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# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

## HALTWHISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year ending  
31st December, 1938.

BY

J. M. GLASSE, M.B., Ch. B., (Edin.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Haltwhistle Rural District Council.**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938. I thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. J. Lawson, especially, for his assistance in compiling this Report; also Mr. C. E. Wilson, the Registrar, for access to books re Statistics and Mr. T. Dryden, for clerical assistance in the office.

I congratulate the Council for the strenuous work some of them have put in to better things all round, especially Water, Sewerage and Housing Improvements.

The example of the ladies makes one ask why more do not apply for election. Business men say they have not the time to devote to Council work but some of their wives might come forward with advantage to our Council.

The Area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,334 acres.

The estimated Population for 1938 is 8,048.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 was  
2,372.

The sum represented by one penny rate is £147 16s. 4'66d.

The Rateable Value equals £38,496.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

The Ventners Hall Colliery Company continue to do well in their fight against the elements. Their pluck is deserving of the best of luck and more support in the road making extensions "out North." We all regret the passing of Mr. Walton Maughan. The welfare of this district was always in his thoughts. He was a visionary but I believe his ideas will eventually materialize.

Messrs. Smith and Walton continue to employ large numbers of our young women and many of our young men. Their Hadrian Paint Products I believe are booming. Mrs. Douglas Smith never loses an opportunity in trying to help Haltwhistle's advancement. This requires some sustained energy and enthusiasm.

The present Council by next March will have completed a term of three years and come up, I hope, for re-election. There has been much soreness and heart-breaking at times over drastic housing demolition but I think the Council on the whole have tried to do their unpleasant work in a just and fair manner.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**The Birth Rate** is 11.5 as compared with 10.8 per 1,000 for the previous year.

Legitimate	88	Males	46	Females	42
Illegitimate	5	Males	1	Females	4
Still Births	1	Males	—	Females	1

**The Death Rate** is 13 per 1,000 population compared with 16.3 for the previous year:—

110 Deaths      64 Males      46 Females

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Three deaths from Tuberculosis as compared with five the previous year :

Ages	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		...	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	M.	F.		M	F
18	20	...	...	—	10
	1	1		—	1

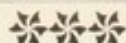
A Total of Three Deaths.

### CANCER.

Fifteen deaths compared with thirteen in the previous year.

Males 6    Females 9      A total of 15 deaths.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.



	M	F	Total
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1	3
Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other Forms) ...	0	1	1
Cancer ... ..	6	9	15
Diabetis Mellitus ... ..	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	1	2	3
Heart Disease ... ..	11	10	21
Arterio Sclerosis ... ..	15	6	21
Other Circulatory Disease ...	3	—	3
Bronchitis ... ..	1	1	2
Pneumonias (all forms) ... ..	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	1	1
Appendicitis ... ..	—	—	—
Enlarged Prostate ... ..	3	—	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	3	1	4
Cholecystitis and Gall Stones ...	—	1	1
Dnodenal Ulcer ... ..	—	—	—
Nephritis ... ..	3	4	7
Senility ... ..	3	1	4
Suicide ... ..	—	—	—
Other Violence ... ..	3	—	3
Undefined Diseases ... ..	2	3	5
Premature Birth, Congenal Debility, etc.	3	2	5
	—	—	—
Totals	64	46	110

## **WATER and WATER SCHEMES.**

A year is but a day in the sight of the Lord. What it is in the eyes of the Ministry one can only guess.

The Water Scheme has been discussed, mangled and been wangled about, for the last six years and is still not commenced with, although sanctioned by the Ministry. The same old complaints which were placed before the Council some twenty or thirty years ago keep cropping up. So time goes on, old discoveries are re-discovered. True to type, it is the same amiable, dignified, complaisance as in home politics and foreign affairs, which lands us in the mud sooner or later.

At the time of going to press I hear the Spring Water Scheme, at a cost of some fifteen thousand pounds is likely to be commenced this Autumn. This is seven thousand pounds cheaper than the initial cost of the discarded Broomlee Lake Scheme.

I congratulate the present Council in their decision as they have saved the Ratepayers of the Haltwhistle Rural District very many thousands of pounds by opposing the Broomlee Swamp Scheme and they have a clean supply not likely ever to require chlorinating if properly protected.

The people who were responsible for the Broomlee Lake Scheme and the irregular way in which it was initiated can never be forgotten. They almost succeeded in foisting on the District a Swamp Water and everlasting expense, deceiving the Ministry with false and insufficient evidence as to the Spring Water available. In justice to the Ratepayers a surcharge on the late Council would appear to me amply justified.

