

Department of Public Works.  
Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
Room 11, No. 31 Chambers Street,

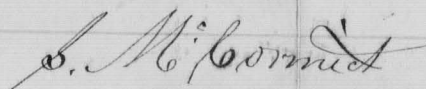
*New York, October 23rd, 1895*

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Sir:

Please attend a meeting of the Gas  
Commission to be held at the Mayor's  
office at 3 o'clock P.M. of Tuesday  
October 29th,.

Yours respectfully,



Supt. Lamps & Gas.  
Secretary

Department of Public Works.  
Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
Room 11, No. 31 Chambers Street,

*New York, November 4th, 189*

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Dear Sir:--

Please attend a meeting  
of the Gas Commission to be held at  
the Mayor's office on Friday, Nov. 8th,  
at 10.30 A. M.

Yours respectfully,

*S. McNamee*

Supt. Lamps & Gas.  
Secretary



Department of Public Works.  
Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
Room 11, No. 31 Chambers Street,

*New York,* November 13th/86

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor

Dear Sir: -

Please attend a meeting  
of the Gas Commission to be held at  
the Mayor's office at 2.30 P.M. on  
Friday next, 15th inst.,

Yours respectfully,

*S. M. Cornick*

Supt. Lamps & Gas.  
Secretary

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,

BUREAU OF LAMPS AND GAS,

Room 11, No. 31 Chambers Street,

November 27th, 1895

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:--

Please attend a meeting of the gas Commission to be held at the office of the Commissioner of Public Works at 12 o'clock, M. on Monday, December 2nd, 1895, for the opening of proposals for the public lighting for the year 1896.

Yours respectfully,

*S. M. McCormick*

Supt. Lamps & Gas.

Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Bureau of Lamps and Gas,

Room 11, No. 31 Chambers Street,

*New York,* Dec. 12th, 1895

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:--

By the direction of the Mayor, the meeting of the Gas Commission which was to be held at 2 o'clock this day, is postponed to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, the 13th inst.

Yours respectfully,

*S. McBurnet*

Supt. Lamps & Gas.



New York, November 21st, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor,

Hon. Ashbel P. Fitch, Comptroller,

Hon. Chas. H. T. Collis, Commissioner of Public Works.

Gentlemen:--

In compliance with the Resolution adopted by your Board on the 18th instant, referring to us the offers of the Edison Electric Illuminating Co., the Brush Co., the Mount Morris Electric Light Co., and the Manhattan Electric Light Co., to increase their electric light service, and requesting a report as to the extensions offered, their advisability, the increased cost to the City of making the same; including a statement of how many gas lamps will be superseded and the cost of present lighting by gas.

We have the honor to report that we have given the subject careful consideration, and we submit herewith a statement showing the number of electric lamps proposed by each Electric Company on each street, the cost of the same per year at present contract rates, the number of gas-lamps on each street, and their cost per year, and the increase of cost for electric lamps over gas lamps.

The nature of the different streets you are doubtless familiar with, and they differ very materially from the streets north of Harlem River (which we examined about three weeks ago) many of which were not regulated and graded, and only partially built upon, where the houses are few and far between. Of course the better lighting of the streets mentioned in the letters of the Electric Light Companies would be a decided improvement, a valuable adjunct to the Police, and would afford better protection to the Public. Of this, there can be no dispute, and the only question is as to the increased cost..

The streets south of 14th Street are mostly



business streets, while those north of 14th street, are generally residential. On some of the down town streets on the Edison list, it would hardly seem desirable to place electric lampposts, in consequence of the extreme narrowness of the sidewalks, for instance, such streets as Ann St. and Pine Street, where the sidewalks are so narrow that even the smaller gas lampposts cause somewhat of an obstruction, and where the vaults extend to or beyond the curb lines, which might render it difficult to find foot room for the large electric lampposts, and which would have to be cut to permit of the entry of the electric wires.

The streets on the Brush list are both business and residential; Essex, Hester, Spring, Stanton and Orchard Streets being densely populated and each house containing a store.

On the Manhattan list we find 2nd Ave. from 14th to 42nd Streets. This Avenue is now lighted from Houston to 14th Streets, and from 42nd to 129th Streets by Electric Lights, but between 14th and 42nd Streets, it is lighted by gas, and hence there is a break here in the electric system. We also find 4th Avenue, from 8th to 12th Street, this Avenue is now lighted by Electric Lights, from the Bowery to 8th Street, and from 12th to 42nd Street, and between 8th and 12th streets it is lighted by gas. We think that the electric light should be adopted in the breaks, so that the electric system would be continuous on these two Avenues.

We also find 59th Street, from 8th to 9th Avenues. This street is now lighted by electric lights from the East River to 8th Avenue, and it would be well to extend the system to 10th Avenue, as this is a much frequented thoroughfare, and is traversed by the Belt Line of Horse-cars.



72nd Street, from Ave. A. to 5th Ave. is a fine residential Street. 110th Street, from 1st to 5th Aves., is a tenement street, and has a line of horse cars.

On the Mount Morris List we find 9th Avenue, from Gansevoort Street to 59th Street, and Columbus Avenue (formerly 9th Avenue)- from 59th to 110th Street. This is a residential and a business Avenue, and is quite densely populated, and contains a surface railroad and the Elevated Road. Greenwich Street is a continuation of 9th Avenue, and is business and residential, and quite densely populated, and contains a Surface Railroad and Elevated Road. 3rd Street, from W. Broadway to 6th Avenue is densely populated, and it is now lighted by Electric Lights from Broadway to W. Broadway, and it would be well to extend the system to 6th Avenue. Gansevoort Street, adjoins Gansevoort Market, and is both business and residential. 8th Avenue, from 109th Street to 124th Street is not entirely built up, but it contains a surface railroad.

All the foregoing streets on all the lists contain Subways for Electric Light Service.

On the Mount Morris list we also find 8th Avenue from 125th to 155th Street; 153rd Street, from 7th to Bradhurst Avenues; and Amsterdam or 10th Avenue, from 155th to 181st Street, but there are no subways in them, and if lighted by electric lights, they would have to be lighted by overhead wires. As these three are lighted by gas, and as the streets are not fully improved with buildings we would not recommend electric lights.

