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Contributors

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NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 1939

To the Members of the Newhaven Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Port of Newhaven during the year 1939.

During the year 1939 the health of the crews in the ships entering the Harbour has been very good. Very few cases of illness, and none of infectious disease have been brought to my notice during the year. The permanent arrangements for the protection of the Port against the introduction of Infectious Disease remain the same as described in my Annual Report for the year 1933.

The only foreign Port with which Newhaven has any considerable traffic is Dieppe, and the chief risk of the importation of infectious disease is from Aliens arriving in this Country from Europe. The ships entering the Port have been periodically inspected during the year 1939. Sixty one inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Four minor defects were discovered and all remedied. The only place for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their clothing is the Isolation Hospital which is situated about 1½ miles from the Port. Such cases are, however, of very rare occurrence and there were none to be dealt with during the year 1939.

Aliens Order 1920

During the year the number of Aliens entering the Port was 31,165 of whom 72 were rejected and 31,093 allowed to land. The medical inspection and examination of Aliens arriving at the Port was carried out regularly by myself and my Deputy, Dr. E.J. Neill. The number of aliens medically inspected during the year was 30,211, and the number submitted to medical examination was 1165, of whom two were rejected for Gonorrhoea and one for unsound mind.

Psittacosis.

Cases of this disease having occurred in this Country, the importation of all birds of the species Psittaciformes was prohibited by the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations of May 20th, 1930. Apart from consignments sanctioned by special permit from the Ministry of Health, no birds of these species arrived in the Port during the year 1939.

The Foreign Meat & unsound Food Regulations.

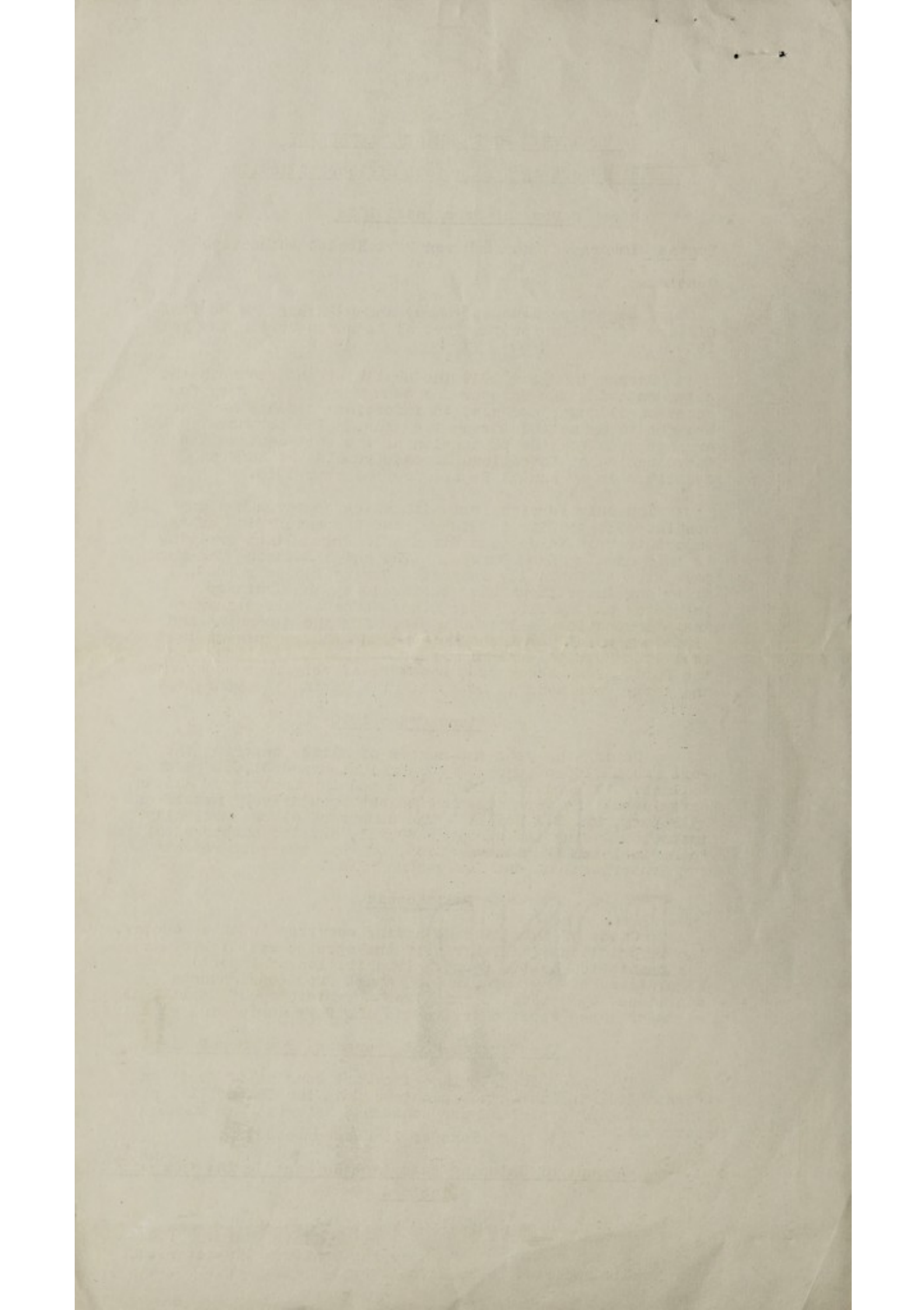
The chief imports into the Port consist of fruit and vegetables, including new potatoes from the Channel Islands. The following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

2 Tons of fish decomposed.

1. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1939

Table A

Number of ships inspected by Medical Officer	
" " " of Health.	... 3.
" " " by the Sanitary Inspector.	... 58
Number reported to be defective.	... 4



Numbers on which defects were remedied.....	4
Number reported as having Infectious Diseases	0.

II. Character of Trade of Port - Cargo Traffic

Chief Imports Manufactures of silk, cotton and wool.
Timber, Coal, Stone, Motor Cars, Machinery, Watches,
Clocks, Chemicals, Brandy, Wine, Potatoes and Fruits.

Chief Exports Fish, Textiles, Machinery & Fur Skins.

Source of Water Supply.

The Source of the Water supply for the Port and Shipping is the well belonging to the Southern Railway Company. This well is sunk into the chalk at Denton, and the water derived from it is of good quality.

Port Health Arrangements,

The arrangements in force remain the same as described in my Annual Report for 1933.

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Diseases landed from vessels - Nil.

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on vessels during the voyage prior to arrival - Nil.

Table E.

Number of Rats on vessels destroyed during 1939 - Nil.

Table F

Number of Rats in docks, quays and warehouses:-

34 Rates destroyed - 2 examined - none infected with plague.

The Cross Channel Steamers are periodically overhauled for the presence of rats, and a man is specially appointed by the Southern Railway Company to trap and poison rats on the quays and in the various warehouses. Two rats were sent for bacteriological examination.

My thanks are due to the Officials of the Southern Railway Company, and also to the Officials of the Customs, Home Office and C.I.D. for their unfailing courtesy and the willing help given me in the execution of my duties.

I am, Gentleman,

Yours obediently,

(signed) Rodie Parkhurst.

Newhaven.

March 11th, 1940.

