

TABLE 2.—SHOWING INSPECTION OF PREMISES ENGAGED IN SELLING OR MANUFACTURING FOODSTUFFS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

Health District.	Number of Premises inspected engaged in the Selling or Manufacture of Foodstuffs.	Number of Instances Articles were "seized" or "destroyed."	Number of such Food Premises requiring Sanitary Alteration.
North Auckland .. .. .	1,804	5	314
Central Auckland .. .. .	1,105	55	219
South Auckland .. .. .	2,429	5	156
Thames-Tauranga .. .. .	478	..	118
Taranaki .. .. .	354	17	31
East Cape .. .. .	737	9	214
Wanganui-Horowhenua .. .. .	375	69	28
Wairarapa-Hawke's Bay .. .. .	326	1	9
Central Wellington .. .. .	379	52	9
Nelson-Marlborough .. .. .	690	11	41
Canterbury .. .. .	1,005	3	..
West Coast .. .. .	662	10	39
Otago .. .. .	1,649	7	182
Southland .. .. .	826	3	26
Totals .. .. .	12,819	247	1,386

TABLE 3.—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR YEAR 1931.

	Number of Prosecutions.	Amount.		
		£	s.	d.
Milk below standard .. .. .	29	104	4	7
Milk, added water .. .. .	22	151	0	3
Ice-cream below standard .. .. .	6	22	13	0
Butter below standard .. .. .	3	9	11	8
Preservative in butter .. .. .	1	7	2	6
Spirits not true to label .. .. .	3	70	14	0
Cream below standard .. .. .	1	4	5	6
Coffee and chickory essence below standard .. .. .	1	9	3	6
Camphorated oil below standard .. .. .	3	12	11	9
Beer below standard .. .. .	6	44	16	0
Spirits below standard .. .. .	1	9	13	6
Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act .. .. .	1	11	3	0
Recovery of St. Helens Hospitals fees .. .. .	1	3	2	0
Illegal private hospital .. .. .	1	6	5	0
Food premises (Regulation H. 125) .. .. .	1	2	1	0
Infectious-disease regulations .. .. .	1	2	11	0
Plumbers Registration Act .. .. .	2	2	11	0
Totals .. .. .	81	£452	19	3

## SECTION 6.—ADMINISTRATION.

*Economy Measures.*—Reduction of Staff: A sad feature of this period of economic depression is the parting from highly valued colleagues. It became necessary pursuant to emergency legislation to consider the retirement of officers aged sixty or over, and I chronicle with regret the voluntary retirement of two Medical Officers of Health, Drs. H. Chesson and W. B. Mercer, and four inspectors—viz., Senior Inspectors Middleton, Cameron, and Kershaw, and Inspector York. These were well tried and trusted long-service officers, esteemed for their mature judgment and broad and friendly spirit. Their retirement at the age of sixty is premature in respect of their capacity for future work.

Since no new appointments are to be made to fill the vacancies thus created, it became necessary to effect some transfers in order to widen the boundaries of certain districts.

*Travelling-expenses.*—My thanks are again due to officers for a considerable reduction in travelling and other expenses. That the times we live in are such that these efforts must be maintained will be self-evident, and I am confident that every officer will continue to do his part.

*New Health District.*—Recently Dr. Cook assumed duty at Whangarei, combining there the duties of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

*Food and Drugs.*—Sampling under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act has been well maintained. Several local authorities have sought to have their Inspectors appointed officers under the Act for the purpose of keeping a closer watch on the local milk-supply and generally observing the condition of fresh foodstuffs. It is encouraging to find local authorities taking this interest.