It will be seen by the lists herewith submitted that the increased expense of putting in the Electric Lights, would be as follows:-



Edison List-----\$57,433.20

Brush List ----- 6,019.00

Manhattan List ----- 5,745.20

Mount Morris List.-----19,983.85

Total ----- \$89,181.25

With the exception of the streets we specially recommend, the only thing to be considered is the expense, there being but little preference of one street over the other- unless it be in the up-town residential streets, over the down town streets, where there are few residents.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eng W Leam*  
*Engineer Fin. Dept.*

*S. M. [unclear]*  
*Asst. Comptroller and Gen.*  
*Secretary*



List of Proposed Edison Lamps as shown on their Map of October 13, 1896, with a statement showing the cost of lighting same per year; also the number of gas lamps on the several streets, with their cost per year, and the increase of cost for electric lighting, over gas lighting for each street.

STREET	BETWEEN	No. of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year	No. of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year	Increase of cost for Electric
Front St.	Moore & Dever Sts.	16	2920.00	43	752.50	2167.50
Water St.	Broad & Roosevelt	14	2555.00	52	910.00	1645.00
Pearl St.	Int. Maiden Lane	1	182.50	2	35.00	147.50
New St.	Beaver & Wall St.	2	365.00	9	157.50	207.50
Wall St.	Broad & Hanover Sq.	2	365.00	14	245.00	120.00
Pine St.	Broadway & Pearl St.	3	547.50	11	192.50	355.00
Cedar St.	Nassau & Pearl Sts.	3	547.50	14	245.00	302.50
Cliff St.	John & Fulton Sts.	1	182.50	2	35.00	147.50
Gold St.	" "	1	182.50	2	35.00	147.50
Ann St.	Park Row & William St	3	547.50	8	140.00	407.50
Spruce St.	Int. Gold St.	1	182.50	3	52.50	130.00
Ferry St.	Gold & Cliff Sts.	2	365.00	5	87.50	277.50
Frankfort	Rose & Hague Sts.	3	547.50	6	105.00	442.50
Cherry St.	Frankfort & Roosevelt	2	365.00	8	140.00	225.00
Vanderwater	" " Pearl Sts	2	365.00	8	140.00	225.00
Rose St.	" " "	1	182.50	8	140.00	42.50
William St.	" " Chambers	1	182.50	4	70.00	112.50
Chambers St	Park Row & Madison	3	547.50	12	210.00	337.50
New Chambers	Int. Oak St.	1	182.50	3	52.50	130.00
Washington St	Morris & Cedar St.	6	1095.00	21	367.50	727.50
Trinity Pl.	Int. Pine St.	1	182.50			
Duane St.	Greenwich & Church St.	4	730.00	20	350.00	380.00
Hudson St.	Int. Thomas St.	1	182.50	2	35.00	147.50

Carried forward



Street	Between	No of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year	No.of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year	Increase of cost for Electric
Jay St.	Greenwich & Hudson St	<del>2</del>	\$ 365.00	4	\$ 70.00	\$295.00
Worth St.	Hudson & Church Sts.	<del>2</del>	365.00	5	122.50	242.50
Harrison	Greenwich & Hudson St	<del>2</del>	365.00	4	70.00	295.00
Hubert St.	Greenwich & Hudson St	<del>2</del>	365.00	6	105.00	260.00
Laight St.	Greenwich & Varick St	<del>3</del>	547.50	12	210.00	337.50
Pearl St.	Park St. & Park Row	2	365.00	5	87.50	277.50
Centre St.	Pearl & Walker Sts.	5	912.50	15	262.50	650.00
Mott St.	Pell & Hester Sts.	5	912.50	12	199.00	713.50
Mott St.	Broome & Spring Sts.	2	365.00	6	94.00	271.00
Elm. St.	Leonard & Walker Sts.	<del>4</del>	730.00	17	297.50	432.50
Franklin St.	Broadway & Elm St.	1	182.50	5	87.50	95.00
Mulberry	Int. Bayard St.	1	182.50	2	29.50	153.00
Baxter St.	Int. White St.	1	182.50	1	17.50	165.00
Walker St.	Int. Cortlandt Alley	1	182.50	2	35.00	147.50
Lispenard W.	Broadway & Broadway	2	365.00	8	140.00	225.00
Mulberry	Canal & Bleecker Sts.	11	2007.50	35	574.00	1433.50
Marion St.	Broome & Prince Sts.	<del>5</del>	912.50	10	164.00	748.50
Grobby St.	Grand & Bleecker Sts.	<del>8</del>	1460.00	26	438.50	1021.50
Mercer St.	Howard & 8th St.	<del>14</del>	2555.00	39	517.50	2037.50
Greene St.	Washington Pl. & 8th St	<del>3</del>	547.50	8	96.00	451.50
Weester St.	Canal & Broome Sts.	<del>2</del>	365.00	6	72.00	293.00
Weester St.	Int. Prince St.	<del>1</del>	182.50	2	24.00	158.50
Weester St.	Bleecker & 3rd St.	<del>2</del>	365.00	4	48.00	317.00
Washington Sq.	E 4 St. & Waverly Pl.	3	547.50	3	47.00	500.50
Thompson St.	Int. Prince St.	<del>1</del>	182.50	2	24.00	158.50
Sullivan St.	Prince & Houston St.	<del>2</del>	365.00	7	84.00	281.00
Lafayette Pl.	Great Jones & Astor Pl.	5	912.50	18	216.00	696.50
9th St.	5th & 3rd Aves.	5	912.50	17	259.00	653.50
10th St.	4th & 6th Aves.	4	730.00	24	304.50	425.50
11th St.	University Pl & Broadway	<del>1</del>	182.50	4	48.00	134.50
12th St.	3rd Av. & 7th Ave.	<del>10</del>	1825.00	33	467.50	1357.50
13th St.	University Pl & 7 Av.	<del>4</del>	730.00	24	293.50	436.50



