Contributors

Plymouth (England). Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1937

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Port Health hepartment.

AND LAND BOLLING

I. Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year 1937.

(II MED. INTEL

Shipping In all 3170 vessels (apart from those engaged in the fishing trade) arrived from foreign and coastwise, the tonnage amounting to 8,027,785.

Four hundred and fifty six vessels were visited by the Medical Officers and 1,809 by the Inspector. 104 defects were found on 49 vessels and in most cases the defects were remedied while in Port. In cases where it was not possible for removation and repairs to be carried out during the vessels' stay at Plymouth, a letter was sent to the Inspector at the next port of call in England notifying him of the details of our notice. In all 5 letters were sent. Further details will be found in Table A.

II. Character of Trade of Port.

Passenger The number of persons passing through the Port Traffic was over 33,256 including 15,363 aliens, the

Latter figure being made up in the main part by American tourists. Cargo Coastwise. Coastwise cargo traffic consists largely Traffic of transhipped general cargoes from London,

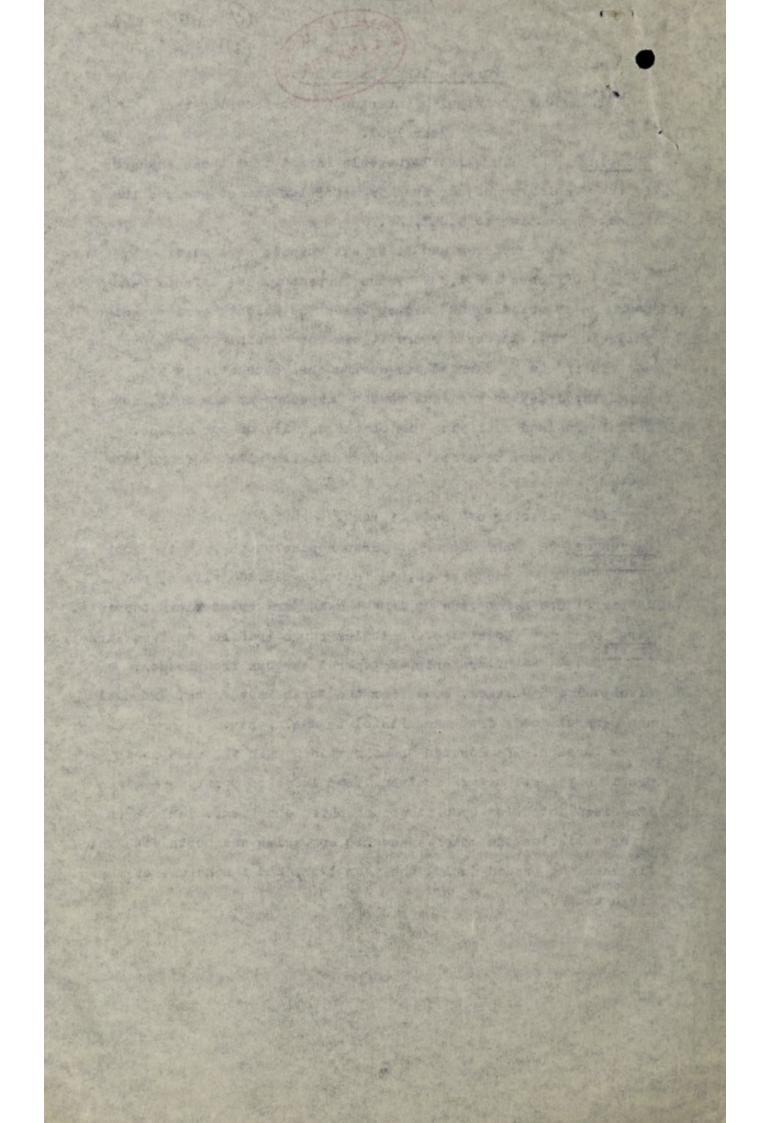
Liverpool and Glasgow, coal from the North East Ports, and coal and general goods from the Bristol Channel Ports.

