

**BOX
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FOLDER
232**

**Examining, Board of
Plumbers**

1911

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, January 20, 1911. *191*

Robert Adamson, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 18th inst., and the appeal of L.D. Dickinson for the return of a license fee of \$30.00 claimed to have been paid by him under protest to the city of Brooklyn "some few years ago", I would report that we find upon the records of the Examining Board of Plumbers of the late city of Brooklyn, now in this office, that Leonard D. Dickinson of 435 Graham Avenue, made application to the Brooklyn Examining Board of Plumbers, and was granted a certificate of competency (No. 27) as a master plumber on June 9, 1893.

The legal fee for examinations and for issuing certificates by the Examining Board of Plumbers, under the statute, has always been \$5.00.

Before the enactment of the Examining Board of Plumbers' law licenses were issued to master plumbers by the Department of Public Works, or by officials variously named having charge of the highways, water and sewer systems of the city of Brooklyn, for which master plumbers paid the sum of \$30.,

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and it must be this \$30.00 that Mr. Dickinson is after.

The Brooklyn records here indicate plainly that Dickinson was in business as a master plumber some length of time previous to June 9, 1893, and that it was many years ago--not a few as he claims--when he made the payment of \$30.00 to the city of Brooklyn.

I happen to have some personal knowledge of Dickinson. He is a colored man and was a member of the Brooklyn master plumbers association when he became blind. This was, as he says, about sixteen years ago. I was also an active member of the association and it fell to me to raise a sum of money by subscription with which he and his wife were well started in a laundry business. They failed in it and the money was practically thrown away. I have learned nothing since regarding Dickinson until this appeal.

Dickinson is an intelligent man and I do not believe he would of himself make such a claim. He, of course, did not write the letter, but some one in sympathy with him has led him to dictate the claim hoping something to his benefit might by chance come from it.

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We do not see how we can take any official action in the matter but will be very glad to pursue any inquiry His Honor, the Mayor, may desire or direct.

We return herewith Mr. Dickinson's appeal.

Very respectfully,

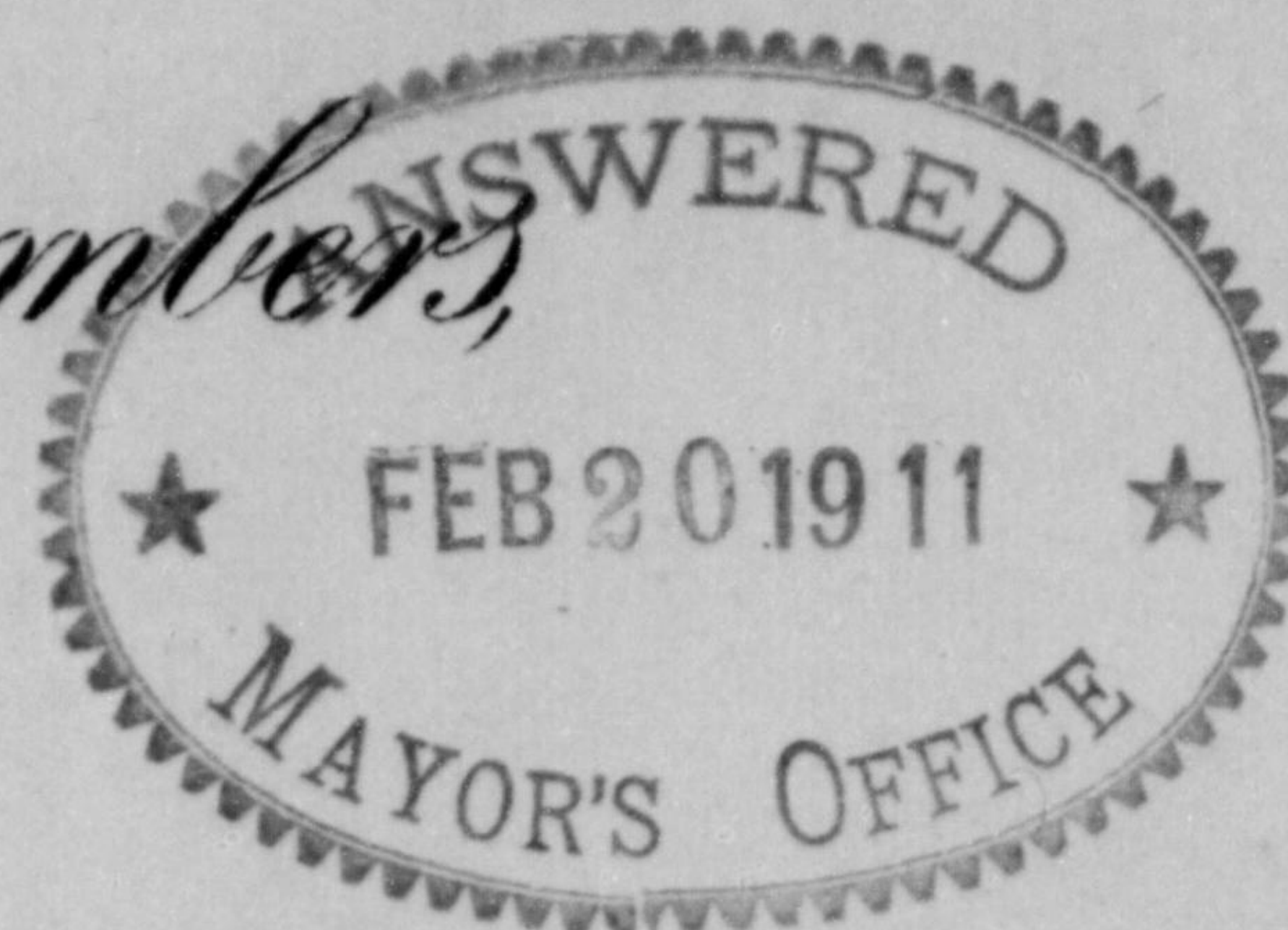
Edwin Raymond PRESIDENT.

(enc.)

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,

City of New York.

149 Church Street,



New York, Feb'y 17, 1911. *191*

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
 Mayor, City of New York.