Street	Between	No. of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year	No. of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year.	Increase of cost for Electric
13th St.	3 & 4th Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	5	60.00	305.00
15th St.	6th Av & Broadway	4	730.00	13	200.00	530.00
16th St.	3rd & 4th Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	6	72.00	293.00
17th St.	3rd & 6th Aves.	<del>7</del>	1277.50	24	288.00	989.50
18th St.	4th & 8th Aves.	9	1642.50	27	362.50	1280.00
19th St.	6th & 7th Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	7	84.00	281.00
19th St.	Broadway & 4th Av.	<del>1</del>	182.50	3	52.50	130.00
20th St.	3rd & 8th Aves.	<del>11</del>	2007.50	37	465.15	1542.35
21st St.	5th & 6th Aves.	<del>3</del>	547.50	9	108.00	439.50
21st St.	Broadway & 3rd Av.	<del>4</del>	730.00	13	188.70	541.30
22nd St.	5th & 6th Aves.	<del>3</del>	547.50	10	120.00	427.50
22nd St.	3rd & 4th Aves	<del>3</del>	547.50	9	121.85	425.65
24th St.	6th & 7th Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	7	84.00	281.00
24th St.	Madison & 4th Aves.	2	365.00	4	56.60	308.40
25th St.	Madison & 4th Ave.	2	365.00	4	56.60	308.40
26th St	6th & 8th Aves.	4	730.00	14	175.30	554.70
26th St	Madison & 5th Ave.	2	365.00	2	26.10	338.90
27th St.	6th & 7th Aves.	2	365.00	7	91.30	273.70
27th St.	Madison & 4th Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.20	130.30
28th St.	6th & 7th Aves.	2	365.00	6	72.00	293.00
28th St.	Broadway & 4th Aves.	3	547.50	10	148.25	399.25
Madison Av.	28th St. & 33rd St.	5	912.50	16	280.00	632.50
Madison Av.	36th & 41st Sts.	5	912.50	19	362.50	550.00
29th St.	Broadway & 6th Ave.	1	182.50	3	39.15	143.35
30th St.	4th & 6th Aves	5	912.50	16	211.35	701.15
31st St.	4th & 7th Aves.	<del>6</del>	1095.00	23	276.00	819.00
32nd St.	Broadway & 4th Ave.	<del>5</del>	912.50	12	164.65	747.85
33rd St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	7	96.00	269.00
35th St.	Madison & Park Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
36th St.	6th & Park Aves.	<del>5</del>	912.50	15	262.50	650.00
37th St.	Broadway & Park Av.	<del>6</del>	1095.00	14	245.00	850.00

112 20440.00 350 4874.35 1586.65



Street	Between	No. of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year.	No. of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year.	Increase of cost for Electric
38th St.	Broadway & Park Ave.	<del>6</del>	1095.00	17	242.50	852.50
39th St.	8th & Park Aves.	9	1642.50	27	406.50	1236.00
40th St.	8th & Park Aves.	9	1642.50	44	586.60	1055.90
41st St.	6th & 7th Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	8	96.00	269.00
41st St.	5th & Park Aves.	<del>2</del>	365.00	7	91.30	273.70
43rd St.	Madison & 6th Aves.	4	730.00	10	175.00	555.00
44th St.	" "	4	730.00	10	175.00	555.00
45th St.	Madison & 8th Aves.	<del>8</del>	1460.00	26	375.35	1084.65
46th St.	" & 7th Aves.	<del>6</del>	1095.00	26	394.50	700.50
47th St.	" & 6th Aves.	<del>4</del>	730.00	11	292.50	437.50
48th St.	" " 7th Ave.	<del>6</del>	1095.00	24	357.60	737.40
49th St.	Park & 6th Aves.	5	912.50	15	249.15	663.35
50th St.	Park & 6th Aves.	5	912.50	19	301.30	611.20
51st St.	" "	5	912.50	19	288.50	624.00
52nd St.	" " Madison Av.	2	365.00	5	87.50	277.50
53rd St.	Park & 8th Aves.	9	1642.50	32	477.50	1165.00
54th St.	Madison & 6th Aves.	4	730.00	10	175.00	555.00
55th St.	7th & 8th Aves.	2	365.00	7	111.50	253.50
55th St.	Park & 6th Aves.	5	912.50	20	287.60	624.90
56th St.	" "	5	912.50	15	217.95	694.55
57th St.	6th & 8th Aves.	4	730.00	20	289.50	440.50
58th St.	Broadway & 7th Aves.	2	365.00	4	70.00	295.00
58th St.	Madison & Park Aves.	1	182.50	5	65.20	117.30
60th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	3	52.50	130.00
61st St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
62nd St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
63rd St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	8	104.35	260.65
64th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	10	143.80	221.20
65th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	10	152.70	212.30
66th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	61.10	121.40



Street	Between	No. of Lamps.	Cost of Electric per year.	No. of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year.	5 Increase of cost for Electric
67th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	3	52.50	130.00
68th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	70.00	112.50
69th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	5	87.50	95.00
70th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	9	117.40	247.60
71st St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
72nd St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	70.00	112.50
73rd St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	14	182.60	182.40
74th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	10	130.45	234.55
75th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
76th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	5	61.10	78.60
77th St.	5th & Madison Aves.	1	182.50	4	52.15	130.35
78th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	9	117.40	247.60
79th St.	5th & Park Aves.	2	365.00	8	104.35	260.65
Total number of Posts		438	79,935.00	1478	22,458.90	57,433.20

438  
19  
246

177  
49



### Additional City Lights

Which can be supplied by the Mount Morris Electric Light Company.

