

**BOX  
038  
FOLDER  
326**

**Licenses, Commissioner of**

**1913**





OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER  
SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

February 20, 1913.

Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, in which you outline the proposition of an efficiency exhibit and ask me to state what methods and results could be shown by the Commissioner of Licenses.

An exhibit of efficiency methods of this office would necessarily be limited because the duties of the office are to enforce the specific provisions of a statute which are defined rather strictly.

But I could show, in small space, the methods of investigating complaints, of recovering moneys for the victims of extortion without recourse to the tediousness of the law courts, and the methods used in forcing intelligence offices to investigate the records of servants, thus protecting the employers to a large degree from dishonest and undesirable servants. I could also show the means taken for the safeguarding of the rights of theatrical performers, most of whom procure their engagements through theatrical employment agencies.





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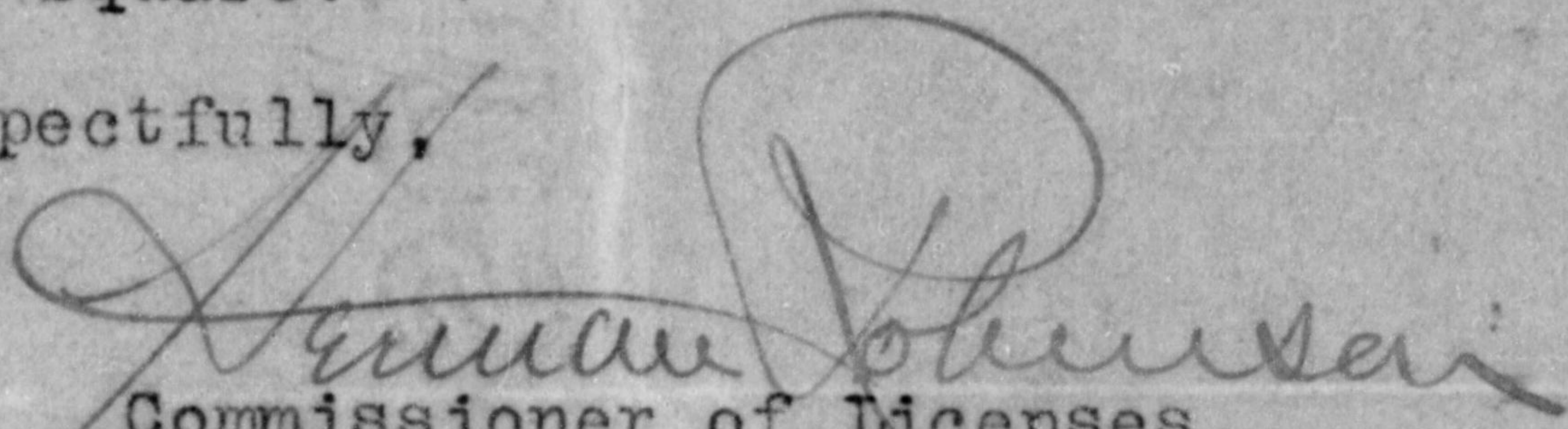
Mr. Robert Adamson:

- 2 -

February 20, 1913.

Signs and lettered announcements describing the matter thus outlined could be prepared within a week. The cost would be about \$75. and the space required would be about that necessary to display a screen eight feet square.

Respectfully,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



OFFICE OF THE  
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FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
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SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



March 11th, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

Mayor of the City of New York.

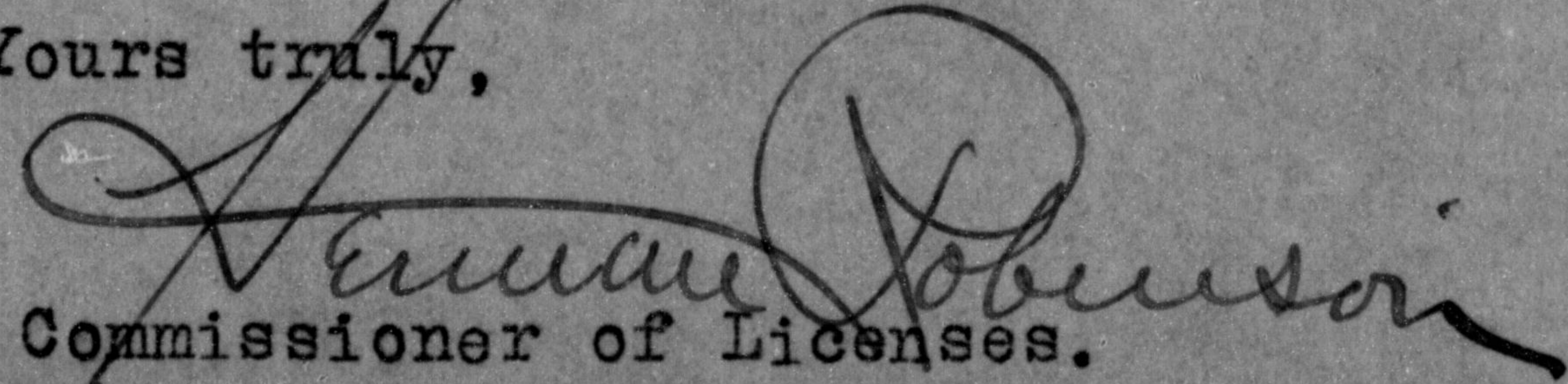
S i r :

For your information, I desire to call your attention to the provisions of the enclosed bill, the purpose of which is to take away the title of this office and confer it upon the head of the Bureau of Licenses, and to substitute the title of Commissioner of Agencies.

This Department has now been established for more than eight years and is generally known as the "Office of the Commissioner of Licenses," and the proposed change would result in great confusion and many complications with regard to the changes in titles of the attaches of this office, the budget appropriation, the civil service rules, and also with the internal administration of the department itself. It might also affect existing licenses.

For these reasons I have advised the Assistant Corporation Counsel at Albany that I am opposed to this measure, and hope that my action meets with your approval.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



# State of New York.

No. 1415.

Int. 1305.

## IN ASSEMBLY,

February 24, 1913.

Introduced by Mr. McCUE — read once and referred to the  
Committee on Affairs of Cities.

### AN ACT

To amend the Greater New York charter, in relation to the  
official title of the officer authorized to issue licenses in the  
city of New York.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate  
and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

1 Section 1. The Greater New York charter, as re-enacted by chap-  
2 ter four hundred and sixty-six of the laws of nineteen hundred and  
3 one, is hereby amended by adding thereto, after section fifty-one,  
4 a new section, to be section fifty-one-a, to read as follows:

5 OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF OFFICER EMPOWERED TO ISSUE LICENSES.

6 § 51-a. The official title of any officer empowered by any ordi-  
7 nance to issue licenses, or to act as the head of a bureau for the  
8 issuance of licenses, shall hereafter be "the commissioner of  
9 agencies." The commissioner of licenses in office, pursuant to or-

EXPLANATION — Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to  
be omitted.



1 dinance or to any provisions of this charter, at the time this sec-  
2 tion takes effect, is hereby continued in office as the commissioner  
3 of agencies.

4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.



TEL. 2928 WORTH

OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER  
SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

March 21, 1913.

Mr. J. A. Kellogg,  
First Deputy Attorney General,  
Albany, New York.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th instant, with enclosures, relative to a communication which you received from Hon. Philander C. Knox, formerly Secretary of State, relative to the alleged practices of certain employment agencies in various parts of the United States in employing American laborers for work in construction camps on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway of Canada, upon alleged false and misleading representations as to the character and condition of the work.

The only New York agent mentioned in your letter and in the correspondence enclosed with it is the "Alexander Employment Agency" of 163 East 4th street, which is a duly licensed employment agency, whose proprietor is Solomon Greenberg. I have made a thorough investigation of this matter, and find out that on Sept. 30, 1912, the firm of Foley, Welch and Stewart, of Fete Jaune, B. C., authorized Mr. Greenberg in writing to supply them with laborers for construction work at the said place, and in addition sent a representative of their own, Mr. L. R. Soliere, of Montreal, to New York, to select the men.

Mr. Soliere made his headquarters at Mr. Greenberg's agency, and personally selected each man whom he sent to Fete Jaune, and rejected over 200 men as unfit for the work. Each applicant was obliged to sign a contract on a form, copy of which is enclosed herewith. Section 182 of article eleven of the General Business Law of this state, which you mention in your letter, requires the licensed employment agent to furnish each laborer with a statement containing the numerous conditions surrounding the proposed employment, and to file a copy of this statement and a list of the laborers shipped in each instance at this office. I find among my records a proper report of this shipment made by Mr. Greenberg on October 17th, 1912, and attached thereto a list of names, including the name of William F. Berghorn, of 317 West 50th Str., New York City, a copy of whose statement is attached to your letter.



TEL. 2628 WORTH

OFFICE OF THE  
**COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES**  
 FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
 277 BROADWAY  
 BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
 COMMISSIONER  
 SAMUEL PRINCE  
 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

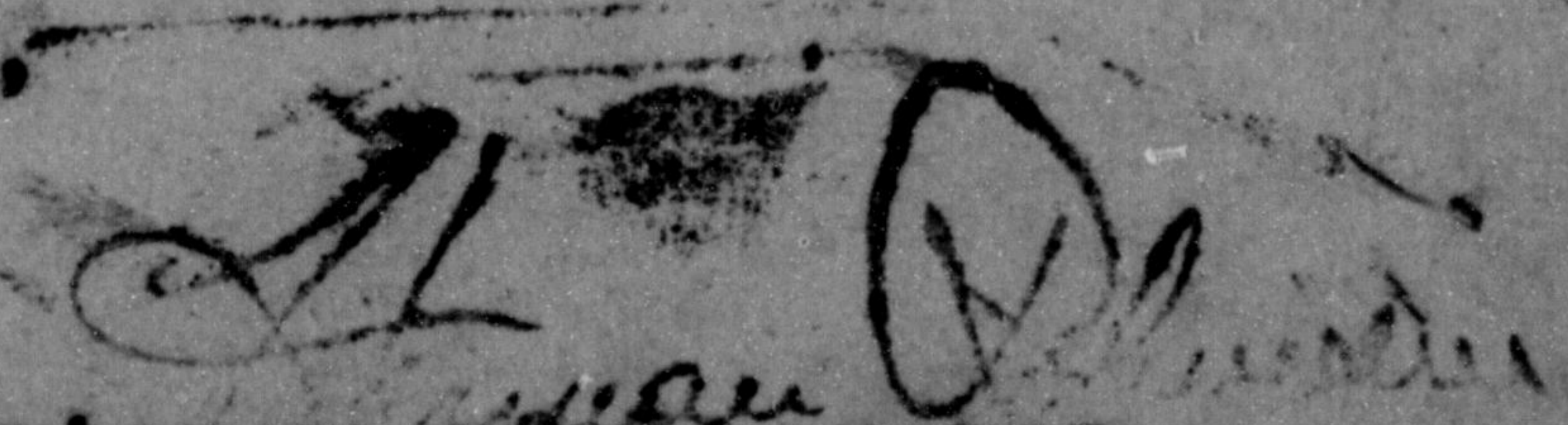
Mr. J. A. Kellogg - 2

Mr. Greenberg also informs me that each man was particularly instructed that he would have to supply himself with ten days rations for use during the trip to Fete Jaune. At the time these shipments were being made last Fall one of my inspectors was detailed to watch Greenberg's agency, and he personally saw Mr. Soliere interviewing the different applicants, and also Mr. Mitchell representing Foley, Welch and Stewart, at Greenberg's agency from time to time. In other words, it seems that in this particular case the utmost care was used by both the employer and the agent to fully instruct the men as to the conditions surrounding the work in Canada. I attach also a copy of the statement which was handed to each man by the agency in compliance with the above section.

The statements made by Mr. Berghorn appear to be contradictory to those of the agent; but article eleven of the General Business Law gives me only the power to punish an agent by revoking his license, and before this can be done, the agent must be confronted with sworn testimony establishing a violation of the employment agency law. Even after my decision he is entitled to a writ of certiorari to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

In the absence of Berghorn and others similarly situated, I would be powerless to act, even if I were so inclined. As a rule men situated as Berghorn is are fully aware of the fact that the employment agent in New York City does not know in detail the conditions of the climate and of the country, and of other things in connection with his employment at a point so far distant as British Columbia, and must rely entirely upon the statement given to him by the employer. If the latter does not tell the truth a situation develops which is beyond the agent's control. This is the great problem we have to contend with in the hiring of laboring men for distant points. The very fact that these men were offered \$2.75 a day, which was one dollar per day in excess of the usual rate paid in the vicinity of this city, proves that they must have known that this work was unusually hard. Of course, the agent is not shipping any more men to the place now that he knows the conditions.