Foreign. The foreign trade remained much the same as in previous years. Vessels arriving from infected ports were given immediate attention by officers of this Department. Table B (b) gives a list of the chief steamship companies and ports with which Plymouth has traded during the year 1937, and the nature of any cargo traded.

11) Arrangements for the duterment of the dead,

IS) Othor matters.

All the above remain the same as not forth in the Andres Report for 19



III. Source of Water Supply.

(a) For the Port.

Great Western Docks.

Cattedown & Sutton Harbour. On the wharves.

Plymouth Corporation Water Department from hydrants on the wharves.

(b) For Shipping. The only water boat supplying fresh water to shipping in the Port is the Ela, of 5,500 gallons capacity.
(c) Number of Water Boats and Sanitary Condition. For shipping, water is derived from the hydrants on the wharves or from the Ela. The tanks of the Ela were inspected periodically throughout the year and were found to be in a wholesome condition.

IV. Port Sanitary Regulations 1933.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

(2) Boarding of vessels on Arrival.

(3) Notification of the Authority of inward vessels requiring Special Attention.

(4) Mooring stations designated under Article 10.

(5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.

(6) Experience of working of Article 16.

- (7) Arrangements made for :-
 - (a) Premises and waiting-room for medical examination.
 - (b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.
 - (c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purposes of the Regulations.
 - (d) Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.
 - (e) Ambulance transport.
 - (f) Supervision of contacts.
 - (8) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague.
 - (9) Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examinations.
 - (10) Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under the international arrangements.
 - (11) Arrangements for the interment of the dead.

(12) Other matters.

All the above remain the same as set forth in the Annual Report for the year 1933.

TIL. Source of Water Supply. (a) For the Fort.

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Plymouth Corporation Water separament from hydrants . savieds end no

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(II) arrangements for the interment of the dead.

(12) Other matters.

All the above reasin the same as set forth in the innual Report for the TORY 1923.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS DEALT WITH

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DURING THE YEAR

1937.

Televiney of a	Inves	of Cases tigated		Tota	119
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Scarlet Fever		to permit	2 to la	nd in all east	-
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Pneumonia	and the second se				3
Dysentery					onl -
Erysipelas					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			36	46	2
Tuberculosia Other Forms	-	-	1	· 1	-
Malaria	1	-	18	5	10
Chicken Pox	9	1	5	11	4
Measles	7	-	11	17	l
Venereal Disease	4	-	29	11	22
Influenza	-	1	1	1	l
Mumps	2	1	6	B	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	3	3	-
Leprosy	-	-	1	1	-
	40	15	119	120	54

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DURLING THE YEAR

1937.

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V. Mousuros ageinas Rodents.

(1) there taken for the detection of rotant plague.
 (2) Measures taken to provent the passage of rate between the shipe and the shore.

(2) Methods of doratisation of (a) ships, and (b) Premiers in the vicinity of docks or quere.

Medical Work The number of aliens landed at this port under the during the year was 15,363 in addition to Aliens Order 72 alien seamen, all of whom were either 1920. medically examined or inspected: 161 were

subjected to detailed examination for various reasons, but it was not necessary to refuse permission to land in any case. Those staying over three months were treated as immigrants and subjected to more careful medical examination, so that no alien should be permitted to land, who, by reason of physical or mental infirmity might become a burden or charge on the community. Medical Work The number of sliens landed at this port under the during the genr was 15,365 in addition to Aliens Order
 Aliens Order The reamen, sli of whom were sither 1980.

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(1) Steps taken for the detection of rodent plague.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between the ships and the shore.

(3) Methods of deratisation of (a) Ships, and (b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.

(5) Rat proofing.

aconta (massent)

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The measures taken under all the above headings remain the same as set out in the Annual Report for the year 1953.

