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Contributors

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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

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 submit the Report of the Port Medical Officer of Health of the Boston Port Health Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1960. The Report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health.

During the year there was a slight decrease in the amount of ships entering Boston. The number from foreign ports was 1,012, 37 less than in 1959. Likewise the number of coastwise ships fell to 272, a decrease of 24 from the previous year. Foreign tonnage was 208,797 whilst coastal was 71,795, giving a total tonnage of 280,592, a fall of 7,778 tons as compared with 1959. As there was a full staff, many more ships were inspected than was possible the previous year, 187 as against 34.

No cases of infectious disease occurred in the Port during the year and no ship reported that there had been any case on board during the voyage.

The principal ports from which ships arrived remained much the same as in previous years. Imports and exports were also very similar with the exception of chilled and frozen meat, 20 shipments arriving during the period of a strike which affected the Port of London. Further details of this and other foodstuffs, together with samples taken, are set out later in the Report.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department and all others concerned for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

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



FEBRUARY, 1961.

SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1-5-58.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Assistant C.M.O.- Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health - Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert.Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D.H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1-10-59.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert.Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
SISSONS, R.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	19-11-59.	Cert.P.H.I.E.B., Dip.Meat & Food Inspection. Dip.R.I.P.H.H.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
ALLEN, W.J.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	1.3.60.	Cert.P.H.I.E.B., Dip.Meat & Food Inspection.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone) Public Health Department,
number of the Medical) 8 Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lines.
Officer of Health.) BOSTON 4601 (six lines).

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected.		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign Ports.	1,012.	208,797.	2.	152.	Nil.
Coastwise.	272.	71,795.	Nil.	35.	Nil.
Total.	1,284.	280,592.	2.	187.	Nil.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 243. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 180.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium Ingots, Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Fertilizers, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Salt, Sleepers, Starch, Steel Bars etc., Telegraph Poles and General. Principal EXPORTS : Coal, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand, Steel and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp, Nieuport, Rieme, Terneuzen. DENMARK : Fredericia. FINLAND : Haukipudas, Kasko, Pateniemi, Sornas, Walkom. FRANCE : Dunkirk, Gravelines. GERMANY : Bremen, Hamburg, Rostock, Stralsund, Wismar. HOLLAND : Koog Aan De Zaan, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Ymuiden. NORWAY : Aheim, Mosjoen. POLAND : Gdansk, Gdynia, Stettin. RUSSIA : Archangel, Onega. SARDINIA : Cagliari. SPAIN : Almeria, Gandia, Valencia. SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Halmstad, Stockholm, Stugsund.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

(a) The District.

(b) Shipping.

The supply for both (a) and (b) is obtained from the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water are carried out and all the reports have been satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

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.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs are each supplied with a list of infected areas which is amended as necessary from the Weekly Epidemiological Record published by the World Health Organisation.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

The Pilot Boarding Station, 5 miles from the Port in the Wash, is connected by radio telephone with the Dock Master's Office and information of vessels requiring special attention is transmitted by the pilots. The Medical Officer is immediately informed by telephone and the vessel can be sent to the Quarantine Station to await the Medical Officer.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

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

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

5. Arrangements for :-

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII) :

Such accommodation is available at the White House Hospital, Fishtoft.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up 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 postcards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

The cleansing and disinfection of ships is carried out by the Port Health Authority's staff under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

Clothing, bedding and other portable articles are dealt with at the disinfecting station.

Arrangements have been made for the cleansing of verminous persons at the Health Centre, London Road.

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J.H.C. Clarke,
County Offices,
Sleaford.

Dr. J. Glen,
Springfield Hospital,
Scarthoe,
Grimsby.

Dr. G. Nisbet,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A.W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

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 and 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 clinics are conducted at London Road Hospital, Boston, at 4.30 p.m. each Tuesday. If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient treatment can be arranged 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.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1960.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1960.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

Indications of rat infestation were found on two ships, traps were set and poison laid. In one case no bodies were recovered but on the other ship two bodies were found together with indications of a heavy infestation. The deratting certificate required renewing but as Boston is not a designated port, this could not be done. Full information was passed to the health authority at its next port of call.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Department of Pathology, The Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

During the year one ship was found to be rat infested and two bodies were sent for examination and were reported to be free of *Pasteurella pestis*.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	2.
Brown rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination	2.
Infected with plague	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates
issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore
no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	15.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	9.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	Nil.
Total.	24.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of inspections :- General inspections : 187.

Nature and number of nuisances found.		Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction.	2.	Nil.	Nil.	-
Structural Defects through wear and tear.	5.	Nil.	5.	1 repairs carried out. 2 repairs partially completed. 2 sailed before compl- etion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.	11.	Nil.	11.	10 complied with. 1 sailed before compl- etion.
Total	18.	Nil.	16.	11 complied with. 2 partially complied. 3 not complied with.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948.

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 1960, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

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

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

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

Food Inspection.

A list of the principal food imports appears in Table C on page 4. The main items of food were as follows :-

	<u>Tons.</u>
Chilled and frozen meat and offal	2,818.
Fruit and vegetables.	27,440.
Onions.	17,052.
Potatoes.	9,618.

The importation of chilled and frozen meat was an emergency operation arising out of the strike of tally clerks in the Port of London. In spite of the manner in which it was carried from the Continent it arrived in fair condition and it was not necessary to condemn any of it. Boston is not properly equipped for handling meat but as it was loaded direct into insulated vans for immediate dispatch, a reasonable standard of hygiene was obtained. Altogether 20 shipments arrived in the port.

During the year the following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit and were destroyed :-

Carrots.	18 trays and 20 boxes.
Cauliflowers.	423 crates.
Lemons.	78 cases.
Onions.	69 bags and 356 $\frac{1}{2}$ bags.
Potatoes.	3 cwt.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.

Twelve samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and were reported on as follows :-

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Result of examination.</u>
Apples.	4.	All samples contained arsenic and 2 contained lead, all within the recommended limits. All samples contained about 1.0 parts per million of copper.
Braised pork kidneys.	1.	Commercially sterile.
Evaporated milk.	1.	Commercially sterile.
Ox tongue.	1.	Commercially sterile : no Salmonella or Shigella.
Pork luncheon meat.	5.	Commercially sterile.

These samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:

Sample 1 (Canned Corn)

All samples contained bacteria.

Sample 1 (Canned Corn) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 2 (Canned Beans)

Sample 2 (Canned Beans) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 3 (Canned Tomatoes)

Sample 3 (Canned Tomatoes) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 4 (Canned Apples)

Sample 4 (Canned Apples) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 5 (Canned Peaches)

Sample 5 (Canned Peaches) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 6 (Canned Pineapples)

Sample 6 (Canned Pineapples) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 7 (Canned Mangoes)

Sample 7 (Canned Mangoes) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 8 (Canned Guavas)

Sample 8 (Canned Guavas) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 9 (Canned Passion Fruit)

Sample 9 (Canned Passion Fruit) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 10 (Canned Oranges)

Sample 10 (Canned Oranges) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

Sample 11 (Canned Lemons)

Sample 11 (Canned Lemons) was found to contain 1.0 million per milliliter of bacteria.

