

BOX

17

FOLDER

180

Politics

1910-1913

OFFICE OF
ERNEST HARVIER,
1193 Broadway.



April 4, 1910.

My dear Judge:

I am addressing you as to some visible political conditions quite unusual in their popular reflex. Usually after a local election in New York, in which Tammany candidates have been defeated, wholesome changes are effected within its own ranks, its incoming opponents disappoint many hopes and expectations, and there is a reaction on the rebound by which Tammany regains much of the support it previously lost. This year the Tammany men seem to be like that bellringer in the belfry who was so deadened by the sound that he could not hear the bell. They have made no changes of policy, instituted no progressive reforms, neither supported nor antagonized those now in office who defeated them, and are perceptibly still losing ground. Two of their district leaders have died; seven have been restired from offices they held; foreclosure suits are pending for the repossession of their headquarters in three districts, and in eight lack of local support has compelled the leaders to desert their club rooms for others less expensive.

To the rapid changing in the character of our voting population, the Tammany men have seemed unable to adjust themselves, and the detachment of Democrats of character, influence and supposed independence from them has been marked. Correspondingly, as a result of all this, there has been a great increase in the number of anti-Tammany Democrats, and should the line of demarcation be drawn between them and those still favorable to Tammany, as I hope it won't be, the weakness of Tammany, destitute of newspaper support and dismembered in many districts, would be a surprise except to those who utilize the opportunities they possess for knowing what is going on.

OFFICE OF
ERNEST HARVIER,
1193 Broadway.

- 2 -

So pervasive is now this sentiment that any candidate for high office supposed to be favored by Tammany is injured by such support. The great prescience you showed in your declaration during the campaign that you would not be swallowed by the tiger, is being abundantly vindicated. To the extent that political conditions have entered, ~~into~~ the popularity of your administration with the voters has been in inverse ratio to its recognition or supposed recognition of Tammany.

It is not necessary for one to sleep in the Temple of Ino to learn a lesson of plain import. In the popular estimate, exaggerated as it may be, Tammany when defeated in November, was not far from justifying the description of Franklin "the numberless and needless places, salaries, perquisites, bribes, false accounts or no accounts and contracts and jobs" of the government of England in 1775.

Since January 1, a feeling of relief from thralldom has increased the political independence of Democrats in all Democratic constituencies and as I have never before seen such a condition in New York, following a Tammany defeat, I have been making some study of the causes and of their relation, if any, to the success of your administration.

Yours sincerely,

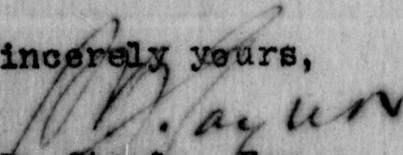
Ernest Harvier

Oct. 4, 1910. m

Dear Mr. Steele:

I thank you for your kind letter of October 3rd. I do not attach any importance to national or state partisanship in municipal elections, and the man who does seems to me hardly sane. Local affairs have nothing to do with national affairs. But it takes some time for everyone to perceive this. I have been preaching it for 25 years, and yet when I ran for office I was treated as a Tammany partisan, whereas I never had anything to do with Tammany in my life. Tammany is a local organization here in Manhattan, whereas I have lived over in Brooklyn since a boy. Nor was I nominated by Tammany, as some good people like you kept saying. I was nominated by a convention of all the five boroughs of the city.

Sincerely yours,


Charles R. Steele, Esq.,
135, Broadway,
N. Y. City.

OFFICE OF
ERNEST HARVIER
1193 BROADWAY

TELEPHONE, 485 MADISON SQUARE

NEW YORK, November 3, 1910

My dear Judge:

At the Carnegie Hall meeting which I attended last night, I watched closely the temper of the audience, which was a large one, on hearing your letter, and was very glad to observe that it was most hearty — particularly in the downstairs part of the house where Republicans and independents predominated.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest Harvier

Oct. 25, 1911.k

Dear Alderman Dowling:

Now that you are running for office again I want to do what I can to increase your majority. I have now worked with you for nearly two years and I want to certify to your intelligence and your fidelity to your public duties. I know of no one who has been more helpful to me than you have. You have uniformly worked for the best interests of the city, and the many times that you have come to inform me of things which were not right has enabled me to do things to which my attention might not have been otherwise directed. Your influence in the Board of Aldermen has been uniformly good, and as leader of that body, sometimes under difficulties, you have displayed great tact and good judgment.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. Taylor
M a y o r.

