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#### **Contributors**

River Blythe Port Health Authority.

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# ANNUAL

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



## ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1954

Waterloo House,
Waterloo Road,
January, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of Port Health Administration at the Port of Blyth for the year 1954.

As in the preceding year this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health—Form 20, and the tabular information is in the sequence laid down by that Form.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 3,477, including Fishing Vessels, and is a slight reduction on the previous twelve months. Foreign Vessels (Foreign and Coastwise) numbered 697, including Fishing Vessels. This is also slightly less than last year.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 5,366,582 tons, which is also a reduction on the year 1953. Imports discharged were: Mining and other Timber, 12,360 tons; Cement 52,020 tons; Roofing Tiles, etc., 6,876 tons. Total imports were slightly more than the previous year.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st October, 1952, and deal with Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc.

#### INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects on vessels will be found itemised in the appropriate tables attached to the Report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, and Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer of Health, Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library

### RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 4th JUNE, 1954 WITH CHANGES SINCE THAT DATE

Chairman: Alderman J. R. Curry, B.E.M., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: ALDERMAN F. RAFFERTY.

ALDERMAN H. DONNACHIE (b), ALDERMAN A. WALTON, J.P.

COUNCILLORS G. W. BARKER

Councillors H. Bell (a)

G. COLPITTS.

J. W. KENNEDY

, J. W. Pattison,

A. H. PAYNE

H. W. SHEPHERD

.. G. W. Watson

- (a) Councillor Bell died 9th August, 1954.
- (b) Alderman Donnachie, died 23rd December, 1954.

#### Chosen to fill Vacancies

- (a) COUNCILLOR P. MAW.
- (b) COUNCILLOR Mrs. L. M. SUMMERS.

### SECTION I—Staff Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
W. T. Harrison	Clerk to the Authority	1st September, 1944		Deputy Town Clerk Borough of Blyth.
Miss L. Owen	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	1st October, 1947	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff Borough of Blyth.
R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
A. M. TAIT	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st July, 1951	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
John Dilks	Sanitary Inspector	15th June, 1928	Sanitary Insp. Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None.
ROBERT H. CRAMP	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None.
Ann Harris	Office Clerk	1st March, 1954		

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:

Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland. Telephone No.: Blyth 226.

#### SECTION II

#### Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year

#### Table B

China farm	Number Inspected		Inspected	Number of Ships reported as having	
Ships from	Number	Tonnage	By the M.O.H.	By the Sanitary Inspector	or having had Infectious Disease on board during the Voyage
Foreign Ports Coastwise Ports	$\frac{234}{3,071}$	227,710 2,073,082	20 60	234 3,069	1
Totals	3,305	2,300,792	80	3,303	1

FISHING VESSELS	;—	No.	Tonnage	
Foreign			 159	12,997
Coastwise			 13	607

#### Crews

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
8,618	42,256	2,513	53,387

#### SECTION III

#### Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year 1954

#### Table C.

Passenger Traffic	Number of Passengers Number of Passengers Passengers on Tempor	s OUT	CWAR	DS					67 91 124
There is no regula	ar passenger traffic at the				Aliens)			•••	124
There is no regul	n passenger trame at the	1010	(1000						
	Principal IMPORTS			Other T	'imber			10,626 $1,734$ $52,020$	tons
Cargo Traffic	}			Roofing				3,723 $3,153$	"
	Principal EXPORTS			Coal . Fuel Oi	l.			366,582 2,969	"
Total quantity of	Fish landed at the Port f	rom le	ocal F	Sundry ishing Boat		 183 te	ons.	7	"

The following are the Ports from which vessels have arrived:-

#### FOREIGN PORTS-

HOLLAND

Norway ... Bergen, Aalsund, Harum, Christiansand, Oslo, Haugesund, Sauda

Frederikstad.

SWEDEN ... Gothenborg, Helsingborg, Limham, Nyborg, Oscarsham.

Denmark... ... Copenhagen, Aarhus, Vejle, Elsinore, Odense, Kolding, Hobro, Bolborg, Struer, Kyndby, Fredericia.

Antwerp, Ymuiden, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Gronigen,

Delfzyl Zeebrugge.