Plague Precautions were carried out on 82 vessels arriving from plague infected or suspected ports and suitable measures taken to prevent rats from leaving or gaining access to the ship.

1 Deratisation Certificate and 36 Deratisation Exemption Certificates were issued. In certain cases a month's extension was granted and the ships were allowed to proceed for fumigation either at their home ports or next port of loading. In each case the appropriate authority was notified. The contractors' prices for fumigation appear to be relatively high at Plymouth and ships are reluctant to undergo fumigation because of the cost.

Further details will be found in Tables E to H.

and spacise of films fruit on estils snows the basis, the correct of the investigation, logather with the every subscrete of there par rels not and subscreatly "P" constant function of these, and P/P" denotes number of fless per rul.

24.65.2	
Species of flog	
X. choopis	
N. Sasciatus	
Total floor	9.9

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(1) stops taken for the detection of rodent plague.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between the ships and the shore.

(3) Mathods of derstisation of (a) Ships, and (b) Framises in the visinity of docks or quays.

(4) Messures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships

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REPORT ON THE RAT-FLEAS OF PLYMOUTH

Table II shows the average mumbers of fleng por pat in

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(formerly Asst. M.O.H. Plymouth)

This investigation began in May 1935 and ended in May 1937. The object was to gain some idea of the species and numbers of fleas harboured by the rats which inhabit the Plymouth docks. The total number of rats examined for fleas was eighty three, seventy seven of these being caught on the docks and the remaining six in the town of Plymouth.

Technique

Only live rats, trapped singly, were used in this survey. The cage containing the rat was placed in a white calico bag, and the whole enclosed in a wooden box together with a rag soaked in chloroform. After a suitable interval had elapsed, the bag containing the caged rat was removed from the box, and the fleas collected by thoroughly combing the rat and searching the bag.

Results.

though this may be because

(A) Rats Caught on Dock Premises.

of rats ard

The total number of rats investigated in this area was seventy seven, consisting of sixty three Rattus norvegicus and fourteen Rattus rattus. Two of the former species and one of the latter were immature specimens.

Three species of rat-flea were found on the docks, Nosopsyllus (Ceratophyllus) fasciatus, Xenopsylla cheopis, and Leptopsylla segnis (musculi).

(a) <u>Rattus norvegicus</u>. Table I shows the total numbers of each species of flea found on adult brown rats during the period of the investigation, together with the average numbers of fleas per rat. Here and subsequently "F" denotes "number of fleas", and "F/R" denotes number of fleas per rat.

TABLE	I	
Species of flea	F	F/R
X. cheopis	171	2.8
N. fasciatus	352	5.8
L. segnis	79	1.3
Total fleas	602	9.9

Number of rats = 61

REFORT ON THE RAT-FLEAS OF FLYNOUTH

C

by H.B. Mayfield. H.D. (formerly Asst. H.O.H. Flynouth) -

This investigation began in May 1935 and ended in May 1937. The object was to gain some idea of the species and numbers of fless isrboured by the rate which inhabit the Flymouth docks. The total number of rate examined for fless was eighty three, seventy seven of these being caught on the docks and the remaining six in the town of Flymouth.

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		I	TABLE
	E/R	Ŧ	Species of fles
	8.8	171	X. cheopia
Mumber of rate - 61	8.8	352	M. fasolatus
	1.5	79	L. sognis
	9.9	808	Cotal fless

Table II shows the average numbers of fleas per rat in Quarterly periods of the year, the rats dealt with here being the same as in Table I. It should be noted that the second quarter in 1935 does not include April, and the second quarter in 1937 does not include June.

Total flees TABLE II.