Hon. Frank L. Dowling,
Alderman of the 7th District,
New York City.

Nov. 3, 1911. k

Dear Mr. De Witt:

Your letter of this date is at hand. That the Hearst league convention nominated Willett is as well known to you as to me. What induced it to do so? In fact the nomination was fixed up with the Hearst league first, as I understand. In order to ascertain why and how the Hearst convention came to nominate Willett, and what the inducements were, it will be necessary, I suppose, to get at the Hearst leaders in Queens county, like Sheriff Quinn of Long Island City. Of course in the multitude of my duties I have not had the time to trace, statements and settle on witnesses. Hearst and his leaders are all shouting that what they call "Tammany" nominated Willett. How can that be? Tammany is the local Democratic organization in Manhattan. It could nominate no one over in Brooklyn or Queens. What could it have to do with the Hearst convention that nominated Willett? Really, are people to be humbugged so easily? Your letter is joined in by an assistant district attorney of New York county. I do not include him in this answer, as the district attorney of New York county has no jurisdiction whatever in your county. If there be anything

further I can do for you in the matter I shall be very
glad to do it.

Very truly yours,

W. J. Sawyer
Mayor.

Hon. Fred G. De Witt,
District Attorney Queens County,
Long Island City, N. Y.

RECEIVED

NOV 8 1911

ANSWERED

MATTHEW P. BREEN,
CITY MAGISTRATEBOARD OF CITY MAGISTRATES
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FIRST DIVISION2214 Avenue du Parc
Brooklyn
Nov. 7th 1911

Hon. Wm. M. Adams

My dear Judge,

Mayor Gaynor has won the battle in this County. I sat on the platform in Carnegie Hall Saturday night last and the Mayor's speech was the most pungent and effective I ever listened to. I was afraid it would not be published, but I was mistaken. On Sunday night and Monday I found that almost every man I met had read it. Thus the change that you and I agreed was very much needed. It was easy to see as yesterday was advancing that a great shift had set in. I felt it, so did every body.

Our friend Block has done great work for Daniel H.

Sincerely yours
Matthew P. Breen

I am going out to vote, but feel certain of the result that my vote will aid in.

Nov. 9/1911

Memo to Mayor's Speech
at Carnegie and
enclosing letter
of Judge Green

300 MULBERRY STREET
NEW YORK

November 8, 1911.

Dear Mayor Gaynor:

Personal
I am sending you this letter because it expresses what I have heard on every side since Saturday night. Indeed, the consensus of opinion is that if your speech had been made a week before it would have been most effective throughout Greater New York. It especially delighted me, because I had, as Police Commissioner, a "run in" with one of the gentlemen of the double-barreled names, and I know what you said was most thoroughly appreciated by a multitude of people.

This letter of Judge Breen's was written on Election Day, as you see. The Judge, as you know, has been long in public life and has had a most unusual acquaintanceship with men and conditions here. His opinions are marked by knowledge at first hand and unusual foresight and sound sense.

Believe me, always, with high regards and good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

William M. Wood

Hon. Wm. J. Gaynor,
M a y o r ,
New York City.

Nov. 10, 1911. k

Dear Mr. Harvier:

Your election forecast was as accurate as I ever knew such a forecast to be. It turned out exactly the truth. I do not know anything about Donohoe, and I do not know why you connect me with him. If I were contradicting all such nonsense I would be busy all the time.

Very truly yours,

W. J. Gaynor
M a y o r.

Ernest Harvier, Esq.,
1193, Broadway,
Manhattan.

Dec. 12, 1911. k

Dear Mr. Edwards:

You ask what other duties a district leader should render to his followers than securing for them employment at the expense of the city. I fear I am not an expert in such matters. I never had anything to do with what is called practical politics, or patronage. But I should think that he ought to be an intellectual leader. He ought to get his followers together in clubs and furnish them with addresses and arguments. I have more faith in an idea in politics than in patronage.

Very truly yours,

Wm. J. Van Hook
Mayor.