Yours truly,

  
 Commissioner of Licenses.



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 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Copy

I, the undersigned, hereby contract and agree to work for Foley Brothers, Welch and Stewart, Fete Jaune, B. C. and West as laborers

at \$2.75 per day without board, board \$1.00. Rent of shanty if boarded by self \$1.50 per month. Medical fee \$1 per month; mail fee 25 cents per month. Pay day monthly.

I also agree to go to the place of destination wither by rail, boat, stage, on foot, or by any other means. It is further agreed that I shall reimburse the said Company or Contractor the sum mentioned below, which they have incurred on my account to cover cost of transportation, hiring fee, board, and other expenses from shipping point to destination, which sum I hereby authorize the said company or Contractor to deduct from my first wages; and I agree and promise to remain in this said company or contractor's service until the expenses charged against me are fully worked out.

This agreement is signed by me with the full intention of going to work as soon as required after arrival at the camp or place of work and explained to me in --- no strike ---- which I understand.

Shipping date on or before.....

Destination .....

The expenses incurred on my account are .....  
 Extra expenses ..... no charge  
 Total (which is to be deducted from my wages

Signature of employee

Witness





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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Copy.

Telephone Orchard 1655

Established 1895

S. Greenberg's Labor Agency

172 East 4th Str., New York

STATEMENT OF LABOR CONTRACT

in accordance with chapter 700 of the laws of 1910

---

Name of EMPLOYER	Foley Brothers, Welch and Stewart
Address of Employer	Fete Jaune, B. C.
Name of employee	
Address of employee	
Nature of work to be performed	R.R. construction work
Hours of Labor	10
Wages offered	\$2.75 per day
Destination of the persons employed:	Fete Jaune, B. C.
Terms of transportation	Paid by the men \$10
Remarks	Pay day every month. Board liver Shanty \$1.50 p. month

New York, Oct. 17, 1912.

(then there is attached a list of 45 names of persons sent)



TEL. 2929 WORTH

OFFICE OF THE  
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FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER  
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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



March 22d, 1913.

Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary to the Mayor.

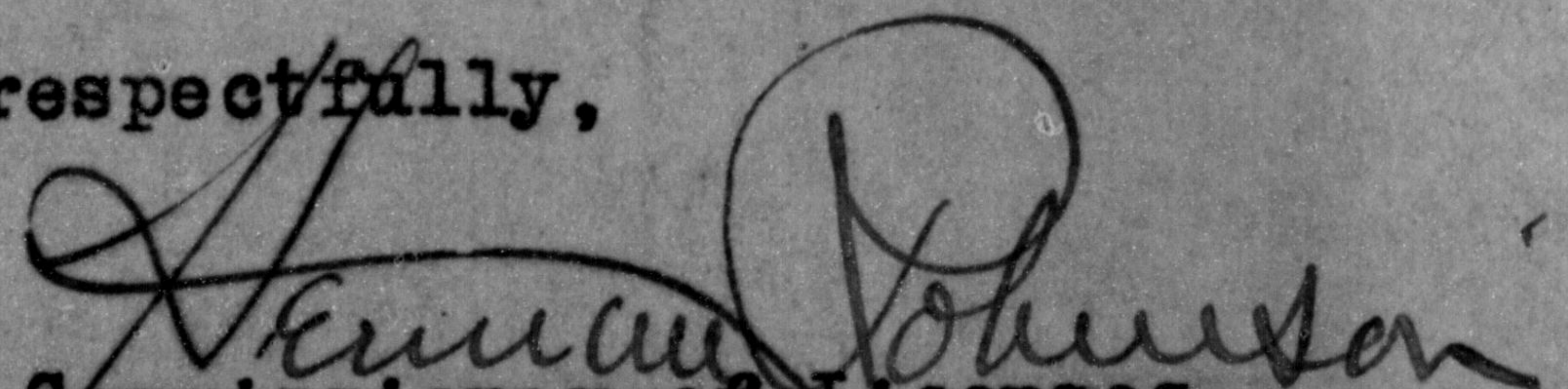
S i r :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 20th instant, enclosing a letter from Mr. A. A. Lustig, of 229 East 4th street, city, relative to his client, Mr. Sam Chait, complaining that the said Chait was debarred from employment as an employment agency runner.

The facts in this matter are as follows : On March 17th, 1913, Pincus Gross, of 745 East 9th Street, appeared at this office and complained that on the same day he had called at the employment agency of Louis Schafransky, at 215 East 4th Street, city, where the said Sam Chait was employed as a runner, and applied for a position as porter; he was introduced to a prospective employer who offered to give him a position; the agent demanded a fee of \$1.50 from Gross, which he was unable to pay not having the money; thereupon the agent declined to let him have the position; Gross then left the agency and was followed by the prospective employer who spoke to him when they reached the sidewalk; Sam Chait seeing this left the agency and committed a brutal assault upon Gross, and the latter's condition, particularly as to one of his eyes, amply corroborated his charge. I instructed one of my inspectors to look into the matter and he immediately went to the agency and found Chait there; the latter did not deny the assault; the inspector then called an officer and had Chait arrested, and he was arraigned in the Third District City Magistrates Court, tried, convicted and fined ten dollars. I immediately instructed the agent to discontinue Chait's employment upon the ground that he was a person of bad character.

Mr. Schafransky denies the statement made in Mr. Lustig's letter that he is willing to re-employ Chait at any time. I return herewith Mr. Lustig's letter.

Yours respectfully,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

March 22d, 1913.

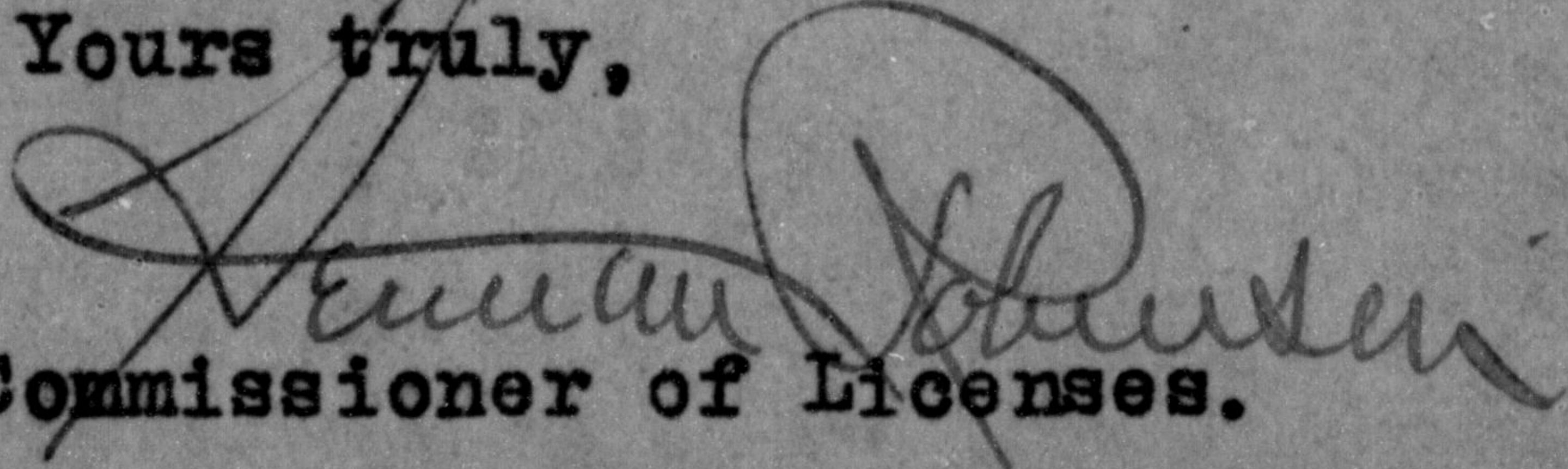
Hon. William H. Gaynor, Mayor,  
City Hall, Manhattan.

S i r :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 18th instant, enclosing a communication received from Deputy Attorney General J. A. Kellogg, together with correspondence of Hon. Philander C. Knox, former Secretary of State, relative to the alleged practices of certain employment agencies in various parts of the U. S. in employing American laborers in construction camps on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway of Canada, and in which you instruct me to communicate directly with the Deputy Attorney General the results of my investigation.

I have investigated the matter and enclose herewith a copy of my letter to the Deputy Attorney General and the letter and enclosures received from Mr. Kellogg.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



TEL. 2929 WORTH



OFFICE OF THE  
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277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

April 4, 1913.

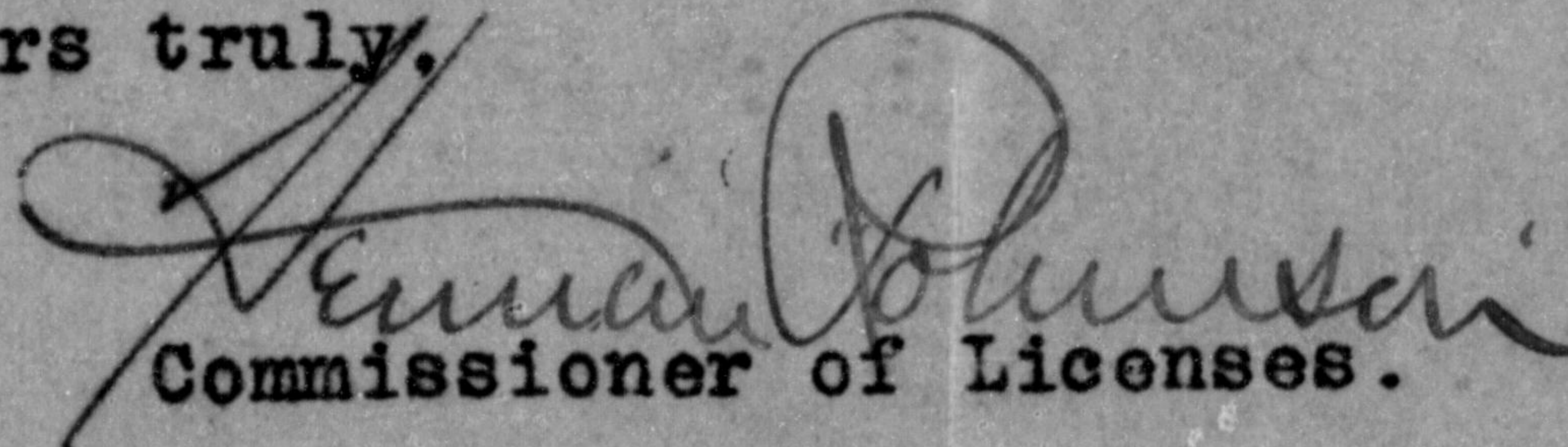
Mr. James Matthews,  
Executive Secretary,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant, enclosing letter from Dr. I. Howard Reed, making complaint against the agency of A. A. Hofmayer, 320 Fifth Avenue.

The matter will receive prompt attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





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277 BROADWAY  
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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

April 3, 1913.

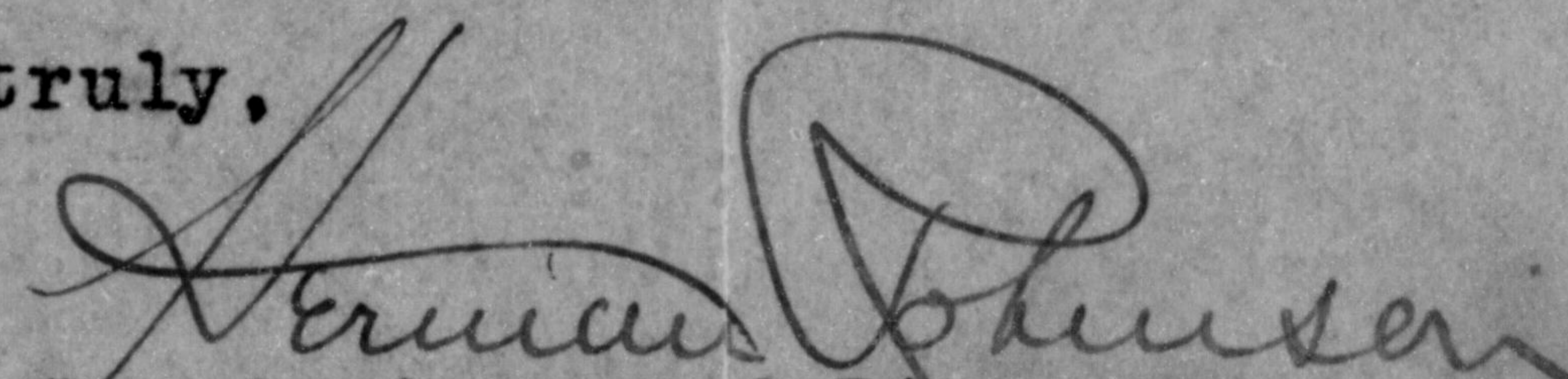
Mr. Robert Adamson, Secretary,  
Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your  
communication of the 2nd instant, enclosing letter  
regarding J. B. Clayton, 87 Rockwell Place, Brooklyn,  
conducting an employment agency without a license.

