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River Blythe Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1948

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R I V E R B L Y T H
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R E P O R T
O F T H E
P O R T M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 4 8



A.G. NEWELL, M.D.; C.M.; L.M.; D.P.H.

Public Health Department,
"Dinsdale,"
Marine Terrace,
BLYTH,
Northumberland.

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MEMORANDUM

TO THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

Enclosed for the Bureau are:

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]



RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Chairman	- Alderman A. Walton, J.P.
Vice Chairman	- Councillor H. Bell.

Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council.

Alderman H. Donnachie.	Councillor G.W. Barker.
Alderman F. Rafferty.	Councillor J.T. Blades.
Alderman J. Reilly.	Councillor J.R. Curry, J.P.
Alderman R. Walker.	Councillor J.R. Kay.
Alderman A. Walton, J.P.	

Appointed by the Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council.

Councillor H. Bell.
Councillor J.W. Pattison.
Councillor A.H. Payne.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

A.G. NEWELL, M.D., C.M., L.M., D.P.H.

... "Dinsdale"
Blyth.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

* W.I. GORDON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

... Waterloo Road,
Blyth.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive Officer
under Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.
JOHN DILKS, M.S.I.A.

Rat Catcher.
A.F. CHAPMAN.

... 6, Blagdon Street,
Blyth.

Junior Clerk.
T.E. DOBSON.

Clerk to the Authority.
W.F. HARRISON.

Deputy Clerk to the Authority.
MISS L. OWEN.

... "Dinsdale"
Blyth.

Telegraphic Address:-
Portelth Blyth.

* Part-time appointment.

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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948.

"Dinsdale,"
Marine Terrace,
BLYTH.

28th January, 1949.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for
the work done and statistics for 1948 in connection with
the Port Health Department.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.G. NEWELL, M.D., D.P.H.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Port Health Authority,
BLYTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT HEALTH
COMMISSIONERS FOR 1935

San Francisco,
California
July 15, 1936

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in connection with the work done and assistance for 1935 in connection with the Port Health Department.

I have the honor to return,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. HAYES, M.D., D.P.H.



For The Chairman and Members
of the Port Health Authority
SIR:

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1948.

TABLE A.

VESSELS.	NUMBER.	TONNAGES.	NO. BY M.O.H.	INSPECTED BY S.I.	NUMBER REPORTED TO BE DEFECTIVE.	NO. OF VESSELS ON WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.	NO. OF VESSELS HAVING, OR HAVING HAD INFECTIOUS DISEASE ON BOARD DURING THE VOYAGE.
<u>Foreign.</u> Steam Motor Sail Fishing	165 68 - 9	164,635 14,342 - 822	- - - -	165 68 - 9	11 2 - -	11 2 - -	Nil - - -
TOTAL	242	179,799	-	242	13	13	Nil
<u>Coastwise.</u> Steam Motor Sail Fishing	2,356 1,538 - 26	1,955,807 331,590 - 1,439	- - - -	2,353 1,538 - 26	117 18 - -	117 18 - -	3 - - -
TOTAL	3,920	2,288,836	-	3,917	135	135	3
TOTALS	4,162	2,468,635	-	4,159	148	148	3

Crews of vessels examined.

Coastwise.	Foreign.	Fishing.	TOTAL.
49,114	9,227	605	58,946

CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.TABLE B.(a) Passenger Traffic.

NO. OF PASSENGERS.	FIRST CLASS.	SECOND CLASS.	THIRD CLASS.	TRANS-MIGRANTS.
Inwards 76	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outwards 162	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Passengers arriving at Blyth are chiefly on holidays or friends of crews. The number inwards was 76 and the outgoing ones numbered 162. There is no regular service of passenger boats at the Port.