		1935			193	56		19;	37
Quarter of year	2nd	3rd	4th	lst	2nd	3rd	4th	Ist	2nd
X cheopis	13.0	4.0	4.5	0.7	1.1	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.3
N. fasciatus	6.0	9.0	5.0	7.0	4.0	8.3	2.0	7.6	5.7
L. segnis	3.8	1.5	0.4	0.7	0.5	5.3	2.8	0.3	0.7
Total fleas	22.8	14.5	9.8	8.5	5.6	13.7	5.8	9.9	9.5
Number of rats	6	2	11	11	11	3	5	9	3

Table II does not reveal any seasonal variation in the numbers per rat of any of the three species of flea encountered, though this may be because the numbers of rats are too small. A noticeable feature is the sharp fall in the incidence of X. cheopis, but it must be borne in mind that the rat-flea population of a port is liable to sudden increases due to immigration.

It is interesting to note that 96% of the X. cheopis taken of brown rats on the docks came from a single grain warehouse, and the remaining 4% from within two hundred yards of these premises. This flea is not, of course, a native of this country, but is imported from warmer climates. It has been found plentifully in the Ports of Liverpool and Cardiff in recent years, at Bristol (1916), and at Guy's Hospital (1911). A single specimen was taken from a brown rat at Plymouth in 1905.

(b) <u>Rattus rattus</u>. The single immature R. rattus yielded one specimen of N. fasciatus. The gleanings from the thirteen adults are shown in Table III. The late of the average numbers of field per rat in Aurterly periods of the year, the rate dealt with here being the came as in Table I. It should be noted that the second quarter in 1935 does not include April, and the second quarter in 1937 does not include June.

		-		

77	192		D	195	12 20	AGERS	1935	24-50-	
DNE	Jel	TIT &	310	Bud	Jal.	Rep	520	bris	TANK IO TATTON
0.3	1.1	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.7	4.5	4.0	13.0	K. chéogia
5.7	7.6	0.8	8.8	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	R. fasolatus
0.7	8.0	8.8	5.8	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.5	8.8	eżnyce
8.8	6.6	8.8	18.7	8.8	8.5	8.0	14.5	8.53	rotal floas
3	8	5	3	11	11	31	S	8	Runber of rate

Table II does not reveal any seasonal variation in the mumbers per rat of any of the three species of flee encountered, through this may be because the numbers of rate are too small. A noticeable feature is the sharp fall in the incidence of X. cheepis, but it must be borne in mind that the rat-flee population of a port is liable to sudden increases due to immigration.

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(b) <u>Hattus rattus</u>. The single immature H. rattus yielded one spectmen of H. fasciatus. The gleanings from the thirteen soulds are shown in Table III.

TABLE	III.	DALL IN
Species of flea	meriss ha	F/R
X. cheopis	7	0.5
N. fasciatus	50	3.9
L. segnis	25	1.9
Total fleas	82	6.3

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carried or

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Here again, the X. cheopis were all derived from the grain store mentioned above or its near neighbourhood.

(B) <u>Rats Caught in the Town of Plymouth</u> Four R. norvegicus and two R. rattus were trapped in the town of Plymouth and examined for fleas. Between them they yielded thirty two specimens of N. fasciatus and three of L. segnis. None of these rats harboured X. cheopis.

Acknowledgement.

My best thanks are due to Professor P.A. Buxton of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who very kindly checked the identifications of all the fleas collected in this

depth of 3 feet. The volume of water in this second tank for treatment tank) is approximately 9,000 gallons. Cysters, previously freed from greas pollution by sorubving, are placed in a single layor on special treas, being eighteen former from the bottom of the tank, for a parlot of the days. The value is that for the tank and the options better with is has, ender other the submonthing tank is of the tank of the tank and (2) into the semicrotection to be adding the protocol sector \$,000 (2) into the semicrotection to be adding the tank and the options hash (2) into the semicrotection to be and the protocol sectors, making a tatal of four days branched.

he the court, operations consisted of the periods of these days and hub hals was reduced because it was found then are systems the too function eigenously on the third map. Suscentringical emericantions revealed no detrinant following the reduction in time, movemen tee and four thousand systems are treated in this may at a time, meaning to the requirements of the market.

