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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE HEALTH AND
SANITARY CONDITION OF
THE BELFORD RURAL
SANITARY DISTRICT :: ::

FOR YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition of the Belford Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population, (Census 1911), 5006. Population (estimated 1919) 4318.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

THE District is bounded by the sea on the East and moorland on the West. It is, generally speaking, undulating and well cultivated land, excepting the extreme Western portion, which is moorland and more hilly. The district is well watered, well drained and healthy: there are no congested areas nor any industrial works leading to smoke nuisance.

The chief occupations are agriculture and sea fishing, both of which are conducive to health.

Total Number of Births, 68. Birth Rate, 15·11 per 1000. (Illegitimate Births), 7. Number of Vaccinations, 58. Number of Deaths, 55. Death Rate, 12·73 per 1000. Number of Deaths in Children under 1 year, 4. Rate per 1000 Births 58·8.

The amount of Poor Law Relief (Out-Relief) for the Year 1919 was £330 - 9 - 0.

There is no Hospital in the District which has been utilised for gratuitous medical relief except the relief of the sick poor in the Workhouse at Belford.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The District generally is, as a rule, well supplied with water. A large number of farm premises have water laid on, and the others obtain water from wells by means of pumps, &c.

BAMBURGH obtains its supply chiefly from a reservoir on Sandyford Moor.

SEA HOUSES and NORTH SUNDERLAND are supplied from a reservoir on Brockdam Moor, and there is a storage reservoir at Sea Houses in connection with this supply, capable of holding 60,000 gallons.

BEADNELL and SWINHOLE are supplied from Brockdam reservoir by means of a connection to the North Sunderland Water Works Company's main at Swinhole Cottage.

Several farm places and villages on the line of the North Sunderland and Bamburgh water mains are supplied from them.

BELFORD.—The main supply is piped from a spring at the Blue Bell farm to a reservoir on the North Bank, and thence piped to various houses on the Main Street. There are 2 supplies in West Street from springs, and one from a spring near the National Schools in High Street. There is now an additional supply of water from Belford Moor, which supplies most of West Street, and also supplements the High Street supply. It has been found to be very satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

All the supplies of the District are constant except in some instances in Seasons of unusual drought.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage, with few exceptions, passes into streams, ditches, or the sea, and is untreated before doing so. Most of the houses in the town of BELFORD are drained into sewer conduits, and a large number of the drains are formed with sanitary pipes.

What is required is a new drainage system properly laid, and the sewage dealt with according to modern views before being discharged into the Belford stream.

Most of the houses in BEADNELL village are drained into a sewer, which conveys the sewage into the sea. Beadnell Square and Bent Hall are also provided with sewers. Beadnell Stead is drained directly into the sea. Several of the large houses in Beadnell are drained into cesspools, which are periodically emptied.

Isolated houses and farm places throughout the district are in many cases drained in to cesspools; although in some places the sewage is discharged into streams. No complaints, have, however, recently been made as to any nuisance arising from this cause.

At Belford Station and Bellshill farm house the sewage is dealt with by means of septic tanks.

At Shoreston Hall there is a small sewage scheme on modern lines, comprising septic tank and continuous filters.

Closet Accomodation.

The ashpit and privy system is in vogue at all the farm premises, and most of the villages have the same. With a few exceptions BELFORD has the ashpit and privy method in use.

Most of the houses in BAMBURGH are now provided with water closets. Exceptions are at Victoria and South Victoria Terraces, where the privy ashpit system is out of harmony with the property and might well be substituted by W.Cs., as has been previously recommended.

A large number of the houses in SEA HOUSES now have water closets and the privy system is gradually being abolished.

A few of the larger houses in BEADNELL have water closets.

The approximate number of each type of closet are: Privy Ashpit, with privy for one house, 680, Privy ashpit, with privy for more than one house, 100; Pail closets, 60; W.Cs., 220; Since 1911 some 24 W.Cs. have been put in.

SCAVENGING.—Public scavengers are appointed to remove house refuse in BELFORD and NORTH SUNDERLAND.

At Belford the refuse is deposited on agricultural land, and old tins, &c., are removed to a disused claypit at the Brick Sheds.

The refuse from privies and ashpits at North Sunderland is mostly put on agricultural land, and the other refuse is removed to a public rubbish depot at the Old Quarry on the South Links.

In the case of other villages and farm places the ashpits, &c., are usually emptied by the occupiers and tenants.