Germany ... Emden, Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck, Kiel, Altona.

Belgium ... Ostend, Antwerp, Bruges, Nieuport.

France ... Dunkirk, Boulogne, Calais, St. Malo, Rouen, Ghent, Granville,

Treport.

Finland ... Esbjorg, Iceland, Akureyri.

Poland ... Danzig.

Faroe Isles ... Faroe.

#### SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V Water Supply

No change.

#### SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

No change.

#### SECTION VII

#### Smallpox

- 1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in charge of this Hospital will be Dr. Gavin Miller, of Sacriston, Co. Durham. His Telephone No. is Sacriston 232.
- 2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.
  - 3. Names of Smallpox Consultants Available :-

Dr. J. R. Beal, 109, Great North Road, Gosforth, 3. Newcastle upon Tyne. Telephone No.: Gosforth 52240. Dr. Wilson Minns, 16, Rectory Drive, Gosforth, 3, Newcastle upon Tyne. Telephone No.: Gosforth 54282.

4. Facilities for Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

#### SECTION VIII

#### Venereal Disease

Information is given freely to seamen of all ranks during the normal inspection of ships. Facilities are offered at three clinics in the North of England.

Notices with the time and date for treatment at the local Clinic are left in the crews' quarters when officials of the Port Health Authority are on board during their times of inspection.

The following are the times for treatment at these clinics:—

Blyth V.D. Clinic, 22, Stanley Street.—Males and Females, Thursdays, 3 to 6 p.m.

Preston Hospital, North Shields, Borough of Tynemouth.—Males, Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.; Females, Wednesdays 5 to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.

General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.—Males daily 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 7 p.m.; Females, daily 9.30 to 12 noon, and 3 to 7 p.m.

#### SECTION IX

#### Table D

Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Cutogony	Disease	Number o during th	Number of ships		
Category	Disease	Passengers	Crew	concerned	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Tuberculosis	Nil	l Nil	1	
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil		Nil	
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

No other infectious diseases occurred in the Port, nor have there been any suspected cases.

#### SECTION X

#### Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

The trade of the Port is principally with Scandinavia and the low countries. On very rare occasions there may be ships from South America and the Mediterranean or India. Over a period of years no case of Malaria has been reported.

#### SECTION XI

#### Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected for Plague.

As no ship has arrived at the port infected with or suspected for Plague, action under the above section has not been necessary. Inquiries are however made as to the mortality and prevalence of rats aboard and inspections carried out by the Authority's rodent operator.

#### SECTION XII

#### Measure against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

- 1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have there own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.
- 2.—Rats were examined after being caught, and all specimens appeared healthy. None of which showed any abnormal lesions, and none were therefore sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 3.—When a vessel is found to be infested with rats notice is served on the Master requesting fumigation. He, through his Agent, gets in touch with an authorised firm of fumigators to carry out the work. The chief and most popular method is by Hydrogen Cyanide. The standard required for International purposes is strictly adhered to. Sulphur Dioxide is now rarely used.

When vessels are undergoing fumigation ever precaution is taken, such as posting of notices on the ships, also the fencing off of the gangways to render the process as free as possible from accidents. The minimum period for exposure for this gas is two hours, generally four to six in practice, and this effects a considerable saving of time compared with the older method of Sulphur Dioxide.

Contractors who carry out fumigations HCN at this port are:-

Messrs. A. MILBURN & Co. Ltd., Mill Dam, South Shields.

Messrs. Barber & Heron,
Templetown,
Tyne Dock,
South Shields.

4.—In the construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with a minimum of timber it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E Rodents destroyed during the Year in Ships from Foreign Ports

	Number			
Black Rats		 		86
Brown Rats		 		_
Species not kno	own	 		_
Sent for exami	nation	 		_
Infected with I	Plague	 		_

All specimens recovered have been examined microscopically, and these were found free from any abnormal lesions.

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits had been put down was 1,178.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for Ships from Foreign Ports, 1954

	No. of Dera	atting Certifica	tes issued		Number of Deratting	Total
After	Fum igation with	Aften	Aften		Exemption Certificates	Certificates
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)	After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total	issued	issued
1	_	_	_	1	85	86

Trapping has been carried out during the year but the ships affected were not in commission, therefore no certificates were issued.

