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Contributors

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Borough  of Nelson.

Medical Officer's
REPORT
FOR 1905.

Nelson :

JOHN WATSON, CENTRAL PRINTING WORKS.



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NELSON,

21ST FEBRUARY, 1906.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough.

In giving you the record of the births and deaths for 1905, I find the births registered were 748, (372 males, 376 females), which gives an annual birth-rate of 20·7 per 1000. The deaths, including premature births (17), and inquest cases (17), and five which occurred outside the district numbered 371, (175 males, 196 females) which gives an annual death-rate of 10·3 per 1,000.

The deaths of children under one year numbered 76, which gives a death-rate of 10·1 calculated on the number born during the year.

The following table epitomises the ages at which death occurred:—

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	76	} 117 deaths under 5 years
" of 1 year and under 5 years			41	
" 5	"	15	" 12	} 249 deaths over 5 years
" 15	"	25	" 26	
" 25	"	65	" 128	
" 65 years and over	...	...	83	

The ages of the five which occurred out of the district were one female 21, one 55, one 57, one male 61, and one 67 years.

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of death, and the ages at which they died.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act" there have been reported 13 cases of Smallpox, 43 Diphtheria, 50 Erysipelas, 187 Scarlet Fever, 16 Enteric Fever and one Puerperal Fever.

I may say about the Smallpox cases that on Sunday afternoon, 23rd April, two cases were reported, on the 24th, 8 cases, on the 29th, one case, 3rd May, one case, and on the 9th of May, another case. They were at once removed to Catlow Hospital and all recovered. As I gave you a Special Report in May about these cases I need not trouble you with any further details. I also sent a copy of that report to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer.

We had Sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever all the first part of the year but towards the end of September it assumed almost an Epidemic but the cases were as I told you in my last report of a very mild character, in fact, so much so, that in many cases they were not recognized and other members of the family were sent to School, this I believe was a great factor in spreading it. To show the mildness of the attack I have only to mention that out of 187 cases reported there were only two deaths. I have nothing special to say over the other cases reported.

Mr. Priestley has kindly condensed for me the following details of work done in the Sanitary Department during the year.

NUISANCES.—270 Complaints of Nuisances have been received and investigated.

NOTICES.—Abatement of Nuisances has in the majority of cases been secured by an intimation to the persons responsible, but 181 Statuary Notices have been served dealing with the following matters:—

58 Defective Sink Waste Pipes.

12 Mills without proper Sanitary Conveniences.



- 44 Ashpits without proper Doors and Coverings.
- 263 Ashpits with Floors below ground level.
- 1 Insanitary Ashpit.
- 4 Ashpits in a dilapidated state.
- 14 Water Closets blocked.
- 2 Accumulations of Manure.
- 8 Premises without sufficient W C. accommodation.
- 1 W.C. without adequate flushing arrangements.
- 1 Defective Flagging of Yard.
- 5 Dirty condition of Stable Yard and back Street.
- 2 Defective construction of Manure Midden.
- 1 Dirty condition of Stables.

UNSOUND FOOD.—No unsound food has been seized during the year. The following articles have been submitted for inspection and destroyed being unfit for food :—

- Carcase of Sheep weighing 36 lbs.
- 6 Cwt. 1 qr. of Offal.
- 60 Mackerel weighing 53 lbs.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—No Summons has been issued during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 19 Private Slaughter Houses within the Borough, one building having been diverted to other uses.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.—There is only one within the Borough. No infectious cases have occurred therein during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—No new Offensive Trades have established. There are three carried on in the Borough.

SCAVENGING, CLEANSING AND DESTROYER:—

Scavenging and Cleansing are carried out by the Corporation Staff. All ashes and refuse are burned at the destructor which continues to work well. During the year 7180 loads of ashes, 3963 tubs of garbage, 155 loads of market refuse, and 2669 loads of light refuse, giving a weight of 6839 tons, 2 cwt. have been destroyed. 2 sheep and one calf have also been destroyed. 1302 miles of streets have been swept, 21076 gullies cleansed, 2049 loads of water and 192 loads of ashes distributed on the roads, 4052 loads of street sweepings and 644 loads of snow have been removed.