At BAMBURGH the scavenging is largely carried out by the Castle Authorities, and in some instances by the occupiers, no public scavenger having been appointed.

An increasing number of houses are using movable ashbins as water closet accomodation is being introduced.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

During the year visits have been paid by the Inspector of Nuisances, and myself, to various parts of the District, and enquiries made into the general healthiness, the water supply, the drainage, and the condition of dwelling houses. Defective conditions have been reported to the District Council, and notices sent to the occupiers or owners. A detailed table of inspections made by the Inspector of Nuisances is appended to this Report.

The workshops, slaughter houses, bakehouses and cowsheds have been inspected.

Cowsheds. In some instances orders have been given to lime-wash, and these have been complied with. Speaking generally they are kept fairly well.

There are 25 Cowsheds on the Register.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FACTORY AND
WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Under the above Act special visits have been paid to the various workshops in the District, and an enquiry made into their sanitary condition in reference to:—

- (1) Cleanliness
- (2) Air Space
- (3) Ventilation
- (4) Drainage and Wet Floors
- (5) Provision of Sanitary Conveniences

Bake Houses, six in number, have received special attention, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The names of tenants of all workshops have been placed upon a Register.

In none of the workshops are any out-workers employed.

The following is a list of the occupations carried on in the various workshops:—

Dressmakers ..	14	Bakers	6
Bootmakers ..	9	Blacksmiths ..	8
Tailors	4	Saddlers.. ..	2
Joiners	10	Painters.. ..	4
Cycle Agents & Garages	6	Herring Curers ..	5
Gas Works ..	2	Plumbers	3
Sawmill	1	Milliners	3
Sculptor	1		

In the great majority of cases I have found the air space to be ample.

In all cases there has been sufficient air space for the number employed during ordinary working hours. In one of the herring yards the drains were defective and new pipes have been laid.

The general cleanliness and drainage have been found satisfactory.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1919.

For the Rural District of Belford, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Housework.

Workshops and Workplaces:—

Number of Inspections	..	90
Written Notices	..	Nil
Prosecutions	..	Nil
Workshops on Register (s. 131) at the end of 1919	..	78

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1919,
CIVILIANS ONLY.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	27	28
Scarlet Fever ..		1
Diphtheria and Croup		1
Influenza ..	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer malignant disease	4	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	
Organic Heart Disease	5	4
Bronchitis ..	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3
Cirrhosis of liver	1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..		3
Puerperal Fever		1
Congenital debility, &c.	1	
Violence, apart from suicide ..	1	
Other defined diseases	7	8
Death of infants un- der 1 year of age	1	2
Total Illegitimate		1
TOTAL BIRTHS ..	37	31
Legitimate ..	33	28
Illegitimate ..	4	3
Population for Birth-rate	4498	
Population for Death-rate	4318	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.

April, 1920.

Form A.

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year.

	Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected.		Number reported to be defective.	Number of Orders Issued.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Inspector of Nuisances.		
FOREIGN	{ Steamers Nil. Sailing Nil. Fishing Nil. }					
Total Foreign						
COASTWISE	{ Steamers Nil. Sailing Nil. Fishing 40 }					
Total Coastwise	40					
Total Foreign and Coastwise	40		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Form B.

Names of Vessels arriving in the District.	Names of Vessels subjected to measures of rat destruction.			Method employed.	No. of rats killed.
	Plague infected.	Plague suspected.	Other vessels.		
Plague infected.	Plague infected.	Plague suspected.	Other vessels.		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.		Nil.

Table XV.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3	
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8	
148 Smaller Towns (cen. pop. 20,000-50,000) London	18.3 18.3	12.6 13.4	0.01 0.01	0.00 0.00	0.10 0.08	0.03 0.05	0.12 0.18	0.39 0.47	8.67 16.22	90 85	16.6 44.7	93.6 91.2	4.9 8.6	1.5 0.2	

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

Schools. February 28th. On account of the prevalence of Influenza the schools at Middleton, Lucker, Warenford and the West Street school in Belford were closed for 14 days: and, March 3rd, for the same reason and the same period the schools at Beadnell and Newham were closed. In some cases it was found necessary to extend the period. The C.E School at Belford was closed on March 4th for 3 weeks on account of influenza.

During the Autumn months many cases of measles occurred. In October it was found necessary to close the School at Newham, and also the School at Beadnell in November. After closure Schools should always be disinfected and an abundant supply of air passed through them. Sanitary conveniences are provided for all the Schools. There are facilities for obtaining drinking water, though in the case of Newham and Ellingham not sufficiently near.