Street	Between	No. of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year	No. of Gas Lamps.	Cost of Gas per year.	Increase of cost for Electric
Columbus Av.	59th & 110th Sts.	54	\$7884.00	208	\$3508.00	\$4376.00
7th Ave.	123rd & 124th Sts.	2	292.00	4	70.00	222.00
8th Ave.	109th & 124th Sts.	17	2482.00	60.	987.65	1494.35
3rd St.	W. Broadway & 6th Av.	9	1314.00	15	180.00	1134.00
109th St.	Columbus & 8th Aves.	3	438.00	8	140.	298.00
9th Ave.	Gansevoort & 59th St.	52	7592.00	181	2216.00	5376.00
8th Ave.	125th & 155th Sts.	32	4672.00	124	1965.00	2707.00
153rd St.	7th & Bradhurst Aves.	4	584.00	13	227.50	356.50
Gansevoort St.	9th Av. & 13th Av.	4	584.00	5	60.00	524.00
Greenwich St.	Vandam St. & 9th Av	16	2336.00	54	763.50	1572.50
Amsterdam Av.	155th & 181st Sts.	26	3796.00	107	1872.50	1923.50
Total number of posts		219	\$31974.00	779	\$11990.15	19983.85

675  
192  
483

180  
4

237  
483  
675  
192  
483

# Additional City Lights,

Which can be supplied by the Manhattan Electric Light Co.

Street	Between	No. of Lamps	Cost of Electric per year.	No. of Gas.	Cost of Gas per year	Increase of cost for Electric
2nd Ave.	14th to 42nd Sts.	24	3504.00	98	1191.65	2312.35
4th Ave.	8th & 12th Sts.	3	438.00	17	204.00	234.00
59th St.	8th & 9th Aves.	3	438.00	7	84.00	354.00
Boulevard &	60th St.	1	146.00	4	70.00	76.00
72nd St.	Ave.A. to 5th Ave.	15	2190.00	49	777.30	1412.70
110th St.	1st Ave., to 5th Ave.	13	1898.00	33	541.85	1356.15
Total number of posts.		59	8614.00	208	2868.80	5745.20



# Additional City Lights

Which can be supplied by the Brush Electric Illuminating Co.,

Street	Between	No. of Lamps.	Cost of Electric per year	No. of Gas Lamps	Cost of Gas per year.	Increase of cost for Electric
47th St.	bet. 8th & 9th Aves.	3	438.00	11	132.00	306.00
Essex St.	Hester & Grand Sts.	2	292.00	4	48.00	244.00
Hester St.	Allen & Norfolk Sts.	5	730.00	11	132.00	598.00
4th St.	Broadway & 6th Ave.,	7	1022.00	21	285.00	737.00
Waverly Pl.	Broadway & University Pl.	3	438.00	9	141.00	297.00
Mercer St.	4th St. & Clinton Pl.	3	438.00	11	181.50	256.50
West End Av.	72nd St. & 80th St.	9	1314.00	31	542.50	771.50
Ann. St.	Park Row & Nassau St.	1	146.00	3	52.50	93.50
Mulberry Bend	Park	10	1460.00	40	700.00	760.00
Spring St.	Broadway & Elizabeth St.	4	584.00	16	192.00	392.00
16th St.	Broadway & 6th Ave.	2	292.00	5	87.50	204.50
22nd St.	6th & 7th Aves.	2	292.00	7	84.00	208.00
37th St.	3rd & 6th Aves.	7	1022.00	19	332.50	689.50
59th St	9th & 10th Aves.	2	292.00	11	132.00	160.00
Stanton St.	Forsythe St & Bowery	2	292.00	7	84.00	208.00
Orchard St.	Hester & Canal Sts.	1	146.00	3	52.50	93.50
Total number of posts		63	9198.00	209	3179.00	6019.00

Gas Commission

1896

47

3



*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

Copy.

*~~Next Chamber Street~~*

150 Nassau Street,

*New York.* November 24, 1896.

W. Peterson, Esq.,  
656 Madison Avenue.

Dear Sir:

I have received from the Mayor's office for attention your letter to him of 12th inst., stating that a gas lamp-post has been removed from in front of Mr Cyrille Carreau's house, adjoining yours, damaging the flagstones on the sidewalk; and requesting that the electric lamp be removed from its present position to the place where the dead lamp-post stood.

In reply, I desire to say that the Superintendent of Lamps and Gas reports that he has made a personal inspection and finds that a dead lamp-post has been removed from in front of No 654 Madison Avenue, but that the flagstones have not been broken. The hole in the sidewalk, where the post stood, has been filled up and looks somewhat unsightly, and the Consolidated Gas Light Company has been directed to place a top dressing of blue stone cement on that spot so that it may resemble the flagstones as nearly as possible.

Your request to have the electric lamp-post removed from its present position to the place where the dead gas lamp-post stood cannot be complied with because the electric lamp-post is much larger in diameter than the dead gas lamp-post, and would require a much larger hole. Besides, the change would involve a considerable expense to the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, as it would



be necessary to excavate through the asphalt pavement and construct another subsidiary connection, and the Company could not be expected to bear this additional expense. In the opinion of the Superintendent of Lamps and Gas, the electric lamp-post is in the proper place now, being about mid-way between the electric light on the S. E. corner of 60th Street and the one on the S. E. corner of 61st Street.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor for his information,  
as requested.



1755 Crane Place,  
New York, December 14th, 1896.

Gas Commission,

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Chairman.

Gentlemen:

I beg to call the attention of your Board to the negligent manner in which the Gas Company furnishing street illumination in this locality fulfils its contract.

The lamps are not properly cleaned and cared for, the glass in many is cracked and broken, and in a number of cases whole panes are missing, causing the lights to be extinguished in stormy or windy weather, at the very time when they are most needed. Within the past two weeks the lamp on Crane Place, nearly opposite my house, was not in operation for five consecutive nights.

Complaints by citizens, made directly to the Company, do not have the desired effect, and I respectfully request that your Board, through its Secretary, will urge the Gas Company to improve the service in this section of the City during the Winter months.

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

*Frank W. Hard*



Gas Commission

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

The lands are not probe  
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I beg to call the atten  
house, was  
49

Chairman.

Hon. William P. Strong;

Gas Commission, its Secretary, and

Unionport, N. Y. City,

December 14th, 1896,

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York,

SIR: -

The undersigned, citizens and taxpayers, residing in the territory, late of the Town of Westchester and recently annexed to the City of New York, herewith beg leave to call your attention to the urgent need there is at present for increased lighting in various streets and avenues of the said territory.