The matter will have prompt attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

April 18, 1913.

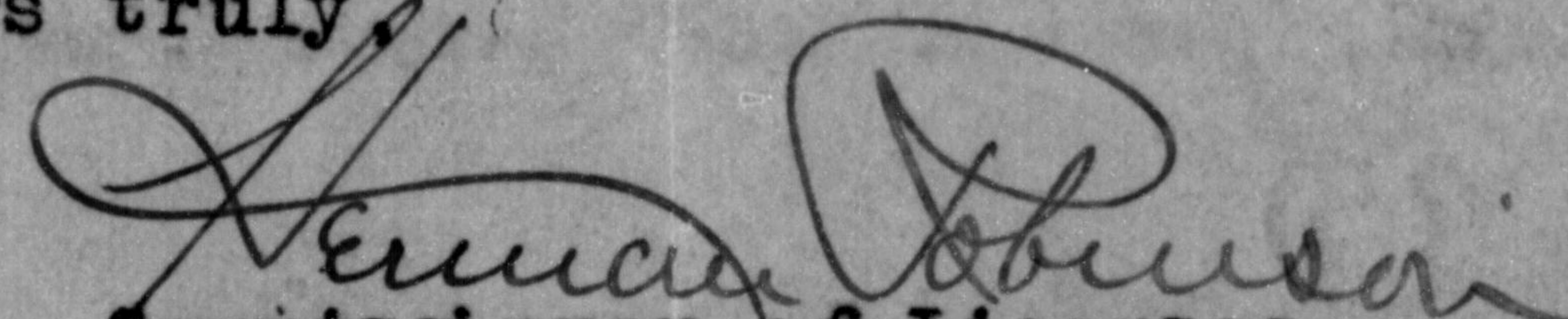
Mr. James Matthews,  
Executive Secretary,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th instant, enclosing letter from Frederick E. Techt, Unionville, Conn., making complaint against the Farmers' Bureau, 150 Nassau Street.

The matter will receive prompt attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

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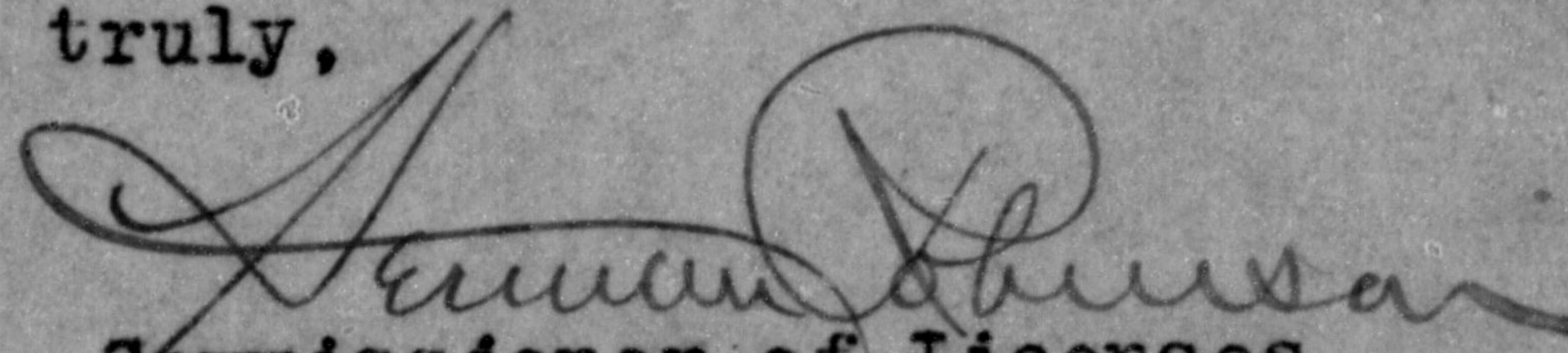
April 28, 1913.

Mr. James Matthews,  
Executive Secretary, Mayor's Office,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 25th instant, enclosing letter from F. W. Jackson, Brooklyn, making complaint against S. Ackerman, 15 4th Avenue, Brooklyn. The matter will receive prompt attention.

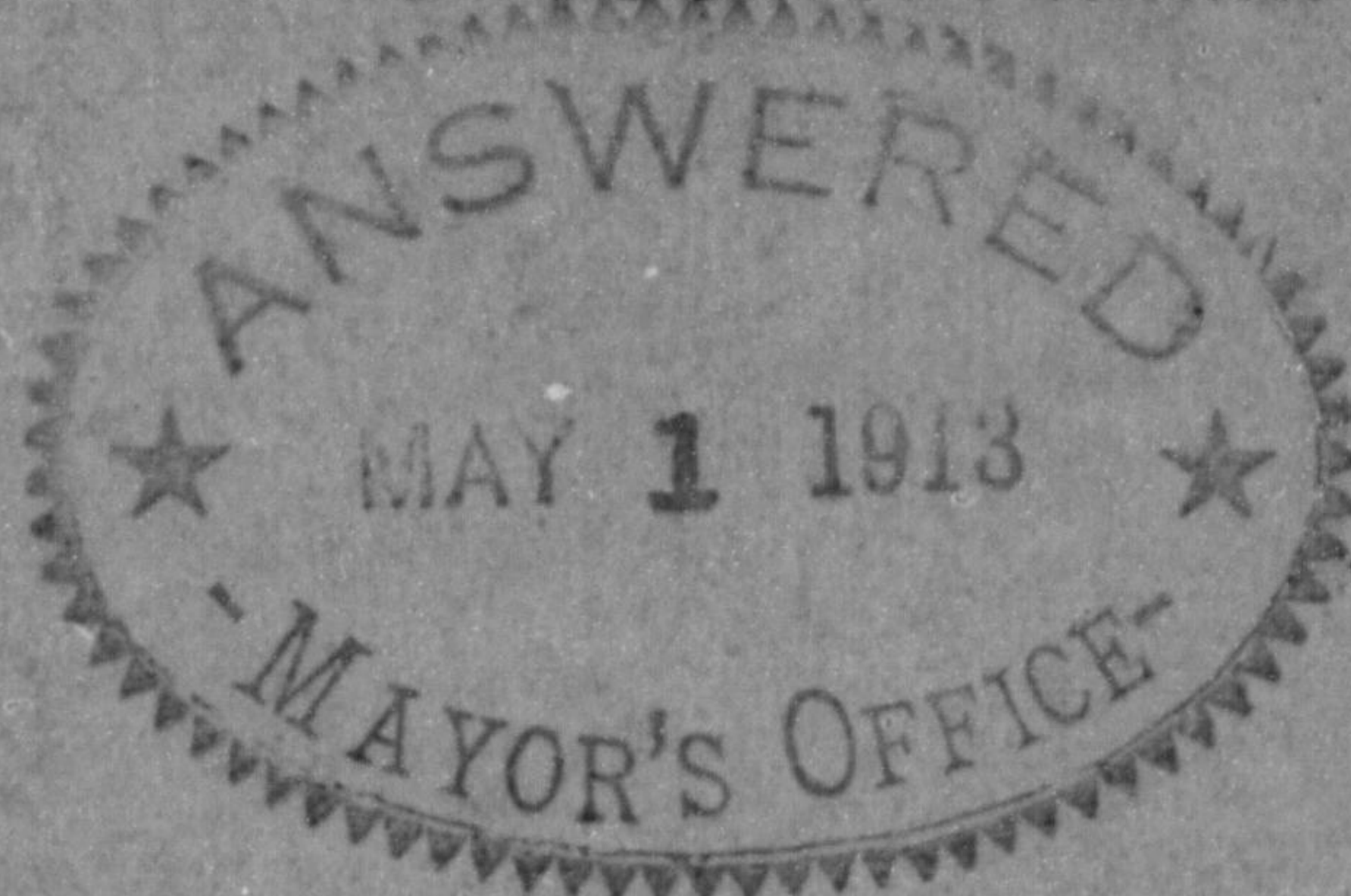
Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
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SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



May 1st, 1913.

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

S i r :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 30th ult., enclosing letter and circulars of C. Drysdale Black, of 150 Nassau Str., city, complaining that I denied him the right to use the name "Farmers' Bureau" upon his stationery.

Mr. Black's statements are incorrect. On Friday last I summoned him to this office upon the complaint of Frederick E. Techt, of Unionville, Conn., who had also written to you, and claimed that he had been defrauded by Mr. Black's representations that he had a position for him as farm manager, and brought him from Unionville to New York City for that purpose, but failed to obtain a position for him.

Mr. Black failed to obey my summons but instead sent his manager, who testified under oath that Mr. Black was the proprietor of the business, and not the manager as is stated on all of his stationery. This was the particular matter in his stationery and advertisements to which I made objection. I instructed his manager to immediately strike out the word "manager", which was both misleading and untrue as Mr. Black's manager admitted to me.

Section 189 of chapter 700 of the Laws of 1910, being an amendment of article 11 of the general business law, and known generally as the "Employment Agency Law," provides as follows:

"No licensed person conducting any employment agency



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277 BROADWAY  
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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Hon. William J. Gaynor 2

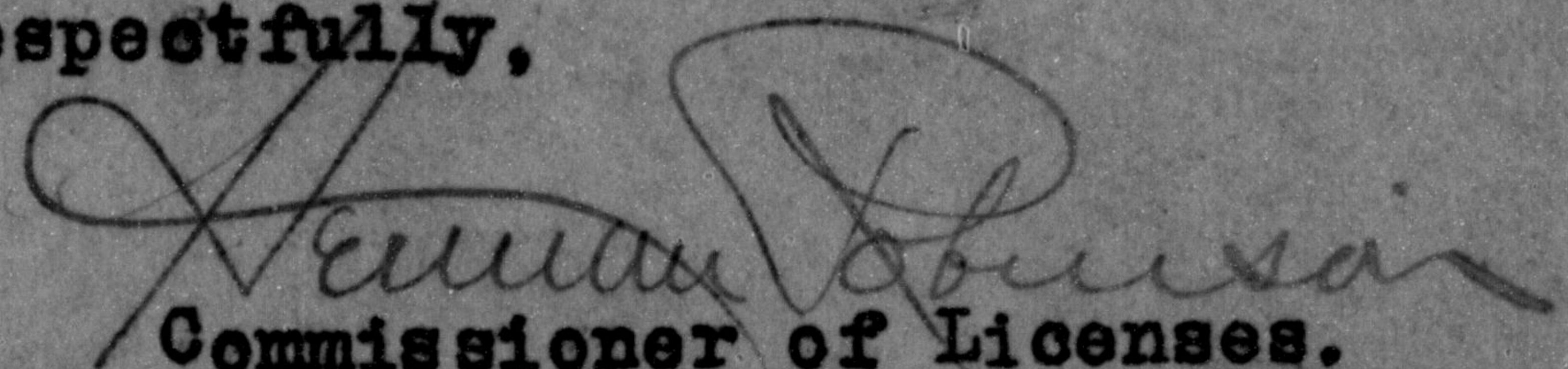
"shall publish or cause to be published any false or fraudulent or misleading information, representation, notice or advertisement; all advertisements of such employment agency by means of cards, circulars, or signs and in newspapers and other publications, and all letter heads, receipts and blanks shall be printed and contain the licensed name and address of such employment agent and the word agency, ....."

Mr. Black was licensed in the name of "Cunningston Drysdale Black" 150 Nassau Street, Manhattan. In none of the circulars or advertisements does the name "Cunningston Drysdale Black" appear, nor the word "agency." I informed his manager that he must insert his licensed name and the word "agency" in addition to the words "Farmer's Bureau," if he desires to use this name. I stated to him explicitly that he could use the name "Farmers' Bureau" provided he also used his licensed name and the word "agency."