Various improvements and extensions of water mains, etc., have however been carried out. These include the extension of the Gilsland water main a distance of 800 yards to a point near the village of Greenhead; the extending of

the Haltwhistle Supply westward, a distance of 175 yards, (3" main), and the laying of a total length of 500 yards of 2" cast iron main on the Council's Housing Estate, Greencroft, Haltwhistle, to supply the houses newly erected.

Two hundred yards of 2" main have also been lifted and relaid following upon road improvements on the north side of of the town.

In order to augment the supply to the village of Melkridge, a reinforced concrete tank of a capacity of 8,500 gallons has been constructed at the spring heads. There was formerly no storage on this system.

### **Analysis of Water Supplies.**

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis have been taken from the following sources :—

Haltwhistle (North Side Supply) ...	Satisfactory
Melkridge ... ..	Satisfactory
Bardon Mill ... ..	Satisfactory
Westwood ... ..	Satisfactory
Birkshaw ... ..	Not satisfactory
Gilsland ... ..	Satisfactory
Haltwhistle (Main Supply, South Side)	Satisfactory

### **SCAVENGING and PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

This is carried out by contract in the town and is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Bins continue to be substituted for Ashpits. Difficulty in the removal of refuse is often experienced in the small hamlets, and with a view to eliminating this source of nuisance the Council is contemplating the purchase of a modern refuse collecting vehicle of a type suitable to the requirements of a Rural Area, and generally remodelling the existing scavenging arrangements.

Additional tipping ground has been provided at the Town Foot, Haltwhistle by the laying of 100 yds. 12" Sewer through a section of the Tip. This gives an approximate additional tipping area of 1,500 square yds. (4,500 cub. yds.)

## **SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

There are Six Slaughter Houses in the District, all privately owned.

## **SMOKE NUISANCE.**

This being principally an agricultural district there is no nuisance from this source.

## **HOUSING.**

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1938	2,372
Number of New Houses built in 1938	... 88

Inspection and reconditioning work under the Housing Acts has proceeded satisfactorily during the year. Clearance Orders have been confirmed against 26 houses following upon a Housing Inquiry held by an Inspector of the Ministry.

A further total of 26 houses have been secured for individual demolition.

This year has also seen the erection and completion of 83 houses built on the Council's Housing Estate, Greencroft, Haltwhistle, for the occupation of displaced tenants.

## **DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.**

### **Haltwhistle :**

The sewerage works recently constructed to meet the needs of Haltwhistle are, after some alteration to the gauge plant and overflow sill, now working as satisfactorily as can be expected, but are overloaded, too large a volume of surface water from various sources (stone drains, etc.) finding access to the sewers. Steps have been taken to relieve this, and further action is contemplated.

The necessary plans, etc., have been prepared for treatment of the disposal of sewage from Thorngrafton, Westwood, Bardon Mill, Redburn, Tow House and Melkridge, pending the settlement of the proposed water scheme, and also for Greenhead, Longbyre and Slaggyford.

Joint Action is also proposed to be taken between the Haltwhistle and Brampton Councils with a view to enlarging the existing sewage works at Gilsland, which is in the Haltwhistle Area, in order to make provision for that part of Gilsland which is in the Brampton Area, and which has no system of sewage disposal.

A large amount of drainage work has been carried out during the past year, more especially in connection with the erection of 82 houses on Greencroft Housing Estate, and a total of 183 yards of drainage having been inspected and tested in connection with the above.

#### **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Conversion to Water Closets	...	...	—
Additional Water Closets	...	...	94
New Houses—Water Closets	...	...	88
New Houses—Privies	...	...	—
Additional Earth Closets	...	...	2

**HOUSING STATISTICS.**  
**Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.**

Houses erected during the year—

	(a) By Local Authority ... ..	83
	(b) By other Bodies or Persons ... ..	5

**1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :**

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... ..	423
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... ..	695
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	—
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose ... ..	—
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	29
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	370

**2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :**

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... ..	93
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers :**

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the  
**Housing Act, 1936.**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which “notices” were served requiring repairs ...	21
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(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	21
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
	<b>(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—</b>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
	<b>(C)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</b>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	28
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	1
	<b>(D)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</b>	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	2
<b>4.</b>	<b>Number of Houses permanently discontinued as Dwellings and not included above ...</b>	<b>34</b>

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

### Summary.

Water	...	...	...	...	303
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	42
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	73
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	49
Council's Sewers	...	...	...	...	96
Private Drains	...	...	...	...	192
Bakeries and Shops	...	...	...	...	64
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	2
Privies Constructed	...	...	...	...	2
New Drains	...	...	...	...	53
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	45
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	53
Housing	...	...	...	...	183

### Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector :—

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Laundries)	25	3	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	12	0	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers Premises) ... ..	0	0	0
Total	37	3	0

### Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Found Remedied		
Sanitary Accommodation Insufficient	1	1	7
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	0	0	—
	0	0	—

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Disinfection was carried out in 2 instances following upon Infectious diseases.

