

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, January 2d, 1895

JOHN J. SCANNELL.
ANTHONY EICKHOFF.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on December 31st last, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, In the month of January, 1894, Mr. Gray, in a letter to Mayor Gilroy, preferred charges against this Department, and thereafter the matter set forth in said charges was investigated, by direction of the Mayor, by the Commissioners of Accounts, who reported that the charges were not sustained; notwithstanding which from time to time since such report, said charges have been reiterated against the Department, tending to bring it into discredit before the public and to impair its efficiency; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor elect of the city of New York, be respectfully requested to investigate, at his

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

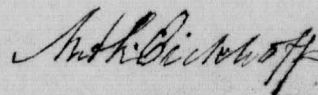
New York,.....189

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earliest convenience, in such manner as he may determine, the charges brought against this Department, and to further investigate the management of this Department in every particular; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to His Honor Mayor elect Strong.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Bickhoff".

Acting President.

(COPY).

Fire Department,

Headquarters 12th Battalion,

New York, January 10th, 1895.

Hugh Bonner,

Chief of Department-

Sir:

In compliance with orders received from you, I have the honor to report that I made an investigation relative to a statement made by I. J. Geery of 388 Amsterdam Avenue, wherein he claims that a car on which he was a passenger, was blocked for ten or fifteen minutes by an apparatus of the Fire Department at 98th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and the following is respectfully submitted:

The officers of the company, when questioned, stated, that, on the day mentioned, they returned with the apparatus from an alarm of fire at station 624. It is customary for them, when washing the truck, to place it on west side of street near curb, but, on account of the quantity of snow there, they were unable to do so, and they allowed a portion of it to remain on track for a period of about five minutes, while they were throwing some water on it. They say that they did not think they were preventing the passage of any cars while doing so, nor did any person call their attention to it. Both officers have a good record in the Department, and they greatly regret that they were unintentionally the

(COBA)

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cause of any person or persons being delayed, while engaged in attending to their business.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd)

JOHN J. COONEY,

Acting Chief 12th Battalion.

Jan. 10

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Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, January 11th, 1895.

JOHN J. SCANNELL.
ANTHONY EICKHOFF.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office under date of the 7th instant, enclosing a communication from Mr. I. J. Geery, concerning alleged blockade of the street by an apparatus of this Department, and to forward herewith copy of report of an investigation made into the circumstances by the Acting Chief of the Battalion to which the company referred to belongs.

The complaint of Mr. Geery is also herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

Ant. Eickhoff

Acting President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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Headquarters

Chief

1st Lt. J. J. J. J. J.

2nd Lt. J. J. J. J. J.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, February 19th, 1895.

JOHN J. SCANNELL.
ANTHONY EICKHOFF.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:..

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 18th instant, enclosing for attention and report a communication from J. C. Hacker, Esq., concerning packing boxes stored in rear of buildings Nos. 55, 57 and 59 South Fifth Avenue, and to return the same herewith, with the following information:

There is no express prohibition in law against the storage of wooden packing boxes or cases in this city, in either large or small quantities. But complaints having been heretofore made of apprehended danger from keeping large quantities of boxes, this Department, under a general provision of the Consolidation Act, which confers upon it a limited authority to regulate the storage of combustible materials, made a regulation intended to lessen or entirely do away with any possible danger to life or property from this source.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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In 1892 an effort was made by the Department to enforce this regulation, through a suit brought against one John Gilmour. Judgment was obtained in the first instance in favor of the Department, sustaining its right to proceed in the matter. From this judgment an appeal was taken to the General Term of the Court of Common Pleas, where, on June 6th, 1893, a decision was rendered, reversing the judgment of the Court below.

Appeal has been taken from this judgment to the Court of Appeals, but the case has not yet been reached. In the meantime the Department is bound by the decision of the Court of Common Pleas, and is powerless to do any thing in the matter.

Very respectfully,

Anthony Eichhoff

Acting President.

New York, February 25th 1895.

To Chief of the Fire Department
of

Dear Sir:

Yourself and firemen are cordially invited to attend an exhibition of the great Ball Nozzle at 837-847 Broadway, New York, on Saturday, March the Second, 1895, between 9 A. M. and 6 P. M. given especially for Firemen.

The Ball Nozzle offers the most effective weapon in existence for fighting fire, and at the same time a protection to firemen they have never before had.

Firemen who have used the Ball Nozzle claim that it adds one hundred per cent. to the effectiveness of their work.

We are anxious to have you see it and take pleasure in enclosing tickets for yourself and members of your department. Should you require more tickets kindly advise.

Trusting we may be honored by your presence

We remain,

Very Respectfully,

American Ball Nozzle Company.

AMERICAN BALL NOZZLE COMPANY,

837-841 BROADWAY,

CABLEGRAMS AND TELEGRAMS.
BALL NOZZLE-NEW YORK.

NEW YORK,

Feb 27th 1895

Hon Wm L. Strong Mayor

Dear Sir: I have the honor of extending to you
a very cordial invitation to attend our opening,
in the Roosevelt Building Cor 13th and Broadway
on Saturday March 2nd 1895, when we begin
a permanent exhibition of an appliance for fighting
fire which promises to reduce the loss of life
and property from that cause to a very low
minimum. We have set aside the day
of our opening for the purpose of making a
special exhibition to those entrusted with the
safety of life and property in this and adjoining
cities, and shall feel greatly honored if
you can find it convenient to pay us a
visit - and you will, I feel quite sure be
deeply interested; I enclose invitation and tickets being
sent to you, I am Sir,

Very Respectfully Yours

C. F. Meek
Th.

Proctor

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, March 12th, 1895.

S. Howland Robbins,
D. H. La Grange,
James R. Sheffield,
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office, of the 8th instant, enclosing for consideration communication from Daniel Kelly. The letter is herewith returned with the following information:

The position held by Mr. Kelly in the Repair Shops was, on March 23d, 1893, abolished by the Board of Fire Commissioners, to take effect on the 31st of that month, as will appear by the following preamble and resolution then adopted:

"WHEREAS, The clerkship now filled by Daniel Kelly in the Repair Shops of this Department is no longer needed; therefore

"RESOLVED, That the said position be and is hereby abolished, to take effect from and after 5 P. M., on the 31st instant, and that as the services of the said Daniel Kelly are therefore no longer needed, he is hereby removed, to take effect at that time."

The position of clerk thus abolished has not since been re-established in the Repair Shops.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

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Headquarters

1st Lt. J. J. ...

1st Lt. J. J. ...

New York, March 13th,

1890

Mr. Kelly does not name the person who he says is detailed to do the work he formerly performed, but it is inferred he means Thomas Duane. Mr. Duane was first appointed in the Repair Shops on January 26th, 1894, ten months after Mr. Kelly's position was abolished, as a blacksmith at \$3 per day, and on April 19th, 1894, - more than a year after Mr. Kelly left the Department, - Duane was appointed temporary bookkeeper at \$4 per day. Both his former superior, Captain (now Chief of Battalion) John Castles, then in charge of the Repair Shops, and his present superior, Captain Patrick F. Ryan, now in charge of the Repair Shops, state that Mr. Duane is a very competent and efficient employee.

