

Report to the General Board of Health on a further inquiry held within the township of Dalton, in the West Riding of the county of York, with reference to the application of the Public Health Act (1848) to a portion of that township, and also to a portion of the adjoining township of Almondbury, as recommended in the report to the President of the General Board of Health / by Alfred L Dickens, Superintending Inspector.

Contributors

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
(21 & 22 Vict. Cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

OR A

FURTHER INQUIRY

MADE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF

DALTON,

IN THE WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK

WITH REFERENCE TO THE APPLICATION
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (1848) TO A
OF THAT TOWNSHIP,

AND ALSO TO A PORTION OF THE ADJOINING

ALMONDBURY

AS RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT TO THE
OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

By ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq.,
STATIONMASTER GENERAL.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. FINE AND WILLIAM SPENCER
PRINTED TO THE ORDER OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1853.

8
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

FURTHER INQUIRY

HELD WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF

DALTON,

IN THE WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE APPLICATION OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (1848) TO A PORTION
OF THAT TOWNSHIP,

AND ALSO TO A PORTION OF THE ADJOINING TOWNSHIP OF

ALMONDBURY,

AS RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

By ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1858.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
(18 & 19 Vict. Cap. 55)
REPORT
TO THE
GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
OF THE
NOTIFICATION.

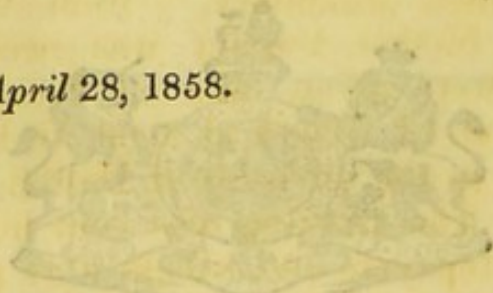
THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9 of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 31st day of May, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a further inquiry held within the Township of DALTON, in the West Riding of the County of York, with reference to the Application of the Public Health Act (1848) to a Portion of that Township, and also to a Portion of the adjoining Township of ALMONDBURY, as recommended in the Report to the President of the General Board of Health, by ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E., Superintending Inspector, dated 11 May 1857, and published 30th Sept. 1857.

By order of the Board,

T. TAYLOR,

Secretary.

Whitehall, April 28, 1858.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE H. WYKE AND WILLIAM POTTINGHAM
PRINTERS TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

Report to the President of the General Board of Health on a further Inquiry held within the Township of DALTON, in the West Riding of the County of YORK, with reference to the Application of the Public Health Act (1848) to a Portion of that Township, and also to a Portion of the adjoining Township of ALMONDBURY, as recommended in the Report to the President of the General Board of Health, by ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E., Superintending Inspector, dated 11 May 1857, and published 30th Sept. 1857.

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*General Board of Health, Whitehall,
March 1858.*

SIR,

ON the 11th of April 1857 I had the honor of holding a preliminary inquiry under the Public Health Act in the township of Dalton, in the West Riding of the county of York, and after hearing all the evidence offered on that occasion, and making an inspection of a considerable portion of the township and neighbourhood, I recommended the application of the Public Health Act to an area defined on a map accompanying my report, and which comprised a portion only of the township of Dalton, and also a portion of the adjoining township of Almondbury. The boundary thus recommended not being identical with "the known, or defined boundary,"* from which the petition emanated, a further inquiry was necessitated.† The ordinary notices were given, and on Thursday, the 18th of February last, at 12 o'clock at noon, at the King's Arms Inn, Mold Green, in the township of Dalton, I opened such further inquiry. The meeting was very numerously attended, and many ratepayers and others were prevented from being present, owing to the very crowded state of the room.

It was quite impossible to obtain the names of all the ratepapers present, but those immediately around me were

* See 8th Section of Public Health Act (1848).

† See 9th Section of Public Health Act (1848).

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Messrs. Hathorn, agent to Sir John Ramsden, Gelder, Jacob, Fitten, Brooks, Sykes, John Midgley, William Dyson, Law, Parkin, Taylor, Nathan Roebuck, Joseph Hale, Richd. Auty, Thomas Kilner, Moxon, &c.

Mr. *C. S. Floyd*, Solicitor, appeared in opposition to the application of the Public Health Act to the proposed district, on behalf of the Surveyors of Highways of the township of Dalton, on behalf of some of the ratepayers who signed the original petition for the application of the Public Health Act to the district, and on behalf of many of the ratepayers residing without the proposed area for the application of the Act.