Number of rooms disinfected      —      3.

### Longtown Isolation Hospital.

Returns for the year 1938.

Patients.	Total
Remaining 31st December, 1937—	
Scarlet Fever      ...      ...      ...	—
Diphtheria      ...      ...      ...	—
Admitted 1938	
Scarlet Fever      ...      ...      ...	2
Diphtheria      ...      ...      ...	1

### General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities	County Lab., Newburn.
Ambulance Facilities,—only for Infectious Diseases	Longtown Isolation Hospital.
Nursing      ...      ...	In association with War Memorial Hospital, Haltwhistle.
Clinics      ...      ...	Tuberculosis Clinic, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Hexham.
	Ante-Natal—alternate Thursdays Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital Annex.
Hospital—Public and Voluntary	War Memorial Hospital, Haltwhistle.

Specialist Surgeon from Newcastle Operates every  
Wednesday or when emergency arises.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

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Registered Cowkeepers and Dairymen	...	226
Number of Inspections ...	...	53
Number of Statutory Notices served on Occupiers respecting unfit Cowsheds	... ..	—
Number of Informal Notices served	...	5
Number of Cowsheds Remodelled ...	...	4
Submitted following service of Notice	...	—

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There are in the District two producers of Accredited Milk. An intensive inspection of Byres etc., under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 is to be undertaken during the forthcoming year.

## Food Inspection.

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The County Council are the Authority for the purposes of the Food and Drugs Acts in this District.

## Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

### Section 6 (1) and (4).

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Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	226
Approximate number of cows kept	... 1,582

## Summary of Work Effected.

□□□□

### Sanitary Conveniences.

		After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	TOTAL
Privies abolished	...	2	—	17	19
Privies repaired...	...	—	23	—	23
Privy ashpits abolished	...	—	—	—	—
Privy ashpits roofed or repaired		—	9	—	9
Pail-closets abolished	...	—	—	—	—
Water-closets provided	...	—	—	—	95
Water-closets repaired	...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary bins provided	...	—	—	—	178
Sanitary bins renewed	...	—	—	—	15

### Drainage.

New drains constructed	...	—	—	—	91
Drains repaired or reconstructed		2	4	—	6
Additional gullies provided		—	10	—	10
Old gullies replaced	...	—	—	—	—
Scullery sinks provided	...	—	83	17	106
Scullery waste-pipes repaired		—	—	—	—
Scullery waste-pipes trapped		—	—	10	10
Yards repaired or reconstructed		—	9	—	9

## Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report: Year ending December 31st, 1938.

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventi's of Bye-laws.	No. out-standing from previous year	TOTAL.	No. remedied after letter or interview	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	In progress or being dealt with.	Legal Proceedings	
<b>Housing.</b>												
Structural Defects	160	53	376	429	...	370	93	21	21	315	...	
Defective Food-store	211	133	142	275	...	126	35	7	7	233	...	
Dampness	313	217	144	361	...	205	40	12	12	309	...	
Overcrowding	...	...	130	130	...	...	...	...	...	130	...	
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>Water Supply.</b>												
Insufficient	171	58	76	134	...	71	...	...	...	134	...	
Unsatisfactory	...	71	34	105	...	...	21	...	...	84	...	
<b>Drainage.</b>												
Insufficient	203	157	101	258	...	143	61	14	14	183	...	
Defective	...	172	251	423	...	154	73	18	18	332	...	
<b>Sanitary Conveniences.</b>												
Insufficient	163	140	54	194	...	139	69	1	1	124	...	
Defective	...	177	223	400	...	160	51	17	17	332	...	
Shops, Food Stores, etc	18	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	53	51	30	81	4	3	1	...	...	77	...	
Slaughter Houses	64	...	...	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Workshops & Workplaces	12	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	78	35	92	127	33	5	3	2	2	89	...	
Ashpits Improperly Used	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Offensive Accumulations	12	1	...	1	...	5	1	...	...	1	...	
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Petrol Stores	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2,343</b>		