Very respectfully,

J. Hawland Robbins
Acting President.

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Mr. Durne is a very
plain Patrick T. Ryan
then in charge of
former superior. C
Durne was appointed

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee.

We come as a committee of firemen, professional firemen if you will, to honestly lay before you the true facts of the matter at issue, as viewed from our standpoint.

We are men who make fire extinguishment our life work, we devote our entire time night and day, wholly and exclusively to the service, and have no other profession, trade, or calling. We are men who have given many of the best years of our lives to the service, and we represent the men who by their hard work, untiring energy, courage, endurance, and unflinching bravery, have made the Fire Department of the City of New York what it is to day, the finest fire service in the world, and the pride and glory of our citizens.

We have no lawyers to plead our cause, we need none, we rely on our own efforts and the justness of our claims, we feel we have right on our side, we believe in the intelligence and integrity of the Committee, and know that a plain statement of facts properly set forth should always be sufficient to set aside and destroy the most subtle argument, the most learned presentation and the most eloquent speech ever delivered by a lawyer, even though he stood at the head of his profession, providing, the argument, eloquent though it be, is not based on facts and built on the foundation of truth, right, and justice.

Gentlemen, no person present realizes my inability to plead and argue against a member of the bar and the bright men of the other side, more than I do myself. If imitation is the sincerest flattery, then envy must be its twin brother, and I certainly envy the other side the ability they possess in presenting their arguments.

The counsel ably presented their side of the case, but the hiring of counsel at this stage is a confession of weakness, and proves that our opponents fully appreciate the necessity of securing the services of a gentleman schooled in all the arts and artifices of the law, to act for them. Yes, they were justified in retaining a lawyer, they realized how desperate their case was, and desperate cases require desperate remedies, and they knew it would require all of his eloquence to bolster up their alleged claims to the monies of the two per cent tax.

Claims based on What? On services rendered by the Volunteer Fire Department thirty years ago.

Claims advanced by whom? By the Exempt Firemens Benevolent Association, an organization of men representing a mere handful of the men who formed the volunteer fire department of our city, a department that ceased to exist and has not done duty since 1865.

And what do they claim? The exclusive right to collect and disburse the monies accruing from a tax of two per cent on premiums earned by foreign fire insurance companies on business done in the City of New York, at the present day and under the protection afforded by the present department.

And why do they claim it? Because there was a law passed in 1849, fixing the tax and stipulating that the monies therefrom be paid to the treasurer of the fire department in the locality where the business is done, which monies they collected up to their disbanding in 1865, when their right to the monies ceased. Well they enjoyed it since, did they not? Yes, in 1866 our representatives permitted them to have a law passed giving them the monies for five years, again in 1871, they were permitted with our consent to collect a percentage of the monies for five years, again in 1877 with the consent of our representatives they had a law passed giving them the entire tax for an additional ten years, again in 1887 they had a law passed giving them the monies for another ten year period to end on January 17th 1897, which extension was granted despite the protests of our representatives and after the Exempts had entered into an agreement to introduce a measure giving them 42 1/2 %, our department 42 1/2 %, and the Fire Patrol 15 % of the tax, which agreement was deliberately broken by them, statements to the contrary notwithstanding. That is their case.

Now they are seeking to still further divert the monies from the regular channel and have it accrue to them for ten years from 1897, despite our protests. Do they argue that according to the provisions of the original law we are ^{not} entitled to this money? Do they claim we are not the regular fire department of the City of New York?

No, they make no such claim or argument, they admit that our department succeeded theirs, they admit that all the powers and duties that were vested in their department are now vested in ours under the law.

If that is the case, then we are vested with the right to collect and disburse the monies of this tax. Is there any other claim they set up in defense of their application? Yes, they claim it because their services were voluntary, and the service cost the city very little.

We concede that their services were voluntary, but was the service rendered at little cost to the city and its tax payers, let us see, facts are stubborn, and figures do not lie.

In 1864 there were 370 fires, the total damage was \$2,935.054. and the average loss per fire was \$7,932.57..

In 1865 the average cost per fire to the citizens and taxpayers for maintaining this volunteer service was

\$759.50.. In 1894 there were 3,958 fires, the total damage was \$4,322,221.. the average loss per fire was \$1,092.25.. and the cost of maintenance per fire to the citizens in 1893 was \$528.94.. being an average loss per fire of \$6,840.32.. less in 1894, than in 1865, and an average cost per fire for maintenance of \$230.56.. less in 1893 than in 1865, and now firemen are paid for their services.

Gentlemen, they tell you this money is wanted by them for charitable purposes, well charity is a virtue that every one should possess, it covers a multitude of sins, but charity begins at home, and the persons exercising that great christian virtue to relieve suffering humanity should use their own funds, or funds they have some claim to, and not use monies that rightfully belongs to others, and that is practically what they propose doing in this case, and what they have been doing since 1865.

They tell you, the payment of this money to them is a state obligation for services rendered in the past, Gentlemen, if the state is obligated to them for services rendered, that obligation should be honorably discharged with state funds. The great State of New York should not rob Peter to pay Paul. They tell you they have indigent firemen, and widows and orphans to care for, well we have indigent firemen, and widows and orphans to care for also, and as the original law says the money is ours, the claims of our widows and orphans should be considered first.

Over ninety companies are paying this tax, and nine-tenths of those companies began to do business in our city after the volunteer service ceased. The companies recognizing the injustice done us, ask that no action be taken

The law giving the Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association the tax, does not expire until January 17th 1897, nearly two years hence, consequently there is no necessity for legislation at this time.

It is not the intention to reflect upon the duties that have been performed by the volunteer firemen of our city. It is aimed however to point out that under the law of 1849, the money should come to the department in active service, ~~but~~ taking advantage of the generosity of the members of our department who permitted the Exempt Association to enjoy for some time the income from this source, that Association now assumes that they can secure for themselves in perpetuity the monies of this tax.

This question involves only the tax assessed in New York City and County, it is purely a local question between the Exempt Association and the Fire Department of the City of New York, and neither volunteer, exempt, or paid firemen elsewhere in the state are concerned in the matter.

In connection with this matter, Mr. Chairman, I desire to call your attention to the memorandum filed with a bill passed in 1887, extending the time of the collection, and enjoyment of the monies accruing from this tax by the Exempt Association, for a period of ten years, to end January 17th 1897, to let you know just what Governor Hill thought of the matter then.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

Executive Chamber.

(Coat-of-Arms)

Albany, May 23rd, 1887.