Honorable Sir:-

On this, the anniversary of your appointment of the present Examining Board of Plumbers of the City of New York, I cannot refrain from celebrating the event by expressing to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for what has been to me the happiest and most satisfactory year's service since I became an employee of the city.

In view of my having been identified with this department for nearly five years--during which time four administrations of examiners have come and gone--I trust I may be pardoned the seeming presumption of a subordinate assuming the role of a judge over her superiors, and of addressing you with this personal history and testimony.

When I entered upon my duties in this office it was with many misgivings by reason of the political atmosphere which predominated, and as the months and the years passed conditions became so unbearable and so revolting to my sense of honor and justice, that only an inherent desire to see righteousness finally prevail

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Examining Board of Plumbers,
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149 Church Street,

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deterred me from returning to the commercial world.

But now, thanks to the wisdom of your choice and in the appointment of the present Examining Board of Plumbers, I feel repaid for the years of mental disquietude.

It has been most refreshing to me to be associated with plumbers of so high an order of integrity as your appointees--plumbers not afraid to familiarize themselves with the law and to live up to its spirit and letter.

Justice toward all, favoritism toward none has been, and is, the attitude of this Board in the administration of its affairs.

I believe I am justified in saying that there never was a better Examining Board of Plumbers in the City of New York, and the pace they have set it will be difficult for their successors to follow.

With every good wish for the continued success of your administration, I remain,

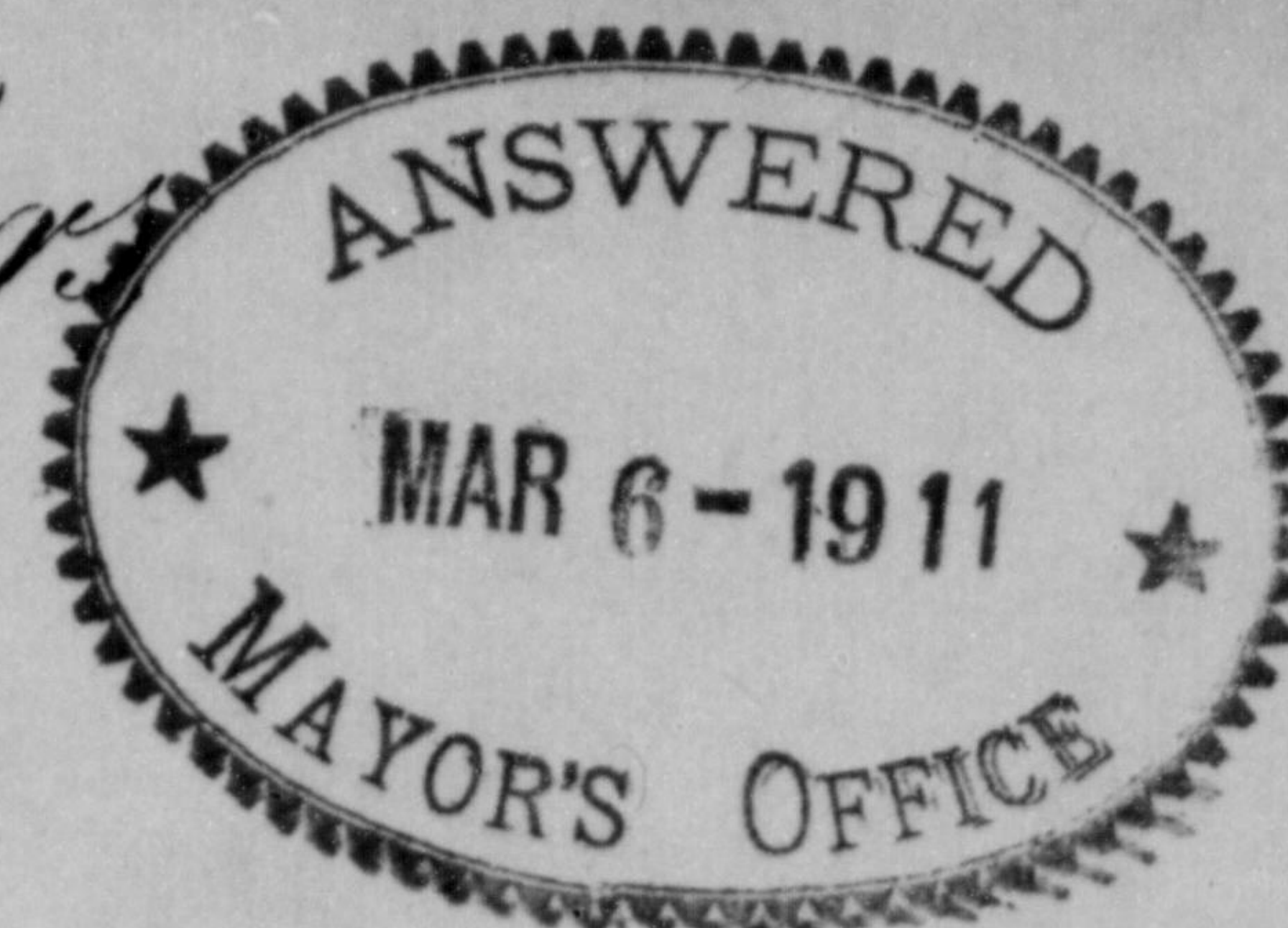
Respectfully,

Janet A. Glendinning.

From Edwin Hayward, of the Board of Examining Plumbers, relative to the doing of business by unlicensed plumbers. The Corporation Counsel has advised him that the enforcement of the law lies with the Building Bureaus in the different boroughs, but he says that, outside of the Bronx, the law is enforced in only a desultory way. He encloses a report by President Miller showing the number of prosecutions instituted by his Bureau. He cites a case where an accused person in Brooklyn was discharged by the Magistrate on the ground that the man may have been a journeyman plumber doing all work by himself alone, and being neither an employing or master plumber. Mr. Hayward thinks that the Magistrates should sustain the efforts made to prosecute these men.

