before you my first annual report.

**HOUSING ;**

Our most crying need at the present time is housing accommodation, but the district is similarly placed to many others throughout the country.

Premises which should be scheduled for demolition must in the nature of things deteriorate still further, yet in the present scarcity not a house can be spared, especially having regard to the overcrowding known to exist.

Housing repairs have received attention, but difficulty has been experienced owing to the short supply of labour.

**Particulars of action taken are given below :**

Defects or nuisances found .. .. .	34 (premises)
Number abated .. .. .	34

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal notices 7.

**Proceedings under Public Health Acts.**

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...1.
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
  - (a) By owners.....1.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default.....Nil.

No proceedings were taken under Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

**HOUSING MANAGEMENT :**

During the year the Council adopted a points scheme for the classification of applicants for new houses.

Number of applications received by the 1st May, 1948 .. 152

By the use of the Points Scheme the list was divided into three groups :

Group 1. (49 applicants)—those comprising one or two persons.

Group 2. (46 applicants)—those comprising three or more persons but living under fairly satisfactory conditions.

Group 3. (57 applicants)—those comprising three or more persons but living under most unsatisfactory conditions, in insanitary or overcrowded houses, having large families, or not having a house of their own.

All the new tenants were selected from Group 3, thus giving reasonable preference to this type of applicant as required by the Housing Act, 1936.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section, 58 :**

The attention of the Council was drawn to properties in the district which are seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood, namely Victoria Buildings and Shop Goch. It was recommended to the Council that the owner of Victoria Buildings be asked to reinstate the property and that the owner of Shop Goch be approached with a view to the Council purchasing the site and develop it as an open space.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING :**

All figures under this heading refer to the financial year ended 31st March, 1949.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal :**

Twice weekly collections of household refuse on Wednesday and Saturday mornings were made throughout the year.

Following my report to the Council in April, 1948, it was decided to purchase a Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicle, which has since been delivered.

**Tipping** was continued at the quarry site on Tallylyn Road. This site cannot be said to be satisfactory as in its present state no adequate control can be achieved. It is recommended that another site be found where controlled tipping in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Recommendations can be carried out.

Year after year the question of proper dustbins has been raised and at the time of writing I am glad to record my satisfaction that the Council have now initiated a 'Municipal Bin Service.'

**Salvage :**

Salvage drives were held during the year. Shops and offices were circularised. Members of the W.V.S., carried out a house to house canvass. A special window display was arranged and short films shown at the Plaza Cinema. Publicity was also given by the use of a loud speaker. The Council entered the National Contests for Wastepaper.

**The Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal including Salvage for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1949, was made up as follows :**

	£	s.	d.
Contract for collection, Materials, Rents, etc.	410	5	4
Labour .. .. .	245	1	6
	<hr/>		
	655	6	10
Salvage Income .. .. .	224	18	9
	<hr/>		
Nett Cost	430	8	1
	<hr/>		

Cost as Rate in the £	..	..	11d.
Cost per 1,000 population	..	..	£ 189 8 5

**Street Cleansing :**

The service includes street sweeping and gulley cleansing on roads for which the Council are the Highway Authority.

**Cost of Street Cleansing for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1949, amounted to £108 9s. 6d.**

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES :**

Plans were submitted and approved by the Welsh Board of Health, with a starting date in June, for the erection of new Public Conveniences.

Unfortunately work was not commenced until late in the year owing to the contract having to be re-advertised. The work has since been completed and the building is now in use. It was to be regretted that controversy arose with the Planning Committee as to the siting of this building, but now that it has been completed it must be agreed that the building is an asset and an amenity in the public interest.

**Costing for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1949 :**

				£	s.	d.
Materials	..	..	..	22	1	7
Labour	..	..	..	21	6	6
			<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
			<b>Income</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

**DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION :**

Disinfection after infectious diseases was carried out at 2 premises.

No action was necessary during the year regarding verminous premises.

**SEWERAGE :**

The construction of the Outfall Sewer was commenced during the year, and it has since been completed and is functioning satisfactorily.

In October, 1948, plans and specifications were submitted to the Council for an extension sewer to serve the North side of the town, and which would supersede the works at Ardd Fawr. This scheme has since been approved and the Contractors have started on the work.

**SMOKE NUISANCE :**

One complaint received during the year was dealt with, and the company concerned agreed to do everything possible to minimise the emission of smoke.

## RIVER POLLUTION :

The construction of the new Outfall Sewer and the Extension to the North of the town will decrease considerably the discharge of raw sewage into the Wnion River. The River Aran is still being used at certain points as a means of refuse disposal, and warnings were given from time to time.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION :

Slaughtering was continued at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse, and inspection of animals and carcasses was carried out. Conditions generally at the slaughterhouse were far from satisfactory, the attention of the Ministry Officials were repeatedly drawn to them.