(b) Cargo Traffic.Exports

Coal	5,590,977 tons
Coke	1,533 tons

Imports

Mining Timber	10,123 tons
Other Timber	9,026 tons
Cement	17,458 tons
Tiles	4,436 tons
Sundries	1,379 tons
Fish landed from local fishing boats	200 tons

(c) Foreign ports from which vessels arrived

NORWAY	Bergen, Haugesund, Christiansand, Stavanger.
SWEDEN	Göteborg, Stockholm, Sundsvall, Kalmar, Askarhamn, Brakstad.
DENMARK	Aarhus, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Nordre Sundby, Torshavn.
FRANCE	Bordeaux, Caen, Calais, St. Malo, Dieppe, St. Brieuc, Dunkirk, Havre, Rouen, Paimbocuf.
BELGIUM	Antwerp, Ostend, Ghent.
HOLLAND	Amsterdam, Delfzyl, Terneuzen, Dordrecht, Zaandam.
GERMANY	Hamburg, Bremen, Brunsbottel, Wilhelmshaven, Keil, Bremerhaven, Emden.
FINLAND	Helsingfors, Uleaborg, Matino, Toppilo, Treklow.
SPAIN	Bilboa.

ICELAND Reykjavik.

FAROE ISLES Faroe.

AUSTRALIA Sydney

3.

Nationalities.

BRITISH	3,405
DUTCH	396
SWEDISH	105
FINNISH	36
NORGE	53
DANISH	45
GERMAN	20
PANAMA	15
BELGIAN	25
CYPRIOT	4
GREEK	3
SPANISH	5
POLISH	2
PORTUGUESE	2
FAROE ISLES	1
IRISH FREE STATE	3
AUSTRALIAN	1
ICELANDIC	1
FRENCH	4
COSTA RICA	1

Total

4,127

Fishing Vessels.

BRITISH	25
DUTCH	8
FAROE ISLES	1
ICELANDIC	1
	<hr/>
Total	35
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	4,162
	<hr/> <hr/>

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS.

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the officers of the Port Health Authority on account of them coming directly or indirectly from foreign ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever or Typhus Fever.

Date 1948.	From Infected Ports to Blyth.		From Suspected Ports to Blyth.		TOTAL.
	Direct.	Indirect.	Direct.	Indirect.	
January	-	-	-	1	1
February	-	-	-	1	1
March	-	-	-	1	1
April	-	-	-	4	4
May	-	-	-	3	3
June	-	2	-	-	2
July	-	6	-	-	6
August	-	2	-	-	2
September	-	3	-	-	3
October	-	-	-	3	3
November	-	2	-	3	5
December	-	-	-	5	5
TOTAL	-	15	-	21	36

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

Four samples of water were collected from the North and South side of the river and sent for chemical and bacteriological examination. The supply was found free from any harmful impurities and in a potable condition.

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

Disease.	No. of cases during the year.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Diphtheria	-	1	1	1.8
Measles	-	1	1	0.2
Typhoid	-	-	-	0.04
Ludwig Angina	-	1	1	0.0

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS OCCURRING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

Disease.	No. of cases during the year.		No. of vessels concerned.	Average No. of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

OTHER SICKNESS.

February 2nd, 1948 - S.S. Alpha Vaal (British).

During this vessel's stay in Dry Dock for extensive alterations, a carpenter (Chinaman) was reported sick. He was later examined and found to be suffering from Ludwig Angina, and removed to the Walkergate Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment.

March 19th, 1948 - S.S. Marchmont (British).

After arrival from London the 2nd Engineer was reported sick. He was, after examination, found to be suffering from Tonsillitis and was taken to the Knight Memorial Hospital for treatment.

May 12th, 1948 - S.S. Empire Clansman (British).

On arrival from Amsterdam the Mess Boy was reported sick, complained of a sore throat, he was examined by the Federation Doctor who found nothing serious and prescribed further treatment.

May 17th, 1948 - S.S. Tudor Queen (British).

A sailor was reported sick on arrival from Dover, and after examination was removed to the Knight Memorial Hospital suffering from Tonsillitis.

May 23rd, 1948 - S.S. Tudor Queen (British).

On arrival from Dover the 2nd Mate was reported sick, he was examined by the Federation Doctor who found him affected with Measles, and was removed to the Ashington Infectious Hospital for treatment.

July 3rd, 1948 - S.S. Roman Queen (British).

On arrival from Dover all were reported well, but after three days in Port a sailor was taken ill and on being examined was diagnosed as suffering from Diphtheria. He was removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital on the 6th July. The accommodation, clothing, etc., was disinfected and the usual precautions taken.

December 5th, 1948 - S.S. Le Verden (French).

After arrival from Le Havre the 2nd Engineer was taken ill, and on being examined was found suffering from stomach trouble. He was later removed to the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

December 24th, 1948 - M.V. Charlton Sovereign (British).