We have, at present, the system of electric lighting that is supplied, under contract, by the Bronx Gas and Electric Company, which is entirely satisfactory as far as it goes, but which, on account of its costliness, we would not feel justified in asking to have increased at present.

If the terms of the said contract will permit, we would most respectfully petition you, as the Mayor of the City and the Chairman of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, at the time the said Board will have before it the determination and settlement of the appropriations for the maintenance of the Department of Public Works for the ensuing year, to lay this matter of additional lighting, at a modified cost, for the territory aforesaid, before it, so that some provision may be made therefor.

We deem it advisable to embody in this petition a list, as follows, of the streets and avenues, heretofore referred to, where the lighting is most needed :-



- 1 Light on Second Street, between Avenues B. & C.
- 2 Lights " Second Street between Avenues C & D
- 2 Lights on Third Street, between Avenues B. & C.
- 1 Light " Third Street, between Avenues. C & D.
- 1 Light on the corner of Avenue D. & Fifth Street.
- 2 Lights on Eighth Street, between Avenues C. & D.
- 1 Light on Ninth Street, between Avenues D. & E.
- 1 Light on Eleventh Street, between Avenues C. & D.
- 2 Lights on Thirteenth Street, between Avenues C. & D.
- 1 Light on Fourteenth Street, between Avenues D. & E.
- 1 Light, corner, Avenue B. & Third Street
- 1 Light, corner, Avenue D. & Fourth Street.
- 2 Lights on Seventh Street, between Avenues B. & C.
- 1 Light on Eighth Street, between Avenues D. & E.
- 2 Lights on Tenth Street, between Avenues C. & D.
- 1 Light " Eleventh St. between Aves D & E,
- 2 Lights on Twelfth Street, between Avenues C. & D.
- 2 Lights on Fourteenth Street, between Avenues B. & D.
- 1 Light, at Railroad Avenue & Jefferson Street.
- 1 Light at Railroad Avenue & Jackson Street.
- 1 Light on Doris Avenue between Lyon and Westchester Aves.

A provision by the said Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the maintenance of the requisite number of additional lights, as above set forth, (naptha or other lights, less costly than the electric lights), will be highly appreciated and most gratefully remembered by your petitioners, who have the honor to sign themselves

Yours very respectfully,

August. H. Diehl  
 George J. Damagan  
 Nils Olsson  
 M. Butler  
 Kasimir Lofink

Rud Schoenmuller  
Geo Seebald.

Mr Dammfolsch  
Albert Roesner  
Eugene Furman

Harry Sullivan

Wm H. Carter

S. G. Potts,

John Elgett

Angus Cowan Sr.

George Strecker

Louis Mussig

Wm. Laddy

James Crosby

Martin Schoenmuller

Dr. J. Ellis

Louis Ledogar

Wm Becker

Patrick Eagan

Rich. Eagan

Joseph Wagner

Louis Bocher

Henry Nerenberg

Martin Lipps

Wm. Watzmann.

Paul, Birger

Gus. Buschor



JAMES C. BAYLES, Ph. D.,  
ENGINEER.

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"CLINAL," NEW YORK.

44 Broad Street, N. Y.  
December 15th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor of New York.

Sir:-

I take the liberty of presenting for your consideration certain facts relating to gas distribution, which you may find of interest as bearing upon questions now claiming a large measure of public attention.

# Since the investigation of the subject of gas leaks from mains was undertaken by me as President of the Health Department of New York, # I have had a large experience in the manufacture, distribution and use of fuel gas, and in my practice as an engineer I have had unusual opportunities of acquainting myself with gas practice in this country and Europe.

There is an increasing and already emphatic, but wholly unintelligent, popular demand for "cheap fuel gas". Its convenience and economy commend it to the people as a desirable substitute for coal. I know from experience that it can be generated, desulphurized and delivered into gas meters at a cost of about 10¢ per 1,000 ft. Theoretically, its sale at 25¢ to 30 cents per m. should be enormously profitable, in view of the large consumption of a city like New York. There are, however, certain practical considerations which have deterred experts from seeking franchises

for fuel gas distribution. These are so serious that, if overlooked or disregarded in the consideration of the subject, the evils which would follow the distribution of fuel gas would be far greater than the benefits expected. This is true whether the business is established under municipal or corporate control.

No form of conduit is now made in the diameters which would be required for a profitable fuel gas distribution, through which it could be passed without a large, continuous and increasing leakage. The difficulty is at the joints. Under the most favorable conditions, the loss of illuminating gas between the works where it is made and the meters of consumers, is found to average over 20%. In some cases it exceeds 30%.

The most capable and experienced gas engineers confess their inability to maintain a distribution with less than the present average waste.

There is no better gas practice anywhere than is found in the State of Massachusetts. The gas franchises in that State are held by amply capitalized and well established companies, which are carefully looked after by a Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners created for the protection of the public interest. As the rule, the men employed by the Massachusetts companies as engineers, are among the ablest in the profession. The plants are well built, and they are in no respect behind the times in equipment or methods. It is a fact, however, that the losses of the Massachusetts Gas Companies



annually exceeds 200,000 cubic feet of gas per mile of main in use. The sixty-two gas companies operating in that state report a loss of about 265,000,000 cubic feet per annum.

During the year ended June 30th, 1895, the loss of gas in some of the principal cities and towns of Massachusetts, in cubic feet per mile of main, and in percentage of total production, was as follows:-

	Loss per mile of main.	Loss in per cent. of total make.
Quincy,	260,001 c. ft.	30.84 %
Marblehead,	155,499 "	27.91 "
Adams,	276,560 "	23.85 "
Arlington,	124,939 "	24.79 "
Chelsea,	229,922 "	23.37 "
Dedham,	110,554 "	22.31 "
Cottage Cty,	302,795 "	20.50 "
Chicopee,	354,244 "	19.10 "
Holyoke,	310,312 "	17.70 "
East Boston,	365,881 "	14.66 "
Jamaica Plains,,	215,666 "	14.84

An official investigation of the books of the gas companies of New York state would show losses in "gas unaccounted for" quite as great as that which occurs in Massachusetts.