Memorandum filed with Senate bill No. 105, entitled "An Act to amend chapter four hundred and ten of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled 'An act to consolidate into one act and to declare the special and local laws affecting public interests in the city of New York,' by extending the period during which ~~XXXXXX~~ the corporation therein named may collect and apply to its use the percentage or tax on the receipts of the foreign fire insurance companies doing business in the city of New York." Approved,

From such examination as I have been able to give to this bill during the limited time at my disposal, I have concluded to approve it. There are hundreds of other measures awaiting my attention at this late stage of the session, and my consideration of this bill has necessarily been hasty and somewhat imperfect.

While approving the measure because I believe its general features have much merit, yet it is not improbable that a better regulated and more permanent measure, and possibly one more equitable adjusted towards all whose interests are affected by it, might be framed, and if any such measure shall hereafter be presented, then the approval of this will not be deemed sufficient to prevent a re-consideration of the whole subject.

David B. Hill.

I have also another document which bears directly on this matter, it is a letter addressed to me by Mr. Edmund Stephenson, a former President of the Exempt Association.

Mr. Stephenson is responsible for all the statements contained in this communication.

New York March 24th 1894.

Thomas F. Freel, Esq.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your questions, I would state, that I would not allow my name to be used as a candidate for re-election as President, nor would I serve as a Trustee of the Exempt Firemens Benevolent Association, for the following reasons: Because there are no safeguards to prevent the Fund from being used improperly, and that it came to my knowledge from personal investigation, that the monies of the Fund were being used improperly, and paid over to persons who were not Exempt Firemen, and were not entitled to a penny therefrom. Because they have no Auditing Committee and the dispensing of large sums of money, is placed in the hands of twelve Trustees, who practically do with it as they see fit, and who are irresponsible, for the reason that they are not bonded officers.

In my opinion the entire matter should be investigated by a Committee of the Legislature.

The proper thing to be done with the monies of that Fund, and the two per cent tax, would, in my opinion, be to turn it over to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the City of New York, who are sworn officers, together with the indigent "Exempts" and the widows and orphans dependent on that Fund, and allow the Fire Commissioners to take charge of the entire amount, and disburse the monies so as to afford relief to everybody requiring it, and to cut off from relief all persons not entitled to it.


Respectfully,


(signed)

Edmund Stephenson,
215 East 62nd Street,
New York City.

It is only fair to say that since writing this letter Mr. Stephenson has experienced a change of heart, and regrets more than any one else that he ever committed himself by writing this or any other letter or communication bearing on this matter. Mr. Stephenson gave me this letter, not as a private document, but as a document that could be used by me, in any way I saw fit.

I am not in a position to state just what representations were made, or what influence was brought to bear on Mr. Stephenson to cause him to change his position in the matter, but the fact remains, that he has changed since writing this letter, so in justice to the other side I make this statement.

Now, Gentlemen, let me thank you for the patient attention, and consideration you have shown me,  assure you ^{is} fully appreciated ~~it~~, and in conclusion let me state that in our opinion the matter properly belongs to the legislature of 1896, and for that reason, and all the other reasons stated, we ask that this bill be advanced no further, and that you allow the question to be disposed of by the Legislature of 1896.



Exempt

Franchise

2%

Foreign

Corporation

Tax

In the matter of the Two per
cent tax on Foreign Fire
Insurance Companies.

Address of Thomas D. Reed
before the Senate Judiciary Committee
against extending the time of
collection by the Exempt Franchise
Association
March 26th 1895.

Headquarters Fire Department,

CITY OF NEW YORK,

157 AND 159 EAST 67TH STREET,

NEW YORK, March 18th, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE,
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS,
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,

Commissioners.

The following changes in the Board of Fire Commissioners are hereby announced to the Department:

APPOINTMENTS:

O. H. La Grange as Fire Commissioner, on March 5, 1895, in place of Commissioner John J. Scannell.

James R. Sheffield as Fire Commissioner, on March 7, 1895, in place of Commissioner Anthony Eickhoff.

Commissioner O. H. La Grange was elected President, to take effect from the 13th instant.

COMMITTEES:

Commissioner S. Howland Robbins was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Apparatus and Telegraph, which Committee has cognizance of all matters referred to it relative to the following:

Bureau of the Chief of Department,
" " Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical Appliances,
Repair Shops, and
Hospital and Training Stables.

Commissioner James R. Sheffield was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Supplies, which Committee has cognizance of all matters referred to it relative to the following:

Bureau of the Inspector of Combustibles,
" " Fire Marshal,
Attorney,
New Sites and Buildings,
Repairs to Buildings, and
Supplies.

The President is *ex officio* member of both committees.

They will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By order of the Board,

O. H. LA GRANGE,
President.

CARL JUSSEN,
Secretary.

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Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, March 20th, 1895.

Q. H. La Grange,
S. Howard Robbins,
James R. Sheffield,
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of communication of 13th instant enclosing letter from Cornelius Daly, who therein states that injustice is done wood dealers in business in this city by the Fire Department purchasing wood from parties in Brooklyn.

In reply thereto I desire to state that some of the wood used by this Department for firing up, is purchased from E. B. Squibb & Son, Brooklyn, and is a material especially prepared for quick ignition. It was recommended by the Chief of Department after a careful trial, and for the reason that it was found to be superior for the purposes of the Department. The Superintendent of Supplies reports that he has failed to find any dealer in this city who can supply wood equal in quality or price.

Other wood for the Department is purchased from dealers

in this city.

Mr. Daly's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

O. F. Daly
President.

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In this city.

Mr. Smith

*Headquarters
Fire Department*

*Bureau Chief of Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

New York, March 24th 1895.

HUGH BONNER,
Chief of Department.

Stevenson Constable, Esq.,

Supt. Building Department.

Dear Sir:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 23rd inst., requesting presence before the Mayor to oppose the passage of the Bill taking authority for dock construction from the Building Department, and transferring it to the Department of Docks.

I would consider it a pleasure to be present on the occasion, were it not for the fact, that I have not the time to spare, as we are making preparations for a ceremony, to be held within a short time, which requires my entire attention.

Were I present, I would certainly oppose the proposed transfer of this important matter from the Department of Buildings.

This construction has during my connection with the Building Department received proper attention, with the view of protecting the interests of all concerned.

The improvements during the past years in this construction, are mainly due to the efforts of the Department of Buildings, in enforcing and demanding safer construction, and it has met with

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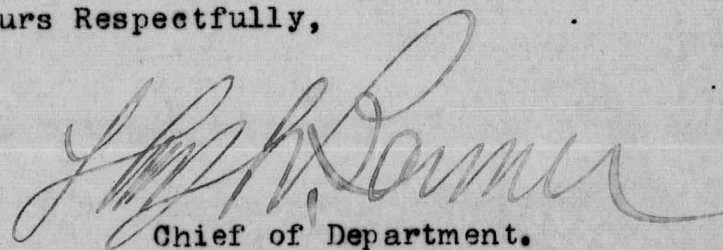
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that success which gives the construction of the present day that stability which should be guaranteed on our water front.

