

**BOX**

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**FOLDER**

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**City Ice Plant**

**1913**

June 10th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. Bolton:

I am not surprised to receive your letter about the proposed new city ice plant. The statement given out is that certain engineers approve the enterprise. The Board of Estimate & Apportionment never appointed any engineers to examine into such a matter, that I am aware of, and I never heard of any reports to that Board. You say that you ~~was~~ appointed by Borough President McAneny, with other engineers, to look into the matter, and that you are convinced that the city could not profitably manufacture ice. If the city is going into the manufacture of ice for the poor we ought to do it after a committee has examined thoroughly into the matter. But you know an election is coming on and the matter is deemed one to catch votes with, and some people do not want to wait for a careful investigation. And I must say that I do not understand that there are so many poor people asking us to make ice for them. As soon as the matter is mentioned you hear it said by officials and others that the poor people on the East side must have ice made for them. I think I am as familiar with the East side as any member of the present city government. I have taken occasion to look all over the East side. I deny that the people on the East side are paupers. On the contrary I find them to be an industrious well to do community. The percentage of pauperism among them is small. This continual libel on the East side of their being paupers and criminals is annoying to those who live there, and to a great many other people. I happen to know that there are very few people that are asking that the city provide them with ice. During the last three years I have advertised to the public through the newspapers that any one who is too poor to pay for ice at the prevailing rates may go to any of the charitable societies, or headquarters of the settlement

workers, and obtain ice tickets without charge. I expect to do the same thing again in a few days. I am not at liberty to reveal the name of the person who provides these tickets. I hope he will let me reveal his name this year. But the quantity of ice that is taken in this way is extremely small. It would surprise you to learn how small it is. I have not the figures in my mind just now, but if you are interested to know them I will have them sent to you. Let us have an end of all this libeling of the people of the East side by talking of their pauperism, and of their need for the city to furnish them with free ice and free this and free that. There are some people very solicitous about the condition of the people on the East side, especially one day each year, namely, election day.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

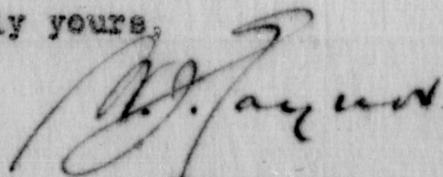
Reginald Pelham Bolton, Esq.,  
55, Liberty Street,  
New York City.

June 14th, 1913. s

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I thank you for sending me the article about ice. The resolution passed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the city to go into the manufacture of ice was not considered by any committee of the board, nor by the board. One member of the board says he has studied it, but none of his studies or reports have ever reached me. The notion seems to be for the city to manufacture ice for those who cannot pay for ice. When you ask them where all these poverty stricken people are they tell you they are on the "East Side." I deny it. I have made myself very familiar with the East Side. The people of the East Side are not a lot of paupers by any means. There are no more paupers there, relatively, than in other parts of the city. They are an industrious, honest and prudent people. They are well fed and well clothed. Their children are healthy and clean. Did you ever go into the schools down there and see these fine children? This eternal talking about the poverty of the East Side is annoying. There is no such condition there. And the people of the East Side are getting tired of heaving this thing about their poverty and wretchedness and vice. A lot of people are collecting money and living on this false notion about the East Side.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mayor.

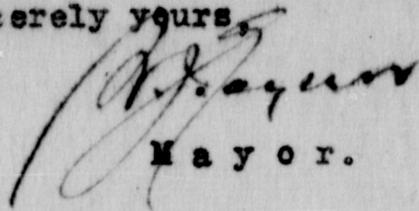
William Wilson, Esq.,  
135, Sterling Place,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Aug. 14, 1913. k

Dear Sir:

Your letter of August 11th with regard to a municipal ice plant is at hand. Yes, our Board of Aldermen appropriated \$40,000 to build such a plant and I vetoed it, on the ground that the money was needed for more pressing purposes. I do not see how we can reasonably spend money in the manufacture of ice until our streets are paved and many other necessary things are done.

Sincerely yours,

  
M a y o r.

Hon. Frederick C. Bogk,  
309, Railway Exchange Building,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.