

Report to the General Board of Health on a further inquiry held in the town of Whitstable, and the parishes of Whitstable and Seasalter, consequent upon the proposed alteration of boundaries for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848 / by Thomas Webster Rammell.

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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 IN THE TOWN OF

W H I T S T A B L E,

AND THE

PARISHES OF WHITSTABLE AND SEASALTER,

CONSEQUENT UPON THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OF BOUNDARIES FOR THE
PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1848.

By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1850.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9 of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 1st of April next 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 in the Town of WHITSTABLE, and the Parishes of WHITSTABLE and SEASALTER, in the County of Kent, consequent upon the proposed Alteration of Boundary for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848: or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

HENRY AUSTIN, *Secretary.*

Gwydyr House, Whitehall,

21st February, 1850.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict., cap. 63).

Report to the General Board of Health on a further Inquiry held in the Town of WHITSTABLE, and the Parishes of WHITSTABLE and SEASALTER, in the County of Kent, consequent upon the proposed Alteration of Boundaries for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848. By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

Gwydyr House, Whitehall, January 22, 1850.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

AN alteration in the existing boundaries having been recommended in my Report on a preliminary inquiry into the sanitary condition of the town and parish of Whitstable, in the county of Kent, your Honourable Board was pleased to direct me again to visit the parts, to make the further inquiry in such case required.

It appeared from the statements contained in that Report, that, in case the Public Health Act should be applied to the town of Whitstable, the boundaries which may be most advantageously adopted for the purposes of the Act are not the same as those of the parish of Whitstable, from which the petition for inquiry emanated, and that for such purpose it would be proper to exclude from the parish of Whitstable such parts of it as lie beyond the line marked red on the map accompanying the Report, and to add to the remainder such parts of the parish of Seasalter as lie within the red line as shown on the map, and which are more particularly referred to in the Report.

In pursuance of the further directions of your Honourable Board, I caused the proper notice to be given of my intention to hold a public meeting at the Bear and Key inn, in the town of Whitstable, on the 7th January instant, when I should be prepared to hear all parties desirous of being heard before me upon the subject of the former Report.

On proceeding to the appointed place I found present a very numerous attendance of ratepayers and other inhabitants, amongst whom were the Rev. R. J. Morris, Perpetual Curate of Whitstable, and Vicar of Seasalter; Mr. Hyder, of Court Lees, one of the magistrates for the county; Messrs. Thos. Gann, William Holden, Stephen Kemp, George Clay, George Holden, Henry Holden, Thos. Reeves, James Reeves, William Amos, James

Gann, William Knight, Thos. Whorlow, and other of the more influential residents. I may add that Mr. Church attended on behalf of the South-Eastern Railway Company; and that Mr. Thurston, Surveyor for this district to the Commissioners of Sewers, was also present. Copies of the notice were shown to have been inserted in the "*Kent Herald*" and "*Kentish Observer*" newspapers, both of which appeared on the 20th December preceding; and other copies were proved to have been affixed in those places where public notices are usually affixed within the parts.

I opened the proceedings by reading to the meeting the written statements or memorials which had been forwarded to your Honourable Board, in compliance with the terms of the notice prefixed to my before-mentioned Report, and which are three in number, one being "The respectful memorial of a large majority of the ratepayers of the town of Whitstable, in the respective parishes of Whitstable and Seasalter, agreed to at a general meeting of the ratepayers held at Whitstable on the 13th day of June, 1849;" another, a "Statement made by the South-Eastern Railway Company;" and the third, "The memorial of General Gerard Gosselin, of Ospringe, in Kent, and William Hyder, of Court Lees, Whitstable, in the said county, Esquire:" and also by reading, at the desire of the meeting, the petition on which the preliminary inquiry had been directed.

I then informed the meeting that I was prepared to enter upon the subject before me; when Mr. Hyder called my attention to the course of one of the surface-water channels, in the rear of the town, which had been diverted, and stated that the witness Auld (for whose evidence see former Report) had "not been long resident in Whitstable," that "his experience of the condition of the town therefore was not great," that "the late seasons had been unusually wet," and that he (Mr. Hyder) "did not apprehend any further floods."

Mr. Hyder, however, did not call in question the truth of Mr. Auld's statements.

Messrs. Church, Horam, W. Knight, J. Reeves, and one or two others present, also addressed me, but no objection of any weight was raised to the proposed boundary.

It was asserted that the present supply of water is sufficient.

Allusion was made to the present charge upon the town for the repair of the highways in the two parishes; when I informed the meeting that, in case the Act should be applied, the local Board of Health would execute the office of surveyors of highways for the new district, which would then not be liable to be rated in respect of highways beyond it.

The present, as it was considered, inequitable mode of levying the rate for the repair of the sea-wall opposite the town, was also alluded to, and a desire expressed to the effect that the powers

for its maintenance should be taken out of the hands of the Commissioners of Sewers, and placed in those of the local Board; but upon this subject I declined to give any opinion or assurance.

Application was made by several persons present for permission to inspect the signatures to the petition, which I refused to allow; at the same time however informing the applicants that, in case they persisted in their desire to examine that document, the proper course would be to memorialize your Honourable Board on the subject.

No other person desiring to be heard, I then closed the inquiry.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I am still of opinion that the boundary described in my former Report is the most advantageous that can be adopted for the purposes of the Act; and I therefore recommend—

1. That the Public Health Act be applied to the area included within the boundary-line described in my before-mentioned Report, and marked red in the map accompanying that Report; which area comprises the town of Whitstable, and a part of each of the respective parishes of Whitstable and Seasalter.
2. That such application be made to the whole of the area described for all the purposes of the Act.
3. That the local Board of Health to be elected under the Public Health Act consist of nine persons; and that the entire number be elected for the whole of the district.
4. That one-third in number of the local Board go out of office on the 25th day of March in each year subsequently to that in which the election takes place.
5. That every person at the time of his election as member of the local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election (being resident, as in the Public Health Act, 1848, is required), be seised or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value or amount of 300*l.*; or be rated to the relief of the poor of the parishes of Whitstable or Seasalter upon an annual value of not less than 15*l.*

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient, humble servant.

T. W. RAMMELL.

for as maintenance should be taken out of the hands of the Corporation of Sewers, and placed to those of the local Board; but upon this subject I declined to give any opinion or assistance.

Application was made by several persons present for permission to inspect the registers to the petition, which I refused to allow; at the same time, however, informing the applicants that, in case they persisted in their desire to examine the documents, the proper course would be to introduce a Bill in the House of Commons.

No other person desiring to be heard, I then closed the inquiry. In conclusion, I beg to state that I am of opinion that the boundary described in my former Report is the most advantageous that can be adopted for the purposes of the Act; and I therefore recommend—

1. That the Public Health Act be applied to the area included within the boundary line described in my former Report, and marked red in the map accompanying that Report, which area comprises the town of Whitstable, and a part of each of the respective parishes of Whitstable and St. Andrew.

2. That such application be made to the whole of the area described for all the purposes of the Act.

3. That the local Board of Health to be elected under the Public Health Act consist of nine persons; and that the said number be elected for the whole of the district.

4. That one-third in number of the local Board go out of office on the 23rd day of March in each year, successively to that in which the election takes place.

5. That every person at the time of his election be a member of the local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election (being resident, as in the Public Health Act, 1848, is required), be seized or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value or amount of 300*l.*; or be rated to the relief of the poor of the parish of Whitstable or St. Andrew upon an annual value of not less than 1*l.*

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. L. and G. L.

Yours very obedient servant,
W. J. L. and G. L.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. J. L. and G. L.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,
1875.
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IN
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