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Office
Examining Board of Plumbers
City of New York.
149 Church Street,



New York, March 2, 1911. 191

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

Sir:-

We have borne in mind your letter to us of April 25, last in which your Honor wrote- "As to the matter of persons doing business who have no certificate at all, I hope you will follow that up and suggest some way by which we can collect the facts and prosecute all of the offenders." In relation thereto we beg leave now to refer to our communication of June 1st, wherein we stated that the Corporation Counsel had advised this Board that the authority to enforce the laws against the violation of the plumbing rules by plumbers lies in the Department of Buildings, and that we would, in person, present copies of our counselor's opinion to each of the borough superintendent of buildings and confer with them upon the subject. This we did and have recently invited the several superintendents to give us data to which we might refer of the enforcement of the laws since our conference with them.

We enclose herewith copy of a report and a letter from Mr. Rudolph P. Miller, superintendent of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan. Manhattan is obviously the most difficult field to "clean up". The wide extent of the disregard of the law within its bounds and the work of correcting it may be

seen by Mr. Miller's report for while he has done much he implies, and we know, that there is much more to be done.

In Brooklyn Borough, on September 30, 1907, city magistrate, Edward J. Dooley, dismissed a complaint against one, Harris Schaffer, an unlicensed plumber, for unlawfully displaying a plumber's sign in violation of chapter 803, laws of 1896, on the ground that "the defendant may have been a journeyman plumber doing all work by himself alone, being neither an employing or master plumber." We understand that since this dismissal but little, if anything, has been done in Brooklyn in enforcing the Examining Board law, but following our conference with, and presenting a copy of the Corporation Counsel's advice to us, to Mr. Thatcher, the Brooklyn Borough superintendent, he has obtained an opinion from the Corporation Counsel with which he is advised that the matter be tested in another case. Under date of Feb'y 7, last, Mr. Thatcher refers us to Mr. John P. O'Brien, Ass't Corporation Counsel in charge of legal proceedings for his bureau, for information desired by us. Mr. O'Brien writes us under date of Feb'y 17,

"for reply to your letter I would say, that I have just had a talk with chief inspector, M.J. Kennedy of the Building Bureau (of Brooklyn) in relation to these cases against unlicensed plumbers and he informs me that he is at present time perfecting arrangements and collecting evidence for the criminal prosecution of the plumbers in this class of cases, and that he will call upon this office for its co-operation as soon as he is ready."

Mr. John Seaton, Supt. of Buildings, Borough of Richmond, writes under date of Feb'y 16th last:

"In the few cases in this borough where we have discovered non-licensed plumbers installing plumbing work we have notified the owner of the building of that fact and he has, in all cases, prevented any further work being done by such unlicensed plumbers."

Mr. James A. Henderson, Supt. of Buildings, Borough of the Bronx writes Feb'y 10th that he has- "a few instances on record of unlicensed plumbers doing work on buildings" and that he is prosecuting a case. He further says:-

"It is in my opinion a most difficult matter to induce a magistrate to hold an unlicensed plumber for a violation of this character, as the law as framed is.....very weak, and there are many loop holes by which the law can be evaded.Sympathy likewise carries with the magistrate who seems to regard the matter in not a serious light and is correspondently lenient. I have found therefore, the best method for prosecuting the offender is by filing a violation case against the owner and collecting a penalty for incurring the said violation."

In a recent interview with Mr. John Simmons, Supt. of Buildings, Borough of Queens, he informed us that he had no complaints against uncertified plumbers in his Bureau, and pointed to the fact that he has but four plumbing inspectors who are kept busy in covering the whole territory of Queens in making inspections of work in progress.

Viewing the situation as seen by us, the Examining Board of Plumbers' law has been enforced in a desultory way only, where enforced at all, with a resulting condition of demoralization in regard to it. By many it is regarded with contempt. Incidents we could relate indicate that it is derided by some.

We think all this can be reformed if Mr. Miller of Manhattan can follow up the work he shows us has been begun by him, and if the Brooklyn Bureau will make an earnest start, as it promises to, and the efforts made are sustained by the magistrates of all the boroughs, the law will soon become respected. But it is hardly just to file a violation against the owner of a building and to fine him alone for the violation. The owner may be an innocent victim only of the unlawful plumber.

The responsibility for enforcing the law being fixed, the means for a continuous policing and of obtaining evidence, requiring earnest effort by earnest men, is to be considered. The several Building Bureaus appear to have occupation enough for their plumbing inspectors without this necessary policing. But the means obtained, it is shown by Mr. Miller that the work with the magistrates' assistance can be done.

The Examining Board of Plumbers' law requires that the Examining Board shall determine the fitness and qualifications of all persons desiring to act as inspectors of plumbing and to issue certificates of competency to all such persons who

shall have passed a satisfactory examination before such Board and shall be by it determined to be qualified to act as inspectors of plumbing. This board finding no record of any such examinations in its office, drew the attention of the Municipal Civil Service Commission to the law, which the Commission had apparently over-looked. The Commission has since notified applicants for appointment found upon its eligible list, that they must obtain certificates of competency from the Examining Board of Plumbers. Several have subsequently appeared and each has proved his competency and been certified to the Municipal Civil Service Commission as qualified by us. Thus, hereafter, it may be assured that only practical plumbers will be appointed to inspect plumbing.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Gaynor
Pres

Since receiving this report of Jan'y 20, 1911, we
have been informed that two plumbers were prosecuted and
fined \$25.00 each.

EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS.

COPY.

January 20, 1911.

RUDOLPH P. MILLER, ESQ.

Superintendent of Buildings.

S i r:

I herewith submit a report of action taken on unregistered plumbers by the Plumbing Division from June 11, 1910, to December 31, 1910.

This work was begun upon an opinion from the Corporation Counsel's office to Mr. Hayward, President of the Examining Board of Plumbers, City of New York. The Corporation Counsel advised that authority to take action against said unregistered plumbers is vested in the Bureau of Buildings.