# SECTION XIII Inspection of Ships for Nuisances Table G Inspection and Notices

N. daniel and a		Notices	Served	Result of	
Nature and numb of Inspections	er	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	Serving Notices	
Routine Inspections	S.S. 2,028		125	Work done and Nuisances abated	
Do.	M.V. 1,275		15	Do.	
Do.	F.V. 172			Do.	
TOTAL	3,475	÷	140	Do.	

#### SECTION XIV

No change.

#### SECTION XVI

#### Miscellaneous

Mortuary-No change.

Food Inspection-No change.

#### NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British					 	 	2,780
Norwegia	n				 	 	29
Panaman					 	 	7
Dutch					 	 	167
Swedish					 	 	118
Spanish					 	 	6
German							94
Finnish						 	45
Morovian					 	 	1
Danish					 	 	
Costa Ric					 	 ***	31
					 	 	13
Russian	***	***		111	 	 ***	1
Italian	***		***	***	 	 ***	1
Swiss					 	 	1
Icelandic					 	 	4
Faroese					 	 	1
Greek					 	 	1
Port Rica	ın				 	 	1
Belgian					 	 	1
French					 	 	1
Portugue	se				 	 	1
							3.304

#### Fishing Vessels

British					 	 	12
Icelandic					 	 	1
Dutch					 	 	159
							172
Gr	RAND	TOTAL	FOR YE	EAR	 	 	3,476

#### VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
7. 1.54	Thetis (Swede)	Gothenborg	Captain	Rheumatism
25. 1.54	Karin (Panamanian)	London	Sailor	Ear Trouble
3. 2.54	Capthall (British)	Leith	Mate	Dental Caries.
4. 2.54	Farna (Norge)	Methil	Fireman	Bronchitis.
5. 2.54	Cordale (British)	London	Mate	Lumbago
6.2.54	Kalle (Finn)	Rochester	Sailor	V.D.
$26. \ 2.54$	Fryken (Swede)	Dundee	Sailor	Influenza
5. 3.54	M.V. Nato (Dutch)	Middlesbrough	Sailor	V.D.
$9. \ 3.54$	Humbergate (British)	Shoreham	Sailor	Accident.
9. 3.54	Fogdo (Swede)	Hamburg	2 Sailors	Septic hand and
				Dermatitis.
13. 3.54	Celtic Queen (British)	London	Sailor	Accident
16. 3.54	Lady Charrington (British)	London	Sailor	Accident.
8. 4.54	Zeeland (Dutch)	Kiel	Sailor	Stomach trouble.
9. 4.54	Clara Blumenfield (German)	Dordrecht	Sailor	Boils.
19. 4.54	Hudson Bank (British)	London	A.B.	Ear trouble
28. 4.54	Nautilis (German)	Lubeck	2 Firemen	V.D. and
	,			Ear trouble.
5. 5.54	Spray (British)	London	Officer	Eve accident.
7. 5.54	Maud Thordon (Finn)	Antwerp	Officer	V.D.
8. 5.54	Signal (German)	Boulogne	Mate	Stomach trouble.
12. 5.54	Queensland (British)	London	Cook	Accident to hand.
16. 5.54	Mairoula M (British)	London	Sailor	Accident to foot.
18. 5.54	Ethel Everard (British)	Aalborg	Cook	Accident to ribs.
6. 6.54	Hanne Skou (Dane)	Wismar	Cook	V.D.
6. 6.54	Zeeland (Dutch)	Rotterdam	Fireman	Tonsilitis
20. 6.54	Maud (Swede)	Amsterdam	2nd Mate	Dental caries.
20. 6.54	Vindo (Swede)	Middlesbrough	Cook	V.D.
2. 7.54	Saturnus (Dutch)	Sea	Sailor	Appendicitis.
8. 7.54	De-Hoop (Dutch)	Sea	Sailor	Hernia.
12. 7.54	Actuality (British)	Yarmouth	Sailor	Dental caries
16. 7.54	Cormoat (British)	London	Cook	do.
17. 7.54	Southwood (British)	Shoreham	Fireman	do.
3. 8.54	Cornelia Maria (Dutch)	Sea	Sailor	Abdominal trouble
4. 8.54	Jacob (Dutch)	Sea	3 Sailors	Accident to hand.
9. 8.54	Norman Queen (British)	Portsmouth	Mate	Arthritis.
10. 8.54	H.K.S. De-Hoop (Dutch)	Sea	3 Sailors	Injured hand, knee and head.
11. 8.54	Gisela Meyer Gerhards (German)	Hartlepool	Sailor	Injured hand.
17. 8.54	John M (British)	London	Captain	Dermatitis.
21. 8.54	P.L. Pahlsson (Swede)	London	Sailor	Mental Depression
26. 8.54	Dalphun (Dutch)	Sea	Sailor	Dental caries.
30. 8.54	Waterland (British)	Odense	Woman	Accident to arm.
	The second second		passenger	and the second