On arrival from Sydney (Australia), a displaced person was reported suffering from some mental trouble. He was later removed to the St. George's Hospital, Morpeth.

NUMBER OF RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.(1) On VesselsTABLE E.

Number of	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Black rats	-	4	5	-	15	-	-	5	-	6	-	-
Brown rats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats examined	-	4	5	-	15	-	-	5	-	6	-	-
Rats infected with plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	BLACK RATS				35	RATS EXAMINED				35		

(2) On Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.TABLE F.

Number of	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Black rats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown rats	11	12	9	18	11	6	6	12	5	10	6	8
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats examined	11	12	9	18	11	6	6	12	5	10	6	8
Rats infected with plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL BROWN RATS 114 RATS EXAMINED 114												

POISON BAITS LAID ON DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL.
85	55	30	50	100	60	70	110	30	75	30	30	725

TABLE G.

Particulars relating to Plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels arriving in port during the year 1948 -

Name of vessel.	Date of arrival.	Whether infected or suspected.	Methods of rat destruction employed.	No. of dead rats recovered.	Whether Certificate of Deratisation was issued.	Remarks.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

TABLE H.

DERATISATION CERTIFICATES & DERATISATION EXEMPTION
CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

Net Tonnage.	No. of Ships.	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued.				No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certifi- cates issued.
		After fumiga- tion with HON Sul- phur	After fumiga- tion with HON Sul- phur	After trapping poison- ing, etc.	Total.		
Ships up to 300 tons	15	-	-	-	-	15	15
" " 301 " to 1,000 tons	28	-	1	-	1	27	28
" " 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons	22	-	-	-	-	22	22
" " 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons	6	1	-	-	1	5	6
" above 10,000 tons.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	71	1	1	-	2	69	71

DERATISATION AND DERATISATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.

Under the International Sanitary Convention of Paris 1926, the following certificates were issued during the year 1948.

Date.	Name of Vessel.	Nationality.
Jan. 16	Sports	British
" 19	Hafsten	Swede
" 29	Windsor Queen	British
" "	Nusken	Norge
Feb. 14	M.V. Wilga	Dutch
" 16	Caoslodge	British
" 17	M.V. Rika	Dutch
Mar. 3	M.V. Arbo	Dutch
" 17	Yewcroft	British
" 19	M.V. Aros	Swede
" 19	Freeman Hatch	British
" 22	Marchmont	British
" 25	Patria	Norge
" 27	M.V. Camroux	British
" 31	Parita 1	Panama
Apr. 7	Kyee Fisher	British
" 8	Cyrus Sears	British
" 8	Zelo	British
" 9	Corglen	Trapping
" 17	Tudor Queen	British
" 20	Roman Queen	British
" 23	Trollnes	Norge
May 7	Queensland	British
" 15	P.L. Pahlsson	Swede
" 20	The Baron	British
" 25	Copernicus	Panama
" 27	Speaker	British
Jun. 2	Skottland	Norge
" 4	Andun	Trapping
" 4	Southmoor	British
" 10	M.V. Marcel	Belgian
" 15	Taanborg	Danish
" 15	M.V. Saxon Queen	British
Jul. 16	Aksi	British
" 16	Sojourner	British
" 19	M.V. Crescence	British
Aug. 7	Porlock Hill	British
" 9	Statesman	British
" 17	M.V. Bosworth	British
" 23	Wallsend	British
" 25	M.V. Wega	Dutch
Sep. 2	M.V. Goldgnome	British
" 13	Argyll	British
" 15	Kirkwood	British
" 16	Patria	Norge

Date.	Name of Vessel.		Nationality.
Sep. 20	Marina		Finn.
" 21	M.V. Paul M		British
" 23	M.V. Cardrona		British
" 30	Frethorn		British
Oct. 9	William Bursley		British
" 11	Ordgantock		British
" 12	M.V. Liberty		Dutch
" 13	Gurden Gates		British
" 14	Southport		British
" 15	M.V. Citos		Swede
" 16	Tudor Queen		British
" 18	E.T. Douglas		British
" 18	Easton		British
" 19	Nordic Queen		British
Nov. 1	Persian Coast	(D)	British
" 6	M.V. Goldfaun		British
" 12	Queensland		British
" 16	Successor		British
" 17	Ingwi		Norge
" 19	Fort Grouard	(D)	British
" 19	Greathope		British
" 23	M.V. Crichtoun		British
" 24	Humbergate		British
Dec. 1	Mary K		British
" 13	Dalewood		British
" 21	Coquetdale		British
" 28	M.V. Horta		Portuguese
" 31	M.V. Charlton Sovereign		British

(D) Denotes Deratisation Certificates.

HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

Classification of Nuisances.

TABLE J.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during 1948.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	3,427	4	63	68
Other Nations	732	-	9	4

NUMBER OF VESSELS FOUND HAVING SANITARY OR STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

	Structural Defects.		Sanitary Defects.		TOTAL.
	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Foreign.	Coastwise.	
British Steam	-	57	-	60	117
" Motor	-	10	-	8	18
" Sail	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Steam	2	5	-	4	11
" Motor	-	2	-	-	2
" Sail	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	74	-	72	148

Defects in the above vessels have been dealt with as follows -

	Work in hand.	Work completed.	Total.
Forecastles to paint out	-	14	14
Forecastles to repair	-	10	10
Forecastles to clean out	-	8	8
Radiators to repair	-	5	5
Galleys to repair	-	8	8
New galley stove to fix	-	2	2
Hawse pipe to repair	-	3	3
Fresh water tanks to clean out	-	4	4
Sanitary tanks to repair	-	5	5
Galley to clean out	-	1	1
Skylight to repair	-	1	1
Bogies to repair	-	5	5
9 Bogies to repair	-	6	6
Structural alterations	-	4	4
7 W.C. doors to repair	-	1	1
W.C.'s to repair	-	9	9
W.C.'s flushed on to Quay	-	13	13
New W.C.'s to fix	-	2	2
Bathrooms to paint out	-	3	3
Fresh water tanks to repair	-	1	1
New radiator to fix	-	1	1
Bathroom tank to repair	-	1	1
Refrigerator to instal	-	1	1
79 Ports to repair	-	29	29
Food lockers to repair	-	2	2
New ventilators to fix	-	1	1
Accommodation to reconstruct	-	2	2
Lavatory basin to fix	-	1	1
Officers room to repair	-	1	1
Galley to paint out	-	1	1
New sanitary tank to fix	-	1	1
Refrigerators to repair	-	1	1
New lockers to fix	-	1	1
TOTAL	-	148	148

The total number of ships found verminous was 11. Fumigation was carried out with HCN and appeared satisfactory. It should be pointed out that repeated recommendations are made to Masters and other officers as to the efficacy of suitable insecticides so that these can be used as required.

VESSELS BOARDED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, ETC.

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during 1948 by the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector on account of disease during the voyage, or at the time in port, or while lying in harbour.

Date	Name of Vessel	Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness	Remarks
1. 2.48.	Alpha Vaal	British	Liverpool	Sarang	Rheumatism	Removed to K.M. Hospital.
	Vaal	"	"	Carpenter	Ludwig-Angina	Removed to Walkergate Hosp. Treatment at Clinic.
10. 2.48.	Lindhaug	Norge	Plymouth	Sailor	V.D.	Removed to Hospital at London.
19. 2.48.	Cormarck	British	London	Bo'sun	Diabetes	Removed to Hospital at London.
22. 2.48.	Sulev.	British	Grangemouth	Sailor	V.D.	Attending Clinic.
4. 3.48.	Yewarck	British	Boness	Captain	Septic Hand	P.T.
9. 3.48.	Shuna	British	Glasgow	2 Firemen	Sclatica	P.T.
11. 3.48.	Portslade	British	Portsmouth	Fireman	Accident	Removed to K.M. Hospital.
12. 3.48.	Islandmagee	British	Granton	Fireman	Accident	P.T.
19. 3.48.	Marchmont	British	London	3rd Engineer	Tonsillitis	Removed to K.M. Hospital.
30. 3.48.	Archgrove	British	Sunderland	Captain	Accident	Removed to R.V.I.
25. 4.48.	W. Moller	British	Tyne	Sarang	Neuras	Treatment at K.M. Hospital.
	"	"	"	Sailor	-thenia	Treatment at K.M. Hospital.
	"	"	"	Sailor	Haemorrhoids	Treatment at K.M. Hospital.
30. 4.48.	Graculus	Swede	London	Sailor	Accident	Treatment at K.M. Hospital.
9. 5.48.	Kneboworth	British	Esbjerg	2nd Mate	Tonsillitis	Ashore for treatment.
12. 5.48.	Empire Clansman	British	Amsterdam	Mess Boy	Sore Throat	Examined by Federation Dr.
17. 5.48.	Tudor Queen	British	Dover	Sailor	Tonsillitis	Removed to K.M. Hospital.