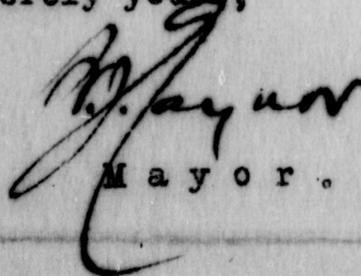
John Edwards, Esq.,
47, West 34th Street,
Manhattan.

February 6th, 1912.M

Dear Mr. Bainbridge:

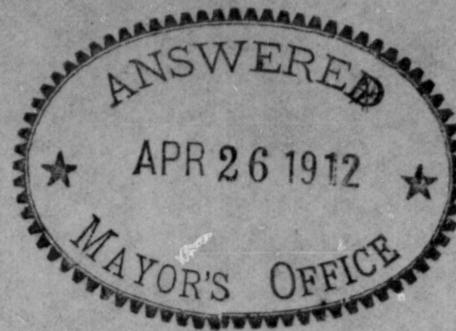
I have not the slightest notion whom the Governor intends to appoint for any of the vacant offices. I am as much in the dark as you are. Why do you not become chairman of the state committee? It seems to me it would be well for you to see the leaders down this way on that subject. You may introduce yourself by this letter if you wish.

Sincerely yours,


Mayor.

R. W. Bainbridge, Esq.,
2, Cumberland Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

ERNEST HARVIER
1193 BROADWAY
NEW YORK



(Copy)

April 26, 1912.

My dear Judge:

I acknowledge your letter. Accumulating circumstances are making it almost impossible for me to hold my political friends in line, and I appeal to your sense of fairness and justice, if we have not good ground for grievance. These are some of the circumstances:

1. For the position in street openings for which I recommended Mr. Franklin, the appointee is Charles H. Srtong, the gentleman who organized the City Club meetings against your Charter, and who presided at the anti-Gaynor, anti-Charter meeting at Cooper Union on Oct. 7.

2. On March 27, you wrote me: "Mr. Fosdick contradicts in writing every statement in your letter about him." Mr. Porter F. Atlee, as I wrote you, started on a ten weeks European vacation on April 10th. Mr. Fosdick has recommended an increase of his salary of \$500. Mr. Hilty, a political adventurer from Colorado, with whose doings you are familiar, is scheduled for a raise of \$250 (he asked for \$500) and Mr. Ragan, a political adventurer from Montana, is scheduled for an increase of \$500, both by Mr. Fosdick. I saw within three feet of you on the platform of Carnegie Hall at your first Manhattan meeting, organized by Democratic Union (our organization), Municipal Democracy (J.J. Murphy, Tenement House Department) H.W. Bridges, (gas suits) and William Lustgarten (Law Department proceedings) and Voters Federation, when you commended "New York for New Yorkers."

3. An Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Law Department at \$4,500, appointed since you became Mayor, is stumping Massachusetts for Governor Wilson as his personal representative, along with W. S. McNary, and he has become involved in a controversy with George

ERNEST HARVIER
1193 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

- 2 -

Frederick Williams. The Boston Herald of yesterday (Thursday) reports Williams as having been "called to account" by this gentleman. They are to have a joint debate. It seems to some of our members that all this is not compatible with the failure of your Law Department to show even the scantiest recognition, since you have been Mayor, to some of those who did active campaigning for Gaynor in New York.

4. On August 2, 1910, you gave me a letter to Mr. Ferguson, City Record, in reference to an assistant editor there. (Mr. Ellis is the editor.) I saw Ferguson about it. In March of this year Mr. Ferguson applied to the Board of Estimate for an assistant editor at \$2,700. When I called his attention to it, he wrote that I was "misinformed." The plan is to create an exempt place and it is still pending.

5. The Times of to-day calls attention to a matter of which I have spoken with the Secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association. The places in Fire Prevention Bureau were distributed among the Tammany and Brooklyn district leaders -- one for each, and one over for an Independence League man. In deference to existing political conditions, I did not feel justified in opposing any of the Tammany selections, but when in one case a man who former Chamberlain James J. Martin had at work against you in 1909, and in another an Independence League man was selected, our people do not consider, and have ~~told~~ me that they do not consider, this in accordance with the public assurance I made to them as to your sense of fairness.