Regarding the other agents mentioned by Mr. Black, I beg to say that all of their stationery, circulars and advertisements contain the word "agency" in addition to the trade name, and in my opinion this was a sufficient compliance with the law.

As requested, I herewith return Mr. Black's letter and stationery.

Yours respectfully,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





OFFICE OF THE  
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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER  
SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 8, 1913.

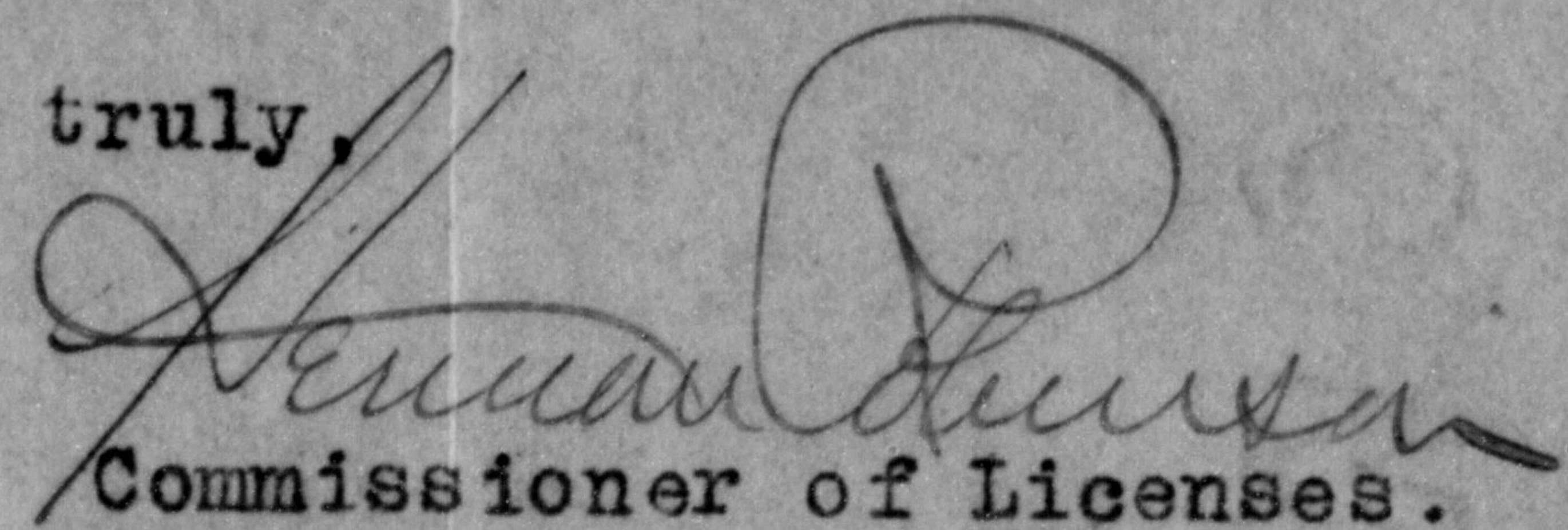
Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary, Mayor's Office,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of  
your communication of the 7th instant, enclosing  
letter of Mrs. M. L. Flank, Cedarhurst, L. I.,  
making complaint against the agency of Mrs. Moore,  
Far Rockaway.

The matter will have prompt attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





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HERMAN ROBINSON  
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SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 21, 1913.

Dear Mr. Adamson:

This will introduce to you  
the bearers, Mr. Frank X. Noschang, President of  
the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, and  
Mr. Hugh Frayne, representative of the American  
Federation of Labor, who would appreciate an  
interview with his Honor, the Mayor, as per my  
telephone conversation a while ago.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Robert Adamson,

Secretary,

Mayor's Office.





OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
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277 BROADWAY  
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HERMAN ROBINSON

COMMISSIONER

SAMUEL PRINCE

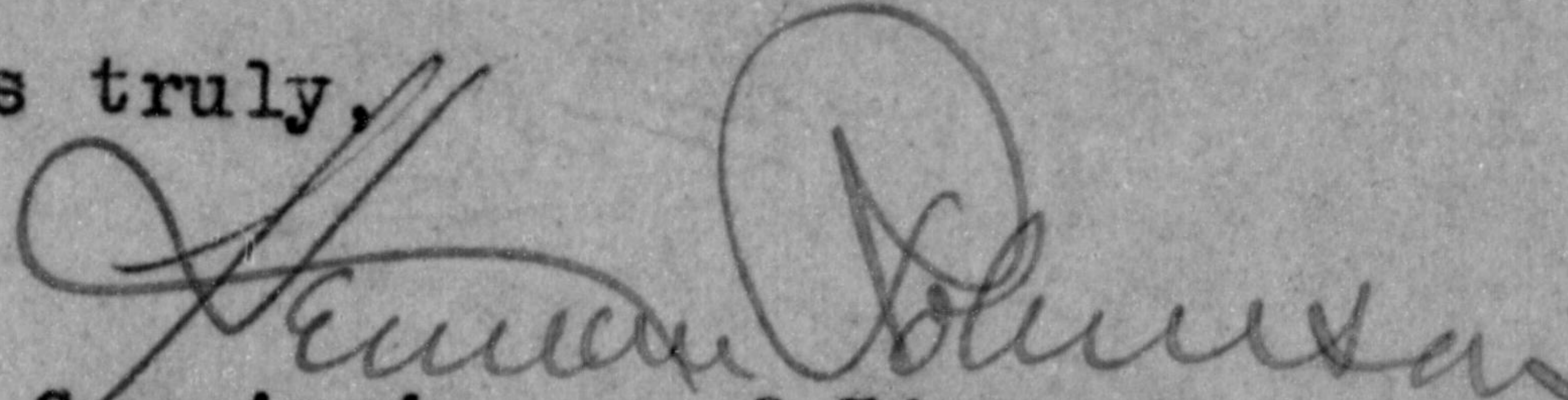
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 21, 1913.

Dear Mr. Adamson:

In compliance with your request,  
I enclose herewith a copy of the wording used on the  
signs displayed in the parade on Saturday last.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.

Mr. Robert Adamson,

Secretary,

City Hall.





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COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
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SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 23, 1943.

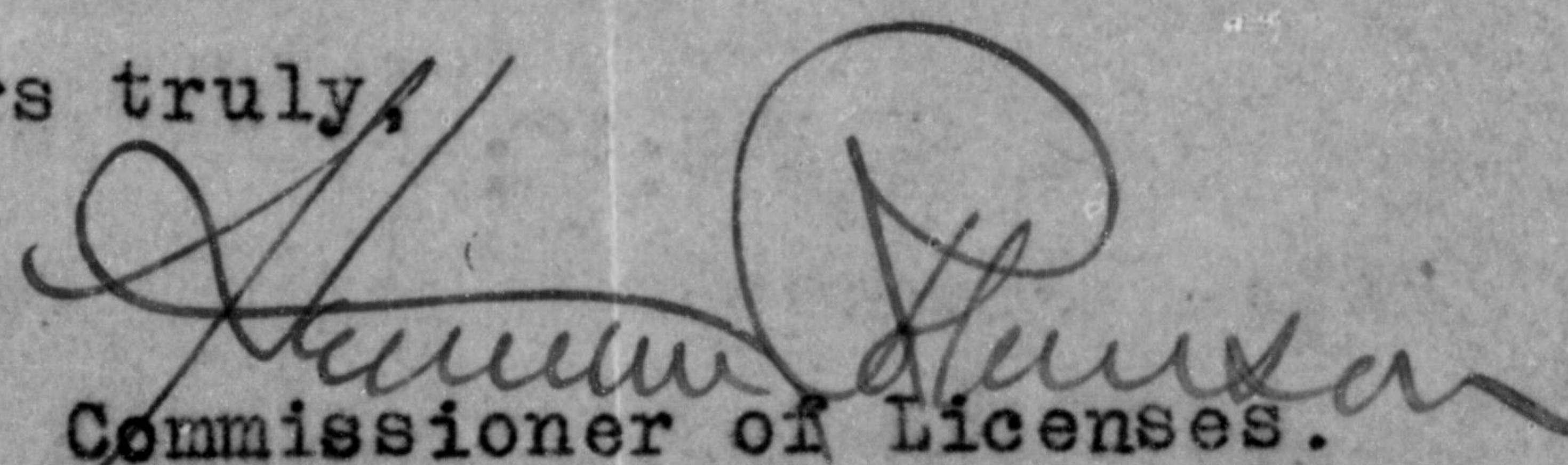
Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary, Mayor's Office,  
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant, enclosing letter from Mrs. Mina Kohnweiler, 400 West End Avenue, making complaint against an employment agency.

The matter will have prompt attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



TEL. 2828 WORTH



OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

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SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

June 5, 1913.

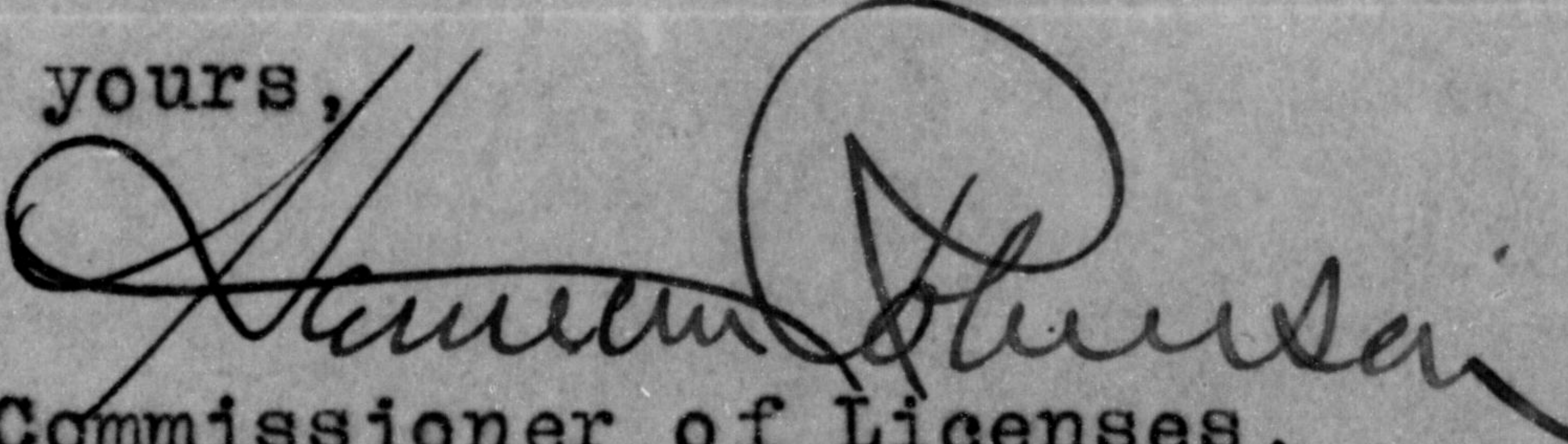
Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor of the City of New York,  
City Hall.

My dear Sir:-

Among the numerous letters received acknowledging receipt of the annual report of the office of the Commissioner of Licenses for the past year, I received the enclosed.