In accordance with instructions received, the following statement of facts is the result of action by this Bureau during the period above stated.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of unlicensed plumbers reported by complaint and also by inspectors..... | 137 |
| Number held in \$100. bail for Court of Special Sessions by Police Magistrates..... | 15 |
| Number awaiting trial | 10 |
| Number summoned to Court but did not appear..... | 2 |
| Number fined \$10. by the Court of Special Sessions..... | 5 |
| Number of signs removed..... | 6 |
| Number of cases dismissed..... | 2 |
| Number found for which there was no cause for complaint upon a more complete investigation. | 1 |
| Number of plumbers reported as "Unlicensed" who have taken a partner who is licensed..... | 1 |
| Number of persons who could not be served with summons.. | 1 |
| Number of photographs taken to Dec. 31, 1910..... | 82 |

Respectfully submitted:

(Signed) Wm. J. Carey
Insp.

C O P Y.

THE BUREAU OF BUILDINGS
FOR THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN.

220 Fourth Avenue.

Rudolph P. Miller,
Superintendent.

New York City.

February 21, 1911.

Mr. Edwin Hayward, President,
Examining Board of Plumbers,
149 Church Street, City.

Dear Sir:-

I have delayed somewhat in answering your request of February 2nd, awaiting a statement of the facts regarding our campaign against unlicensed plumbers, hoping to be able to give you a fuller statement than I now enclose.

When the Board called my attention to the large number of plumbers doing business in the City without licenses, I immediately proceeded to take such steps, in accordance with the law, as were necessary to stop this unlawful practice as far as may be possible. The enclosed tabulated statement will show you what has been accomplished by this Bureau since the time you first called attention to the conditions.

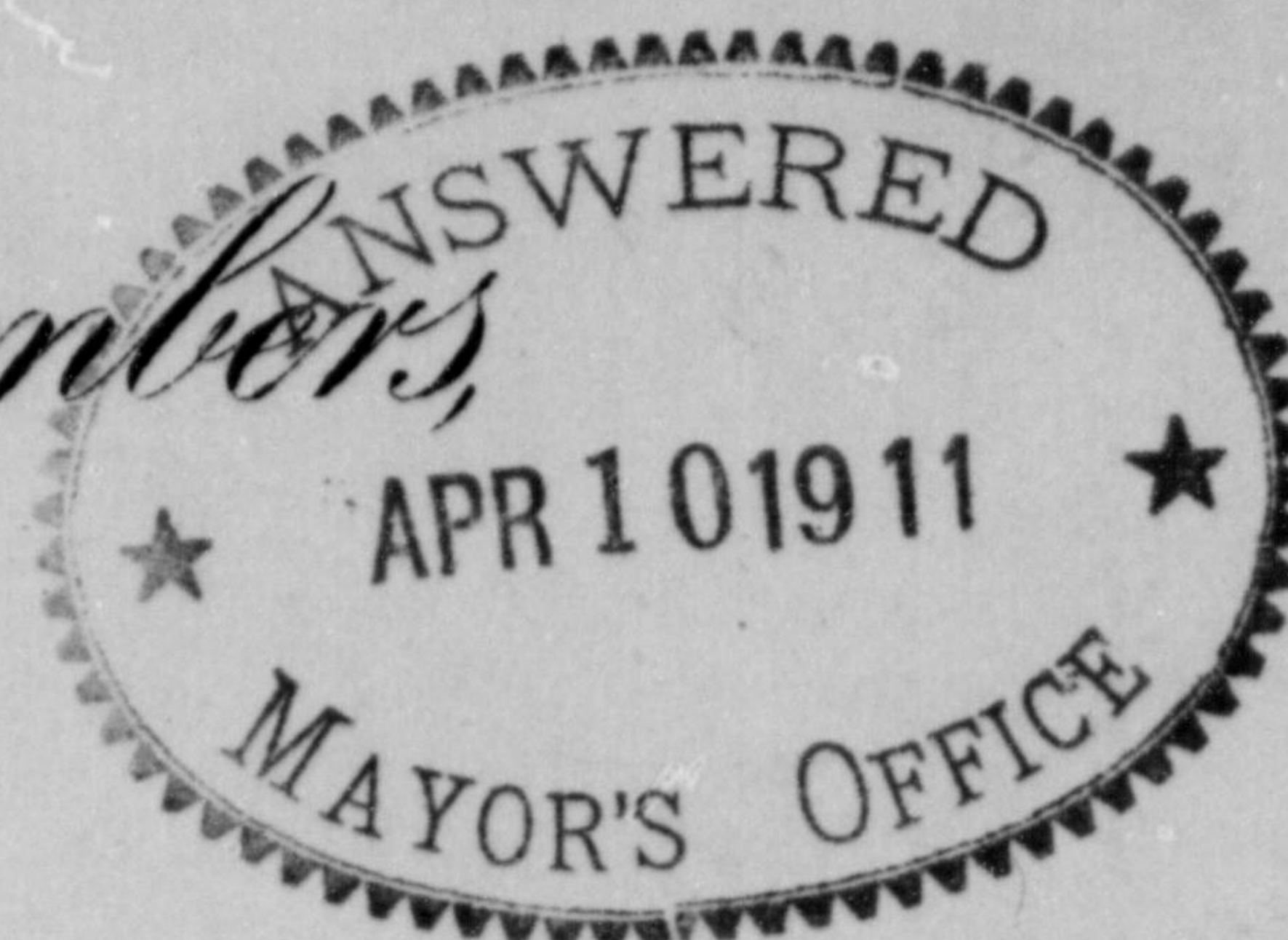
I might say that while the Corporation Counsel must of necessity handle these cases for this Bureau, the facts of each individual case were collected by the Plumbing Division of this Bureau, and I think you will agree with me, after seeing the enclosed statement, that considerable has already been accomplished. I want to assure you and your Board that this work will be continued to the best of my ability. More could possibly have been accomplished if it were not necessary, at the same time, to keep up the routine work of the Bureau. This crusade against unlicensed plumbers must of necessity be done by the same inspectors who are making the usual inspections of new work and alterations.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Rudolph P. Miller,

Superintendent of Buildings.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,



New York, April 7, 1911. *191*

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
 Mayor, City of New York.

Sir:-

Your letter requesting a report regarding the examination of Mr. J.H. Levin for a certificate of competency and Levin's letter to your Honor is before us.

