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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1951.

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Port Medical Officer of Health :

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.

Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.

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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1951.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted
by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st. December, 1951. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During the year the trade of the Port continued to be very brisk and there were satisfactory increases in the amount of both foreign and coastwise shipping. As a result a total of 801 vessels entered the Dock as compared with 708 in 1950. The nature of the cargo traffic continued to be much the same as in previous years, whilst there were also only a few alterations in the list of foreign ports from which vessels arrived.

As will be seen from a perusal of the Report, the Health Administration continues to function in a satisfactory manner, and in this respect it is gratifying to report that there were again no diseases of an infectious nature.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all concerned for the co-operation and assistance they have given me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. Smeaton

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

MARCH, 1952.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1951.

TABLE A.

1. A M O U N T O F S H I P P I N G E N T E R I N G T H E P O R T D U R I N G T H E Y E A R .

	Num-ber.	Tonn-age.	Number inspected.		Number reported to be defect-ive.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.	
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector					
Foreign	Steamers	59	32,925	15	31	10	9	Nil	Nil
	Motor	425	63,721	30	76	15	9	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign		484	96,646	45	107	25	18	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Steamers	50	9,066	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Motor	267	33,333	14	22	7	7	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		317	42,399	14	25	7	7	Nil	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise		801	139,045	59	132	32	25	Nil	Nil

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers	1st. Class	2nd. Class	Cabin	Trans-migrants
Inwards	Nil	Nil	106	Nil
Outwards	Nil	Nil	83	Nil

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :-

Grain	Telegraph Poles	Fruit & Vegetables	Basic Slag
Deals	Flour & Feeding Stuffs	Petroleum	
Battens & Boards	Potatoes	Bulbs	
Sleepers	Fertilisers	Paper	

The Principal Exports are :-

Grain	Potatoes	Coal
Sugar	Fireclay	General Continental Goods.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.

<u>Finland.</u>	<u>Sweden.</u>	<u>Holland.</u>	<u>Germany.</u>	<u>Canada.</u>
Abo	Gefle	Colijnsplaat	Bremen	Digby (N.S.)
Hamina	Gothenburg	Due Bommel	Hamburg	
Hango	Kalix	Haarlingen		<u>Eire.</u>
Haukipudas	Karlshamn	Hansweert	<u>Norway.</u>	Cork
Helsinki	Kopmanholmen	Maasluis	Arendal	
Jacobstad	Norrkoping	Middleharnis	Christiansund	<u>Corsica.</u>
Kasko	Norrsundet	Rotterdam	Porsgrunn	Ajaccio
Kemi	Ortviken	St. Anna Land		
Kotka	Skutskar	Zierikzee	<u>Belgium.</u>	
Kristinestad	Stugsund		Antwerp	
Lapaluoto	Sundsvall	<u>France.</u>	Ghent	
Lovisa	Visby	Bayonne		
Mantyluoto		Bordeaux	<u>Russia.</u>	
Rahe	<u>Spain.</u>	Rocheport	Archangel	
Rafso	Almeria	Roscoff	Mesane	
Raumo	Burriana	Rouen		
Sornas	Carthage	Treport	<u>Egypt.</u>	
Toppila	Valencia		Alexandria	
Uleaborg				

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes. Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health :-

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival :-

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention. (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.) :-

Each week, detailed lists of infected ports are extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record, and forwarded to the Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs for the information of Pilots and other Officers concerned. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

Communication by radio telephone is available between the Dock Master's Office, Lock Head, and the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : "Port-health, Boston" is registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10 :-

(a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks : The Quarantine Station - "Clay Hole".

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14 :-

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16 :-

It has not been necessary during the year 1951 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :-

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination :

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

(b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other articles :

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

During the year facilities for the disinfection of bedding, etc., continued to be available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, but in 1952 it is proposed to bring into operation a Disinfecting Station equipped with a chemical disinfectant.

7. (Continued)

- (c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations :

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other Infectious Diseases :

Cases occurring under this heading are sent to Lacey Hospital.

- (e) Ambulance Transport :

A motor ambulance is provided by the Holland County Council.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts :

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague :-

Such examinations are arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations :-

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories :-

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

- (b) The Laboratory, Boston Group Hospital Management Committee, General Hospital, South End, Boston.

10. Information as to the Location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-patient Treatment; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen :-

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient Treatment is available at the Clinic, London Road Hospital, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the clinic are as follows :-

Tuesdays	2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
				and 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

10. (Continued)

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead :-

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. Other matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention :-

There are no items to report under this heading.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the year 1951.		No. of Vessels concerned	Average no. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the year 1951.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average no. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1951 and no plague infected rats were discovered; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague :-

(a) In Ships in the Port :

Inspections are carried out by the Port Sanitary Officer.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port :

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore :-

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide "mushrooms" on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Methods of Deratisation of :-

(a) Ships :

The normal method is trapping. Poisoning is occasionally used and if infestation is so heavy as to warrant immediate fumigation, arrangements are made through fumigation contractors at Grimsby. As Boston is not an approved Port for the issue of Deratisation Certificates it has not been considered necessary to make any other arrangements for the complete fumigation of ships.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays :

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Prebaiting is carried out at regular and frequent intervals and is followed by any other necessary action.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore :-

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing :-

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof?

The Fruit Shed (South side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the North side of the Dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing :

i. In Ships, any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. On Shore, the existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year.
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Brown	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	10
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year.
Black	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 [*]
Brown	6	10	-	9	16	8	-	15	9	17	-	-	90 [*]
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined ...	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

* These figures relate to bodies recovered. It is estimated that as a result of poisoning a further 455 rats were killed during the year.

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels
or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port
during the Year.

Total Number of such Vessels arriving (1)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ (2)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN (4)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed (6)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out (8)	Nil

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This table is inapplicable as Boston is not an approved Port.

Three ships were found to have out-of-date certificates and their Masters were instructed to renew them as soon as possible. Where their next port of call was an Approved Port in England the Port Health Authority was warned of their estimated time of arrival.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural Defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	28	Nil	2	5
Other Nations	104	4	11	18

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :-

The principal food imports were grain, flour, feeding stuffs, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and pears.

No action under the above Regulations was necessary during the year but several tons of onions and small quantities of pears were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation.

2. Shell-fish :-

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1951, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :-

(a) Bacteriologist Nil.
 (b) Analyst Nil.
