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**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF
WORKINGTON**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1948

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Workington,
February, 1949.*

THE WORKINGTON STAR LIMITED.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Mr. C. BAIRD (Chairman).

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„ J. R. DAVIS.	„ W. ROE.
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JOHN R. COCKFIELD, *Clerk to the Authority.*

R. W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

R. E. FLETCHER, M.B., CH.B.,
Deputy Port Medical Officer.

R. JAMES, *Port Health Inspector.*

S. THOMPSON, *Assistant Port Health Inspector.*
(Resigned 31st October, 1948).

C. E. PEARSON, *Assistant Port Health Inspector.*
(Appointed 16th November, 1948).

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

February, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Workington
Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report the year 1948.

The report has been prepared on the lines required by Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health dated December, 1946.

1. *Amount of Shipping Entering the Port
during the Year.*

TABLE A.

		NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected.		No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers ...	146	180020	19	146	15	13	...	...
	Motor ...	25	21919	5	25	3	3	...	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...		171	201939	24	171	18	16	...	...
Coastwise	Steamers ...	165	26205	...	118	18	18	...	...
	Motor ...	44	8631	...	23	2	2	...	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...		209	34836	...	141	20	20	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		380	236775	24	312	38	36	...	...

2. *Character and Trade of the Port.*

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the Year.*

Inwards 5. Outwards Nil.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*—The chief import was iron ore and the chief exports were rails, fish-plates, steel sleepers, pitch and coal.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Spain—Almeria, Aguilus, Bilbao, Castro Urdiales, Hornillo, Salta Caballo, Seville.

Norway—Narvik.

Sweden—Helsingborg, Lulea, Oxelosund.

Egypt—Abu-Zenima.

Algeria—Algiers, Bona, Bougie, Ceuta.

Port Romaine.

Netherlands—Ymuiden.

Sierra Leone—Pepel.

3. *Water Supply.*

The Port receives the same water supply as the Borough of Workington, and vessels are supplied from hydrants situated on the dockside. The character of the water is 1.25 degrees of hardness and is of exceptional purity, proved by chemical and bacteriological examination several times during the year.

Notices were given the Masters of three vessels to clean out water storage tanks.

4. *Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.*

Arrangements for dealing with the Regulations were fully described in my Annual Report for 1946. These continue to work satisfactorily.

Several cases of sickness were reported on vessels but all proved of a non-infectious character. Medical attention was given in respect of one case of pneumonia; one case of hernia; two cases of boils; four cases of fractured bones; two cases of discharging ears; one case of appendicitis; one case of scabies, and twenty-five cases of venereal

diseases. A suspected case of Diphtheria was removed to the Isolation Hospital, but ultimately proved negative. The master of a vessel during the voyage from Narvik was taken to hospital in Bergen and died from pneumonia. A steward was taken to hospital in Algiers suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, and a seaman was taken to hospital in Bilbao suffering from pneumonia. All these vessels were bound for Workington.

Two notices were issued in pursuance of the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations in respect of parakeets.

5. *Measures against Rodents.*

All vessels are inspected for the presence of rats, particularly those from foreign countries. Trapping and baiting are carried out where necessary, and rat guards placed on all mooring ropes. The harbour, buildings, breakwater and foreshore have been periodically inspected. As iron ore is the chief import, the risk of serious infestation is considerably minimised.

The dock canteen has caused some trouble during the year, but continuous baiting and trapping for several months resulted in the elimination of rats. The building used is temporary and of wooden construction with part concrete and part wood floors. The walls are cavity type lined inside with hardboard (cardboard). It is impossible to successfully rat proof the building, but I understand the Dock and Harbour Board propose to erect a permanent brick structure when conditions permit.

In accordance with Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, twenty-two deratisation exemption certificates were issued by this Authority during the year.

One coastwise vessel was fumigated to eliminate rats.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total number of such Vessels arriving	Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping poison-ing etc. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	Number of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued					No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with		After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	Total			
		HCN.	Sulphur			HCN. & Sulphur		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9
Ships up to 300 tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
" from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" over 10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	22	...	...	...	...	...	22	22

6. *Hygiene and Crew's Spaces.*
Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	263	—	16	16
Other Nations ...	49	—	2	4

The structural defects or conditions prejudicial to health comprise cleaning water tanks; renewing, repairing or cleansing sanitary fittings; defective wash room floor; defective ports; defective steam radiators; dirty or verminous crew's spaces.

Twelve vessels were disinfested owing to the presence of vermin.

7. *Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been imported or exported during the year.

General.

During the year there has been an increase of sixty-nine vessels as compared with 1947. I am pleased to note the reports of Mr. James, Port Health Inspector, on the improvements that have taken place on many vessels for the welfare of seamen, such as the provision of single or double berth cabins in lieu of open forecastles, proper mess rooms, wash places with hot and cold water, drying rooms and oilskin lockers, good ventilation, lighting and heating, and general vermin proof construction, etc. The war depleted the strength of the maritime fleet and many aged vessels will be required for some time to come.

The foreshore has been periodically inspected and the carcase of one sheep was removed and destroyed.

I must again record my appreciation to various officials who have assisted in the smooth working of the various Regulations during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,
Port Medical Officer.