#### Vessels Boarded-continued

Date	Name of vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
31. 8.54	Hovding (Swede)	Frederickstad	Sailor	Accident to arm.
1. 9.54	Halcience (British)	London	2nd Mate	Dyspepsia.
11. 9.54	Matching (British)	Sea	2nd Engineer	Accident to hand.
3.10.54	Formality (British)	Antwerp	2 Seamen	Injury to ankle and fractured rib.
15.10.54	Blyth Trader (British)	Liverpool	Sailor	T.B.
21.10.54	Norma (Swede)	Ipswich	Steward	Accident to hand.
4.11.54	Atair (Swede)	London	Sailor	Accident to foot.
10.11.54	Ayton (British)	London	Mess Boy	Influenza.
27.11.54	Alstern (Swede)	London	Mate	Accident to arm.
29.11.54	Mercur (Finn)	Rotterdam	Steward	Dental caries.
4.12.54	Transic (Swede)	Middlesbrough	Steward	Fractured foot.
4.12.54	Sagacity (British)	London	Sailor	Accident to head.
8.12.54	Radmanso (Swede)	Port Talbot	Mess Boy	Accident to hand.
12.12.54	Huntsfield (British)	Gydnia	Cook	Accident to eye.
14.12.54	Pinewood (British)	London	Mess Boy	Accident to foot.
18.12.54	Runmaro (Swede)	Port Talbot	Deck Boy	Ear trouble.
27.12.54	Nordwind (German)	Oslo	Steward	Dental caries.
do.	do.	do.	2nd Mate	Accident.
	The following fatal ac	cidents occurred	:	
			***	1
10. 3.54	Pinewood (British)	London	Fireman	Drowned.
31. 8.54	Folda (British)	Tyne	Fireman	Drowned.
				Manual Control

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 No change.

39 Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

#### NOTES ON SOME CASES REPORTED

January 7th, 1954. S.S. Thetis (Swede). On arrival from Gothenborg the Master was reported unwell, he was later examined and found to be affected with Rheumatism, and received treatment before sailing.

February 2nd, 1954. M.V. Fryken (Swede). One of the crew, an Able Seaman, was found to be suffering from Influenza when this vessel arrived from Dundee. He received medical treatment during his stay in port, and was practically recovered when he left the Port.

March 9th, 1954. S.S. Fogdo (Swede). After this vessel arrived from Hamburg a Sailor was reported sick, and later received treatment for a septic arm, considerable improvement was shown before leaving the Port.

April 8th, 1954. S.S. Zeeland (Dutch). On arrival from Kiel, a sailor was found to be suffering from stomach trouble and received appropriate treatment during the vessel's stay in Port.

May 8th, 1954. S.S. Signal (German). The Chief Officer was reported sick after arrival from Boulogne. After examination he received treatment for ulceration of the stomach.

June 6th, 1954. S.S. Zeeland (Dutch). After arrival from Rotterdam a fireman was examined and found to be suffering from tonsilitis. He received medical treatment during the vessel's stay in Port.

August 3rd, 1954. M.D. Cornela Maria (Dutch). This drifter put in from the Fishing Grounds, when a deck hand was reported sick. After examination he was removed to Hospital with Abdominal trouble, and was operated upon satisfactorily.

August 21st, 1954. P.L. Pahlsson (Swede). On arrival from London, a sailor was found to be suffering from mental depression, and he was later removed ashore for treatment in hospital.