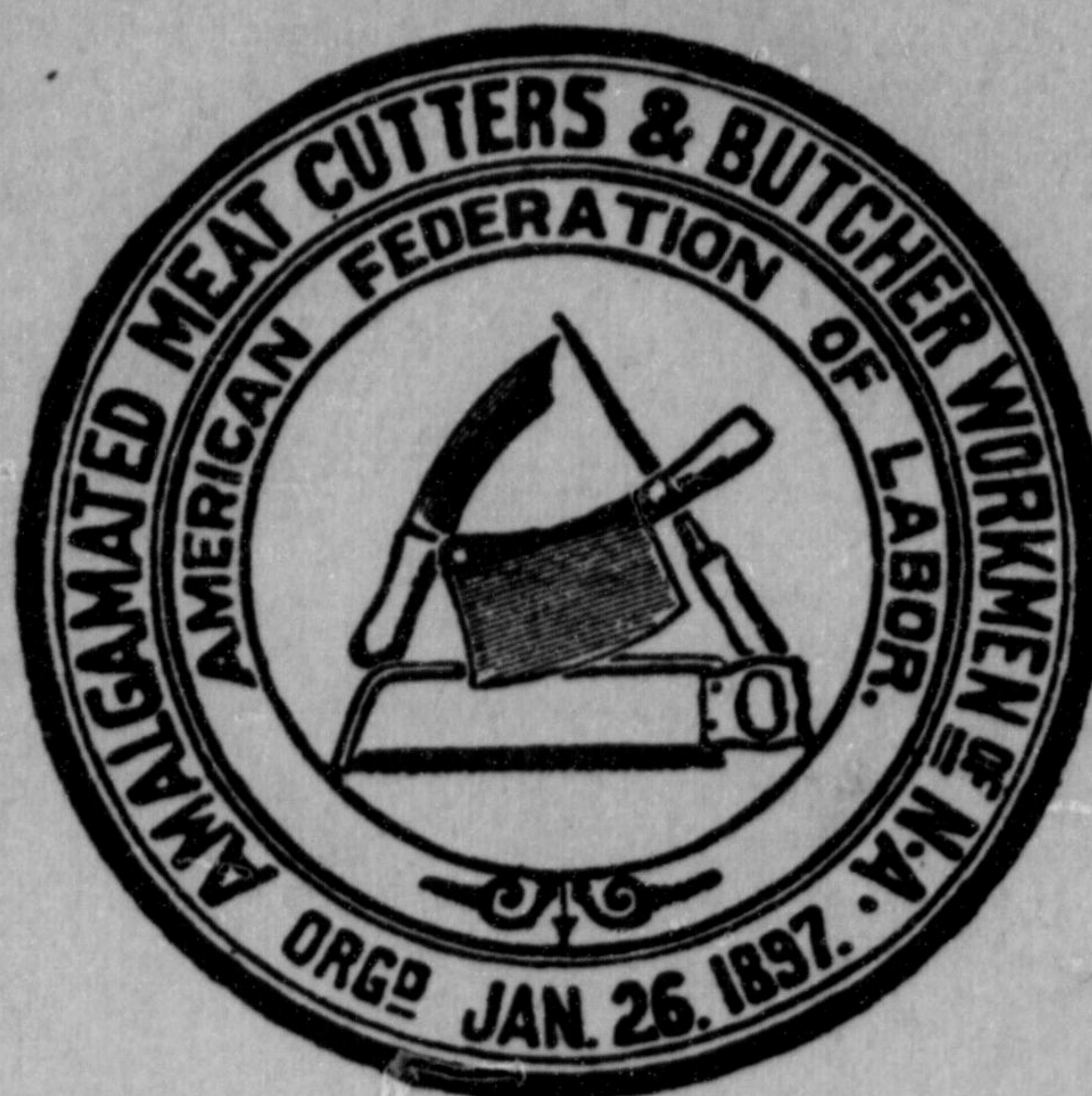
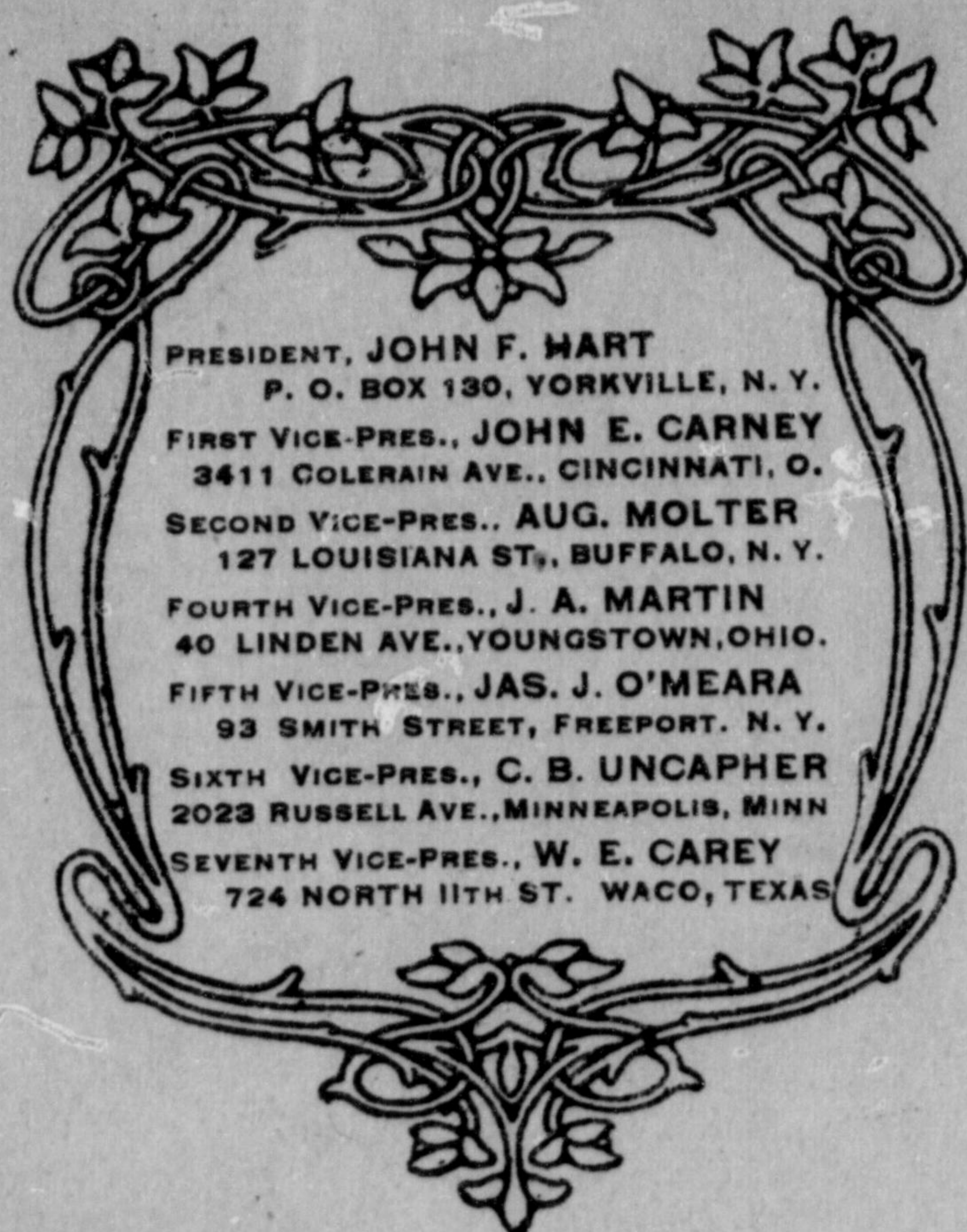
In view of the fact that I noted in my last report that several employment agents, who were engaged in furnishing cattle tenders to trans-Atlantic steamships, were obliged to stop furnishing such help because the shipping of American cattle to Europe had ceased, I thought that the enclosed letter would be of interest to you, because of the fact that the communication is from Mr. Homer D. Call, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Sincerely yours,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.

P.S. I send you a copy of the report in printed form.





H. D. CALL  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
212 MAY AVENUE

Syracuse, N. Y., June 4 1913.

PERSONAL.



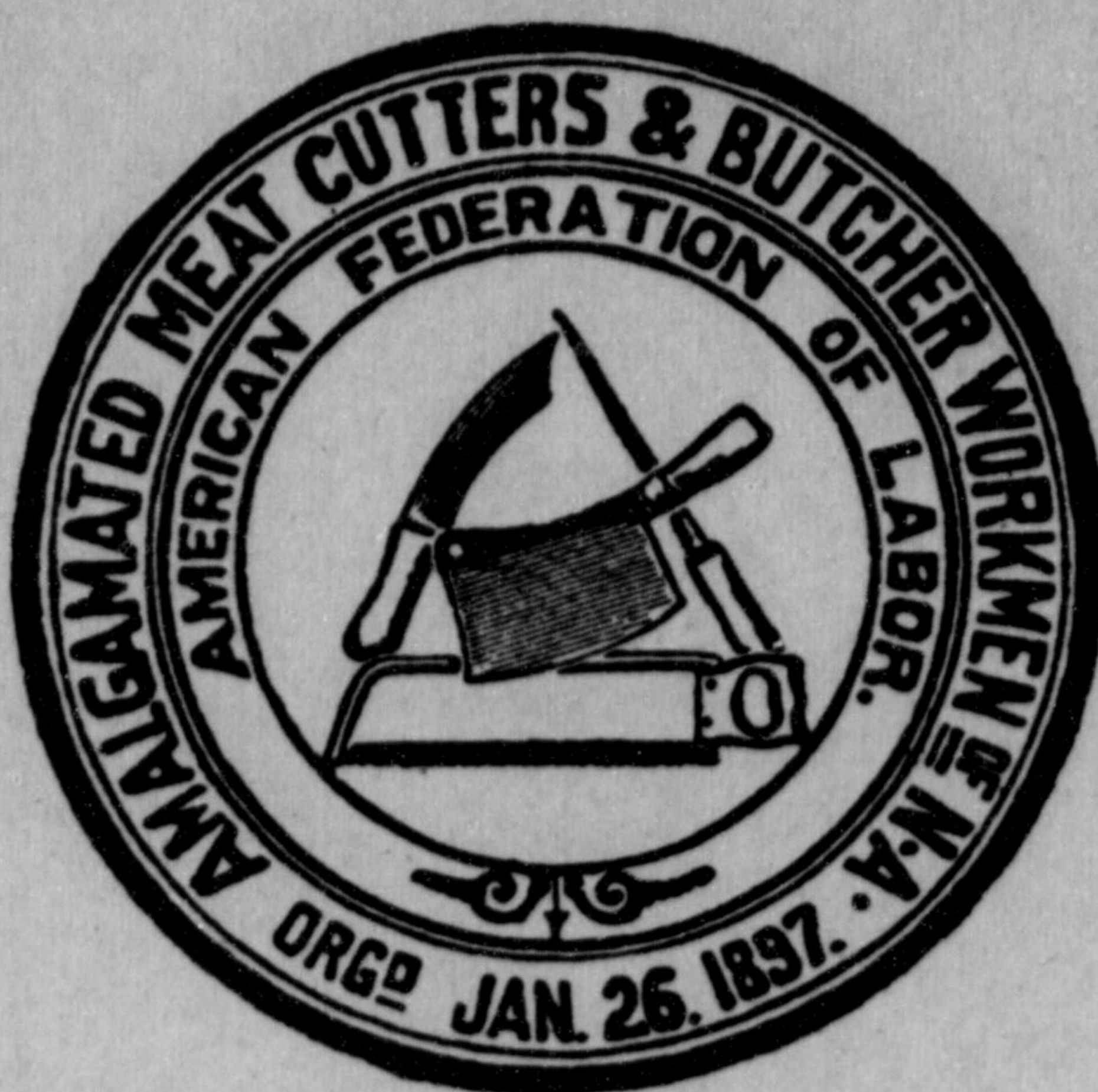
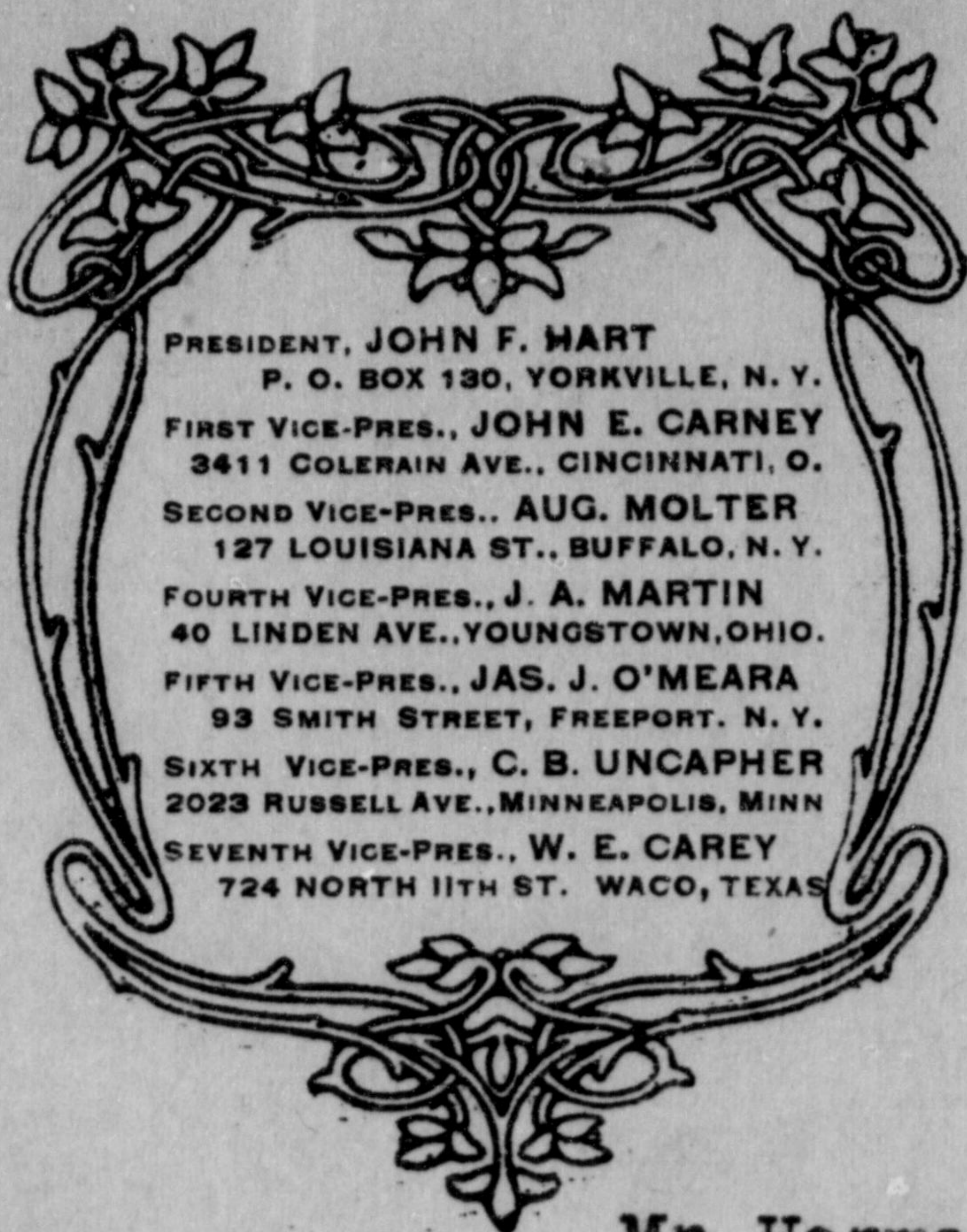
Mr Herman Robinscn,