WORKSHOPS.—The Workshops have been regularly inspected and the Register amended from time to time during the year, the general conditions thereof being satisfactory. There are 259 Workshops on the Register an increase of one during the year, 76 being Domestic Workshops, 93 Men's, and 90 Ordinary.

Classified according to Trades as follows:—

Bakers, 62; Tailors, 23; Dressmakers and Milliners, 82; Shoemakers and Cloggers, 43; General, 49.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The bedding, clothing, &c. from each case of Infectious Disease, except Erysipelas, has been disinfected at the Disinfecting Station after convalescence, and the rooms have been sprayed with Formalin Solution and fumigated with Formaldehyde Vapour. 1560 articles of wearing apparel, 1278 articles of bedding and 581 miscellaneous articles have been disinfected by the Steam Disinfector and 174 rooms disinfected.

Mr. Ball, Borough Surveyor, has kindly informed me that during the year plans have been approved for the erection of 371 houses, two mills and many other buildings of a varied character, while 225 houses have been completed and certified as fit for habitation, an increase of 123 over last year. The execution of Private Street Works in 26 Streets has been completed at a cost of £6617; there are still 28 Streets in the hands of Contractors and Notices have been issued for the paving, &c. of 19 more. Considerable progress has been made with the provision of the percolating bacteria beds at the Sewage Works, 20 being now in action and five more will be completed in about a month's time. During the year 312,500,000 gallons of Sewage have been treated and 1326 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of pressed sludge carted away from the works by farmers.

Mr. Hartley, Water Manager, has kindly informed me that although in the early part of the year there was [a considerable deficiency in the Rainfall as compared with previous years, being only 13.7 inches for the five months ending 31st May, as against 18.8 during the same period in 1904, we have experienced no difficulty in maintaining a supply of good wholesome water to all the consumers in our water limits.

RAINFALL AT OGDEN, 1905.

January	3.07	Inches
February	3.59	"
March	3.66	"
April	2.36	"
May	1.02	"
June	3.52	"
July.....	3.20	"
August	4.48	"
September	3.60	"
October	4.34	"
November	4.67	"
December	2.29	"
Total	39.80	"

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. MILLAR.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PRISON AT DIFFERENT AGES FOR THE YEAR ENDING December 31st, 1905.

Ages at Death.	SEXES.	Under—1		Under—5		Total under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 65		65 and over		Total of 5 yrs and upwards		Deaths of Residents outside the District.	
		M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.
Causes of Death.																			
Smallpox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough		2	..	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria & Membr. Croup.		..	..	1	4	1	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Croup.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
{ Enteric		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other continued....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Enteritis.....		2	2	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas		..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases.....		..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..		3	1	..	1	3	2	1	..	..	5	7	2	..	..	2	1	..	7
Cancer, malignant disease...		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	18
Bronchitis		3	4	1	3	4	7	..	1	..	2	3	11	..	8	11	..	..	24
Pneumonia		4	5	4	3	8	8	..	..	..	2	7	4	..	2	7	..	..	8
Pleurisy		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.....		..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Veneral Diseases.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth		11	6	..	..	11	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of parturition.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases.....		..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	7	6	..	7	16	6	..	..
Inquest { Accidents		1	1	1	..	2	1	2	..	1	..	1	6	..	1	4	14	..	..
{ Suicides		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	..	..
Cases { Natural Causes.....		1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	2	2	..	..
Old Age		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	8	8	1	..	8
Brain Disease		2	..	3	1	5	1	..	1	..	1	4	10	4	..	8	16	..	..
Rheumatic Fever.....		..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	7	3	..	..
Infantile Complaints		11	10	4	4	15	14	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
All other Causes		1	1	1	1	2	2	2	..	..	2	8	10	4	..	16	16	..	..
All Causes.....		42	34	16	25	58	59	8	4	10	16	60	68	37	46	115	134	2	3

1—aged 61 yrs. 1—aged 21 yrs.
1—aged 67 yrs. 1—aged 55 yrs.
1—aged 57 yrs.