I have confidential information on this subject from most of the

works supplying New York and Brooklyn, and while not now at liberty to give names and figures, I can say with confidence that on a fair general average the loss in distribution in these cities is about 20% of production. There are parts of New York where the loss in cubic feet per mile of main, is much greater than the highest Massachusetts average.

Illuminating gas is delivered under the least practicable pressure. To meet the public requirements, however, the companies have had to increase the size of their mains, as well as the pressure, and with this increase the difficulties of the gas engineer have become more and more serious. Expansion, contraction, unequal settlement, and the more or less serious disturbance of pipes in the ground due to street excavations, are constantly pulling joints apart. Experience has shown that a rigid gas main is more dangerous than one which accommodates the movements induced by the cause above noted, since it is more liable to be broken short off. Wrought iron pipes with screw joints can be made tight and kept so for a time, but their useful life in the ground is short, and screw couplings are impracticable in diameters above 8 or 10 inches - whereas, gas mains now require to be from 12" to 30". For wrought iron pipes larger than xxx 8 or 10 inches, dependence for tightness at joints must be placed upon gaskets between flanges, and no material is now known from which gaskets



can be made, that will long hold gas under ground.

For mains of the diameters now required, cast iron pipes are the only dependence of the engineer, and it is within the truth to say that there are very few gas tight joints in the whole cast iron main system of New York or Brooklyn. The gas companies would be glad to stop the leakage if they could. They not only have the loss which comes from the waste, but they have to settle for a great deal of damage attributable to this leakage. That they do not stop it is because they cannot.

The nuisance attending the saturation of the soil under our streets by gas escaped from the mains, and the dangers due to the flooding of sewers, subways and cellars with this inflammable, and, under certain conditions, explosive material, are too well known to need discussion.

There is no reason to suppose that fuel gas could be piped with less loss than attends the distribution of illuminating gas. The amount required for heating and power is enormously greater in volume than that needed for lighting. This would demand much larger mains than are used for the distribution of illuminating gas, or the fuel gas would have to be delivered under much greater pressure. Probably large mains and high pressure would both be required to meet the demands of fuel gas consumption. Under such conditions, the loss from leakage

would be very serious, and the danger to life and property far greater than we have ever known. Fuel gas is odorless, and may be mixed with air in explosive proportions without being detected. It is highly poisonous, kills quickly by paralyzing the heart, and produces very distressing and persistent illness in those overcome by it. I have seen men drop as if shot, and buildings wrecked by explosion, when no one suspected a leak, or was conscious of danger. During nearly six years of experience with fuel gas, my anxiety was constant. Scarcely a day passed without a more or less serious accident. I had five disastrous explosions, and in probably a hundred instances, death was averted only by prompt and vigorous measures. Every precaution was taken to avoid leaks, but unsuccessfully, for the reason that leaks could not be detected or located when they occurred. If fuel gas is distributed in New York with a loss from leakage proportionate to that attending the distribution of illuminating gas, the damage to persons and property in one year would not be overestimated at \$100,000,000. This fact is perfectly understood by gas experts, and has deterred them from applying for fuel gas franchises in large cities. It has been seriously proposed to meet the difficulty of undetected leakage by adding to fuel gas a highly odorous constituent, but the obvious objection to this is that since leaks cannot be prevented, it would create a new and serious public nuisance. The only practicable additions to gas for the purpose indicated, are rankly offensive. What effect they would have upon the



public health has not yet been determined.

Natural gas has given trouble enough in the cities supplied with it, and in many places its use as a domestic fuel has been abandoned, partly because of the danger and partly because of the inability of the gas companies to provide mains large enough and keep the leakage within bounds. Natural gas, however, is much less dangerous than artificial fuel gas, which is composed of about equal proportions of hydrogen and carbon monoxide.

In view of these facts, I respectfully suggest that an exhaustive municipal investigation of the whole subject of gas distribution would give results of value. If a form of conduit suitable for gas mains cannot be found, and the loss from leakage reduced much below the present average, it may be a question whether the lighting of cities with gas is longer practicable. Before any attempt is made to pipe fuel gas, or, any franchise is granted for the purpose, it should be demonstrated that conduits can be made and laid which will carry that form of gas in the volume and under the pressure required for heating and power purposes, without a leakage which would be a constant menace to life and property. No such conduit is now known to Engineers, nor has the distribution of fuel gas ever been successful, though repeatedly attempted.

The startling casualty in Troy in January 1887, due to an

attempt to distribute fuel gas through the mains of a bankrupt steam heating Company, shows what may be expected from the inevitable leakage of this gas in a city.

If any information I have on this subject is of use to you, it will give me pleasure to place it at your disposal in any form you may desire.

Respectfully,

*James C. Bayles.*



New York, December 18th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor,

Hon. Ashbel P. Fitch,  
Comptroller,

Hon. Howard Payson Wilds,  
Deputy & Acting Commissioner of Public Works

Gentlemen:--

In the matter of the several Bids or Estimates for lighting the streets, parks and public places of this city, for the year 1897, which were received by you on the 15th instant, I have to submit the following report:

First-As to Gas Lighting.

The Equitable Gas Light Company bid for lighting all the lamps on the lines of its mains with gas of not less than twenty-eight candle-power, at the rate of \$12.00 per year for each lamp, and this bid comes into competition with the \$13.04  $1/3$  bid of the Standard Gas Light Company, and the \$17.50 bid of the Consolidated Gas Company, and hence it was the lowest bidder for the lamps on the lines of its mains.

The Standard Gas Light Company bid for lighting all the lamps on the lines of its mains with gas of not less than twenty-five candle-power with burners burning 3 cubic feet per hour at the rate of \$13.04  $1/3$  each per year; for burners burning 4 cubic feet per hour the sum of \$15.00 each and for burners burning 5 cubic feet per hour, the sum of \$18.00 each. This Company came into competition with the \$12.00 bid of the Equitable Company, and the \$17.50 bid of the Consolidated Gas Company and the \$24.00 bid of the Central Gas Light Company, and it was therefore higher than the Equitable bid, and lower than the Consolidated and Central Gas Companies.