August 26th, 1954. M.D. Dalphun (Dutch). On arrival from sea a deck hand was taken for dental treatment, and received treatment soon after landing. A few hours later he sailed with his vessel.

October 3rd, 1954. M.V. Formality (British). Two sailors had to be treated for injuries after arrival from Antwerp. One was found to have fractured ribs and received the necessary treatment soon after arrival.

October 15th, 1954. S.S. Blyth Trader (British). During this vessel's prolonged stay in Port owing to extensive repairs being carried out. One sailor was examined on being reported unwell, and found to be suffering from tuberculosis, he was removed to hospital for observation and treatment.

November 10th, 1954. S.S. Ayton (British). On arrival from London the Mess Boy was reported sick. After examination influenza was diagnosed. He received treatment and soon recovered.

December 18th, 1954. Runmaro (Swede). After arrival from Port Talbot a deck boy was ill with ear trouble, and received the appropriate treatment before sailing.

#### VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

		Structura	al Defects	Sanitar	y Defects	Тотац
		Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam		 _	46	_	71	117
British Motor		 _	7	_	8	15
British Sail		 _	_	_	_	_
Foreign Steam		 _	3	_	5	8
Foreign Motor		 120 12 1	-	0.620	-	_
Foreign Sail		 -	-	-		-
Тота	LS		56		84	140

Two vessels had considerable structural alterations and improvements carried out on the crews' accommodation at the Dry Docks. Modren radiators, etc., were installed and washing facilities and sanitary appliances were brought up to date.

Nine vessels were found to be verminous in the crews' quarters, galleys and mess rooms. Fumigation and insecticides were the chief means of dealing with these pests. It should be pointed out that recommendations are made from time to time to Masters and other Officers as to the efficacy of DDT preparations, also the need to carry quantities of insecticides.

#### DEFECTS

			-				Work in hand	Work completed	TOTAL
								21	51
Forecastles to clean and pa							_	21	21
Forecastles to repair							-	5 17	5
Port Lights to repair				***				177.7	17
Fresh water tanks to clean	and ce	ement	***	***			_	20	20
Radiators to repair							_	18	18
Galley stoves to repair							_	7	7
Galley to clean and paint							_	1	1
Galleys to repair							_	5	5
Galley floor to repair	***						_	1	1
Bogie Stoves to renew							_	4	4
Bogie funnels to repair and	renew				***		-	,3	3
Store room to ventilate	***						_	1	1
Pantry to repair							_	3	3
Iess Rooms to paint out							_	3	3
Vaste pipes to repair							_	2	2
New lavatory basin to fix							_	2	2
avatory basin to repair							_	1	1
sanitary pipes to repair							-	2	2
anitary Tanks to repair							_	1	1
Sanitary pipes to renew							_	1	1
kylight to repair							_	1	1
scuppers to clean out							_	2	2
Bathroom to repair								2 5	2
V.C.'s to repair							_	5	2 2 5
V.C.'s to renew							_	2	2
V.C.'s flushed on to Quay							-	10	10
The state of the s	200	102.555		1975					-
						-			
							_	140	140

#### 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, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever.

1954		From Infected	Ports to Blyth	From Suspected	Тотаі	
1994		Direct	Indirect	Direct		Indirect
January		_	_	_	6	6
February		_	_	_	4	4
March			_	_	3	3
April		_	1	1	4	6
May		_	- 2	-	1	1
June		_	_	_	2	2
July		_	_	_	2	2
August		_	_	_	2	2
September		_	1	_	1	2
October		-	1	1	3	5
November		_	1	_	2	3
December		_	_	-	2	2
Total			4	2	32	38

#### LATRINES IN DOCK AREA

Representations have been made to the British Transport Commission for improvement in the Latrines situated in the Dock Area in respect of which the Commission is responsible.

The Commission have decided to give priority to the work of improving the Latrines and also to provide additional water closets in the area.

The Authority have accepted the proposals and are grateful to the Commission for giving this matter prompt attention and it is hoped that the work of improving the Latrines and providing 11 water closets and 5 stall urinals will be executed at an early date.









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