The claused systers are than placed in spanial storage tands until required for market. Shame value from one of the sudimentation tanks is pumped into these tanks daily to a depth of eighteen inches.

R/S	T	species of flee
0.5	7	X. cheopia
5.9	60	aujstossi . H
1.9	85	singes .1
5.8	20	Total floas

37

Here again, the X. cheopie were all derived from the grain atore mentioned above or its near neighbourhood. (8) Hete Gaught in the Yown of Flymouth

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Oysters. As mentioned in the Annual Report for 1936 the owner of

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the Yealm Oyster Fisheries has modified his tanks on lines suggested by this Department. Throughout the summer experiments were carried out in the newly constructed tanks in close collaboration with Professor Eyre, to whom we are indebted for the vast amount of bacteriological work he has undertaken and for his advice on numerous occasions.

The principle of the method used is that sea water will purify itself when allowed to sediment for ten to twelve days, and may then be regarded as "clean". The self-cleansing properties of the oysters are well known and if fed on clean water they will rapidly cleanse themselves.

There are three tanks arranged in parallel. The first tank (A) has a depth of 10 feet and is used for sedimentation purposes. Water is run in up to a depth of 8 ft. 6 inches - thus giving a volume of water of approximately 32,000 gallons. Water is allowed to sediment for ten to twelve days and then run into a second tank (B) to a depth of 3 feet. The volume of water in this second tank for treatment tank) is approximately 9,000 gallons. Oysters, previously freed from gross pollution by scrubbing, are placed in a single layer on special trays, lying eighteen inches from the bottom of the tank, for a period of two days. The water is then run out of the tank and the oysters hosed with "clean" water from the sedimenting tank (A). A further 9,000 gallons of "clean" water are then transferred into the treatment tank (B) from the sedimentation tank (A) and the process repeated, making a total of four days treatment.

At the onset, treatment consisted of two periods of three days each, but this was reduced because it was found that the oysters did not function vigorously on the third day. Bacteriological examinations revealed no detriment following the reduction in time. Between two and four thousand oysters are treated in this way at a time, according to the requirements of the market.

The cleansed oysters are then placed in special storage tanks until required for market. Clean water from one of the sedimentation tanks is pumped into these tanks daily to a depth of eighteen inches. Opeters. As montioned in the Annual Report for 1936 the owner of the Yealm Opeter Fisheries has modified his tanks on lines suggeshed by this Department. Throughout the summer experiments were coveried out in the newly constructed tanks in close collaboration with Professor Eyrs, to whom we are indebted for the vast amount of bacteriological work he has undertained and for his advice on numerous occasions.

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Plysouth and Brixham, Landad by Travlera The oysters are placed on special wooden trays, about nine inches from the bottom of the tank.

Billingsgave Market, London,

The third tank (C) is a larger but shallower tank which is used as a second sedimentation tank. Water is run into here to a depth of five feet giving a volume of approximately 31,500 gallons, and treated in a similar way to that in tank (A).

By the use of two sedimentation tanks it is possible to have a continuous supply of "clean" sea water for purposes of purification.

Full attention is given to details of cleanliness and all tanks are scrubbed out before being refilled.

I am pleased to report that so far the method used has been successful and that bacteriological reports have all been very satisfactory throughout the cyster season 1937-1938.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

