

have been proposed for dealing with the matter: The extension of the outfall; the installation of a septic tank; the land on the other side of the river being raised by a grader, and the sewage being pumped into it, and purified by broad irrigation, or intermittent downward filtration. The Council contemplate employing a competent sanitary engineer to advise upon the matter, and I hope that this will shortly be done, and his scheme adopted.

In some parts of the town there are houses crowded together on insufficient areas, with as a consequence deficient air-space in and around each house. The Council have now passed a by-law forbidding this practice, and therefore overcrowding in building will be prevented in the future. As the life of a wooden house is limited, the evils which at present exist will cease in the near future, when the present houses fall into decay or are destroyed by fire.

The more sanitary distribution of foodstuffs in this town requires attention. Both bread and meat are carried in open carts, or on the top of carts, exposed to the dust of the roads, which is always prevalent in windy or dry weather. Milk is baled out of the cans at the customers' doors, and thus rendered liable to pollution from dust and the filth carried with it, instead of having the cans fitted with suitable and easily cleaned taps, or the milk distributed in properly constructed and plugged bottles of a suitable size. One firm only in Napier distributes milk in the latter manner. I am glad to bear my testimony that the majority of milk-purveyors are in every other respect reputable and cleanly. I am in hopes that in the near future I shall be able to effect reform in these important matters.

Some years ago I represented to the Borough Council the unsatisfactory conditions of many of the slaughterhouses, and the fact that there was no supervision of the animals slaughtered, and the necessity of an up-to-date abattoir and a competent inspector. I am glad to say that my recommendations met with success. Mr. Hislop was commissioned to draw the plans; when these were obtained difficulties of one kind and another cropped up, causing vexatious delays. One after another the difficulties were surmounted, and about a year ago a creditable and thoroughly up-to-date abattoir was completed, with efficient supervision and inspection of the meat slaughtered and offered for sale. Everything was *en train* for the abattoirs prior to the Health Department springing into existence, and the fact that the measure was voluntary on the part of the Council, not due to compulsion, but to their public spirit, is highly creditable.

*Clive (Population, 657).*

The local body is the Hawke's Bay County Council.

This is a scattered township, built upon a low, damp site, being only 3 ft. or 4 ft. above sea-level. It is bounded on the north by the Ngaruroro River, and on the south by the Tukituki, and is liable to floods. The houses are for the most part old, and in some cases out of repair and dilapidated. When I was Health Commissioner, in 1900, there were several insanitary places, and the county drains were in a disgraceful condition, but I was able to get most of the evils remedied. Clive has a good water-supply from an artesian source, nearly every house having its own well. There is no common system of nightsoil-removal, and most of the closets are "pit." Though much better than it was, it is far from being a model township.

I have devoted my time during the summer months chiefly to the outlying portions of my district, and as a consequence have not had much time for those nearer home, but in the coming winter I hope to be able to effect some reforms in this and other places near at hand.

*Taradale (Population, 763).*

The local body is the Taradale Town Board.

There is no common system of nightsoil-removal at present, but I hope to get it instituted shortly. Most of the closets are "pan," and are emptied on the sections. There is drainage for slops by the concrete channellings, kept flushed by artesian wells. Individual artesian water-supply.

The houses in this township are for the most part well built and sanitary. There were, and still are, some objectionable places, some of which have been remedied, and steps are being taken to remedy the others. The houses are well apart, and there is no overcrowding.

*Meeanee.*

The local body is the Hawke's Bay County Council.

This is an old township adjoining the newer township of Taradale, which has in a measure swamped it. Like Clive it is low-lying, damp, and liable to floods. There is no common system of nightsoil-removal. Individual water-supply from an artesian source.

*Havelock (Population, 408).*

The local body is the Hawke's Bay County Council.

The business portion on the flat is composed of houses that are for the most part old, and in many cases dilapidated. There is no common system of nightsoil-removal, no drainage, and no public water-supply. There were several ill-constructed, shallow wells in the township, that have been filled in on my recommendation. On the recommendation of Dr. Finch, Mr. C. D. Kennedy has drawn plans and given an estimate for a drainage scheme to carry bed-room and kitchen shops, but up to date nothing has been done towards putting the work in hand. An excellent water-supply could be obtained at a cheap rate, either from an artesian source, or brought by gravitation from some of the numerous springs that are to be found on the hills at the back of the township, and I am in hopes that in the near future this will be taken advantage of. The hotel is supplied with excellent water from an artesian source.

On the hills at the back are several villa residences. These are all new and well built. The residents have supplied themselves with water from the springs above, and their sanitary arrangements are good.