Date	Name of Vessel	Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness	Remarks
23. 5.48.	Tudor Queen	British	Dover	2nd Mate	Measles	Removed to Ashington I.D. Hospital.
9. 6.48.	Alf.	Dane	Rouen	2 Sailors	V.D.	Treatment in France.
11. 6.48.	Tearnborg	Dane	Rochester	Sailor	V.D.	Treatment at Clinic.
15. 6.48.	Orneborg	Dane	Sunderland	Sailor	V.D.	Treatment at Clinic.
21. 6.48.	Marie Flore	Belgian	London	Sailor	V.D.	Treatment at K.M.H.
6. 7.48.	Roman Queen	British	Dover	Sailor	Diphtheria	Removed to I.D. Hosp.
9. 7.48.	Chemong	British	Devonport	Mess Boy	Accident	Treatment at Blyth.
5. 8.48.	Ioannis	Greek	Calais	Sailor	V.D.	Treatment at Clinic.
5. 9.48.	S/T Englishman	British	Inverkeithing	Deckhand	V.D.	Treatment at Clinic.
11. 9.48.	Lolita Artanza	Spanish	Delfyzl	Sailor	V.D.	Receiving treatment.
19. 9.48.	Marocz	Polish	Caen	Sailor	V.D.	Receiving treatment.
23. 9.48.	Sodalitty	British	London	Captain	Accident	P.T.
7. 10.48.	Laplend	British	Hull	Mess Boy	Accident to hand	P.T.
12. 10.48.	Coldstream	British	London	Sailor	V.D.	P.T.
16. 10.48.	Lapponia	Finn.	Zaandam	Sailor	Septic Hand	P.T.
23. 10.48.	Corfoss	British	London	Fireman	Accident to leg	P.T.
3. 11.48.	Corfell	British	London	Mess Boy	Boils	P.T.
8. 11.48.	Anzin	French	Caen	Captain	Catarra	P.T.
16. 11.48.	Skidby	British	Hamborg	2nd Mate	Boils	P.T.
21. 11.48.	Humbergate	British	Poole	Captain	Stomach trouble	P.T.
30. 11.48.	Britkon	British	Sunderland	2 Sailors	V.D.	Treatment at Sunderland.
1. 12.48.	Karen	Danish	Reykjavik	2nd Engineer	Accident to face	P.T.
5. 12.48.	Le Verden	French	Le Havre	2nd Engineer	Gastric trouble	Sent to Hospital.
7. 12.48.	Cormarsh	British	London	Sailor	Stomach trouble	P.T.
8. 12.48.	Dania	Danish	Rotterdam	Sailor	V.D.	P.T.
16. 12.48.	Hermes	Finn.	Paimboouf	Fireman	Jaundice	Treatment in France - Recovered.
16. 12.48.	Arnewood	British	Rouen	Sailor	Skin trouble	P.T.
20. 12.48.	Fredborg	Swedish	London	Captain	Catarra	P.T.
21. 12.48.	Coldstream	British	London	2nd Mate	Accident	P.T.

Date	Name of Vessel	Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness	Remarks
24.12.48.	Charlton Sovereign Deed	British Portuguese	Sydney Leath	D.P. Wireless Operator	Neuras- thenia Accident to eye	Removed to St. Georges Hospital. P.T.
31.12.48.						

FOOD INSPECTION.

There has been no importation of food in this Port.

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

There has been no importation of parrots or birds of similar species as defined in the Order.

- - - - -

The International Quarantine Directory gives the following passage regarding the duties of a Port Medical Officer :-

HYGIENE OF SHIPS.

So far as the Mercantile Marine is concerned, one of the most important duties imposed on Port Health Authorities is that of dealing with conditions on board ship adversely affecting the health of the crews, and with insanitary conditions found on ships.