Those members of our organization who have been appointed by, or through you, have in every case made good conspicuously, and our members who have devoted time and money in your behalf, and have consistently sustained your

ERNEST HARVIER
1193 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

- 3 -

administration since -- just saving the Democratic ticket in Manhattan and Bronx from defeat last year -- do not know why they should be discriminated against. I confess that I don't either.

Yours sincerely,
Ernest Harvier

The vacancy in the Commissioner of Accounts office, referred to in your letter, occurred April 15 by the resignation of P.J. Maloney to take a place under Andrews. It is none of our business how the change occurred, but I will tell you: Maloney did not send his resignation to Fosdick, but to his Tammany district leader, who sent it to the Mayor's office accompanying the name of their candidate for the vacancy, and it was thus transferred to Fosdick.

Oct. 28, 1912. k

Dear Mr. Harvier:

Since so many voters are without information to enable them to make an intelligent selection in Massachusetts, is it not just as well that they should refrain from voting as they do on candidates concerning whom they are not informed? In this state we vote wholesale by a cross at the head of the column for those we are informed about and those we are not informed about alike.

Sincerely yours,

W. K. Taylor
M a y o r.

Ernest Harvier, Esq.,
119 3, Broadway,
Manhattan.

TELEPHONE
MADISON SQUARE 485

ERNEST HARVIER
1193 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

January 10, 1913.

My dear Judge:

Speaking of the Massachusetts system of voting and of the proposed adoption of that system in elections here, you have called attention to the fact that voters who did not show sufficient intelligence to mark all candidates for all the offices were entitled to no special consideration. I am bound to say that some of the results of our election here justify very fully what you said: In this county 13,576 voters and 14,413 (a larger number) in Kings handed in blank State tickets, 27,989 in two counties not voting for any State, Congressional, judicial or legislative candidates. 7,879 other voters in New York and 4,593 in Kings voted for Governor only upon one of the tickets and ignored all other nominations.

Yours faithfully,

Ernest Harvier

Warner

Natl. Politics -
Gene

Oct. 25, 1910. m

Dear Mr. Warner:

I quite agree with you in all that you say. It no more matters what this scamp Hearst says than it matters what Harry K. Thaw says, but it a grievous thing for a man who has been President of the United States to recklessly utter things about candidates which prove on the merest investigation to be false and without a leg to stand on. I regret exceedingly to see Mr. Roosevelt doing the like. The American people look upon one who has been President of the United States as a sacred character, prudent of conduct and speech, who now and then is called upon to say something to enlighten the whole people without regard to politics or party. I regret to see this unbroken tradition from the foundation of our government cast to the winds.

Very truly yours,

Walter E. Warner, Esq.,
44, Court Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

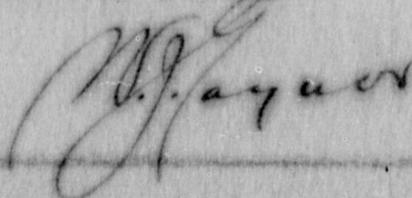
W. E. Warner

Nov. 2, 1910. m

Dear Mr. Mayham:

V I regret to say that my voice and general health do not permit of my attending a public meeting, but I am very anxious to see Dr. Wilson elected Governor. I have followed his canvass with great interest, and have felt a strong wish to give him a helping hand, if that were possible for me to do.

Sincerely yours,



Ray E. Mayham, Esq.,
772, Broad Street,
Newark, N. J.

George L. Day m. 19.
Office res.
101 W. 4th St. N.Y.

August 8th, 1911.

Dear Governor Wilson:

Before the receipt of your letter recommending Mr. Fulton McManon for appointment as a Trustee of the College of the City of New York, I had already appointed William B. McCombs, a graduate of Princeton, and endorsed by you, as I understood.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Day
Mayor.

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
Governor State of New Jersey,
Trenton, New Jersey.