277 Broadway . New York City

My dear friend Herman:-

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your report of the workings of the Bureau of Licence , and while I am not as a rule given to throwing bouquets, after going carefully over it I am prepared to say that you certainly have made good in the Office, but what interested me more particularly , was on Page 14, entitled " No More Employment for Cattlemen " ,as that is a fact that but few people seem to understand. The Meat Trust has for the past ten years been quietly transferring their industry to the foreign countries. They have a ranch in Brazil of 12,000,000 acres ,with 600,000 head of Cattle on it, and within the past year, have completed one of the largest and most up to date packing plants in the World, they have also a ranch in Argentine of 9,000,000 with over 400,000 head and when in Fort Worth last June, I learned that they were just shipping to that ranch 187 <sup>Pollled</sup> Angus Bulls for the purpose of grading up the stock and improving the quality ,and they are already operating a line of refrigerator ships from Argentine to Liverpool, nine in number, and are supplying their export trade entirely from these points to the exclusion of the American interests.





AFFILIATED WITH A. F. OF L.

H. D. CALL

SECRETARY-TREASURER

212 MAY AVENUE

Syracuse, N. Y., 1913.

Mr Herman Robinsen?—#2

And the fact is that the American Butcher Workman is new up against that proposition where they employ their labor for from forty to sixty cents per day and it is quite a question in my mind what the affect is going to be on the question of wages in this country in a short time. Thanking you for your courtesy in forwarding me your report and wishing you every success in the future, I am, Sincerely yours friend.

*H. D. Call*





OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER

SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

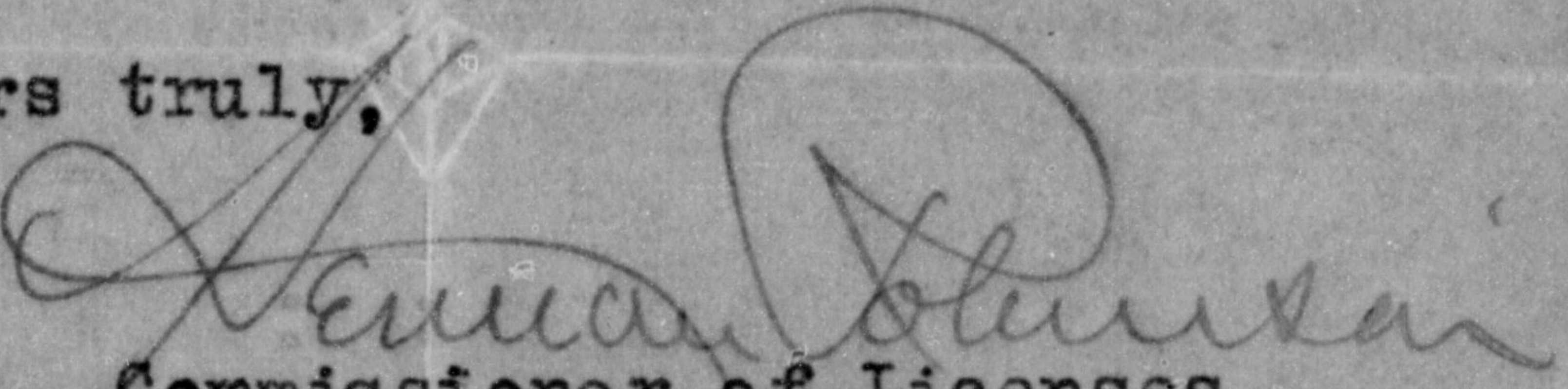
June 9th, 1913.

Mr. James Matthews, Executive Secretary,  
Office of the Mayor, City Hall.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th inst., enclosing letter signed Ada Blom, 288 Third Ave., New York, with reference to methods of certain employment agents on Sixth Avenue, this city, and to say that this matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.





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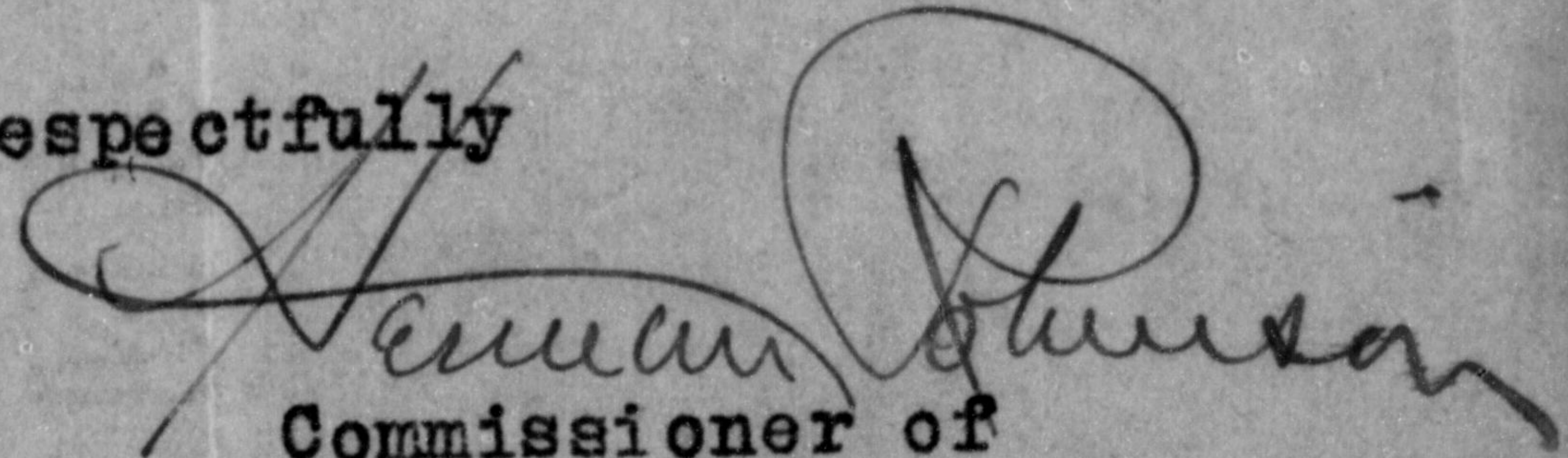
June 30, 1913.

Robert Adamson, Esq., Secretary,  
City Hall, Manhattan.

S i r :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 26th inst., enclosing letter of E. Pinles, of 315 West 139th Str., complaining of Fritz Rosenhek, an employment agent, of 128 East 3d Str., city, and to say that the matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours respectfully

  
Commissioner of  
Licenses





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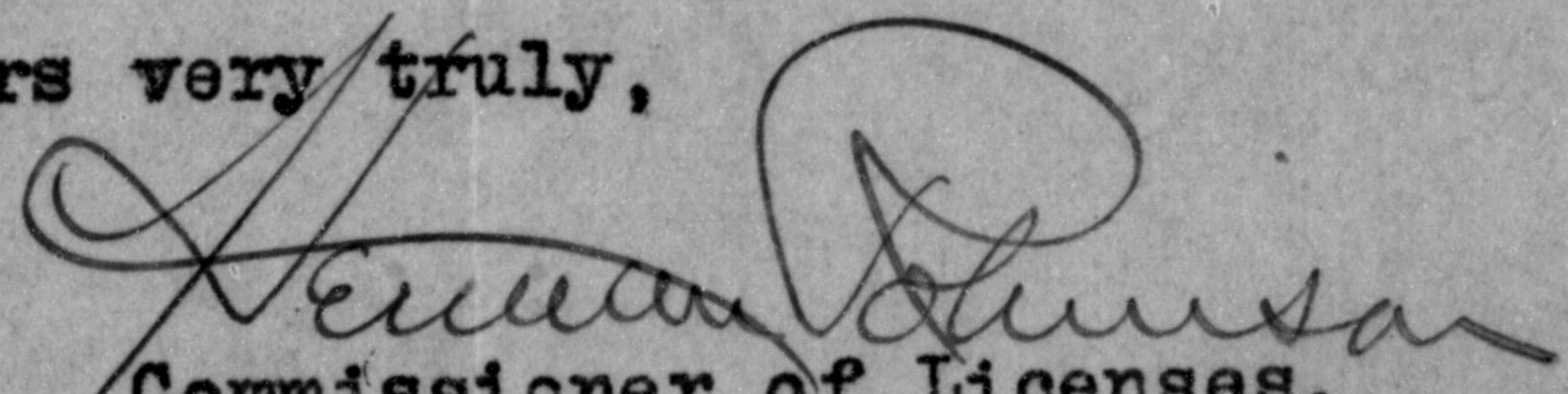
July 5th, 1913.

Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2d instant, enclosing a letter of Mary E. Morrow, 317 West 121st Str., city, who wants to know why she was denied a license for her employment agency at 723 Lexington Avenue, city, and to say that the matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours very truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.

