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Borough  of Nelson.

Medical Officer's

REPORT

FOR 1906.

Nelson:

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NELSON,

20TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

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 for the year 1906.

I am taking the population at 37,000, as from the return supplied me by the Assistant Overseer, we have 8,108 inhabited houses which, calculated according to last census, gives 37,500, but I am leaving 500 as margin.

I find the births registered were 725, (376 males and 349 females) which gives an annual birth-rate of 19.59 per 1,000. The deaths, including premature births, (24) and inquest cases, (12) and eight which occurred outside the district numbered 394, (186 males, 208 females) which gives an annual death-rate of 10.6 per 1,000. If we deduct the premature births and inquest cases, it reduces the rate to 9.6 per 1,000.

The deaths of children under one year numbered 93, (48 males, 45 females) which gives a death-rate of 12.8 calculated on the number born during the year.

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

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	93	} 145 deaths under 5 years.
„ of 1 year and under 5 years			52	
„ 5	„	15	22	} 241 deaths over 5 years.
„ 15	„	25	19	
„ 25	„	65	129	
„ 65 years and over	...	...	71	

The ages of the eight which occurred out of the district were—females, 15, 50, 54, 55; males, 37, 42, 50 and 61 years.

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of death and the ages at which death occurred.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act," there have been reported 145 cases of Scarlet Fever, 36 Diphtheria, 1 Membranous Croup, 9 Enteric Fever, 25 Erysipelas. The usual precautions were taken in every case to prevent the spread of the contagion.

Mr. Priestley, the Health Superintendent, has kindly condensed for me the following details of work done in connection with the Health Department during the year 1906.

NUISANCES,—268 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 162 Statutory Notices have been served dealing with the following:—

- 70 Defective Sink Waste Pipes.
- 98 Ashpits with Floors below ground level.
- 32 Ashpits without Proper Doors, Coverings and Fastenings.
- 15 Houses with insanitary privy accommodation.
- 2 Houses not provided with sanitary conveniences.
- 2 Houses with drains connected up to cesspool.
- 7 Mills without proper Sanitary Conveniences.
- 1 Workshop without proper Sanitary Conveniences
- 6 Houses unfit for human habitation.
- 1 House so overcrowded as to be a nuisance.
- 6 Houses with insanitary Cellar Drains.
- 5 Offensive Accumulations.
- 4 Water Closets blocked.
- 3 Back-yards not properly flagged.
- 1 Shop without Ashpit accommodation.
- 1 Keeping Pigeons in the back-yard.
- 1 Defective Manure Midden.
- 1 Stable not provided with a Manure Midden.
- 1 Stable drain blocked and insanitary yard.
- 1 Defective construction of soil pipe.

UN SOUND FOOD.—There has only been one seizure of Unsound Food during the year consisting of 33 pieces of Pork, which weighed 18lbs.

The following articles have been submitted for inspection and destroyed as being unfit for food—190lbs. of Cod Fish, 86lbs. of Halibut, 34 pairs of Kippers, 51 Rabbits weighing 50lbs.

LEGAL.—Six Summonses were issued during the year applying for Closing Orders in respect of six houses unfit for human habitation, and the applications were supported by the County Medical Officer of Health, but the Magistrates in the exercise of their wisdom refused to make the Order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 19 private Slaughter Houses within the Borough, no new Licenses having been granted during the year.

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

SCAVENGING, CLEANSING & DESTRUCTOR.—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, 6,313 loads of ashes, 4,016 tubs of garbage, 154 loads of Market refuse and 2,271 loads of light refuse, giving a total weight of 6,467 tons, 18 cwts. 2 qrs., have been destroyed. 1 horse, 2 cows, 6 pigs, and 1 sheep have also been destroyed. 1,282 miles of streets have been swept, 18,225 gullies cleansed, 1,952 loads of water and 96 loads of ashes have been distributed on roads. 3,854 loads of street sweepings and 314 loads of snow have been removed during the year.

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 280 workshops on the Register, an increase of 21 during the year, 83 being domestic workshops, 100 men's workshops, and 97 ordinary workshops, classified according to trades as follows—Bakers, 71; Tailors, 26; Dress-makers and Milliners, 88; Shoemakers and Cloggers 48; General, 47.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.—

The bedding, clothing, &c., from each case of Infectious Disease with the exception of Erysipelas, have been disinfected at the disinfecting station after convalescence, and the rooms have been sprayed with Formalin Solution and fumigated with Formaldehyde Vapour. 255 articles of wearing apparel, 1,532 articles of bedding and 189 miscellaneous articles have been disinfected by the Steam Disinfector, and 209 rooms have been disinfected during the year.

Mr. Ball, Borough Surveyor, has kindly informed me that during the year 1906, plans have been approved for the erection of 260 houses, extensions to 4 mills, 1 saw mill, and 50 other buildings of varied character, while 212 have been completed and certified as fit for habitation. The execution of Private Street Works in 19 streets have been completed at a cost of £5,900. There are still 43 streets in the hands of the contractors, and notices have been issued for the paving, &c., of 43 more. At the Sewage Works, 30 percolating beds, 60 feet in diameter, and 2 of 100 feet diameter have been completed, and are capable of dealing with the whole of the normal dry weather flow diluted with rain to several times its quantity.

Mr. Hartley, Water Manager, has given me the Rain-fall for 1906.

January	6.26	Inches
February	2.79	"
March	4.10	"
April.....	1.40	"
May	4.37	"
June	1.91	"
July	2.53	"
August.....	6.15	"
September	1.72	"
October	6.64	"
November	5.61	"
December	3.85	"
	47.33	"

He has been able to give throughout the whole year an ample supply of good wholesome water, principally from the Ogden Valley.

I remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. P. MILLAR.

Causes of Death in Nelson at different ages, for the year ending December 31st, 1906.

Cause of Death.	SEXES.		Ages at Death.		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 Borough.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	5	..	..	..	8	..	7	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria & Memb. Croup ..	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	1	6	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
{ Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	4	2	..	..	..	2	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	5	5	..	..	1	2	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Other Septic Diseases	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	11	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	2	4	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	3	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	11	..	..
Bronchitis	9	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	18	..	..
Pneumonia	2	3	..	..	4	2	..	10	5	..	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	13	10	..	..
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Veneral Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	13	11	..	..	..	..	..	13	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	14	7	..	17	1	..	..
Inquest { Accidents	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	7	1	..	4	1	..	..	..
{ Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Natural Causes	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Old Age	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	4	4	10	..	..
Brain Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4	4	4	9	..	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	14	..	..
Infantile Complaints	7	8	1	..	..	..	..	8	8	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
All other Causes	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	7	4	..	..	..	2	1	10	13	7	..	19	14	1—37 years	1—54 years
All Causes	48	45	24	28	72	73	13	9	10	9	56	73	31	40	110	131	4	4	..	..	..	..

1—15 years
1—55 years