There remains but one addition to complete the improvements which these docks require, and which should be demanded in the future, it is the fire-proofing of the superstructure, which is that part of the docks mainly beyond the control of the Fire Department, and which permits the rapid destruction of these immense docks, if they are not properly protected against the spread of fire.

I hope the time will soon arrive when those structures will be classed as fire-proof, and that we shall have the same confidence in this construction, as we now have in the modern fire-proof buildings, which are being erected throughout the city.

Yours Respectfully,



Chief of Department.

it is the fire-proof
case docks redmine, and
ere remains put one sta
ly which should be guar
anceas which gives the

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, March 27th, 1895

O. H. La Grange,
B. H. Robbins,
J. R. Sheffield,
Commissioners
JOHN BACKHOFF,
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS,

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor -

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office of the 26th instant, referring for consideration the attached communication from Miss Lottie Vant, and to say that the same will receive proper attention.

Very respectfully,

A. H. La Grange
Secretary.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,

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Headquarters
121 & 123 East 5th Street
New York
March 24th

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, March 27th, 1895

O. H. La Grange,
S. H. Robbins,
J. R. Sheffield,
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office of the 25th instant, referring for consideration the attached communication from Henry McIntire, and to say that the same will receive proper attention.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange

President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

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March 24th 1892
John J. Smith
Headquarters

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, April 2d, 1895.

O. H. La Grange,

JOHN J. SCANNELL,
ANTHONY EICKHOFF,

J. HOWLAND ROBBINS,

Commissioners

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith announcement of the re-organization of the Board of Fire Commissioners and its committees, for your information.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 2 189

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HON. WILLIAM T. SPRONG,

REAR-

SIR:

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS AND ITS COMMITTEES.
I have the honor to enclose herewith announcement of the re-

Very respectfully,

Abner S.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, April 2d, 1895

O. H. La Grange,
JOHN J. SCANNELL.
S. H. Robbins
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
J. R. Chandler,
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office dated the 30th ultimo, referring for attention and reply direct the enclosed letter from Isaac T. Dyer, Chicago, Ill., and to state that the same has been answered.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange

President.

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,.....189

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HON. WILLIAM T. STORON.

MAJOR.

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from

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your office dated the 30th ultimo, referring for attention and
reply direct the enclosed letter from Isaac W. Davis, Chicago, Ill.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, 8th April, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
Commissioners.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

Replying to letter from your office of April 4th enclosing unsigned paper from our Repair Shops, I beg to say that the overtime allowed to machinist Jno. Thompson had attracted my attention on the weekly pay-rolls and an explanation had been made to the effect that that double time had been allowed for night work in bringing in "wrecked machinery and apparatus"; but this Board (being unwilling to risk injury to a good man by overwork) had ordered Thompson's discharge (to take effect last Saturday) before receiving the letter from your office.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange

President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 8.....189

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NOV. 21. 1891

NOV. 21. 1891

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, April 18th, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor, on behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners, to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 16th instant, relative to the promotion of John E. Farley of Hook and Ladder Company No. 9 of this Department, and to assure you that the same will receive due consideration.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,.....189

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MADE IN U.S.A.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, April 22d, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

23 I have the honor to inform you that at an informal conference held this day between the President of the Department of Police, the Superintendent of Buildings and the President of the Fire Department, with relation to the duties devolved upon the Departments represented, in relation to securing the removal of incumbrances from fire escapes and preventing their incumbrance, it was suggested that you call a formal conference of the representatives of the three Departments named - to include also the President of the Board of Health - with a view to determining upon some measures to secure the better enforcement of the laws upon the subject referred to. In accordance with that suggestion, I hereby request you to convene the representatives of the Departments named for that purpose, at such time as may be convenient to yourself.

The provisions of the law upon this subject are found in

TELEPHONE

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189

1891, SS. Irving

sections 498, 505, 514 and 515 of the Consolidation Act, as amended by chapter 275 of the Laws of 1892, which provisions impose duties upon each of the three first named Departments in connection with the matter, and create a divided responsibility.

Very respectfully,

O. H. LaGrange
President.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, May 13th, 1895.

O. H. La Grange,
O. H. LA GRANGE
J. S. Howland & Robbins,
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
Austin E. Ford,
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners I have the honor to tender you a review of a detachment of this Department, on Saturday, the 25th instant, at Riverside Park, on the occasion of the presentation of the Bennett, Stephenson and Pulitzer medals for the years 1893 and 1894, and also to request that you make the presentation of the same.

The Fire Commissioners trust that you will accept the invitation, and at any time, at your convenience, I will be pleased to call upon you with reference to the detailed arrangements for the ceremony.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

COMMISSE
Commissioner
of the
Department
of
Fire
of
the
City
of
New
York

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

13
24
New York
May 14th, 1892
Chief of Department
New York
New York

-COPY-

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York,

May 20th, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE,
J. R. SHEFFIELD,
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
Austin F. Ford,
Commissioners.

Hon. Francis M. Scott,

Counsel to the Corporation -

Dear sir:

A reply to your favor of the 14th, which items in the public press might seem to invite, has been delayed by the absence of one of our Commissioners from the city.

Upon receipt of your favor of April 26th, showing cost of condemnation proceedings to have been \$2,065.05 to secure for this Department lots at the corner of Railroad Avenue, East, and East One hundred and fifty-ninth Street, valued at \$7,125, the law was examined and this Board decided hereafter to acquire title by purchase wherever practicable, rather than by costly condemnation proceedings, and on May 8th requested an itemized statement of the cost of such proceedings in the case under consideration.

Thanking you for your full and courteous reply of May 14th, the suggestion may be permitted that if other Departments have the advice therein contained, it may spare the Commissioners of Accounts the trouble of inquiry into the cost of advertising in

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

Wm. J. Smith
1st & 2nd East 11th Street
New York
Headquarters
MAY 30th, 1895.

future transactions of a similar character for the city.

Very respectfully,

Signed

O. H. La Grange

President.

25

President.

Signed O. H. La Grange

Very respectfully,

These transactions of a similar character for the city.

S

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York,

May 23rd, 1895.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
Commissioners.

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor,

New York.

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information, copy of the records upon which the award of the Bennett and Pulitzer medals were made by the Board. The Stephenson medals were awarded to Foreman John H. White of Engine No. 12, for 1893, and to Foreman Charles W. Kruger, H. & L. Company No. 9, for 1894, --in each case for excellence in their conduct as company commanders during the respective years.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,.....189

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26

1891, 67-68, 1890.