Food. Attention has been paid to milk supplies by inspections made of cowsheds and cows. Speaking generally, the former are airy and well ventilated, the chief faults found are need for more frequent cleaning of the walls, and attention to the cleanliness of the cows themselves. Regulations in reference to light, ventilation, air space, floor area and general construction should be carefully fixed.

A consignment of frozen beef at Sea Houses in June was condemned as it was found unfit for human consumption.

No public abattoir has been established in the district, but opportunities are afforded of inspecting meat at the time of slaughter.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The principal diseases prevalent in the district were influenza and measles. In some cases the schools were closed, and information given by leaflets as to the control and care of those affected. There were 21 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, of which one was fatal, but the majority of them were confined to one farm place.

In cases of DIPHTHERIA prompt use of anti-toxin is resorted to.

Three cases of pneumonia were notified, but none of malaria, dysentery, or trench fever, or enteric fever.

In cases of sore throat which suggest a diphtheritic origin, swabs have been taken and sent off for examination. Bacteriological aids to Diagnosis—Diphtheria, 5; Tuberculosis, 3; Enteric, Nil.

Six deaths were due to INFLUENZA. On Feb. 19th I made a special report upon this disease to the District Council, detailing the steps that the public should take in order to lessen its intensity, and also pointing out the value of inoculations.

Tuberculosis.—There is no institution in the district for the treatment of this disease.

Small-Pox.—No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health, (Smallpox Prevention), Regulations, 1917.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council provide inspecting ladies who visit mothers and give useful advice in child welfare.

In November 1917 I drew the attention of the Council to the great danger incurred by not making the use of long tube feeding bottles illegal.

STAFF.—(1) The Clerk, (2) The Medical Officer of Health, (3) The Inspector of Nuisances.

Isolation Hospital for Small-pox situated near the town of Belford. Total available beds, 8, provided by the Belford Rural District Council. The necessity for making use of it has not yet arisen.

Sanitary Administration.

Local Acts, Special Local Orders, or general adoptive Acts in force in the District.

The Bye-laws in force in the District relate to—

- (1) The prevention of nuisances in the keeping of animals :
- (2) Common Lodging Houses.
- (3) Slaughter Houses.
- (4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.,
- (5) New Streets and Buildings.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, were adopted in 1887.

Housing.

The total number of houses in the district is 1246. The number for working classes, 1032.

During the year no additional houses were provided; there were, however, 2 new houses in course of erection at New Shoreston, where it is also proposed to remodel the existing 6 cottages into 4, leaving the total number at 6 as before.

Committees appointed by the Council were satisfied that there was a shortage of adequate working class accomodation at Belford, Bamburgh, Sea Houses, North Sunderland and Beadnell. So far as the farm districts were concerned, it was more a question of inadequate and unsatisfactory accomodation than of there being an insufficient number of houses.

The Council are proceeding with Housing Schemes as follows: Belford, 12 houses, Bamburgh, 4, Sea Houses, 12, North Sunderland, 5, Beadnell, 6, Total, 39.

OVERCROWDING. According to the last completed housing inspections there were 233 houses with more than 2 occupants per room. Occasionally marked cases of overcrowding arise at farm places where there are 2 roomed cottages, and the occupier has 5 or 6 children; the housing on the farms is a difficult problem with the frequent changes of tenancies among the workers.

The general standard of housing, as in most other rural districts, does not reach a high level. A considerable number of houses are defective in a variety of ways. Some have no damp courses, and the walls are more or less damp, and many are lacking in general accommodation and conveniences.

No necessity has arisen during the year to make closing orders.

Jas. G. Macaskie,

1920.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, 1919.

During the year 1919, the question of Housing has been chiefly under consideration. Briefly, the position may be stated as follows: Committees were appointed, along with the Medical Officer and myself, to consider the needs of the respective localities. Their conclusions were presented to the Council, arrangements made for Housing Schemes as detailed in the Medical Officer's report, and at the end of the year the stage reached was that sites had been provisionally arranged for, and an architect appointed to carry out the Council's proposals. Special reports have been made to the Council on various aspects of the housing, and with particular reference to suitability of site and water supply. The necessary preliminary work, such as preparation of locality plans, site plans, form of survey of housing needs, &c., has been duly carried out.