We respectfully report that the Examining Board received Mr. Levin's application with the same regard and afforded him the same facilities to prove his competency and has shown him all the consideration that it does in any and all cases. Since his failure to qualify the Board has pointed out to him his lack and has advised him to the best of its judgment beyond the usual degree.

In the application two certified, master plumbers are required to swear that they know the applicant to be educated to the business. We learned from Mr. Levin himself as he was completing his examination that one of his vouchers had no personal knowledge of him as a plumber. The one who so falsely signed has since admitted to us that the only knowledge he had of Levin as a plumber was, that Levin had only told him that he was one.

But we did not let this prejudice our judgment as to Levin's qualifications. We found that he was like many country plumbers who had been educated in a kindred trade, and have picked up in later years, very imperfectly, some knowledge of the principles of plumbing, and acquired some degree of skill in manipulating plumbers' materials. After submitting his work and examination papers, followed by a little verbal examination, we found Levin was one such-- a dangerous mechanic to be entrusted to plan or to construct a house drainage system, or to extend or alter or make important repairs to a good system already installed.

Levin came to see us after he had been notified of his failure. We went over the why's and wherefore's of his failure with him exhaustively and as kindly as we could. He wrote us afterwards to know if he could do repair work as a privilege. His letter and our reply we enclose to your Honor as a part of our report. We would like to return it to our files if we may.

Very truly yours,

Edward Harraro
PRESIDENT.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, May 12, 1911. *191*

Pres Board of Plumb
June 8/11

Hon. Wm. J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

Sir:-

We desire to report to your Honor that we have made inquiry regarding the letter of complaint of unlicensed plumbers doing business in the city of New York addressed to your Honor by Frank H. Walkley under date of April 3rd last and referred to this Board by you under date of April 5th.

Responding to our request Mr. Walkley called at this office on April 13th, saying that a committee of plumbers would call within a week and submit information which they would collect. We have since tried to get at Mr. Walkley by letter without any notice by him. We have also made personal inquiry at his given address without seeing him. We found that he had no place of business other than the flat he occupied in the house which is given as his address upon his letter of complaint. His father stated to us that Walkley had no place of business other than his dwelling and employed no men. He had only a few weeks before moved to his present place of abode from the Westchester County borders of the city.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

No. 2.

New York, May 12, 1911. *191*

We left a verbal request that Mr. Walkley would call at our office but he has failed to do so. We are left to doubt the good faith of Mr. Walkley. While his general statement as to the violation of the plumbing laws is undoubtedly true, he is reckless in his measurement of it and by his failure to meet us he is apparently not well informed. Should Mr. Walkley appear later we will make a further report.

This incident, your Honor, brings forward the whole question of the enforcement of the plumbing laws and we beg permission to refer to our letters to you of April 20th and June 1st, 1910 and of March 2nd, 1911, wherein we have designed showing the situation regarding them; the neglect of them during past administrations of municipal affairs and the progress made by your promptings to this board in its work of fixing responsibility for their non-enforcement. It has been a question whether the plumbing laws could be enforced but that no longer exists. Mr. Rudolph Miller, Superintendent of Buildings of Manhattan Borough has cut out that question by actively pursuing the violaters during the past six months successfully, prosecuting many and compelling a still larger number to quit their unlawful work.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

No. 3.

New York, _____ *191*

He has found corporation counsel ready to go into court with his complaints and magistrates who will sustain the law.

But this action is taken only in Manhattan. It requires an authority more potent than an Examining Board of Plumbers to get the building superintendents of the other boroughs to move actively in a like manner to Mr. Miller. This Board has given the building superintendents, each of them, a copy of the corporation counsel's opinion that with them rests responsibility for the enforcement of the law. Had we jurisdiction further we would act but we cannot do more, we think, without exceeding our authority. We need not suggest to your Honor what this action should or might be, but we would be glad if the many greater and more urgent affairs of your high office would permit your Honor to give further direction in this matter. In connection herewith the circular letter attached hereto sent forth by the Master Plumbers Association of Brooklyn, manifests the degree of interest taken in this subject by the

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

No. 4.

New York, _____ *191*

organized trade of master plumbers. The Brooklyn men
have learned of the reform going on in Manhattan and
want it extended to the Brooklyn borough.

Yours respectfully,

Edwin Hammond
PRESIDENT.

P.S. We return herewith Mr. Walkley's letter to you.

E.H.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
New York,



May 18, 1911. 191

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
 Mayor, City of New York.

Sir:-

We herewith enclose correspondence and an opinion from the Corporation Counsel for your consideration and such action as in your wise judgment may be required.

This opinion of the Corporation Counsel's, together with the fact that Mr. Edward Murphy, one of your master plumber appointees to this board has been in ill health and unable to attend the office since about February 1, last, and who at last report, about a week ago, was still confined to his room, leaves this board without a quorum to transact executive business.

We need not further indicate to your Honor the embarrassment and difficulty of our situation and the urgency it suggests of the appointment of the required ex-officio members.

Very respectfully submitted-

Edwin Gaynor
 PRESIDENT.

COPY:

April 17, 1911.

Mr. Horace Loomis,
Chief Engineer in Charge,
Bureau of Sewers, Manhattan.

Dear Sir:-

At the request of Mr. Edwin Hayward, the president of this Board, I write to ask if it would be possible for you as an ex-officio member of the Board, to attend a meeting on Thursday next from 2 to 4 P.M.?

Two members of the Board are ill--Mr. Hayward and Mr. Murphy--and in order to get a quorum, thereby making it possible to transact the necessary business of the Board, your presence is requested.

Yours truly,

(Signed) John J. Donahue, Secretary.

COPY.

Offices of
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS
BIROUGH OF MANHATTAN.

April 19, 1911.