O. H. La Grange,
J. R. Sheffield,
Austin E. Ford,
Commissioners.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
S. HOWLAND ROBBINS.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York,

May 23, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith 25 cards of admission to the stand at Riverside drive, near 76th Street, for the presentation of the medals to the officers and men of this Department, &c., and will be very happy to send more if you should desire the same.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

HON. WILLIAM T. SPRONG

COUNCIL HOUSE
JAMES H. SPRINGFIELD
2 HOWARD STREET
CITY OF NEW YORK

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
Very respectfully,
Wm. T. Sprong

MAY 28, 1892.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, August 30th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

27 I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office under yesterday's date, enclosing anonymous communication on the subject of obstruction of fire-escapes.

As the result of a recent conference between the Departments of Police, Buildings, and Fire, it was determined that the matter of obstruction of fire-escapes should be referred to the Chief of Police. The communication has, accordingly, been sent to Acting Chief of Police Conlin.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

Acting Chief of Police

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.
New York, 189

New York, August 30th, 1892.
Fire Department
Headquarters

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, September 18th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Fire Commissioners held on the 17th instant, the attention of the Board was called to the impassable condition of the streets in the vicinity of the Fordham railroad station and its effect upon the operations of the Department, and it was ordered that notice thereof be sent to the Commissioner of Street Improvements of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, as per the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to that official.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,.....189

1891. William J. Stone.

201 Empire, 1891.

2

(COPY).

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.

Commissioners.

*Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

New York, September 17th, 1895.

Hon. Louis F. Haffen,

Commissioner of Street Improvements,

Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards-

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the attention of the Fire Commissioners has been called to the fact that, owing to the impassable condition of the streets in the vicinity of the Fordham railroad station, the district lying east of the New York Central Railroad tracks is practically cut off from fire protection. This condition has been verified by the Commissioners, on investigation.

The Fire Commissioners feel it necessary, under the circumstances, to call your attention to the matter. For more than a year the Department has labored under great difficulties owing to a similar state of affairs, and the Fire Commissioners deem it proper to disclaim responsibility for any loss by fire, which may arise in consequence of the condition referred to.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd)

O. H. LA GRANGE,

President

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 18 28 189

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28

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.

Commissioners.

*Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

New York, Feb. 24th, 1896.

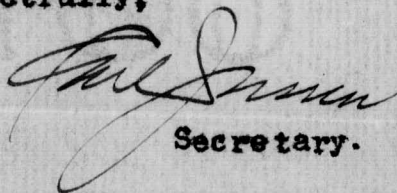
Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Mayor's Office-

Dear Sir:

I am directed by Commissioner
Sheffield to send you enclosed fire-badge, No.
930, with his compliments.

Very respectfully,


Secretary.

Feb. 24

330. with his compliments.

Shelbourn to send you enclosed three-pager. No

I am directed by Committee to

Dear Sir:

My dear Sir,

330. with his compliments.

Committed.

*Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.

Commissioners.

New York, March 6, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I have just been handed a clipping from an evening newspaper headed "La Grange's Freak" and in view of the Comptroller's comments on the action of this Board, which was unanimous, in relation to the proposed purchase of a site for an engine house at 22 East Twelfth Street shall cause the facts from the official record in relation thereto to be published tomorrow morning.

This action appears necessary in justice to all the members of this Board, though we desire to avoid all newspaper notoriety or controversy.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
Comr.

22

lation thereto to be published tomorrow morning.
cause the facts from the attached record in re-
and receive same at 22 N. W. 1st St. (1st St. & 2nd St.)
and in view of the Compiler's comments on the
the evening newspaper headed "The Press," a Frank
I have just been issued a clipping from

*Headquarters
Fire Department*

Bureau Chief of Department

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, March 7th 1896.

HUGH BONNER.
Chief of Department.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor, New York City.

My Dear Sir:

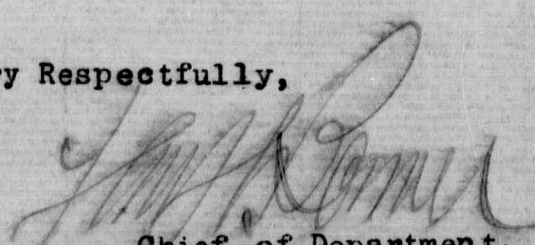
Your esteemed favor, commending the brave and heroic action of our firemen during the late fire at the Winchester Apartment House, is at hand, and in behalf of the department, permit me to extend thanks in appreciation of the official recognition which you so warmly give for acts performed by our men in the line of duty.

It is rarely that acts such as those are recognized by anyone in authority, and when done so by the head of the City Government, I can assure you that we fully appreciate it, and will tend greatly as an incentive to more heroic acts of a like nature in the future.

I shall take great pleasure in promulgating your esteemed communication, for their information.

Thanking you again for your public and personal appreciation of the Department, I remain

Very Respectfully,


Chief of Department.

7

31

March 31st 1838.

C O P Y .

New York, March 12th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Please take notice that I shall hold the City of New responsible for any damage that may occur to my property, rear of No. 92 Monroe Street, which may be caused by or proceed from the fire-trap rebuilding on the site of former fire-trap Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10 Pelham St., built December, 1890, destroyed by fire Saturday, November 2nd, 1895, when four persons were burned to death and one who jumped to his death. On November 28th, 1890, I warned the President of the Fire Department that the horrors of No. 197 Bowery might be revived when I protested against an 80 foot high ~~xxx~~ sweatshop being erected on a lane 19 feet wide and 250 feet in length.

In my communication to you of the 2nd of March, 1895, I enclosed copies of my two protests to President Purroy. It was a crime to allow the erection of the death trap, and it is no less a crime to allow of the rebuilding of it. Please acknowledge the receipt of this.

Respectfully,

(Signed.)

PATRICK H. FAY.

The subjoined list shows the list of fires within 80 yards of my factory within two and a half years 47, 49 and 51 Pike St, Sweatshop erected in June 1893, burned on September 6th, 1893. Party in interest Morris Levy, 4, 6, 8 and 10 Pelham St., adjoining my factory built December 1890, sweatshop burned 2nd of November, 1895, party in interest Morris Levy. Nos. 12 and 14 Pelham St., sweatshop erected June 1890, burned 1895, party in interest not known to me. 232-4-6 Cherry St., sweatshop and stable, burned Easter Sunday 1895, parties in interest not all known to me. All total losses.

(Signed.)

PATRICK H. FAY.

C O P Y .

New York, March 12th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Please take notice that I shall hold the City of New responsible for any damage that may occur to my property, rear of No. 92 Monroe Street, which may be caused by or proceed from the fire-trap rebuilding on the site of former fire-trap Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10 Pelham St., built December, 1890, destroyed by fire Saturday, November 2nd, 1895, when four persons were burned to death and one who jumped to his death. On November 28th, 1890, I warned the President of the Fire Department that the horrors of No. 197 Bowery might be revived when I protested against an 80 foot high ~~and~~ sweatshop being erected on a lane 19 feet wide and 250 feet in length.

In my communication to you of the 2nd of March, 1895, I enclosed copies of my two protests to President Purroy. It was a crime to allow the erection of the death trap, and it is no less a crime to allow of the rebuilding of it. Please acknowledge the receipt of this.