Will you please furnish
the information asked for by the

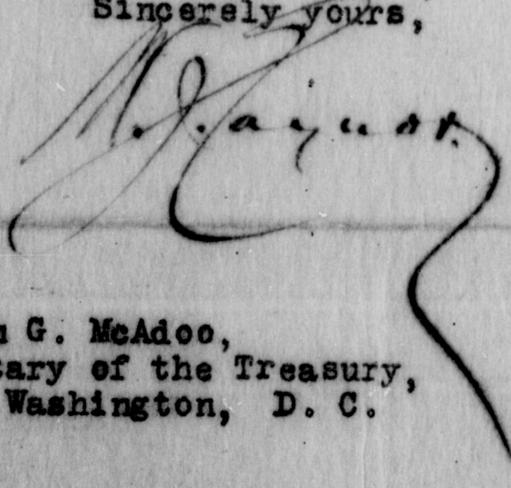
Mar. 14, 1913.k

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I suppose it will be conceded that either the Collectorship or the Surveyorship of the Port should go to Brooklyn. If the Surveyorship goes there, I am able to recommend to you a first class man for the place in Michael H. Butler. He is a man of substance and position, well educated, and of high business intelligence. He knows you. He met you at Baltimore at the Convention, but you may not remember him.

Believe me, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. J. Quay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the recipient.

Hon. William G. McAdoo,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

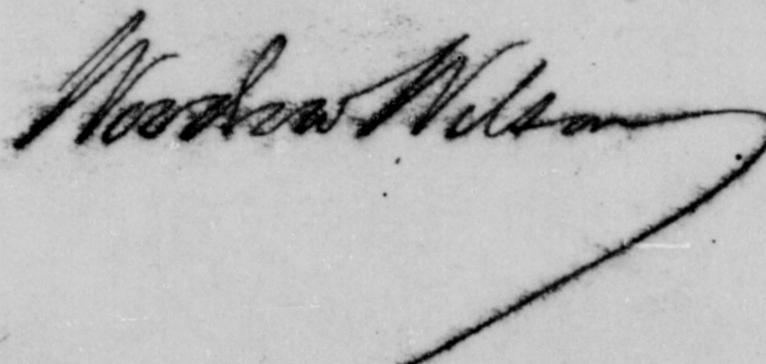
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1913.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

I thank you for your letter of March 14th with respect to Mr. Michael H. Butler. I shall be glad to bear in mind what you say when the question comes up of appointing a Surveyor of the Port of New York.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Woodrow Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and then curves back down.

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

April 4th, 1913. s

Mr. President:

I am glad indeed to
indorse Mr. Justice Gerard of our
Supreme Court in his application
to be made an Ambassador. It seems
to me that he is eminently fitted
for such a place, and in it would
be a credit to our country.

Respectfully yours,

W. J. Quinn
M a y o r.

Honorable Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

✓

The City of New York
Office of the
Commissioner of Public Works
Borough of Brooklyn

July 1, 1913.

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I find here at my office your very cordial note of this date. In reply will say that a majority of the Aldermen of this Borough have indicated their willingness to vote for me to succeed Borough President Steers. I have no reason to think other than that they will so vote. Several of them voluntarily spoke to me at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen this afternoon, and I think they would be quite agreeable to your calling them together to elect a successor to Borough President Steers, even at short notice.

In reply to your query as to my legal

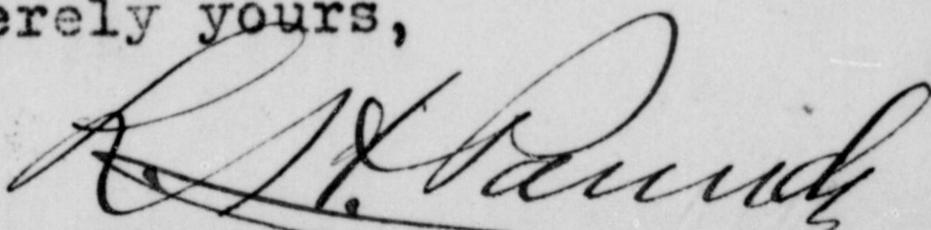
Local
Politics - Genl

✓

right to act as Borough President after Borough President Steers' resignation has been accepted I will say, upon looking the matter up, I think you are right, and that I could not do so, and that the Borough would really be without a President during the interim between the acceptance of Borough President Steers' resignation and the election of a successor by the Board of Aldermen.

I appreciate most fully the kindness of your favor and I can assure you I shall esteem it a privilege to serve as a member of the Board of Estimate under you as Mayor.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. H. Randall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Commissioner of Public Works.

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