James J. Donahue, Esq., Secretary
of the Examining Board of Plumbers,
149 Church Street, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 17th inst. asking me to attend a meeting of the Board on Thursday next from 2 to 4 P.M. in order to form a quorum. I beg to say that while I should be much pleased to accommodate you in this respect, I have very grave doubts as to whether I am a legally qualified member of your Board. I find on consulting the Act of the Legislature under which this Board was constituted, that the members thereof shall be two Master Plumbers, one Journeyman Plumber, Chief Engineer of Plumbing and Drainage of the Board of Health, and Chief Engineer having charge of sewers in such City. But in the event of there being no such officers in such City, then any two other officers having charge or supervision of plumbing, drainage or sewerage, who the Mayor shall designate or appoint, may act in the capacity of members of the Board. At the present time, there is no such officer as Chief Engineer of Sewers of the City, that office being filled by five different persons in each of the five Boroughs, and as I have never been designated by the Mayor to perform the duties of Examiner, I fail to see how I can act. The law further requires that the members of the Board shall be actual residents of the City in which they are appointed. My residence is in the City of Mount Vernon, which would be another disqualification. Under these circumstances, I feel that I should not undertake to perform the duties of a member of your Board.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) Horace Loomis.
Chief Engineer in Charge
of Sewers.

COPY.

CITY OF NEW YORK
L A W D E P A R T M E N T
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL.
HALL OF RECORDS.

May 18, 1911.

Examining Board of Plumbers,
149 Church Street,
New York City.

S i r s:

I am in receipt of the following communication from
your Board dated May 15th, 1911:

"Section 40, Article 4, of the General City Law provides for the appointment by the Mayor of five persons as an Examining Board of Plumbers, of whom three shall be plumbers of stated experience " and the other members of such board shall be the chief inspector of plumbing drainage of the Board of Health of such city, or officer performing the duties of such inspector, and the chief engineer having charge of sewers in such city, and in the event of there being no such officers in such city, then any two officers having charge or supervision of the plumbing, drainage or sewerage, whom the Mayor shall designate or appoint."

Recently, due to the illness of two members of this Examining Board, the Secretary requested the attendance of Mr. Horace Loomis, Chief Engineer in charge of sewers of the Borough of Manhattan, who has been regarded as an ex-officio member, but has not taken part in the work of the Board during the term of the present Board. Mr. Loomis in replying to our Secretary's request stated that he thought he was not a legally qualified member of the Board. We enclose you his letter herewith and will ask you to kindly advise us in regard to it.

The Examining Board law was enacted before consolidation. Each city now comprising the greater city of New York was provided with its own Examining Board of Plumbers and its chief engineer of sewers. Now, as Mr. Loomis points out, the city has several departments of public works corresponding with the boroughs, each with its chief engineer of sewers. Which should be the chief engineer to serve and how should he be appointed? What action is required, if any, and by what official, to constitute the board so as to comply with the statute requirements? Please notice Mr. Loomis' non-residence within the city.

The question raised by Mr. Loomis should be considered also, it seems to us, in relation to the Chief Inspector of plumbing as an ex-officio member of the Board, for there are several chief inspectors of plumbing relatively to the city as there are chief engineers of sewers. The chief inspector of plumbing of Manhattan Borough's Department of Buildings has, during the existence of the present Board, acted as an ex-officio member without any question."

Enclosed with the above communication were copies of a letter dated April 17th, 1911, from your secretary to Horace Loomis, Chief Engineer in charge of sewers in the Borough of Manhattan, and his reply thereto dated April 19th, 1911.

From this correspondence it appears that after a request from your Board, Mr. Loomis while willing to accommodate you entertained grave doubt as to his right to act as an ex-officio member of the Examining Board of Plumbers after an examination of Sections 40 and 43 of the General City Law (Article 4- Plumbing and Draining), as his official designation is Chief Engineer in charge of sewers for the Borough of Manhattan and that each borough of the City of New York has such a Chief Engineer.

Section 40, Article 4 of the General City Law, provides as follows:

"Section 40. EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS IN THE CITIES. The existing boards for the examination of plumbers in cities of this state are continued and each shall hereafter be known as the examining board of plumbers. Such board in each city shall continue to consist of five persons to be appointed by the mayor, of whom two shall be employing or master plumbers of not less than ten years' experience in the business of plumbing, and one shall be a journeyman plumber of like experience, and the other members of such board shall be chief inspector of plumbing and drainage of the board of health of such city, or officer performing the duties of such inspector, and the chief engineer having charge of sewers in said city, but in the event of there being no such officers in such city, then any two other officers having charge or supervision of the plumbing, drainage or sewerage, whom the mayor shall designate or appoint, or two members of the board of health of such city having like duties or acting in like capacities."

Section 43, Article 4 of the General City Law, provides as follows:

Section 43. QUALIFICATIONS. All members of such board shall be citizens and actual residents of the cities in which they are appointed."

From these sections it appears that the Examining Board of Plumbers shall consist of five persons, who are citizens and actual residents of the city, to be appointed by the mayor, of whom two shall be employing or master plumbers of not less than ten years' experience in the business of plumbing, and one shall be a journeyman plumber of like experience. The two remaining members are also to be appointed by the mayor. If there be a chief inspector of plumbing and drainage in the Board of Health or other officer performing the duties of such inspector, and a chief engineer having charge of sewers in this city, then they are to constitute the remainder of the board when so designated or appointed. But if there be no such persons, as you state to be the fact, then the mayor may designate or appoint (1) any two other officers having charge or supervision of the plumbing, drainage or sewerage, or (2) two members of the Board of Health of such city having such duties or acting in like capacities.

Thus, it may be seen that the two remaining members of the Examining Board of Plumbers shall be designated or appointed from those specified in Section 40.

I therefore advise you that neither the Chief Inspector of Plumbing in the office of the Board of Health nor the Chief Engineer in charge of sewers in the office of the

President of the Borough of Manhattan shall act as members of the Examining Board of Plumbers unless so designated or appointed by the Mayor.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) E.L. Sterling

Acting Corporation Counsel.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, May 29, 1911. *191*

Hon. William J. Gaynor,
Mayor, City of New York.

Sir:-

I should inform you that we have just learned of the death of Mr. Edward Murphy, one of your appointees as a member of this Examining Board. He died on the 27th inst.

