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Borough  of Nelson.

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Medical Officer's  
REPORT  
FOR 1908.

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NELSON,

MARCH 16TH, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough for the year 1908.

The number of inhabited houses in the town in the month of July was 8581 which calculated on a basis of  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inhabitants per house gives a population of 39,600.

Taking the population at 39,500, I find that there have been 820 births (400 males 395 females legitimate and 12 males and 13 females illegitimate) registered during the year, which gives an annual birth rate of 20.76 per 1000 inhabitants. Though this is nearly one higher than last year (19.89) it still compares unfavourably with the average of the last 10 years (22.5).

The deaths registered in the borough numbered 396 [including premature births (21) and inquest cases (20)] which gives an annual death rate of 10.0 per thousand inhabitants. When the deaths of residents which have occurred outside the borough (40) are added the nett death rate is 11.04. Last year the nett rate was 11.2 per thousand.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred.

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	96	137 deaths under 5 years.
„ of 1 year and under 5 years				41	
„ 5	„	15 years		20	299 deaths over 5 years.
„ 15	„	25 years		27	
„ 25	„	65 years		165	
„ 65	„			87	



I enclose a detailed list of the Causes of Death and the ages at which they died.

The deaths of infants under 1 year were 96 giving an infantile death rate of 117 calculated on every 1000 births. This is 9 more than last year (108.4) but is 17 below the average of the last 10 years (134).

The number of legitimate births, 795; legitimate deaths, 89, Rate 112; The number of illegitimate births, 25; illegitimate deaths, 7, Rate 280.

It will thus be seen that the illegitimate children have more than double the mortality that legitimate have. Compared with last year the causes of death in infants are :

Year.	Infectious Diseases	Diarrhoeal Diseases	Premature Births Congenital Defects and Injury at Birth	Wasting Diseases	Chest Diseases	Other Diseases	Totals
1907	10	16	21	7	17	11	82
1908	4	12	35	12	16	17	96

It will be noticed that 34 deaths occurred in the 1st week of life compared with 17 last year, and 53 between 1 month and 12 months as compared with 56.

A table is enclosed giving details of the deaths of infants under 1 year.

There has again been practically no Summer Diarrhoea due to the character of the summer. For no long period were the streets unwashed with rain and no restrictions were put on consumers of water to prevent them swilling their back yards and the back streets every week. These things keep down the dust and purify the air so that food does not get contaminated. I should like again to bring to your notice the advisability of appointing a Lady Health Visitor or District

Nurse. I do not know a town of this size in England which has not got some charitable system of helping its sick poor. The Medical Inspection of School Children renders the appointment of a Nurse still more necessary. Plenty of work and a large field of usefulness are awaiting her when she is appointed. Until your committee are ready to appoint a nurse it is a waste of time adopting the Notification of Births Act, 1907, but whenever she is appointed the adoption of the Act will be very beneficial.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act were as follows :

Month	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Memb. Croup	Typhus Fever	Enteric Fever	Continued Fever	Relapsing Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Total
January .....	..	14	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	20
February .....	..	3	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9
March .....	..	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15
April .....	..	13	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	18
May .....	..	14	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	17
June .....	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8
July .....	..	10	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	15
August .....	..	15	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20
September .....	..	13	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	20
October .....	..	34	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	44
November .....	..	29	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	35
December .....	..	28	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	6	39
Totals .....	..	193	34	..	..	9	..	..	3	21	260

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 193 cases notified as compared with 104 cases last year. They make up  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cases notified. The cases were mostly of a mild type, 6 cases or 3% were fatal. 91 of the cases occurred during the last quarter and were chiefly in Bradley Ward. During the week ending October 31st, 17 cases were notified. Most of these children were found to attend Bradley School. The School was visited and children who had been away from School

through illness were examined. The cases were found scattered through most of the classrooms. On Saturday, November 7th, the school premises were fumigated and disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA was responsible for 34 cases with 3 deaths giving a death rate of 3% of cases notified. Last year there were also 34 cases with 5 deaths. The cases were scattered through the town and could not be traced to any particular source.