The Consolidated gas Company bid for lighting all the lamps lying south of the Harlem River, and Spuyten Duyvil Creek, including the southerly fixed span and draw-span of the 3rd Avenue Harlem Bridge, the southerly fixed span and draw-span of the Madison Avenue Bridge, the southerly fixed span and draw-span of the Central Bridge, all of High Bridge, and the Washington Bridge, with gas of not less than twenty-two candle-power, at the rate of \$17.50 for each lamp per year. The Company also agreed to furnish the lamps with single incandescent (Welsbach) burners at \$30.00 each, and double burners at \$47.00 each per year. This bid comes in competition with the \$12.00 bid of the Equitable Company, and the \$13.04  $1/3$  bid of the Standard Gas Company, but for all lamps not on the lines of the gas mains of these two companies, it was the only bidder for gas lamps.

The Central Gas Light Company bid for lighting all the gas lamps in the 23rd Ward, with gas of not less than twenty-three candle-power at the rate of \$24.00 per year for each lamp, burning 3 feet per hour, and \$25.00 for each lamp burning 5 cubic feet per hour, and came into competition with the Standard Gas Light Company for a few streets, but these streets however, are lighted by Electric Lamps. It was therefore the only bidder for the lamps not situated on the lines of the mains of the Standard Gas Company.

The Northern Gas Light Company bid for lighting all the gas lamps in the 24th Ward, excepting that portion which formerly constituted the Town of Kingsbridge with gas of not less than twenty candle-power at the rate of \$28.00 per year for each lamp, and it was the only bidder for gas lamps. This bid however, covers the Village of Wakefield, which is now lighted by Naphtha lamps by the



New York and New Jersey Globe gas Light Company, on orders, the contract having expired, and at which place there are no gas mains. It also includes the section known as the Late Town of Westchester, which is now light- by Electric "Arc" lamps by the Bronx Gas and Electric Company, under a contract made prior to annexation, and it also includes the Village of Williamsbridge, which is now lighted by 252 Naphtha lamps by the N.Y.&.N.J.Globe Gas Light Co., and by 69 incandescent electric lamps by the Eastchester Electric Company, under contracts made prior to annexation. The Northern Gas Light Company is now lighting that part of the 24th Ward formerly constituting the Town of West Farms and it was the only bidder for gas lamps.

The Yonkers Gas Light Company bid for lighting all the gas lamps in that part of the 24th Ward, formerly constituting the Town of Kingsbridge, with gas of not less than twenty-five candle-power at the rate of \$28.00 per year for each lamp, and it was the only bidder for these lamps,. This Company is now lighting all these lamps excepting 33 lamps on Grand Avenue at Woodlawn Heights, which 33 lamps are now lighted by the New York and New Jersey Globe gas Light Company because the Yonkers Gas Company has no mains there at present.

The New York and New Jersey Globe gas Light Company bid for lighting by naphtha lamps those parts of the 24th Ward, known as Woodlawn Heights, City Island, Wakefield and Eastchester; also Morningside Avenue W.; Riverside Drive, and Central Park; also any other Parks or districts your Commission may direct at the rate of \$22.00 per year for each lamp. This Company is now lighting 33 lamps at Woodlawn Heights, 103 lamps at City Island, 128 lamps at Wakefield, 15 lamps on Morningside Avenue W., 97 lamps on Riverside Drive and 500 lamps in



Central Park.

The Welsbach Street Lighting Company of America bid for furnishing and maintaining improved Welsbach burners in the lamps on any streets or locations your Board may direct at the rate of \$30.00 each for single burners, and \$47.50 for double burners. The Consolidated Gas Co., bid \$30.00 for single Welsbach burners and \$47.00 for double Welsbach burners. The Welsbach Company has no gas plant in this City, but if furnishes lights and maintains the burners and, I presume, arranges with Gas Companies for the supply of gas.

Second- As to Electric Lighting.

The Brush Electric Illuminating Company bid for 774 lamps at forty cents each per night, and 92 lamps at forty-five cents each lamp per night, or 866 lamps in all. 4th St., from Broadway to 6th Avenue, 7 lamps; 21st Street, from 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue, 3 lamps; 37th Street from 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue, 7 lamps; Mercer Street from 4th Street to Clinton Place, 3 lamps; Waverly Place, from Broadway to University Place, 3 lamps, were bid for by the Brush and Edison Companies at forty cents for each lamp per night, being 23 lamps in all. These five streets are not now lighted by electric lamps. Spring Street, from Elizabeth Street to Greene Street, 5 lamps, was bid for by the Brush Company at 40cents, and it is now lighting from Broadway to Greene Street. The Edison Company bid for 4 lamps from Elizabeth Street to Broadway at 40 cents. For all other streets on the Brush bid, the Brush Company was the only bidder. The Brush Company is now lighting 710 lamps at 40 cents and 92 lamps at 45 cents

The Mount Morris Electric Light Company bid for 519 lamps at forty cents per night for each lamp, and it was the only bidder for these lamps. This Company is now



lighting 361 lamps at 40 cents each.

The Manhattan Electric Light Company bid for 760 lamps, at forty cents each and 10 lamps at fifty cents each for 770 in all. This Company is now lighting 17 lamps in Madison Avenue, from 41st Street to 59th Street at 40 cents each, and this part of Madison Avenue was included in the bid of the Edison Company; as also in the Manhattan bid. The Manhattan Company also bid for 15 lamps in 72nd Street, from Avenue A to 5th Avenue; 13 lamps in 110th Street, from 1st Avenue to 5th Avenue; and 1 lamp at Boulevard and 60th Street, which three streets were not in the advertisement. The Manhattan Company's bid includes 318 lamps now lighted by the Madison Square Company and 143 lamps now lighted by the Harlem Lighting Company. The Manhattan Company is now lighting 241 lamps at 40 cents.