Very respectfully yours,

Carvin Raymond
PRESIDENT.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN.
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The Bureau of Buildings, for the Borough of Manhattan.
Office, 220 Fourth Avenue, S. W. Cor. 18th Street.

Certificate of Registration of Master Plumber.

Certificate No.

1036

When issued

MAY 31 1911

Name

Aug C Schwager.

Residence

316 Amsterdam Ave

Shop

125 W 65 St.

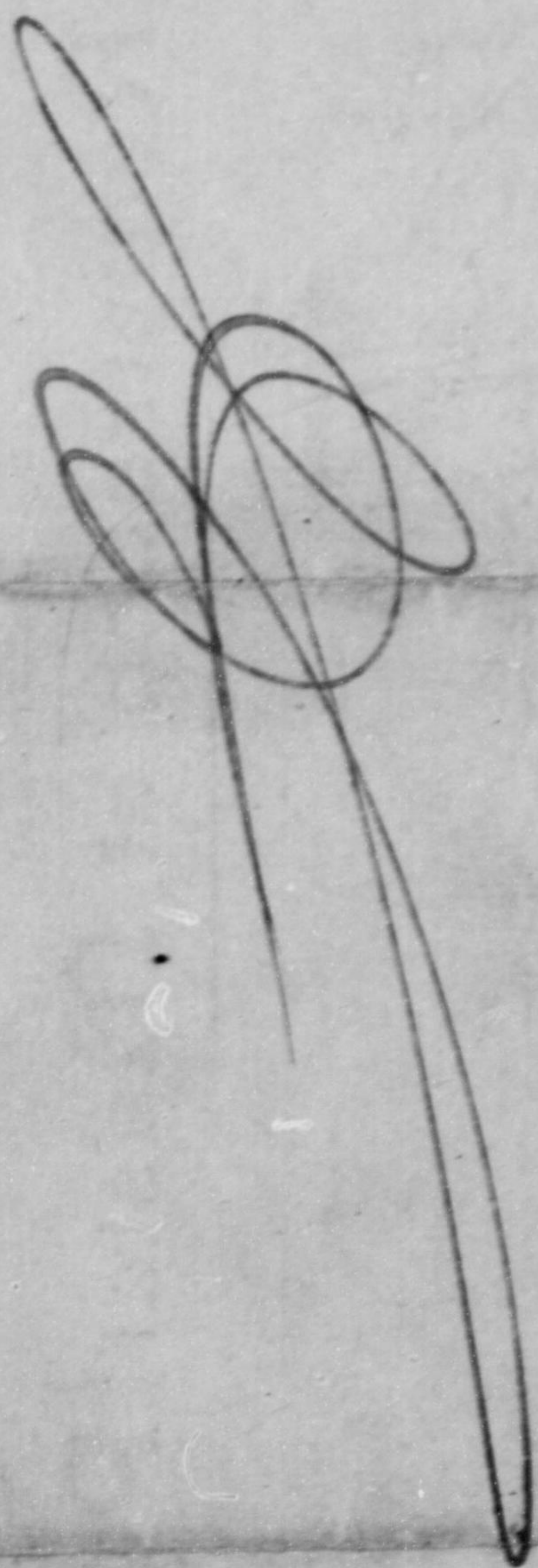
Rudolph J. Miller

Superintendent of Buildings of the Borough of Manhattan

JAMES COSTIGAN

558.
The reason in not re-
gistering in March
was sick with Rh-
eumatism

Aug. C. Schwager.



TELEPHONE 1696 COLUMBUS

AUG. C. SCHWAGER

LICENSED AND REGISTERED

CONTRACTOR

JOBING ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY

1941-1943-1945 BROADWAY

SHOP 125 WEST 65TH STREET

NEW YORK

PLUMBING

STEAM

FURNACES

ROOFS

GAS FITTING

HOT WATER

RANGES

LEADERS

ERA No 558. Oct 7th 1893.

Register Oct 1910 - 1911 not registered

Office of
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
Manhattan.

New York,
May 31st 1911

Robert Adamson Esq.
Sec. to the Mayor

Dear Sir:-

I have made
enquiry into the standing of the person whose
Card you handed me on the evening of the 29th
inst and herewith returned.

By the records of the Examining Board
of Plumbers he was certified during the year
1893. He is not known to any in this Office.

By enquiry at the Manhattan Building Department I
learn that he registered there very late last year
and he ~~he~~ should have registered during March
this year but has not. This failure to register
at regular time indicates that he does not
engage in important work. He is not known
in the Building Department to those with whom
he would come in contact with there nor he doing
much in general plumbing. He is not connected
with the trade associations. In his modest
situation it is not easy to gather particulars

Office of
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.

149 Church Street,
Manhattan.

(2)

New York,

Regarding him, without exposing the object of the inquiry which I have not deemed proper.

I think his business is confined to small work of repairs. A dealer in plumbing supplies knowing the man told me yesterday that he would neither say anything for nor against him. He may be a good worthy man, ~~but~~ well qualified for the position he desires, but you will see that I cannot form any opinion of his moral qualifications.

I have earnestly endeavored to gather more particular information with a desire to make a certain definite and helpful report but I regret my inability to do so.

The card by the way would lead one to suppose that the party possesses offices and a shop, separately, indicating extensive business. The numbers of Broadway printed in the card are of stores variously occupying and are all the Broadway numbers of a corner theatre building. The whole building is used as a theatre except the ground

Office of
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
Manhattan,

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New York,

Flour, the party of this inquiry occupying
the extreme rear end on the side street.
in which all his business seems to be
transacted. As indicating the character and
extent of his business the Card is delusive.

Very respectfully yours,
Edwin Kayman.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, October 4, 1911. *191*

Robert Adamson, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor.

Sir:-

The facts relating to the complaint of Mr. William Meyer, dated September 30, to his Honor, the Mayor, transmitted to us for explanation, are as follows:

Mr. William Meyer passed our examination favorably the early part of February last. It is the practice of the Examining Board following favorable examinations, to inspect the shop of the applicant and when found by signs and some equipment to indicate an intention of the applicant to establish himself in business on his own account, the Board by further action issues the certificate. The writer hereof went to the address of Mr. Meyer, following the notice of Feb'y 10, saw only Mrs. Meyer, who stated that Mr. Meyer had had at some previous time a shop in the vicinity but had not then. She stated, I think, that her husband was then in the employ of some one, he was not regularly in business for himself but might open a place a little later on.