Mr. *J. Sykes*, Solicitor, appeared against the application of the Public Health Act to any part of Almondbury, and in pursuance of instructions from a public meeting properly convened, and held at Almondbury, for the purpose of opposing the application of the Act.

I opened the proceedings by explaining the position which matters at that time stood with reference to the application of the Act to that part of the district called Mold Green, and informed the meeting that in accordance with the notification prefixed to my report on the preliminary inquiry certain written statements had been received by the General Board of Health against the application of the Public Health Act to Mold Green. I stated that one memorial or statement was from some of the ratepayers of the township of Dalton generally; another was from some of the ratepayers of that portion of the township of Dalton proposed to be included in the new boundary; another was from certain millowners at Bradley Mills, in Dalton, without the proposed boundary, and that the last was from certain ratepayers in the parish of Almondbury. This last memorial was very numerously signed.

The statements made by the professional gentlemen appearing for the various parties I have named, were of considerable length, and many witnesses were called in support of their objections to the application of the Public Health Act to the proposed district.

It will be sufficient for me to give a digest of these objections, as owing to the somewhat noisy character of the meeting, much was said that did not bear on the subject in question.

Mr. *Floyd* said—

“He objected on behalf of his clients to the application of the Public Health Act to any part of Dalton, on the ground of the

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cost, not only of applying the Act, but also of working it after such application. He proceeded to observe that Sir John Ramsden, a large proprietor in the district, had already given his assent, through his agent Mr. Hathorn, to the carrying out of sanitary improvements at Mold Green, and he considered, if Sir John was sincere in this, he had the means of providing the town with a good supply of water, without the necessity of forming a Local Board of Health. As regarded the nuisances to which the inspector's report alluded, he was instructed to say that the General Nuisances Removal Act was sufficient for their abatement. Besides it was well known that in all probability the Huddersfield Commissioners would very shortly seek to make that town a corporate town, and that under those circumstances the district would certainly be extended, so as to include Mold Green. Consequently all necessary improvements would then be carried out under the Huddersfield corporation."

Mr. *Floyd* then proceeded to comment on the memorials sent to the General Board of Health from Dalton, and called attention to one of those memorials signed by ratepayers, residing within the proposed district of Mold Green, representing in the aggregate a rateable value of 2,547*l.* 18*s.*, which was to the following effect:—

"That the petition of February last, praying for preliminary inquiry under the Public Health Act, 1848, included the signatures of parties residing out of the proposed district, and of many of the undersigned, who gave their adhesion without having an explanation of the full scope and operation of a 'Local Board.'

"That further inquiry and reflection have shown to your Petitioners that such Local Board is unnecessary and undesirable, since there are powers under the Highway and Poor Law Acts for sewerage and the removal of nuisances, and the needful supply of water is attainable without the expense attendant on a Local Board.

"Your Petitioners therefore pray that no order may be issued for the formation of the 'district of Mold Green,' under the Public Health Act, 1848."

The second Memorial was signed by ratepayers of the township of Dalton generally, and who represented a total rateable value of 6,453*l.* 19*s.* That memorial was to the following effect:—

"That in February last, a petition was forwarded to your Board, signed by a number of ratepayers of this township, praying for a preliminary inquiry as to the formation of a district under the Public Health Act, 1848, to include a part of this township called 'Mold Green.'

"That your Petitioners do not consider it necessary to have such a district separated from the township, in order to obtain

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what improvements are required in sewerage, supply of water, and removal of nuisances, but that all these objects can be secured at much less expense, and with greater fairness to the entire township, under the powers of the Highway and Poor Law Acts.

"That the proposed district of 'Mold Green,' if carried out, will increase the highway rates of the remaining portion of the township by 50 per cent., or thereabouts, an unfair and unjust imposition.

"Your Petitioners, therefore pray that no order may be issued for the formation of the district of 'Mold Green,' under the Public Health Act, 1848."