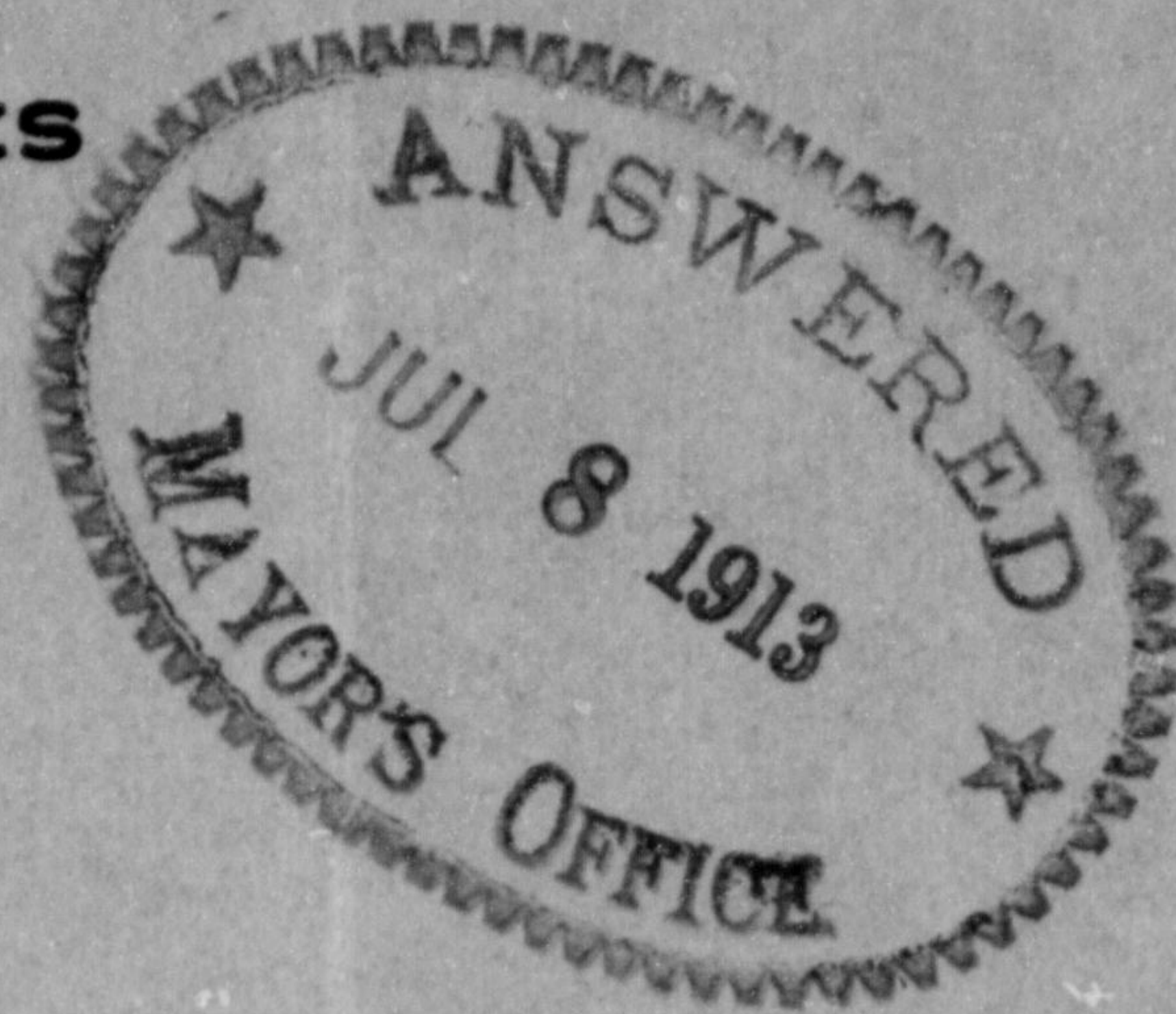


TEL. 2628 WORTH



HERMAN ROBINSON  
COMMISSIONER  
SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF LICENSES  
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
277 BROADWAY  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN



July 5th, 1913.

Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary to the Mayor.

S i r :

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., enclosing a communication of Jacob J. Cooper, of 161 West 98th Street, who says that his daughter obtained a position through the agency of Harriet M. Brody, 350 Broadway, and that she was called upon to pay \$12, the amount of her first week's salary.

This agent was within her rights in charging an amount equal to the amount of the first week's salary for providing Miss Cooper with a position as bookkeeper, per section 185 of the Employment Agency Law. The fee, therefore, was not excessive.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herman Robinson".  
Commissioner of Licenses.



**MEMORANDUM FOR THE MAYOR:**

From Herman Robinson, Commissioner of Licenses, to whom you forwarded a letter from Vicar General Lavelle, who wrote in behalf of Miss Josephine Morrow, to whom an employment agency license had been denied. Mgr. Lavelle says that Miss Morrow "believes that the refusal was due to disloyalty on the part of her partner."

Commissioner Robinson goes into the case very fully. He says that Miss Morrow was a consistent and persistent violator of the employment agency law; that she sent a domestic named Fannie Felton to 28 different employers at whose places she stayed only a day or two at a time and failed to make entries in her books in 25 of these transactions and she failed to have on her files the result of an investigation of the references of this woman; that she made false representations to each of these 28 employers concerning the competency of this Fannie Felton although she knew that the applicant was incompetent; that she collected fees in 21 of these cases and failed to make any return of the fees.

Robinson gave a hearing on these charges in December, 1912, and Miss Morrow practically admitted the truth of all the allegations in the complaint. He found her guilty but did not revoke the license at that time because he received numerous appeals in her behalf and wanted to give her another chance. Shortly after this she took in a partner who invested \$2500 in the business. This partner apparently had no actual control, that being in the hands of the Morrow woman.



TEL. 2828 WORTH



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COMMISSIONER  
SAMUEL PRINCE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

July 24, 1913.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your communication of the 21st instant, I have the honor to submit the following record in the matter of Miss Josephine A. Morrow, formerly an employment agent at 721 Lexington Avenue.

The enclosed communication, sent to you on behalf of Miss Morrow by Vicar General Lavelle, states that Miss Morrow "believes that the refusal of a license to her was due to disloyalty on the part of her partner."

The following is the record of Miss Josephine A. Morrow, who had been a licensed agent for many years:

On May 7, 1912, a new license to conduct an employment agency was duly issued to her.

On September 5, 1912, a complaint was lodged against Josephine A. Morrow for violating Section 179 of the employment agency law in that between January 8, 1912, and August 27, 1912, she sent one Fannie Felton, an applicant for employment as domestic, to 28 different employers and failed to make any entries in her registries of the said Fannie Felton in 25 of the 28 transactions; that she failed to have on her files an investigation of the references of the said Fannie Felton, and failed to communicate orally or in writing with her last employer or with any one to whom Fannie Felton was known.



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July 24, 1913.

Mrs. Morrow was also charged with violation of Section 189 in that she made false statements and representations to all of the 28 employers concerning the competency and qualifications of Fannie Felton although the agent well knew that the applicant was incompetent and incapable of performing her duties, and she wilfully misrepresented the facts.

In 21 instances the agent collected fees from the applicants for help and failed to make any return of the fees.

The agent was informed by a number of applicants for help that Fannie Felton was incompetent and unfit, also mentally incapable, but nevertheless agent continued to send Fannie Felton to applicants for help and collected fees for so doing.

With the exception of three instances she failed to return any part of fees paid by applicants for help.

Agent further violated Section 179 in that on October 12, 1911, she sent Delia Murphy, an applicant for employment, to Miss Smith, Babies' Hospital, 135 East 55th Street, and failed to make any entry in her register of the transaction as required by law.

The said agent also made it a practice to send out the same applicant for employment numerous times and in each instance collect a fee from the applicant for help. In many instances the persons sent failed to remain more than a few days in the employ of the persons to whom they were sent, and returned to the agency to be immediately sent to another employer.

On December 16, 1912, a hearing was held on these charges, and hearing was adjourned until December 23, 1912, at which time the agent practically admitted the truth of all the charges in the complaint.



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July 24, 1913.

I found her guilty of the charges and could have revoked the license at that time, that being the only power conferred upon me by the law, but in consideration of numerous appeals on her behalf and her expressed willingness to comply with all the requirements of the law in future I did not deem it necessary to adopt extreme measures, but suspended sentence pending the agent's good behavior, and then and there instructed her to comply with all of the provisions of the law in future.

The agent was instructed by me to change her method of conducting business; she was instructed regarding the entries of all transactions in her registers as prescribed by law; cautioned to exercise the greatest care in sending out girls for employment; warned to investigate all references of applicants for employment before sending them to private families; warned to discontinue sending the same girl to so many places within such a short space of time, as in the case of Fannie Felton and others; I further insisted upon courtesy in the agency, and informed the agent that a recurrence of these offenses or if similar charges were lodged against her it would mean an instant revocation of her license.

On December 27, 1912, Miss Morrow requested a transfer of her license to Josephine A. Morrow and Dorothy O. Donnelly, and a co-partnership was formed in the name of Morrow and Donnelly. Under the terms of the co-partnership Dorothy O. Donnelly was to contribute the sum of \$2,500. for a share in the business. The license was duly issued to Morrow and Donnelly, and the partnership continued until the expiration of the license year.

On April 15, 1913, complaint was lodged against the agency by Joseph B.





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July 24, 1913.

O'Donnell, Inspector of Licenses, and on April 18, 1913, a hearing was held at this office.

The complaint charged a violation of Section 179, in that between October 21, 1912, and April 4, 1913, inclusive, the agency caused one Margaret Coogan, an applicant for employment, to be sent to the following named employers, and in each case charged and collected as their fees the amounts set opposite their names:

Oct. 21, 1912, Mrs. Mikeljohn, 241 East 76th St; no fee; girl remained part of one day and left of her own accord.

Nov. 26, 1912, Mrs. Mantague, 55 East 66th St; no fee; girl remained until Jan. 2, 1913, and left of her own accord.

Jan. 2, 1913, Mrs. P. S. Hill, 620 West 112th St; fee \$4.00; girl remained about half a day and left of her own accord without giving reason.

Jan. 11, 1913, Mrs. J. Meehan, 860 West End Ave.; fee \$4.00; girl engaged to take position and then disappointed employer.

Jan. 24, 1913, Mrs. McHale, 542 West 162nd St.; fee \$3.00; girl remained two days and left of her own accord.

Jan. 28, 1913, Jere. T. Mahoney, 639 Lexington Avenue; fee \$3.00; girl remained about one month and left of her own accord.

Mar. 7, 1913, Mrs. F. B. Leary, 930 West End Ave.; fee \$3.00; girl remained about one month; was discharged for being insulting.

Apr. 4, 1913, Mrs. B. E. Hyman, 215 East 98th St.; fee \$4.00; girl now in her employ.

Agents were informed by Mrs. Mikeljohn that Margaret Coogan had left her employ without the slightest reason, but agents continued to furnish Margaret Coogan to various applicants for help and in each case collected fees from the applicants for help for so doing.

The agents were aware that Margaret Coogan did not intend to remain in any of the situations and was simply used by them for the purpose of obtaining fees from the public. In many of these instances the agents refused to refund any part of the fees paid by the applicants for help.



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July 24, 1913.

At the time of sending the above mentioned Margaret Coogan to the employers named the agents failed to have on file a proper record of the result of the investigation of references, as required by law, except in the Mikeljohn case, and did not have on file in their agency the result of the investigation of any of the references given by Mrs. Mikeljohn, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Montague, Mrs. Mahoney or Mrs. Leary; that, on the contrary, they had from Mrs. Leary an unfavorable reference; likewise from Mrs. Mikeljohn. Despite this fact they concealed this from the applicants for help and continued to send out the girl, Margaret Coogan, in violation of Section 179 of the law.

From the evidence introduced I found that between October 21, 1912, and April 14, 1913, these agents sent Margaret Coogan to eight different places and in six instances charged and collected fees from the employers; that in some of these places the girl remained but a short time and left without giving any valid reasons; however, it appeared to my satisfaction that Mrs. Mikeljohn and Mrs. Leary gave the agents sufficient information concerning this girl to put them on their guard that she was unreliable and likewise disrespectful.

There was no result of investigation of references on file from any of the persons mentioned in the complaint nor does it appear that any effort was made to secure such references. Very bad references were received from Mrs. Mikeljohn and Mrs. Leary, no record of same was kept on file in the agency, and they still continued to send out the girl.

In view of my decision under date of September 23, 1912, regarding the



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July 24, 1913.

agent Josephine A. Morrow, it would have been my duty to revoke the license, except for the circumstance that the agent Donnelly entered the business on December 27, 1912, and invested a considerable sum of money therein, and appeared to be innocent of any of the transactions involved in the complaint, and that Dorothy O. Donnelly knew nothing of the business nor of the law governing agencies and relied entirely upon the conduct of Josephine A. Morrow.

I decided that in view of the fact that the license would expire on May 5, 1913, and that an application for its renewal had already been filed by the agents, that I would not take action on this complaint, but deny the application of Morrow and Donnelly for a new license with permission to the agent Donnelly to apply in her own name to conduct an agency at 721 Lexington Avenue as an individual. Dorothy O. Donnelly filed an application for a license as an individual, and filed with me an affidavit stating in effect that the partnership of Morrow and Donnelly had been mutually dissolved, and a license was issued to Dorothy O. Donnelly to conduct an agency at 721 Lexington Avenue.

On June 5, 1913, Mary Ellen Morrow, a niece of Josephine A. Morrow, filed an application for a license to conduct an agency at 723 Lexington Avenue.

Upon investigation of the application I ascertained that Mary Ellen Morrow was not the real party at interest in the application and that she was a niece and former employee of Josephine A. Morrow, whose application to conduct an agency at 721 Lexington Avenue was denied on April 28, 1913,



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July 24, 1913.

because of her bad record as stated above, and that Josephine A. Morrow was again attempting to enter the business through the medium of her niece and former employee, Mary Ellen Morrow.