I told Mrs. Meyer to inform her husband of my calling, to tell him that when he had gotten his shop ready to notify the Board, that we would inspect it and if found all right we would issue a certificate to him.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, Oct. 4, 1911. *191*

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Unfortunately, by mistake, without having heard from Mr. Meyer that he had opened a shop, the postcard notice was sent him to call for a certificate. Upon his calling Examiner Donahue explained to Mr. Meyer the error in addressing the postcard to him, and also the status of his application. We have not heard from him since.

The Board will gladly issue a certificate to Mr. Meyer when it is satisfied that a proper use is to be made of it. We take this precaution in every case to guard against the certificates getting into wrong hands or controlled by wrong parties. We are following the usual course and making no requirement of Mr. Meyer that we have not found necessary to a proper care in the issuance of our certificates.

Respectfully submitted-

Edwin Hayward
PRESIDENT.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
New York, November 3, 191*7*

Robert Adamson, Esq.,
Sec'y to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 2nd instant, we find that Henry Pape of Stapleton, Richmond Borough, has taken several examinations for a certificate of competency during the past two years. He has failed in each instance but his latest papers show so much improvement that they indicate that it should not be difficult for him to pass successfully if he applies himself to just a little preparation for another.

He may make application for another examination any time after November 30th. If he has not already been advised by us he should call here. We will then inform him as to wherein he failed and advise him as we can see we may.

Yours truly,

Edwin Hayward
PRESIDENT.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, December 9, 1911. *191*

James Matthews, Esq.,
Executive Sec'y to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter enclosing one from Andrew J. Graf, relating to his examination before this Board has been duly received.

Mr. Graf failed, not badly, but fell short too much in his knowledge of the elementary principles of his trade for us to certify him as a master of it. If he applies himself to obtaining a little instruction he should be able to pass upon another effort. He may make application for a re-examination three months from December 7th, the date of his failure.

As an evidence of Mr. Graf's lack of knowledge, he innocently speaks of our action as an injury to his business, which he has conducted unlawfully for a period of four months and is liable to the penalty of law for so doing.

Respectfully yours,

Edwin Kayman
PRESIDENT.

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,
New York, December 21, 1911 *1911*

Robert Adamson, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 19th inst., enclosing the letter of Herman Stork addressed to his Honor, the Mayor, we would explain that the Board found Mr. Stork very deficient, coming, in our judgment, within the requirement of a period of six(6) months between examination and re-examination.

I enclose herewith a marked copy of the rule, applied in this case, adopted during the early days of this Board. We think it has worked fairly and operates to the advantage of the deficient applicants.

Yours truly,

Edwin Raymond
PRESIDENT.

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RULES

OF



The Examining Board of Plumbers

OF THE

City of New York

149 CHURCH STREET

1910

Rules governing Applications for Certificates of Competency

1. Applicants for examination for certificates of competency must be residents of the city of New York. They must present their applications in person, make sworn statements of the length of time they served as apprentices, by whom employed as journeymen and the length of time they have worked at the trade of plumbing.

Applications must be accompanied by sworn statements, and the presence in each case for identification of two registered master plumbers of the city of New York, that they know the applicant to be a practical plumber.

2. The examination fee shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00), payable upon filing the application.

3. Applications will not be acted upon until all the foregoing requirements are complied with.

4. Applications may be filed daily between 9 A. M. and 4 P. M., excepting Saturdays. Applications may be filed on Saturdays from 9 A. M. to 12 M.

5. Examination days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Examinations commence at 1 P. M.

X 6. Applicants failing to pass their examinations may apply for re-examinations after a period of not less than three months, or longer, at the discretion of the Board. X

7. The fee for re-examination shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00).

8. Applicants for certificates of competency failing to appear for examination within six (6) months of the date of filing their applications shall, after notice has been

mailed to them, forfeit their application fee and their application shall be recorded as abandoned.

9. Any statement made and sworn to by the applicant for a certificate of competency, or by either of his vouchers, with the knowledge of the applicant, if found to be false will nullify the application and the application fee will be forfeited.

*Office**Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.**149 Church Street,**New York,* December 30, 1911. *191*

Robert Adamson, Esq.,
Secretary to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith, in compliance with his Honor, the Mayor's request, a statement of the principal work of the Examining Board of Plumbers during the year 1911.

The limitations of law provide but little scope for action by us upon any plan we might contemplate for 1912.

Under date of November 21st last, by request of Hon. Wm. A. Prendergast, Comptroller, who was then looking for new sources of revenue for the city, I wrote the following:

"Considering that the Examining Board provisions, instituted for the advancement of the public welfare, are found to operate to the further advancement of the interests of the people who take the examinations and secure the Examining Board's certificate of competency, we think that the direct beneficiaries of them might justly pay more than a nominal fee for them."

"We gathered data from a number of the large cities of the country and found that the licensed or certified plumbers generally, in one way or another, pay more than the certified plumbers of New York do for these public privileges."

Office
Examining Board of Plumbers,
City of New York.
149 Church Street,

New York, December 30, 1911. *191*

Robert Adamson, Esq.

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"I would suggest that a fee of \$5.00 for the examination and \$25.00 for issuing a certificate of competency to a successful applicant would not be unjust and would be regarded as fair by the plumbing trade. I do not believe it would be a hardship to anyone well-fitted and prepared to engage in business as a master plumber."

Before the correspondence referred to I had taken occasion to make this proposition to his Honor, the Mayor, and refer to it now, it appearing opportune. In our judgment the Examining Board of Plumbers should be more nearly self-sustaining and may be made so by the means we suggest. Before the days of the Examining Board master plumbers paid \$30.00 for a license issued by the Department of Public Works. The only license fees under the present law is \$5.00 for our certificate of competency.

Very respectfully,

Edwin *Hayward*
PRESIDENT.