Mr. *Floyd* then called attention to the Memorial from the gentlemen connected with the Bradley Mills, in the outlying portion of Dalton Township, and read the following extract from that Memorial:—

"We beg your reference to pages 18 and 19 of the Report, and would now solicit your consideration to the following additional statements bearing on our position :

	£	s.	d.
"The total rateable value of the township is	-	9,317	19 0
Rateable value of the part proposed to be included in Mold Green district	-	4,507	16 0
Therefore, rateable value of the remainder of the township of Dalton is	-	4,810	3 0

"There are eight miles of roads, and a rate of 10*d.* in the Pound, which yields 387*l.* on the township, has been sufficient to meet an expenditure of ten months upon the highways—that is, one shilling in the pound per annum.

"The proposed 'Mold Green' district has had to contribute per annum 225*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* The remainder of the township 240*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* The annual cost of eight miles of roads being 465*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.*, the average expense is 58*l.* per mile.

"The proposed 'district of Mold Green' comprises only two miles of road, which at 58*l.* per mile, would cost 116*l.* per annum, which sum a rate of 6¼*d.* in the pound would raise.

"The remainder of the township would have six miles to sustain, requiring 348*l.* per annum, or a rate of 17½*d.* in the pound in the place of 1*s.* as at present.

"Again, asking reference to pages 18 and 19 of the Report, we should have an increase from—

Rateable value 1,284 <i>l.</i> at 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> is	64 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> per annum.
" " " at 1 <i>s.</i> 5½ <i>d.</i> is	93 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> " "

"The difference of which represents a capital of nearly 1,000*l.* as the value of the additional permanent burden upon us, without our having the slightest benefit or interest in the proposed Mold Green' district.

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" We therefore most respectfully submit, that unless it be competent for your Honourable Board to exclude the management of the highways in any order for a Local Board at Mold Green, and thus leave the highways to operate equally upon the whole township of Dalton, as is and will be the case with the poor rates, we in particular shall sustain great injustice ; and we earnestly pray that no order may be issued for the formation of the district of ' Mold Green ' until it can be done without inflicting such wrong upon us."

Mr. *Floyd* concluded by urging the injustice that would be done to the whole of the outlying portion of the proposed district, if some means were not taken, in the event of a provisional order for the formation of the district of " Mold Green " being made at all, to keep the highways and the highway rates as they were at the present time.

Mr. *Floyd* called as witnesses —

Mr. *William Chapman*, a ratepayer in Mold Green, who stated,—

" He is acquainted with those parts of the highways included in the proposed ' district of Mold Green.' The total length of such portions of highway is 2 miles 462 yards. He has measured the lengths of these highways with a measuring tape on the ground, and makes them as follows :—

Almondbury Bank	-	-	-	580 yards.
Lockwood Lane	-	-	-	532 "
Long Lane	-	-	-	700 "
Broad Lane	-	-	-	800 "
Kilner Bank	-	-	-	700 "
Smithy Lane	-	-	-	16 "
Total	-	-	-	3,982 "

or, 2 miles 462 yards.

Mr. *Thomas Kilner*, Assistant Surveyor of Highways for Dalton, stated,—

" That the total expenditure on the highways of the township of Dalton for ten years ending 1857 was 4,383*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.* Has made an estimate, and considers that a sum of 100*l.* per annum would be thrown as an extra burden on the outlying district by the formation of the boundary as set forth on the map accompanying the Inspector's Report on the Preliminary Inquiry. Admits that some portions of the roads within the boundary as suggested cost more to keep in repair than in the outlying district, but he has considered that in making the estimate of 100*l.* referred to. Does not think that houses are unlet on account of the want of proper drainage."

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Mr. *Richard Auty*, a ratepayer of Dalton, whose farm is situate both within and without the proposed boundary, spoke against the application of the Act.

Mrs. *Ruth Eastwood* spoke to the same effect.

Mr. *Floyd* expressed his willingness to call many other persons who had signed the memorials, but I thought under the circumstances it was unnecessary.

In reply to some of Mr. *Floyd's* objections to the application of the Public Health Act to the district of Mold Green I explained that the probable cost of applying the Act would not altogether exceed 70*l.* or 80*l.** That the powers of sewerage under the Nuisances Removal Act were very limited, and that by that Statute no power was given for borrowing money for the payment of the cost of works and distributing the repayment of such money over a period not exceeding 30 years. That it would be almost impossible for a private individual to establish waterworks in the district without a Local Act of Parliament, which, if unopposed even, would cost considerably more than the application of the full powers of the Public Health Act. No private individual would have power to lay pipes along highways and other places necessary for distributing a supply of water, and I also pointed out that a private company would naturally expect a return for the capital expended, which would result in an increased water rate to consumers. With respect to the highways I admitted that some inequality of rating might result, but that I hoped it not be so great as described in the Dalton memorial.