Respectfully,

(Signed.)

PATRICK H. FAY.

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(Signed.)

PATRICK H. FAY.

12

30

C O P Y .

New York, March 12

Wm. L. Strong,
of the City of New York.

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, **March 17th,** *189*

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office dated the 13th inst., enclosing copy of letter from Patrick H. Fay.

The records of the Department show that Mr. Fay's letter of Nov. 28th, 1890, was received here on Nov. 29th, 1890, and on the same day referred to the Bureau of Inspection of Buildings, then a part of this Department. The facts given in that letter did not, however, constitute a violation of law at that time.

The remedy, if any there be at the present time, must be sought through the Department of Buildings.

Very respectfully,

O. H. La Grange
President.

(P.S.) Copy of letter referred to is herewith returned.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New York, 189



NOV 11 1890
RECEIVED
FIRE DEPARTMENT
NEW YORK

PATTERSON & CLARKE .

55 William Street, New York.

March 16, 1896.

GEN. O. H. LA GRANGE, Prest.

My Dear Sir:-

Yours of 13th was forwarded to me from New York and rec'd today, and please permit me to thank you for the information therein contained.

I would advise to do all in your power to defeat the amendment giving 20% to the State Fireman's Home. I know all about it; its a private concern gotten up by a few old Volunteers to make money for themselves; they tried to get hold of the 3% Licensed Insurance Brokers in N. Y. tax, but the scheme to enrich themselves was so apparent that they were easily beaten in 1892, I think, was the year.

I read an article which inferred that the Mayor favored giving the Exempts all the 2% tax. I hope not- your fund should get a big share of it; under no circumstances make an alliance with the Hudson people. I still think that the original proposition should prevail- your fund to get all, if you can, if not, then a division between your fund, Exempts and Fire Patrol.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

GEO. T. PATTERSON.

March 16

on in 1895. I think that the year

to which themselves was so common, that they were easily lost

the 221100000 Insurance Company in N.Y. City, but the scheme

seems to make money for themselves; they tried to get hold of

about it; its private concern gotten up by a few old active

members of the 1890's to the State Treasurer's home. I know all

I would advise to go all in and however to harvest the

information there in contained.

Now and now I today, and always must be to find you for the

kind of 1890 are forwarded to me from New

York O. B. 11. 1890. 1890.

32

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.

Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,

157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, 20th March 1896

Hon^{ble} Wm L Strong

City Hall:

Dear Sir: I respectfully
enclose herewith a copy
of letter from Mr Geo
J. Patterson relative to
the State Firemen's Home
for your information,
and such consideration
as it may merit when
the disposal of the 2nd
Tax on Foreign Insurance
Companies shall come

Receive you -

JAMES W. FORD
AUSTIN, FORD

Very Respectfully

J. H. Loring

Court

Dear Sir: I respectfully
enclose herewith a copy
of letter from Mr Geo

Grand International Fire Tournament and Exhibition,Royal Agricultural Hall, London, June 19th to 26th, 1896.
.....**THE NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADE'S UNION,**

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE COBURG GOTHA, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE CHRISTIAN, K.G.

HIS GRACE THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, K.G.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, K.G.

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.

THE DUKE OF FIFE, K.T.

ETC., ETC., ETC.,

**PRESIDENT:**

SIR EYRE M. SHAW, K.C.B.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

CAPT. J. SEXTON SIMONDS,

*Chief Officer, M.F.B., London.***DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:**

H.R.H. THE PRINCE CHRISTIAN, K.G.

RT. HON. EARL MOUNT EDGUMBE.

RT. HON. THE EARL OF DUDLEY.

RT. HON. LORD WOLVERTON.

VISCOUNT CANTELUPE.

SIR JOHN H. PULESTON.

SIR TREVOR LAWRENCE, BART.

CHAIRMAN:

LIEUT.-COL. SEABROKE, F.R.A.S.

*Chief Officer Rugby.***VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

CAPT. W. R. HENDERSON, J.P.,

*Chief Officer Rickmansworth***WIDOWS & ORPHANS' FUND.****TRUSTEES:**

RT. HON. THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE.

RT. HON. THE EARL OF DENBIGH.

RT. HON. LORD WOLVERTON.

TREASURER:

W. POWER TRENCH, Esq.,

*Capital and Counties Bank,**Guildford.***GEN. HON. SEC.**

HORACE S. FOLKER, F.A.I.

*N.F.B.U., Guildford.**Telegraphic Address—"Folker, Guildford."***BANKERS:**

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES.

(Guildford Branch.)

Guildford, ~~December~~ March ^{26th} 1896
England.

Dear Sir,

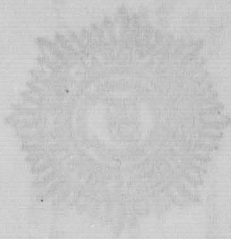
I am directed by the Executive Council of the National Fire Brigades Union England to cordially invite you to attend the Grand International Fire Tournament & Exhibition to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall London June 19th to 27th 1896, when representatives from all parts of the World have promised to attend, & without exception will be the largest International gathering of Firemen ever held. My Committee are anxious to have all arrangements made as perfect as possible, at an early date, & have therefore instructed Mr G.L. Beasley to proceed to the United States at once in order to make the necessary arrangements for the comfort of the delegates and shipment of Exhibits & Teams. I shall therefore be glad to have your early reply.

Yours faithfully

Horace S. Folker
Gen. Hon. Sec.

William L. Stronge Esq

*Mayer of the
City of New York.*



THE NATIONAL FIRE BRIGADES UNION

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

ENTER THE PATRONS OF

READ THE NAMES OF WATER & CO.

READ THE NAMES OF THE QUEEN'S OWN LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.

Royal Agricultural Hall, London, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909.

Grand Agricultural and Exhibition.

30

Headquarters Fire Department,

CITY OF NEW YORK.

New York, January 23d, 1880.