Reference to the map on page will show that a large amount of untreated sewage is discharged into the Hamoaze and Hooe Lake. Unfortunately, a certain amount of shellfish (cockles, mussels, limpets and winkles) is collected from these places for sale, although the trade is very small and purely local. Eacteriological examination of the water showed that the layings were polluted and the shellfish were found to be unfit for human consumption. An order was made by the Council under the Public Health (Cleansing of Shellfish) Regulations, 1934 closing the following layings :- Hooe Lake; The Hamoage including West Mud; St. John's Lake; off Torpoint Institution; Weston Mill Lake; off Rat's Island; The Mouth of the St. Germans River; off Saltash; and in the River Tamar and its Tributeries. This order became operative on December 1st, 1937. Shellfish sold in the City of Plymouth come from the following

sources:-

OyaMayray -

Juna and Manallage -

Potatoes Cockles - King's Lynn. Limpets - Foreshore from Mount Batten to Wembury. Port Wrinkle, Cornwall. Mussels - Padstow, Cornwall. Periwinkles - Foreshore from Mount Batten to Wembury. Port Wrinkle, Cornwall.

Two purcels of Applas Padstow, Cornwall. the apples in each case were returned to lawerpool under Duarantee

the oysters are placed on special wooden trays, about nine inches from the bottom of the tank.

(Care)

The third tank (6) is a larger but shallower tank which is used is a second sedimentation tank. Water is run into here to a depth of five fact giving a volume of approximately 51,500 gallons, and treated in a striller way to that in tank (1).

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Reference to the map on page will show that a large smooth of untreated somage is discharged into the hencase and Hoos Leke. Unfortunately, a certain amount of shellfish (cooklee, mussels, limpels and winkles) is collected from these places for sale, although the of the water showed that the invites asre polluted and the shellfish of the water showed that the invites asre polluted and the shellfish ware found to be whith for human consumption. In order was made by the foundli under the fublic Health (Cledneing of Shellfish the famouse including wash such (Cledneing of Shellfish) the famouse including wash such solver a large of the fuel factors, 1956 closing the following layings:- Hoos Law; The famouse including wash such as to have a large of the factors water; off faltean; and in the file of the factor at the there is the role of the factor of the factor for the same a file of faltean; and in the falteand; the Mouth of the file of the same sole and in the file of the factor at the theteries. This order because operative on becember late, 1937.

Bhellfish sold in the Gity of Flynouth cows from the following sources:-

Cookles - King's Lynn. Limpsta - Foreshore from Mount Batten to Wembury. Port Wrinkle, Cornwall. Massals - Fadatow, Cornwall. Ferevinkles - Foreshore from Mount Batten to Wembury. Fort Wrinkle, Cornwall. Fort Wrinkle, Cornwall. Oysters: - Brightlingsea, Essex. Billingsgate Market, London. River Yealm, Steer Point. Oens and Escallops - Plymouth and Brixham, landed by Trawlers. Whelks - Plymouth, Brixham and Torbay, landed by Trawlers. <u>Swimming</u> _ Tinside. Prior to the opening of the Swimming Season <u>Pools</u> a Chlorination Plant was installed at the Tinside Swimming Fool. During the season 37 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory. The concentration of free chlorine has been kept between .1 and .4 parts per million, and there have been no serious complaints attributable to the presence of chlorine.

Mount Wise Swimming Baths. Thirteen samples were taken from No.1 basin and fifteen from No.2 basin. The results were satisfactory.

Other Swimming Places. Unfortunately, many of the sites favoured by bathers are situated in close proximity to various sewer outfalls. The map on page shows the sewer outfalls from the City which discharge into the surrounding sea and tidal rivers.

Foodstuffs. A systematic inspection of foodstuffs landed in the Port resulted in 755 vessels being visited in this connection, and nearly 39 tons of foodstuff were dealt with as being unsound, unwholesome, and otherwise unfit for human consumption. Details are given in the following table:-

			FOODS	CONDEMNED	DUI	RING	THE YEAR,	1937.
DI	VISION			т.	с.	Q.	LBS.	DISPOSAL
3.	Apples Apricots Apricot pulp Corned Beef Hams Pines Prunes Veal	1 \$28 4 32	tins tins tins tins		3 4 2	1 2101 3	9 2 0 3 24 10 14	To Incinerator do do do do do do do do
4.	Apples Grapes Lemons Oranges Potatoes Wheat			35	5 10 5 15 0	00000 Q	0 0 0 0	For Pigs' Food To Refuse Dump do do For Pigs' Food For Pigs' Food
		T	OTAL	38	6	0	6	

Two parcels of Apples were found to contain .021 and .035 grains arsenious oxide per pound. As the average permissible is .01 per pound, the apples in each case were returned to Liverpool under Guarantee for reconditioning.