Regarding the general sanitary administration, frequent visits have been paid throughout the district, relating to housing conditions, water supplies, sanitary accommodation, slaughter houses, cowsheds, workshops, &c., but hopes of substantial improvements being effected, especially as to housing and sanitary accommodation, have not materialised. With one or two exceptions, it has only been possible to get minor repairs effected. Prevailing conditions of high costs, and apparently, inadequate labour, render the effecting of improvements more difficult than ever. Special mention might be made of the new W.Cs., 12 in number, being erected at Chapel Row, Sea Houses, the work now nearing completion, after which the long standing nuisances of the open and offensive privy ashpits in Chapel Row and the Harbour front will be abolished. At Belford, a special report was made regarding a defective house and sanitary conveniences and these matters have been remedied, two pail closets, with satisfactory ashpit having been substituted for a foul and practically unuseable privy ashpit existing previously.

More disinfecting than usual has been necessary during the year, but the majority of the cases were at Burton, where Scarlet Fever was epidemic.

The scavenging work, which is done in Belford and Sea Houses by contract, has on some occasions been indifferently performed, especially at Belford, and it has been necessary to give the Contractors notice of several cases requiring attention, in one instance formal notice being served under the terms of the contract that another carter would be employed failing compliance with the notice. In other areas, there seems to be a general tendency to large accumulations before cleansing, though farmers and others have complied with requests to do so. The whole question of sanitary accommodation is one that needs serious consideration. There are still in the district many privy ashpits of an objectionable type, and, moreover, it is nearly impossible to obtain satisfactory conditions where one privy has to serve more than one tenant.

A special report regarding the housing conditions at Blackett Row, Bamburgh, was presented to the Council, and the position at the end of the Year was that the owner was forwarded a copy of this Report, with the request that he should inform the Council to what extent he was prepared to effect repairs, otherwise the houses, 5 in number, would need to be closed. Subsequently, this property has been sold, and the new owner has informed the Council that he intends repairing the property as soon as possible. The Council have deferred further action to give the owner opportunity to submit and carry out his proposals.

Referring to the subject of Housing generally, applied to existing accommodation and to the various powers and duties of local authorities, the Housing Act of 1919 adds greatly to the responsibilities of local authorities. These are dealt with fully in the Manuals published by the Ministry of Health, and it is unnecessary to refer to them in detail here. Special emphasis should, however, be laid on the fact that the standard of housing generally in the district is below that stipulated as reasonable in view of present day requirements. It is laid down that a fit house should be free from serious dampness, satisfactorily lighted and ventilated, properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, including proper household sink, be in good general repair, and have a satisfactory water supply, adequate washing accommodation, proper facilities for preparing and cooking food and a well-ventilated food store. It will thus be seen that the question of existing housing accommodation, as well as new housing, is one that demands the serious consideration of the Council.

Regarding new buildings, no new dwelling houses were completed, but there were two in course of erection at New Shoreston, where the existing six cottages are to be remodelled into four. This property has been reported upon on several occasions as being very unsatisfactory, and the work in progress will effect a marked improvement.

Thos. W. Dodd,

MARCH, 1920.

A. R. San. I.

It is not possible to say whether the
the number of cases of ...
the ... of ...
the ... of ...
the ... of ...

Table 1 shows the results of the
analysis of the data.

Year	Number of cases	Percentage
1980	10	10.0
1981	15	15.0
1982	20	20.0
1983	25	25.0
1984	30	30.0
1985	35	35.0
1986	40	40.0
1987	45	45.0
1988	50	50.0
1989	55	55.0
1990	60	60.0
1991	65	65.0
1992	70	70.0
1993	75	75.0
1994	80	80.0
1995	85	85.0
1996	90	90.0
1997	95	95.0
1998	100	100.0
1999	105	105.0
2000	110	110.0
2001	115	115.0
2002	120	120.0
2003	125	125.0
2004	130	130.0
2005	135	135.0
2006	140	140.0
2007	145	145.0
2008	150	150.0
2009	155	155.0
2010	160	160.0
2011	165	165.0
2012	170	170.0
2013	175	175.0
2014	180	180.0
2015	185	185.0
2016	190	190.0
2017	195	195.0
2018	200	200.0
2019	205	205.0
2020	210	210.0
2021	215	215.0
2022	220	220.0
2023	225	225.0
2024	230	230.0
2025	235	235.0
2026	240	240.0
2027	245	245.0
2028	250	250.0
2029	255	255.0
2030	260	260.0