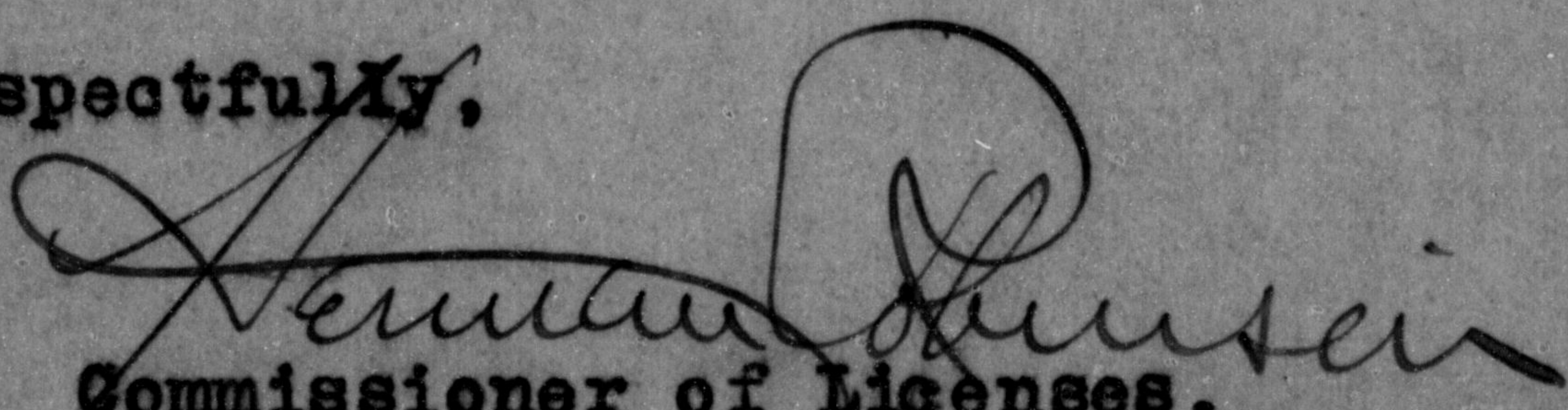
On June 30, 1913, a hearing was held at this office on the application of the said Mary E. Morrow, and from the testimony submitted I found that the said Mary E. Morrow was endeavoring to obtain this license for Josephine A. Morrow and that the applicant was the representative of her aunt, who used this means to reenter the business, and that Josephine E. Morrow was directly instrumental in securing the premises at 723 Lexington Avenue, next door to the agency occupied by her former partner Dorothy O. Donnelly.

To grant this application would be in effect to permit Josephine A. Morrow to continue in the business next door to her former partner and would nullify the effect of my former decision denying her license.

Besides, Dorothy O. Donnelly, conducting the business at 721 Lexington Avenue, does so under the name of "Morrow's Agency" and if a license were granted for 723 Lexington Avenue to Mary E. Morrow, it would cause much confusion as both would be known as "Morrow's Agency."

Since the denial of the application of Mary E. Morrow and the dissolution of the partnership of Morrow and Donnelly, the matter, as far as Josephine A. Morrow is concerned, has been disposed of.

Yours respectfully,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.

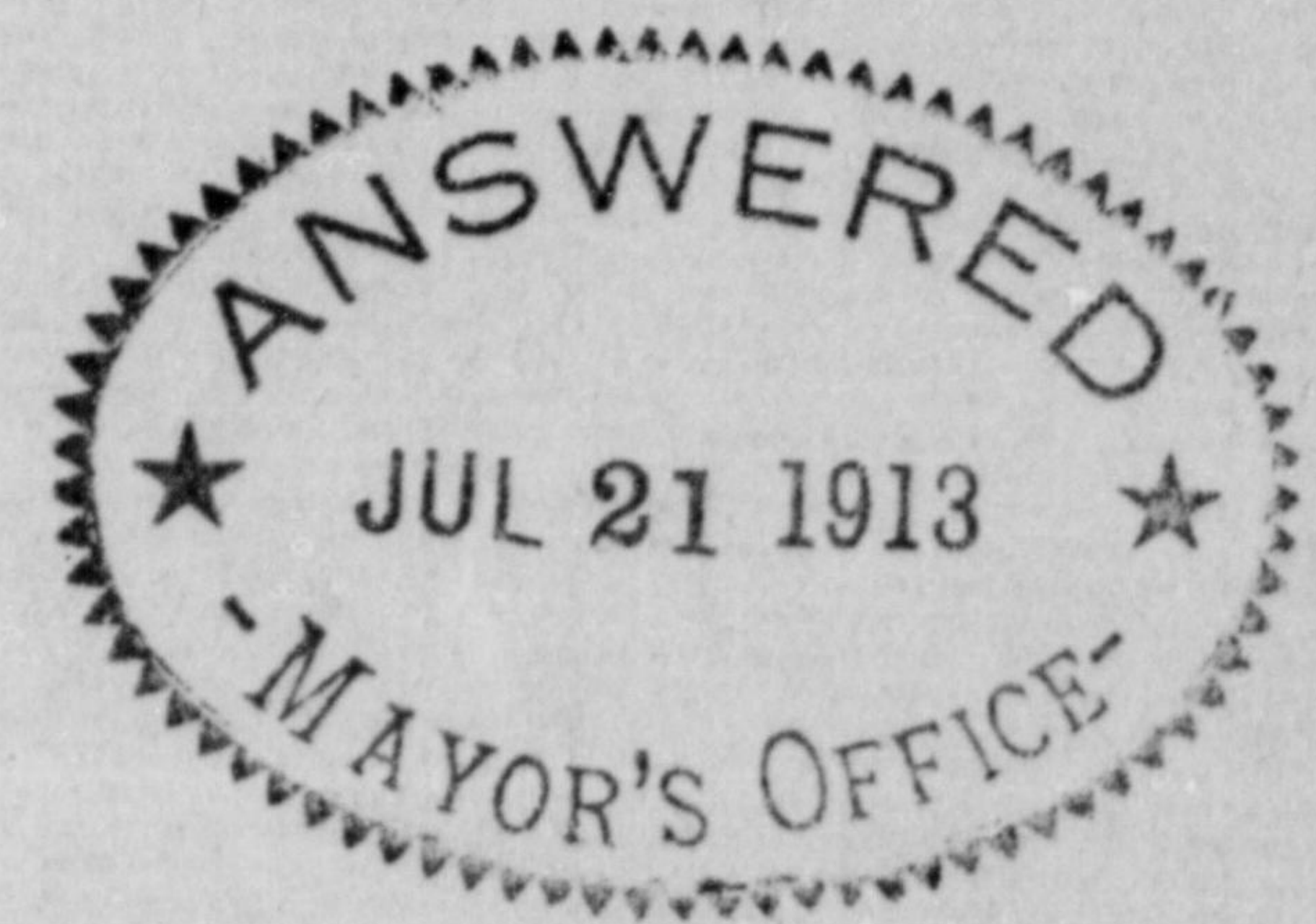


THE RECTORY,

460 MADISON AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

July 17th, 1913.



Hon. William J. Gaynor, Mayor,  
New York City,  
N. Y.

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

Miss. Josephine Morrow of 721 Lexington Avenue has been refused a License for an Intelligence Office. She believes that the refusal was due to disloyalty on the part of her partner.

All I know of Miss. Morrow is good, and I have made several inquiries with a view of obtaining certainty upon the point. Therefore, I take pleasure in indorsing her application, and in expressing the hope that she may be allowed to resume her business.

Sincerely yours,

*M. J. Laville V.G.*





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August 1, 1913.

Mr. James Matthews, Executive Secretary,  
Office of the Mayor, City Hall, City.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 31st ult., enclosing communication from Chief Daniel O'Leary, of the Department of Labor of the State, in reference to an anonymous letter received by him relative to an employment agency at 30 East 4th Street, and to say that the matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours truly,

Deputy and Acting Commissioner



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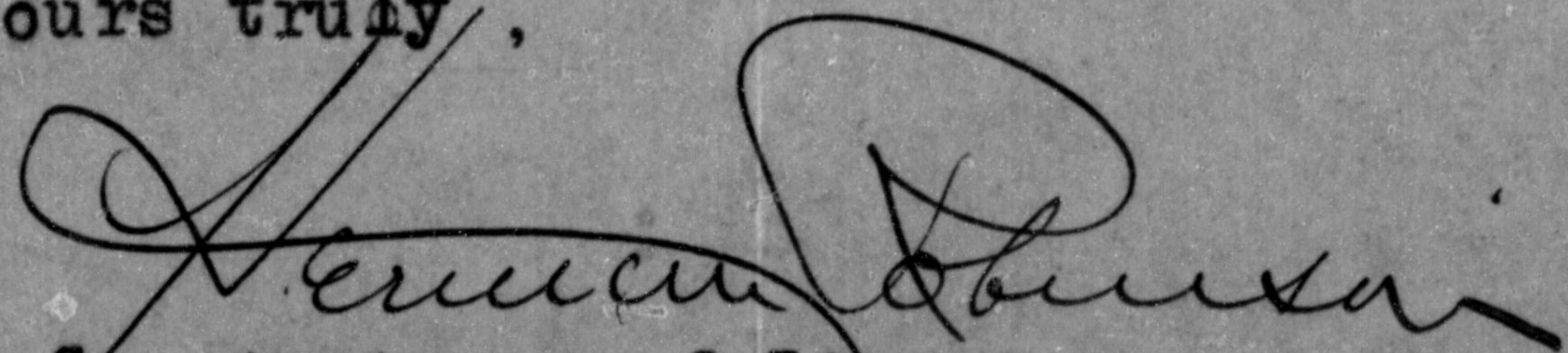
August 7th, 1913.

Mr. James Matthews, Executive Secretary,  
Office of the Mayor, City Hall.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 4th inst., transmitting letter of S. Lemberg, of Suffern, N.Y., making complaint against the employment agency of J. Koenigstein, 6 Greenwich Str., city, and to say that this matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.



TEL. 2826 WORTH



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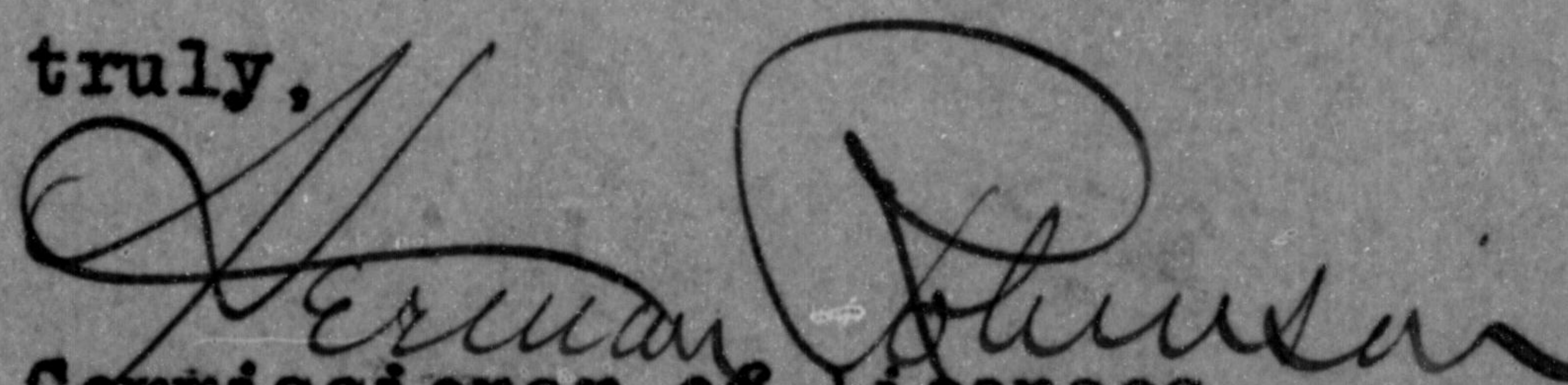
September 6th, 1913.

Mr. Robert Adamson,  
Secretary to the Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th inst., enclosing letter of Mrs. Ch. Weitz, 2053 Third Ave., making inquiring about the fee which an employment agency is entitled to receive from a servant, and to say that the matter will have my immediate attention.

Yours truly,

  
Commissioner of Licenses.