Oystaexes - Brightlingses, Essex. Billingsgate Market, London. River Yealm, Steer Point. Solars and Escallops - Physouth and Brixham, landed by Trawlers. Wealks - Phymouth, Brixham and Torbay, landed by Trawlers.

Swimping _ Tineide. Prior to the opening of the Swimming Season guluming obleatT oil to belistent any snall nottentroide a

Fool. During the season 37 samples of water were taken for backeriological exemination and the results were satisfactory. The concentration of free chlorine has been kept between . 1 and . 4 parts per militon, and there have been no serious complaints attributable to the presence of chlorine.

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	00002	any man nov	11000 0		and the second second	The second secon
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Apricots 1 Apricot pulpe28 Corned Beef 4 Hame 32 Fines 35 Prunes 25	tine tine tine tine		5 4 2		8 2 0 0 2 9 4 0 4 4 0 4	To Incinerator do do do do do do
4. Apples Grapes Lemons Oranges Potetoes		86	10 15 15	00000	00000	For Pigs' Food To Refuse Dump do For Pigs' Food
5. Wheat	JA TOT	85	19	2	<u>0</u> 8	For Pigs' Food

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Two percels of Apples were found to contain .021 and .035 grains argenious oxide per pound. As the average permissible is .01 per pound, the apples in each case were returned to Liverpool under Guarantee for reconditioning.

RECORDS OF VESSELS INSPECTED, TONNAGE, CREWS, FASSENGERS, SICKHESS, MTC., FOR THE

TEN YEARS ERISED 1937.

1		100								1		
	LARY	No.of Defects	069	633	514	818	284	94	146	183	262	104
	INSAUTARY	Ho.of Vessels	127	105	83	55	27	13	51	45	59	49
	Landed	Treat-	151	134	160	301	202	85	225	14	83	15
		Desths	61	14	60	60	36	55	55	52	55	50
	1078	Landing	43,963	47,472	40,002	34,744	31,468	28,264	51,417	34,654	31,572	35,256
	Passengers	0n Board	206,187	213,386	224,755	180,265	156,874	120,916	771, 821	210,963	100,912	100,701
	1628	fectious	448	636	637	944	178	294	116	876	067	174
	Sickness	Voyage	853	1,224	1.401	1,521	1,226	202	224	333	202	187
	Registered	Tonnage	6,740,8883	6,565,530	7,543,851	6,612,552	6,535,655	6,609,646	6,556,558	5,493,855	5,481,037	5,735,941
	No.of Creas		251,583	248,119	267,973	225,010	195,516	215,072	191,569	154,777	177,468	815,878
1	TTT	Foreign	714	480	647	577	519	540	1,030	535	989	579
	YTTLONALTY	British	2,155	1,781	1,424	1,363	1,475	1,542	1,175	1,445	1,280	1,686
	No.of Vessels In- spected		2,869	2,261	2,071	1,940	1,994	2,032	2,105	1,980	2,269	2,265
-		Year	1928	1929	1930	1691	1932	3591	1934	geb!	1936	1937

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8220220	878,873	ESP + PPI	124 FAAA	988, Ler	SINE BLS	192* 112	858*070	570,785	848*376	203,102		hc.os	
A Seal	946	980	828	2*020	ENG O	878	SUS	CAL	430	475	Sona 782	THE	
- and	7, 006	1*380	23445	72742	243.5	Treat	Ch2.1	haba 5	ART.L	S#135	dal Hug	TTLL ROI BAR	an or all and
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