

SHOCKED BY BATHING SUITS

Rockaway Beach Citizens Protest to New York Police.

Short Costumes Worn by Women, Some
of Whom Do Not Enter the Water,
Declared an Annoyance.

Special to The Washington Post.

New York, April 26.—“The scandalous disregard of modesty and the shocking suits or lack of them worn by women on Rockaway beach when the bathing season is in full swing have endangered the morals of the children. The evil has grown so flagrant within the past two seasons that it is well-nigh intolerable. The police ought to interfere and stop the outrageous proceedings.”

In these words George Titcomb, an attorney representing the Rockaway Beach Taxpayers' Association, backed by a score of influential citizens, protested against conditions on the beach to First Deputy Police Commissioner O'Keeffe, at the Brooklyn headquarters, to-day. Among those in the delegation were John H. Manley, Luke Eldert, John Schappert, and William Kelly.

“Mr. Commissioner,” insisted Attorney Titcomb, “the skirts worn by women while in bathing at Rockaway beach have been altogether too short. In fact, they have been mere apologies for skirts.”

“Scores of women in scanty dress have lounged around the beach without the slightest intention of going near the water. Thus attired, they have also promenaded on the board walk, utterly disregarding all laws of decency.

“Their presence has drawn to the resort a lot of rubbernecks. The conditions have become intolerable, and the taxpayers refuse to put up with them any longer.”

Deputy O'Keeffe received the delegation as diplomatically as possible. He told them that he doubted whether he had jurisdiction in the regulation of bathing suits, particularly those worn by women. He said, however, that he would consult the corporation counsel and would try to ameliorate conditions of it were within his power.

“You know, gentlemen,” said Mr. O'Keeffe, “I am a married man and cannot very well accept any job which would involve the censorship of bathing suits. Some one might object.”