In certain directions when dealing with nuisances on board ship, where structural alterations would be required for the abatement of the nuisance, the powers of the Port Health Officers are concurrent with those of the Surveyors appointed by the Board of Trade.

During the year under review defects found on board of three vessels were reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.

Complaints have frequently had to be made to the Masters of vessels with regard to the dirty condition of bedding, and also of the dirty condition of the crew's quarters, in the latter case, especially when the crew of a vessel have been paid off at this port.

In many instances investigations have proved that the bedding has not long been in use, and it is therefore incumbent upon Masters and Officers when making regular inspections of the crew's accommodation to insist upon the bedding in use being displayed for their inspection.

Crews when joining a vessel insist upon the accommodation being of a high standard of cleanliness, and it is only right that men should leave accommodation in the same good condition as that in which they would expect to find it on joining the vessel.

It is obvious that on paying-off day the Master is much too busy to inspect crews' accommodation when the last man has gone ashore, and it seems that some formula is necessary to ensure that no crew should be paid off until the accommodation is certified to be clean.

Accommodation provided by new vessels built in the port during the year has attained a much higher standard of comfort and hygiene, and it is to be hoped that the provision of such, will evoke consideration by members of crew which unfortunately so often is apparently lacking.

The above was considered at the Meeting of the Association of Sea and Air Port Health Authorities on the 18th November, 1948, when it was decided that the Honorary Secretary communicate with all interested parties on the question of improving the state of cleanliness on vessels, these to include ship owners, officers' association, seamen's union, Board of Trade and Ministry of Transport, and that following a consultation with them the matter receive further consideration by the General Committee.

Issue of Deratisation Certificates (Minute 16, page 41,
General Committee, 20th July, 1948).

The Honorary Secretary of the above association reported that in accordance with the above Minute, he had communicated with the Ministry of Health to obtain their ruling on the legal position of Port Health Authorities undertaking duties in connection with the issue of Deratisation and Deratisation Exemption Certificates on behalf of non-approved ports outside their own port health area, and that he had received the following reply from the Ministry of Health :-

"I am directed by the Minister of Health to say that, when a port is approved in accordance with Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926, for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates, it is the port itself - not the port health authority or sanitary authority - which is approved.

I am, however, to draw attention to paragraph (2) of Article 4 of the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933, under which a port health authority of an 'approved port' may, in agreement with the authority of a non-approved port and with the approval of the Minister, undertake the

execution of the provisions of the Regulations relating to Deratisation and Deratisation Exemption Certificates at the non-approved port, and their medical officer is then authorised to issue such certificates in that non-approved port."

A further letter was received from the Ministry of Health on the 6th November, 1948, of which the following is an extract :-

"(a) Although it is the port, and not the port health authority or sanitary authority, which is approved, it is their Medical Officer who issues the required certificate at his own approved port or at the non-approved port - see the concluding words of Article 4 (2) of the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

(b) It is because of this that the agreement between the authorities of the approved and non-approved port, mentioned in the first part of Article 4 (2) is necessary: without it the Medical Officer of the approved port would have no right of action in the non-approved port.

(c) Whether the shipowners should communicate direct with the approved port for services in the non-approved port, or through the Authority of the non-approved port, is a matter for the agreement between the two Authorities.

(d) You will note from Article 4 (2) that the agreement has to be approved by the Minister.

(e) When, after approval of the agreement, a Medical Officer of an approved port issues a certificate for a vessel in a non-approved port, the name of the non-approved port should be inserted after 'Port of' at the beginning of the Form and it should be signed by the Medical Officer as Port Medical Officer of the approved port.

It is very desirable that any existing arrangement at a non-approved port should be regularised on the lines of the official letter of the 10th August, as elaborated above, so that the World Health Organisation may be acquainted with the non-approved ports affected and the information circulated by them internationally; this will avoid possible trouble for the ships concerned."

Maintenance of Seamen in Hospital (Minute 14, Page 40, General Committee, 20th July, 1948).

"I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of 21st July and to say that it is the intention of the National Health Service Act, 1946, that all persons within England and Wales shall be provided with all the facilities available under the Act, free of charge, except where the Act expressly provides for the making and recovery of charges.

There is no provision which excludes foreign seamen, and in these circumstances no recovery of the cost of the treatment at a hospital within the National Health Service should be sought from foreign Consuls-General or agents of foreign ships except as provided under the Act."