To the Officers and Men of the Fire Department:

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit the following report as the result of my appeal to raise a fund, by subscription, for the relief of Ex-Fireman Edward McGaffney, who was rendered totally blind, the result of an injury to his eyes, while in the discharge of his duty at the fire Nos. 483 and 485 Broadway, January 30th, 1879:

Twelve Chief Officers.....	\$60 00	Engine Company No. 34.....	\$108 00
Engine Company No. 1.....	26 00	" " " 35.....	24 25
" " " 2.....	60 00	" " " 36.....	11 00
" " " 3.....	97 50	" " " 37.....	16 00
" " " 4.....	50 00	" " " 38.....	8 00
" " " 5.....	171 75	" " " 39.....	142 00
" " " 6.....	11 00	" " " 40.....	10 00
" " " 7.....	35 50	" " " 41.....	45 25
" " " 8.....	13 00	" " " 42.....	22 75
" " " 9.....	24 00	" " " 43.....	107 00
" " " 10.....	216 25	" " " 45.....	10 00
" " " 11.....	13 00	Chemical Engine Company No. 1.....	3 00
" " " 12.....	50 00	" " " 4.....	7 75
" " " 13.....	53 00	Central Insurance Patrol.....	34 00
" " " 14.....	300 00	Lynch Testimonial Committee.....	250 00
" " " 15.....	38 00	Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.....	97 00
" " " 16.....	138 75	" " " " " 2.....	33 00
" " " 17.....	24 00	" " " " " 3.....	81 50
" " " 18.....	62 00	" " " " " 5.....	125 50
" " " 19.....	39 50	" " " " " 6.....	43 00
" " " 20.....	18 50	" " " " " 7.....	50 00
" " " 21.....	13 00	" " " " " 8.....	74 75
" " " 22.....	27 00	" " " " " 9.....	101 00
" " " 23.....	105 32	" " " " " 10.....	18 25
" " " 24.....	87 50	" " " " " 11.....	14 00
" " " 25.....	55 00	" " " " " 12.....	7 50
" " " 26.....	14 00	" " " " " 13.....	16 00
" " " 27.....	300 00	" " " " " 14.....	14 00
" " " 28.....	212 00	" " " " " 15.....	9 00
" " " 29.....	170 00	" " " " " 16.....	13 25
" " " 30.....	51 00	" " " " " 17.....	2 00
" " " 31.....	84 00	" " " " " 18.....	31 00
" " " 32.....	145 00		
" " " 33.....	557 00		
		Total.....	\$4852 32

Mr. McGaffney desires me to state, that he heartily thanks the Department for the interest manifested in his behalf, and hopes that none of his comrades will ever be so unfortunate, (while in the discharge of their arduous duties,) as to meet with such an affliction as his.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM P. ALLEN,

TREASURER.

[Faint, illegible text]

CITY OF NEW

Wm. H. H. H.

34

9581-1108 v

*Headquarters
Fire Department,*

*Bureau Chief of Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

New York, March 26, 1896

HUGH BONNER,
Chief of Department.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:

At the request of the son of Edward Mc,Gaffney, (a retired fireman of this department) I have the honor to submit the following report of the circumstances of the injury to his Father, while in active service. On January 30, 1879, a fire occurred in No. 483 & 85 Broadway a 5 story brick iron front building size 50 x 200, extending through to Mercer Street. Engine Company No. 33 was one of the first to arrive and fireman Mc,Gaffney with other members took the hose into the building. While playing the stream through a skylight between the fourth and fifth floors, he and another member were struck in the face by pieces of hot glass and plaster. Mc,Gaffney's eyes being injured he was taken to the Eye Infirmary, where it was ascertained that his eye sight was completely destroyed. He being permanently injured, the Board of Commissioners retired him on an annual pension of \$600. As he had a wife and several small children to support, I immediately started a fund to assist him, and as you will see by the enclosed circular succeeded in raising the sum of \$4,852.32 for his benefit.

Mc,Gaffney and myself have been comrades in the department since its organization in 1865. My spine was injured

*Headquarters
Fire Department,*

*Bureau Chief of Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,*

New York, _____ 189

HUGH BONNER,
Chief of Department.

-2-

by being thrown from Engine No. 12 while driving to a fire previous to 1870, and I have been detailed at Fire Department Headquarters since that time.

I was present at the fire where Mc Gaffney was injured and assisted him to the street. I am therefore, familiar with the circumstances of his case and have no hesitation in saying that any action of the Legislature to assist him at this time would certainly be a deserving act of justice.

Very respectfully,

William S. Allen
Chief Clerk.



OPPOSITE GRAND CENTRAL STATION.

FORD & COMPANY,
Proprietors.

New York, 30th March 1896

Hon W^m M. Strong
City Hall.

Dear Mr Mayor:

I am just going to meet Council in the matter of the 2nd of Feb on Foreign Insurance Companies which I fear our delay has placed in rather a bad position at Albany, and have asked Commissioner Ford to attend the Mayors Conference today. Our Board has retained Geo Tracy as Counsel, and if you will kindly advise Com^r Ford as to your views, we may still be able to secure a just and reasonable Bill. With great respect
O. H. LaGrange

35

80

36

HEADQUARTERS
FIRE DEPARTMENT
157 & 159 EAST 67TH STREET.
NEW YORK.

2d April, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you of the adoption of the following resolution by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its meeting yesterday:

RESOLVED, That His Honor the Mayor be invited to be present at the regular meeting of this Board, at 10:30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 8th of April (Regular Conference and Trial Day), or, if that

date be inconvenient, on any succeeding Wednesday that may suit his convenience.

The Commissioners and the Department would be greatly pleased if you could accept this invitation.

Very respectfully,

J. H. Lathrop

President.

Cannot come

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

New York, April 9, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor,
City Hall.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners held on the 7th inst., the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved that his Honor the Mayor be requested to instruct the Commissioners of Accounts to examine the accounts of this Department as soon as practicable.

Very respectfully,

A. H. Mulwaugh
Prin

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT

New York, 189

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Apr. 9

Hon. William F. Thompson, Mayor.

City Hall.

*Headquarters
Fire Department
New York City*

New York, April 9, 1890.

Fire Department,

Quarters _____ Co. No. _____

New York April 28 1894

Hon. William L. Strong
Mayor

My Dear Sir

It is reported among the
heelers in the Fire Dept.
that you are to leave the
City on Wednesday, and
that you will surely send
the Civil Service Bill to
Albany before you leave;
and that Lion Payne will
pass it over your veto.

The men who merit the
name of Firemen, the men
that are ever ready to do
their Duty, hope that you
will hold the Bill until

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

.....*Battalion,*

.....*Co. No.*.....

New York,.....*189*

Fire Department,

Quarters _____ Co. No. _____

New York _____ 189 _____

Thursday, and give one
more Disappointment to
the ignorant Heelers and

Thugs.
Very Respt.

Fireman
Dictated

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

.....*Battalion,*

.....*Co. No.*.....

New York,.....*189*

3049

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FRANK D. PAVEY.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

State of New York,
Senate Chamber.
Albany May 4th, 1896

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor, &c.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to submit the following brief argument in favor of the acceptance by the city of the bill in relation to physicians in the Fire Department.

There are at present three physicians to the department who were appointed by the Board under a general clause empowering the Board to appoint officers and employees and compensate them. There is no specific provision of law for physicians in the department. They hold no fixed term, have no fixed tenure of office, and no fixed salary. The salary of the present physician is \$2,000 a year, fixed by the Board and payable monthly. Formerly there were four physicians who drew the same salary of \$2,000 each.

By the proposed law discretionary power is granted to the Board of Fire Commissioners to appoint four medical officers. They are not compelled to appoint all of them, but cannot exceed four. The salary of each physician is to be \$2,000 a year, which would make the



FRANK D. PAVEY.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

State of New York,
Senate Chamber.
Albany _____ *189*

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total expense possible under the law \$12,000 per annum. The physicians are to be removable only for cause and after an opportunity to be heard. The Board designates and controls their duties. The number of firemen and other employees subject to the medical care and attendance of these physicians is over 1200, being an average of 300 for each physician.