The matter was reported to the Council recently with a view to a strong representation being made to the Ministry of Food.

Figures relating to Meat Inspection are given below :

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	228	53	2195	17
Number inspected .. ..	228	53	2195	17
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned ..	9	3	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	51	1	33	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	26.3	7.5	1.6	5.9
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ..	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	9	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	5.25	—	—	—

### Carcases, part carcasses and organs Condemned.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Carcases incl. all organs ..	12	3	2	—	17
Forequarters .. ..	4	—	—	—	4
Hindquarters .. ..	2	—	—	1	3
Heads .. ..	13	—	—	—	13
Plucks .. ..	—	1	1	—	2
Lungs .. ..	3	—	—	—	3
Livers .. ..	31	—	32	—	63
Hearts .. ..	2	—	—	—	2
Intestines .. ..	1	—	—	—	1

**Diseases.**

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Tuberculosis .. ..	12	—	—	—	12
Cirrhosis .. ..	23	—	33	—	56
Angioma .. ..	6	—	—	—	6
Fevered .. ..	3	1	—	—	4
Emaciation .. ..	5	—	2	—	7
Abscesses .. ..	2	1	—	—	3
Extensive Bruising .. ..	3	—	—	1	4
Dropsy .. ..	2	1	—	—	3
Inflammation .. ..	1	—	—	—	1
Actinomycosis .. ..	4	—	—	—	4
Jaundice .. ..	—	1	—	—	1

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following :—

11 stones Fish Fillet.	90 lbs. Kippers.
28 lbs. Prunes.	3 lbs. Cheese.
48 pkts. Pudding Mixture	40 at 6 lbs. Tins Corned Beef.
76 Tins Various Meats.	75 Tins Milk.
55 Tins Various Fish.	44 Tins Various Vegetables.
37 Tins Soup.	18 Tins Jams, etc.
11 Tins Fruit Cocktails.	8 Tins Fish Paste.
4 Jars Pickles.	3 Tins Plums.
77 lbs. Beef (Tainted).	

Food found to be unfit for human consumption was removed either for use in industrial processes or for destruction.

**MILK SUPPLY :**

Particulars of Milk Purveyors and Producers are given below :

Number of Producers of Milk on the register ..	5
Number of Retail Purveyors on the register ..	10
Number of Licensed Premises for Bottling	
Tuberculin Tested Milk .. .. .	1

**ICE CREAM PREMISES :**

Number of manufacturing retailers registered ..	3
Number of other retailers registered .. .. .	1

**WATER SUPPLY :**

The water supplied to the town is ample and satisfactory.

With the exception of some farms and a few dwellings on the outskirts of the district, all premises are supplied with water from the Dolgelley Waterworks Company's Mains.

The results of sampling are shewn below :

No.	Date	Sample taken at	B. Coli per 100 ml.	Faecal coli per cent.
1	28.6.48	Mill Street	45	29
2	22.7.48	Mill Street	0	0

The first sample was considered unsatisfactory, the other highly satisfactory with a free chlorine content of 0.03 p.p.m.

**Chemical Analysis Dated 20.7.48 :**

In parts per 100,000 of water :—

Total Solid matter in solution	..	..	..	10
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	..	..	0.013
Nitrites	..	..	..	Nil.
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	1.26
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs. at 80°F.				0.026
Free and Saline Ammonia	..	..	..	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	0.003
Zinc	..	..	..	0.18
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment	..			Slight trace algae.

**Chemical Analysis (continued)**

Temporary Hardness in Degrees Clark	..	..	1
Permanent Hardness in Degress Clark	..	..	1
pH Value	..	..	7.1

The above Chemical analysis is satisfactory. The amount of Zinc is too small to cause harm.

(signed) Public Analyst.

**Private Supply :**

One sample was taken, on the 28th June, 1948, from the supply obtained at Maescaled, and submitted for Bacteriological examination.

Number of B. Coli per 100 ml.	..	..	25
Number of Faecal Coli per cent.	..	..	13
Number of Non-faecal coli per cent.	..	..	87

The sample was regarded as unsatisfactory. At present a supply of water from the town's mains is available to this property.

**RODENT CONTROL :**

The County Council were approached regarding re-delegation under the Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. This was agreed to, and work of destruction has been carried out where necessary and when conditions permitted.

**FACTORIES :**

No action had to be taken during the year. The register of factories for the area is being brought up to date.

**Conclusion :**

The year 1948, brought changes and new schemes, which I hope will bring added amenity to the district and general satisfaction.

I desire to express to the Council my appreciation for the confidence reposed in me.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

Ff. EVANS,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Mill Street,  
Dolgelley.  
10th August, 1949.