ENTERIC FEVER attacked 9 persons, there were 3 cases of Puerperal Fever and 21 cases of Erysipelas, all without any deaths.

MEASLES was prevalent during the spring months and was responsible for 5 deaths. The cases were as a rule mild and the whole of the town was equally affected, but as the disease is not notifiable I cannot say how many cases there were. There were also 6 deaths from Whooping Cough.

The Committee have had under consideration the question of obtaining Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases but no decision has as yet been arrived at.

The usual precautions to prevent the spread of infection have been carried out in every case. These were the isolation of infected persons, the disinfection of the houses by fumigation and the disinfection of bedding, &c., by the Steam Disinfector.

A Table is appended showing the ages at which the cases occurred and the wards in which they were.

The water supply is obtained from two gathering grounds above Coldwell and the Ogden Springs, about 4 and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles respectively from the town.

The drainage area of Coldwell is about 400 acres and the yield is about 515,000 gallons per day. The water is passed through a mechanical filter after leaving the reservoir. The water is hard and of first-class purity.



The drainage area of Ogden is about 1,100 acres and the yield about 400,000 gallons per day. The water is derived from numberless small streams which drain land more or less peaty in character and give a good soft water. After leaving the reservoir the water is passed through a mechanical and a sand filter.

Water is also supplied to the neighbouring towns of Barrowford and Brierfield.

The Sewerage is carried out on the water carriage system. It is conveyed to the works at Linedred Farm. It is passed into settling tanks, the deposit being afterwards pressed and used for manure. The effluent is passed by sprinklers over Clinker Beds. There are 30 beds 60 feet in diameter and 4 beds 100 feet in diameter and these have been in efficient working order during the whole year. Under the direction of the Chemist, Mr. L. Clement, B.A., several modifications of the plant and methods of using it have been made. Of these perhaps the most important is that by which the effluent from 2 of the 4 sedimentation tanks which formerly went direct to the river, is now allowed to filter continuously, and at constant head, through an old contact bed of finely graded material. By this means it has been found possible to get effluents consistently free from suspended solids.

The analytical results show a marked improvement as the following average results indicate.

	Average for Nov., 1907	Average for Nov., 1908
No. of Analysis.....	10	25
Chlorine.....	5.18	5.89
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.15	0.08
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.	1.17	0.62
Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins.	0.53	0.33
Nitric Nitrogen.....	...	2.24

Results expressed in parts per 100,000



Other refuse is disposed of at the Refuse Destructor situated in Charles Street and when necessary at tips throughout the town.

Mr. Priestley, the Health Superintendent, has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of the work done in connection with the Health Department during the year 1908.

**NUISANCES.**—254 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 108 Statutory Notices have been served dealing with the following matters.

- 33 Ashpits with floors below ground level.
- 43 Ashpits without proper doors, coverings or fastenings.
- 50 Defective Sink waste pipes.
- 1 House unfit for human habitation.
- 12 Insanitary Bath and Lavatory waste pipes.
- 1 Insanitary Soil pipe.
- 2 Insanitary manure middens.
- 2 Offensive Accumulations.
- 1 Premises not provided with rainwater gutters or fall pipes.
- 1 Premises without sufficient drainage arrangements.
- 8 Water Closets blocked.
- 1 Workshop without any Sanitary conveniences.
- 4 Yards in dirty condition and requiring flagging.

**UNSOUND FOOD.**—There has been no seizure of unsound food during the year, but the following articles have been submitted for inspection, and have been destroyed at the Destructor Works, being unfit for food.

The carcasses of 3 cows which on being slaughtered were found to have suffered from Tuberculosis, the total weight being 18 cwt.