Mr. *F. W. Jacomb*, on behalf of the promoters, contended that the statements of the opponents to the application of the Public Health Act with reference to the highway rating were exaggerated, and called—

Mr. *John Henry Abbey*, Land Surveyor, who stated,—

“He has acted as surveyor under the Huddersfield Commissioners. He has had considerable experience in measuring and preparing plans, &c. Has measured the roads in Dalton from the 6-inch Ordnance Map. The total length of roads in Dalton, including the turnpike road, is about 11 miles. Exclusive of the turnpike road the length is about 8 miles 381 yards. Is surveyor of the Wakefield and Austerlands turnpike road.”

* I have since ascertained that the average cost of applying the Act by Provisional Order has recently been under £50. This includes all charges for the Inquiry, Provisional Order, &c.

Mr. Abbey then read the following statement,—

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“To the Chairman of the Committee for obtaining the application
“of the Public Health Act to Mold Green.

“New Street, Huddersfield,

“February 17th, 1858.

“SIR,

“HAVING been requested by you to examine the roads in Dalton and Almondbury with a view to ascertain the comparative cost of keeping the same in repair in the proposed district of Mold Green, and those of the out-districts, I beg to report as follows, viz. :—

“DALTON.—The total cost of repairs executed upon the roads and highways of Dalton, for the last 8 years, amount to 3,624*l.* or 453*l.* per annum; the length of the roads being 8 miles 381 yards, the average amount of repairs per mile will be about 55*l.*; this must not be considered, however, as the amount expended upon every mile of road in the township, for, while some portion of the roads in the out-districts do not require covering with materials above once in 3 or 4 years, the roads near the thickly populated districts will require it annually. It will be seen on reference to the plan of Dalton that most of the roads converge to one centre or focus, viz. : Mold Green, and that this place is by far the most thickly populated neighbourhood in the whole township; and that nearly the whole of the traffic from Dalton and Kirkheaton passes over Rawthorpe Lane, Long Lane, and Broad Lane, and from Almondbury on the Almondbury Road; the annual repairs upon these four roads will be very great, I should say at the rate of 180*l.* per mile. The repairs on Kilner Bank Lane have not been very great, though much repair is required, and to put it in thorough condition an expenditure of at least 140*l.* per mile would be needed.

“The length of road proposed to be included in the new district is about 2½ miles or close upon one-third of the mileage of the township; take then 2½ miles at an average of 96*l.*, which will be the minimum sum expended, one year's outlay will be 240*l.*, leaving 213*l.* for the repair of the roads in the out-districts. According to the return made by Mr. Kilner, the assistant overseer, the total rateable value of the property in Dalton is 9,317*l.*, while the rateable value of the property in the proposed district is 4,507*l.*, leaving 4,810*l.* chargeable to the repairs of the roads in the out-districts, or, in other words, leaving to Dalton rateable property to the amount of 303*l.* more than Mold Green for an expenditure less by 27*l.* than that of the latter place.

“I would remark that should the Wakefield and Austerlands turnpike road, which passes through the proposed district a distance of 1 mile 220 yards, be thrown upon Mold Green, the cost of keeping in repair this road would be 255*l.* per annum, making the total cost of the repairs in the district 495*l.* instead of 240*l.*, while the increase to Dalton would only be 112*l.* for a distance of 880 yards at the same ratio.

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"ALMONDBURY.—The total length of the roads in Almondbury is about 21 miles, including turnpike roads, and the average amount of repairs is 664*l.* or about 31*l.* 12*s.* per mile.

"The length of the roads proposed to be included in the district of Mold Green is 2 miles 1,144 yards; in this length is included the road from Whitehead Common to Mold Green, called King's Mill Lane. This is the main road for the traffic coming from Newsome and Castle Hill Side, and is travelled upon by great numbers of persons from the populous districts of Salford, Taylor Hill, Armitage Bridge, Berry Brow, and Henley, who come this way in order to evade payment of toll at Lockwood.