This arrangements compares favorably with that in the Police Department. In that department there are 22 police surgeons authorized by law. At the present time there are 16 police surgeons in actual service. They are only removable for cause after an opportunity to be heard, and are furthermore entitled to retirement on a pension of half pay for life after twenty years service, or by reason of disability. Their salaries are \$3,000 each. This makes a total expense for police surgeons authorized by law, of \$66,000 per annum, and the total expense for police surgeons at the present time is \$48,000 per annum, to which must be added any expense for pensions under the provision of the law noted above.

There are about 4,000 policemen and other employees of the department under the medical attendance of these police surgeons,



FRANK D. PAVEY.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

State of New York,
Senate Chamber.
Albany _____ *189*³

which makes an average for 22 physicians (in case all were appointed) of 181 each, and an average for 16 physicians (the present force) of 250 each.

In case 800 additional policemen are appointed as authorized by law, the average for 22 physicians would be 218 each, and for 16 physicians 300 each.

You will thus see that compared with the amount of work and number of patients, the highest average number of men which a physician in the Police Department would be expected to attend, even if the number of policemen were increased to the uttermost limit, and the number of surgeons was not increased above those at present appointed, would be only 300. This is the same number which the Fire Department physicians must attend.

It should also be borne in mind that the duties of fire department physicians are more onerous than those of the police surgeons by reason of the greater exposure to accident, wet and cold, irregular hours and broken sleep, and the consequent ailments resulting from these causes which the firemen undergo.



FRANK D. PAVEY.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

State of New York,
Senate Chamber.
Albany, 189

The permanency of tenure which this bill will give to physicians, will certainly give them a greater interest in their work.

Inasmuch as the Board has power to prescribe their duties, they still remain under the control of the Board notwithstanding their permanency of tenure. The present physicians are all new appointees under this administration, and were selected after careful Civil Service examination. They were in no sense the personal appointees of the Board, and hence the laws cannot be criticised on the score that it establishes and fixes personal appointees in office.

It may be noted that the Coroner's physicians each receive a salary of \$3,000 per annum.

The only opposition to the bill comes from the financial side of the city, so to speak, and is based upon the increase of salary. It seems to me that there are two answers to this argument.

1st: The meritorious one that the men earn and ought to be paid as much as is paid to the surgeons in the Police Department.

2nd: Regardless of what is paid any one else, if they perform their duties properly, their services ought to be worth \$3,000



FRANK D. PAVEY.
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

State of New York,
Senate Chamber.
Albany. 5
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and they ought to be paid that sum.

Under the present system the Board of Fire Commissioners with the consent of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, might appoint more than four physicians, and give them more than \$3,000 apiece. Hence under an improvident administration of the city affairs the present law would constitute no economical barrier against extravagance.

Trusting that you will see your way clear to accept the bill officially,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Frank D. Pavey

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and that sum.

sent system the Board of Film Co

Fire Department

Quarters _____

Co. No. _____

New York, May 9th 1896

Hon. Wm. L. Strong
Mayor

Dear Sir

I very respectfully call your attention to a Bill now in your possession relative to increasing the Salaries of the Officers of the Fire Department. There will be a good deal of pressure brought to bear on you to approve of this Bill for two reasons as follows: Viz.
1st Every officer in the Department is taxed fifty five dollars (\$55) if the same becomes a law we have already paid \$2.50 each to a Shyster lawyer named Jewell as a retainer he done the trick in Albany, & will receive another \$2.50 from each Officer when the Bill becomes a law the \$50 dollars each will go to the L. Payne Statesmen which will be quite a sum for them.

2nd The heelsers say that if you approve of this Bill the Governor will approve of the Civil Service Bill over your veto. as they claim

Fire Department

Quarters _____ Co. No. _____

New York, _____ 189 _____

the Legislature was as good as adjourned when they received the Bill with your veto. There is a big stake behind the Salary Bill & they depend on it to pull the Civil Service Bill through with it before the Governor.

I am very sorry to see Commissioner Sheffield mentioned as being in favor of the measure as he is brought into it innocently, if he understood the tricks as well as La Grange & Ford understands them he would not touch it.

The whole business is got up to promote two men in the Department namely Lally & Burns.

Every word of this is stated on facts which will be verified later on as my former letter to your Honor was. in relation to the Civil Service Bill,

Very Respectfully
A Fire fighter

Dictated

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

.....Battalion,

.....Co. No.

New York, 189

.....May 9.....

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(COPY).

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, May 20th, 1896.

The Hon. Board of Aldermen-

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to state that for more than twenty-five years the heads of bureaus and others of this Department have been compelled to advance from their own private means considerable sums of money, to pay the necessary office and minor expenses of their several bureaus, etc. It has been lately ascertained that, in the case of other Departments of the city government - the Law, Public Works, and Street Cleaning - they are empowered by a resolution of your Honorable Board to draw upon the Comptroller for a certain specified sum to defray such expenses. The adoption of the following resolution, which is in form the same as that passed in the instances mentioned, at as early a date as practicable, is requested:

RESOLVED, That for the purpose of defraying any minor or incidental expenses contingent to the Fire Department, the Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners may, by a requisition, draw upon the Comptroller for a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500); the Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners may, in like manner, renew the draft as often as may by him be deemed necessary, to the extent of the appropriation set apart for contingencies of the Fire Department; but no such renewal shall be made until the money paid upon the preceding draft shall be accounted for to the Comptroller, by the transmittal of a voucher or vouchers, certified by the Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners, covering the expenditure of money paid thereon.

As the monthly expenditures on these accounts in this Department aggregate, in the various bureaus, etc., about \$275, I have the honor to request that the amount suggested in the proposed resolution, be allowed.

Very respectfully,

P. H. Lehmann

President.

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.
New York, 189

Gentlemen:

The Board of Aldermen-

New York, May 30th, 1896
127 E 10th Street, New York
Fire Department
Headquarters

ALIA RESCRIPTA

Based Rescission, be allowed.

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I have the honor to request that amount suggested in the pro-
Debitum aggregate, in the various papers, etc., upon 1878.

As the monthly expenditures on these accounts in this

(10)

(10)

O. H. LA GRANGE.
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
AUSTIN E. FORD.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, May 21st, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of a proposed letter to the Board of Aldermen, asking for the adoption of a resolution to authorize the drawing of \$500 by requisition upon the Comptroller, for minor or incidental expenses, as will appear therefrom.

Before submitting the resolution for introduction to the Board of Aldermen, the Fire Commissioners would like to be advised whether the proposed action meets with your approval, or otherwise.

Very respectfully,

J. H. La Grange

President.

Headquarters
FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York,.....189

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