2 cwt. Gooseberries.	37 Rabbits.
70 lbs. Halibut.	58 lbs. Scotch Finnon Haddock
15 lbs. Mushrooms.	3 cwt. Tomatoes.
6 cwt. Potatoes.	2½ cwt. Turnips.

**SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.**—42 Smoke Observations have been taken during the year and Legal Proceedings were instituted in one case for exceeding the time limit. The case was adjourned for Smoke Consuming Apparatus to be fixed to the furnaces complained of, and on this being done the summons was withdrawn.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—There are 19 Private Slaughter Houses within the Borough: no new license has been granted during the year.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**—No new Offensive Trade has been established during the year. There are still three carried on in the Borough.

**SCAVENGING, CLEANSING AND 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 6,724 loads of Ashes, 4,285 Tubs of Garbage, 156 loads of Market Refuse, and 2,074 loads of Light Refuse giving a total weight of 7,245 tons 11 cwts. 3 qrs. have been destroyed. 1 Cow and 3 Sheep have also been destroyed, 1,292 miles of streets have been swept, 22,571 gullies have been cleansed, 1,720 loads of water, 54 loads of salt and 7 loads of ashes have been distributed on Roads and 4,010 loads of street sweepings 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 296 workshops on the register, an increase of 12 during the year, 91 being domestic workshops, 101 men's workshops, and 104 ordinary workshops.

Classified according to Trades as follows :

		Dressmakers Shoemakers			
Bakers. Tailors. & Milliners.		& Cloggers.		General	
78	27	94	50	47	

**MILK SUPPLY.**—The Register of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of Milk has been revised during the year and there are now registered 39 Cowkeepers and Purveyors, 5 Purveyors only, and 14 Cowkeepers only residing within the Borough, and 36 Purveyors of Milk who reside outside the Borough.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.**—The Bedding, Clothing, &c., from each case of Infectious Disease with the exception of Erysipelas has been disinfected at the Disinfecting Station after convalescence and the rooms have been sprayed with Formalin Solution and fumigated with Formaldehyde vapour.

236 Articles of Wearing Apparel, 1,259 Articles of Bedding, and 133 Miscellaneous Articles have been disinfected by the Steam Disinfector, and 198 Rooms have been disinfected during the year.

Mr. Ball, Borough Engineer, has kindly informed me that during the year 1908, plans have been approved for the erection of 261 houses, and 41 other buildings of varied character, while 319 houses have been completed and certified



as fit for human habitation. The execution of Private Street Works in 49 streets has been completed at a cost of £10,316 3s. 9d. There are still 43 streets in the hands of the Contractors and notices have been given for the paving of 35.

Mr. Hartley, Water Manager, has kindly given me the following particulars. Work has been commenced on a new Reservoir during the past year, which, when completed, is estimated to hold 160,000,000 gallons and will put the town in a good position both as to the quantity and quality of its water.

The fairly even distribution of the rainfall throughout the year has enabled an ample supply of good water to be given during the whole of the period.

Population supplied about 55,000.

Consumption per day ..... 1,650,000 gallons

Consumption per head per day ..... 30 gallons

#### RAINFALL AT OGDEN, 1908.

January .....	5.81	inches
February .....	3.81	"
March.....	3.46	"
April .....	4.94	"
May .....	3.48	"
June .....	2.73	"
July .....	6.99	"
August .....	4.96	"
September .....	5.42	"
October .....	1.82	"
November ..	4.22	"
December .....	3.90	"
	<hr/>	
	51.54	"