"I would beg to draw your particular attention to the dangerous state of this road for want of a good stone fence next to King's Mill Dam, and it is now a disputed question whether a fence should be made by Sir J. W. Ramsden or the surveyors of Almondbury. If it should be decided that Sir John is not liable, and the Public Health Act should be applied to Mold Green as at present proposed, the making of the fence will fall upon Mold Green, and will involve an expenditure of several hundred pounds, as well as the making of a new foot pavement, which the foot passenger traffic demands, from New Grounds to King's Mills, a distance of 466 yards, and which would cost at least 90*l.*

"Considering that the rateable value of the property in the township of Almondbury is 17,582*l.*, and that the portion to be included in the proposed district is only 1,697*l.*, or about one-tenth; considering also that the total mileage of roads in the township is 21 miles, and that the portion of road to be included is close upon one-eighth, and that, too, the most expensive in the township, it is useless for me to draw comparisons as to their relative cost, as I have already done in the Dalton case, but I consider it will be a boon to the township of Almondbury to be relieved of the King's Mill Lane, if of no other.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JNO. HY. ABBEY."

In answer to questions by Mr. *Floyd* and others, Mr. *Abbey* stated,—

"He believed he was perfectly correct in his estimate of the lengths of the roads referred to in his report. He had not been over the whole of the roads in the proposed district, but had measured them from the Ordnance plans. His opinions as to the cost of repairing the roads were formed from his general knowledge of roads and road-making."

Mr. *Sykes* on behalf of the memorialists against the application of the Public Health Act to any portion of Almondbury, remarked,—

"That the memorial from that township was signed by more than 1,400 persons, a large majority of whom he believed were

ratepayers. He proceeded to remark that he considered notices of the first inquiry ought to have been published in Almondbury. Had that been done, the opposition he now raised would have been offered on that occasion. He called attention to the fact that the overseers of Almondbury stated that they did not know the inquiry was to take place, and that the first time they saw a return of the rateable value of that township in connexion with the application of the Public Health Act to a part of Almondbury, was in the published report of the preliminary inquiry. He was instructed to say that the person who signed that return, Mr. Joseph Dean, was not the overseer, as he there represented himself to be, but was only assistant overseer or collector."

Mr. *Dransfield*, solicitor, here interposed and said,—

"That he appeared on behalf of Mr. Dean, and although that gentleman might not be one of the overseers, still the figures furnished by him were generally exact copies from the rate books, and that the assumed rateable value of that portion of Almondbury proposed to be included within the new district of Mold Green, was made out from the figures in the rate book."

Mr. *Sykes* proceeded to observe,—

"That the notices for the preliminary inquiry said nothing about Almondbury, and therefore the ratepayers of that township had no idea any portion of it would be included. As he read the Act of Parliament, the only reason why any portion of an outlying district should be incorporated with another district was for the purposes of main drainage, falls, and levels only. He contended that the portions of Almondbury proposed to be included in the new district were not required for these purposes. As regarded the improvement in the Long Bridge, referred to in Mr. Gilder's report, quoted by the Inspector in his report to the General Board of Health on the Preliminary Inquiry, no Local Board of Health could have any power over that, as it was a county bridge. Lighting and drainage could be carried out without any special Act of Parliament. The other great objection the ratepayers of Almondbury had to the proposed boundary was with respect to the highways, where a similar, or even greater injustice would be perpetrated by including any portion of Almondbury in the proposed district, than that complained of by the ratepayers of Dalton."

In support of his case, Mr. *Sykes* called Mr. *Joseph Hall*, land surveyor, who stated,—

"He has been in practice as a land surveyor at Huddersfield for about 30 years, and is well acquainted with the districts of Almondbury and Dalton. Has measured the length of the roads in the township of Almondbury, proposed to be included in the suggested new boundary. Makes the length on a plan three chains to the inch, from actual survey 2 miles 795 yards. The

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length of roads in Almondbury out of the suggested new boundary, including turnpike roads, is 18 miles 155 yards. The rateable value of Almondbury within the proposed district he calculates at 2,988*l.* 13*s.* In 1842 the rateable value of that portion was only 1,810*l.* 17*s.*, being an increase of 1,177*l.* 16*s.* The highway rate for the Almondbury portion of the proposed new district at 10*d.* in the pound, would amount to 122*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, and the actual cost of the road would be only about 50*l.*, the average cost of the roads having been for the last three years only 20*l.* per mile."

Mr. *Hall* proceeded to state, —

"That he was acquainted with the property in the district, and with those particular spots mentioned in the Inspector's Report on the preliminary inquiry. Knew King's Mill very well, and was of opinion that the nuisances described by the Inspector as existing there were capable of easy removal. Mr. North, the present proprietor, has stated his desire to have the place improved. The part of Almondbury proposed to be included in the new district is the most increasing in value. A drain is required at the 'Dog Kennels,' as described by the Inspector, but this might very easily be executed. The area of that part of Almondbury proposed to be incorporated with Mold Green is about 122 acres. The drainage falls several ways, but principally to the beck dividing the two townships. Thinks this beck would generally be the outfall. It requires straightening. Many people fetch water from the Longley Hall stream. It seems fair water, but the run is not very strong. Was aware that it was intended at one time to supply Mold Green from the 'Penny Springs.' The Penny spring water is very good, but he has a doubt about the quantity.

"The valuation of the whole parish of Almondbury is 17,645*l.* 3*s.* Is aware that Mr. Dean's figures make it 17,582*l.* 16*s.* There have been some improvements effected since the last year's Return, which may make the difference."

Mr. *Taylor*, one of the overseers of Almondbury, stated, —

"Mr. Dean is not the overseer for Almondbury. He (Mr. Taylor) would have been present at the preliminary inquiry if notice had been given in Almondbury. Thinks the application of the Public Health Act to any part of Almondbury would be very unpopular. The best part of Almondbury is in the proposed new district ; consequently the poorer ratepayers would be left to pay larger highway rates with a smaller rateable value."

Mr. *Law Parkin*, the other overseer of Almondbury, had heard Mr. Taylor's statement, and confirmed it.

Mr. *William Dyson* and Mr. *John Midgley* spoke to the same effect.

Mr. *Sykes* was prepared to call more witnesses, but I thought, under the circumstances, it was unnecessary.

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Mr. *Jacomb*, on behalf of the promoters,—

“Relied upon the statement handed in by Mr. *Abbey* to prove that the supposed hardship that would accrue to the outlying district with respect to the highways was exaggerated, and contended that a fair case had been made out for the application of the public health to the district, which had been marked out by the Inspector, and delineated on the map accompanying his Report on the preliminary inquiry.”

GENERAL REMARKS.

Having drawn your attention to the principal points brought before my notice at the further inquiry by the opponents to the application of the Public Health Act to Mold Green, it only remains for me to say that I have again gone through the evidence given on the occasion of the preliminary inquiry, and have also most carefully considered the objections raised at the later inquiry, and that I am bound to repeat my original opinion that the application of the Public Health Act to the district marked out on the map accompanying my report of the 11th May 1857 is most necessary, and that the provisions of that Act are calculated to be of inestimable service to such parts of Dalton and Almondbury as are included in that proposed district. At the same time I cannot conceal from myself the fact that to apply the Act in the face of so strong an opposition would possibly lead to little good, as much personal ill-feeling would probably arise amongst the ratepayers of both townships.

In my report on the preliminary inquiry the rateable value of that portion of Almondbury proposed to be included in the new district is estimated at 1,697*l.* 14*s.* Since the further inquiry was held a petition from ratepayers of the township of Almondbury *within* the proposed district has been presented to the General Board of Health, praying that the Act may be applied to the district as proposed. The total rateable value of these petitioners is stated at 2,301*l.* Among the other signatures is that of Mr. North, of King's Mill, who is rated at 963*l.*

As regards the alleged injustice that would be caused by taking away a certain portion of the rateable value of the two townships in connexion with the highway rating, I am of opinion that that alleged injustice has been overstated. In the absence, however, of returns of the actual cost of

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the repairs of those portions of the highways in the district of Mold Green, as proposed in my previous report, and the outlying portions not included in that district, it is impossible to arrive at the absolute facts of the case. As it is not improbable that clauses may be inserted in the new Public Health Act Amendment Bill, which it is understood will be introduced to Parliament during the present Session, to adjust this vexed question of the highways, and, as I believe, such adjustment would allay much of the opposition now offered to the application of the Public Health Act to any portion of Dalton and Almondbury, I think it is desirable that the matter should remain in abeyance until that Amendment Act has been settled. I have, therefore, the honour of recommending that any further proceedings in reference to the application of the Public Health Act to the district of Mold Green be at present suspended.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED L. DICKENS,

Superintending Inspector.

The Right Hon. Chas. B. Adderley, M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

President, General Board of Health.