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. P. MILLAR, M.D., &c.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Number				Rate	
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898	32000	884	27.6	132	149	396	12.3	..	..	..	..	..	
1899	33000	879	25.0	160	182	513	14.6	..	..	..	..	..	
1900	35000	793	22.6	101	127	430	12.2	..	..	..	..	..	
1901	33000	799	24.2	114	142	451	13.6	..	..	..	..	..	
1902	33000	794	24.0	87	109	372	11.2	..	..	..	..	..	
1903	35000	772	22.0	108	139	429	12.2	..	..	..	..	12.2	
1904	35000	712	20.3	116	162	425	12.1	..	..	4	429	10.3	
1905	36000	718	20.7	76	101	366	10.1	..	..	5	371	10.6	
1906	37000	725	19.59	93	128	386	10.4	..	..	8	394	11.2	
1907	38000	756	19.89	82	108	394	10.3	..	..	35	429		
Averages for years 1898-1907	34,700	786	22.5	106.9	134	416	12.0	..	..	13	162	11.07	
1908	39,500	820	20.76	95	115	396	10.0	..	..	40	436	11.04	

TABLE II.  
Vital Statistics of Separate Wards in 1908.

NAME OF WARD.	Population estimated to middle of year	Births Registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
Bradley .....	6000	114	68	16
Central .....	5400	98	55	11
Netherfield .....	6900	162	81	17
Southfield .....	6000	120	46	13
Walverden.....	10600	241	136	27
Whitefield .....	4600	85	50	12
Total.....	39,500	820	436	96



TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in whole District						Total Cases Notified in each Locality					
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years					Bradley	Central	Netherfield	Southfield	Walverden	Whitefield
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65						
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)....	34	1	10	23	..	..	5	1	6	8	12	2
Erysipelas .....	21	..	..	2	3	15	3	3	4	5	4	2
Scarlet Fever .....	193	1	39	138	10	5	56	17	34	23	33	30
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	9	..	1	5	1	2	3	..	4	1	1	..
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.....	260	2	50	168	16	23	67	22	48	37	52	34

TABLE IV.

Causes of Death in Nelson at different ages, for the year ending December 31st, 1908,  
Including Deaths of Residents which have occurred outside the Borough.

Cause of Death	Sexes	Under—1		Under—5		Total under 5 years		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 65		65 and over		Total of 5 yrs. and upwards		Totals
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Smallpox .....	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	3	3	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Diphtheria & Memb. Croup ..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Croup .....	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever Enteric .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
(Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea .....	7	..	6	7	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	14
Enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	2	..	..	3	4	5	4	..	3	16	9	..	..	..	..	19	12	32
Cancer, malignant disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	12
Bronchitis .....	1	5	..	3	3	4	8	..	..	11	11	..	..	10	13	21	24	57
Pneumonia .....	4	5	5	2	4	6	9	1	1	12	4	..	..	1	1	16	8	39
Pleurisy .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Veneral Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth .....	11	10	..	..	10	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Diseases & accidents of parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases .....	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	5	18	..	..	5	7	11	29	3
Inquest (Accidents .....	1	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	1	4
Suicides .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
(Natural Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Old Age .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	5	8	16
Brain Disease .....	..	..	..	2	2	2	5	1	1	10	8	..	..	3	5	15	15	37
Rheumatic Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Infantile Complaints .....	11	13	1	..	14	12	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
All other Causes .....	4	5	..	1	6	4	6	3	1	12	14	..	..	..	..	18	29	57
All Causes .....	45	51	19	22	73	64	73	9	11	10	17	79	86	35	52	133	166	436



**TABLE V.**  
**INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.**  
**Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.**

Cause of Death		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	32	4	2	3	41	14	3	6	5	4	6	3	2	2	6	2	94
	Uncertified	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
i. Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
ii. Diarrheal Diseases	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diarrhoea, all forms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	5
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
	Premature Birth	16	2	..	2	20	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
iii. Wasting Diseases	Congenital Defects	7	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
	Injury at Birth	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	3	1	..	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
	Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
iv. Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
v. Other Causes	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	1
	Convulsions	3	..	1	1	5	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	9
	Bronchitis	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	9
Other Causes	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
		34	4	2	3	43	14	3	6	5	4	6	3	2	2	6	2	96