The Harlem Lighting Company bid for 66 lamps at forty cents each per night and 19 lamps in Mount Morris Park at fifty cents each, or 85 lamps in all, , and it was the only bidder for these lamps. This company is now lighting 209 lamps at 40 cents, and 19 lamps at 50cents, or 228 lamps.

The Edison Electric Illuminating Company bid for 201 lamps at fifty cents per night for each lamppost (2 lamps on each post), and 259 lamps at forty cents each per night for one lamp on each post, or fifty cents per night for 2 lamps on each post, same as now on 5th Avenue, 460 lampposts in all. The Edison Company came into competition with the Brush Company for 7 lamps in 4th Street from Broadway to 6th Avenue; 3 lamps in 21st Street, from 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue; 7 lamps in 37th Street, from 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue; 3 lamps in Mercer Street, from 4th street to Clinton Place; 3 lamps in Waverly Place, from



Broadway to University Place, and 4 lamps in Spring Street from Elizabeth Street to Broadway, or 27 lamps in all; both Companies bidding 40 cents. It also came into competition with the Manhattan Company for 17 lamps in Madison Avenue, from 41st St. to 59th Street; the Manhattan Company bidding 40 cents for the single high tension lamps now there, and the Edison Company bidding 50 cents for two lamps on each post, same as now on this Avenue north of 59th Street. The Edison Company is now lighting 169 lamp posts (2 lamps on each post) at 50 cents per post.

The North River Electric Light and Power Company bid for 934 lamps at forty-five cents each per night, and it was the only bidder for these lamps. This Company is now lighting 843 lamps at 45 cents.

#### S U M M A R Y.

The Equitable Gas Light Company was the lowest bidder for the lamps on the lines of its mains, excluding streets now lighted and to be lighted by electric lamps.

The Standard Gas Light Company was the lowest bidder for the lamps on lines of its mains, excluding lamps on lines of mains of Equitable Gas Light Co., and excluding streets now lighted, and to be lighted, by Electric Lamps.

The Consolidated Gas Company was the only bidder for lamps not on lines of mains of Equitable and Standard Gas Companies, and excluding streets now lighted, and to be lighted by electric lamps. This Company as you will notice bid \$30.00 for single Welsbach Burners, and \$47.00 for double Welsbach Burners, and the Company is now lighting 7 single, and 174 double Welsbach Burners. The Welsbach Company bid \$30.00 for single Welsbach Burners, and \$47.50 for double Welsbach Burners.

The Central Gas Light Company was the only bid-



der for the lamps on lines of its mains excluding the streets now lighted and to be lighted by electric lamps.

The Northern Gas Light Company was the only bidder for the gas lamps bid for by it, excluding the streets now lighted and to be lighted by electric lamps.

The Yonkers Gas Light Company was the only bidder for the gas lamps bid for by it, excluding streets now lighted and to be lighted by electric lamps.

The New York and New Jersey Globe Gas Light Company was the only bidder for Naphtha Lamps.

#### Electric Lighting.

The Brush Electric Illuminating Company was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it, excepting the 27 lamps on the six streets which were also on the Edison bid.

The Mount Morris Electric Light Company was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it.

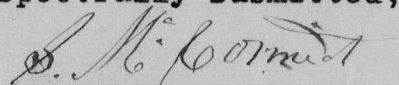
The Manhattan Electric Light Company was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it, excepting the 17 lamps on Madison Avenue, from 41st Street to 59th Street which was also bid for by the Edison Company. The Manhattan Company bid for 29 lamps not called for in the advertisement.

The Harlem Lighting Company was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it.

The Edison Electric Illuminating Company was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it, excepting the 27 lamps on the 6 streets which were also on the Brush Company's bid and excepting the 17 lamps on Madison Avenue which were also on the Manhattan Company's bid. The Edison Company bid forty cents for single lamps on the 259 additional lamps, and fifty cents for two lamps on each lamppost.

The North River Electric Light and Power Company  
was the only bidder for the lamps bid for by it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. M. Cornett".

Superintendent of Lamps & Gas.

Secretary.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
150 NASSAU STREET,

*New York,* Dec. 23rd, 1896.

Wm. L. Strong, Esq.,  
Mayor-

Dear Sir:--

At my suggestion the Edison  
Electric Illuminating Company has placed a  
few single enclosed arc lamps on the West  
Side of Madison Avenue, between 60th and  
63rd St., in order that the effect may be  
observed, as between them and the double  
lights on the East Side of the Avenue.

Will you kindly look at them?

Yours respectfully,

*S. McBurnet*

Supt. Lamps & Gas.

# PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION,

167th STREET AND VICINITY.

Meets every First Saturday in the Month  
at 1146 Stebbins Ave.

Address all communications to  
FRED. REINSCHMIDT, Secretary,  
1235 Simpson Street.

J. Liebertz, President.  
P. T. Brady, Vice-President,  
F. Reinschmidt, Secretary.  
S. Pickel, Fin. Secretary.  
M. Wartenberg, Treasurer.  
A. C. Poellet, Serg't-at-Arms.

New York, March 17th. 1897

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF GAS COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED PETITIONERS, do hereby urgently request  
your Honorable Board to pass the necessary resolution to light One  
hundred and sixty-fifth street with electric light, between Stebbins  
Avenue and Westchester Avenue, a distance of five blocks.

Daniel Sherry 165 St cor Hall Place  
John J. Bernhart 1050 East 165  
Henry Schneider 1065 East 165 St  
P. J. Quirk Hall Place & 165 St  
Ed Brosche 1130 E. 165 St  
George Eckhardt 1120 E. 165 St  
William H. Mechman N.E. Cor. 165 and 170 St.  
William Sinnott 1151 E 165 St  
Martin Johnson 1153 E 165 St  
John Layden 1149 E 165 St  
John D. Sherry 165 Street and Hall Place

George J. Grossman  
President of  
Taxpayers Alliance



Las Comission

Board

Report of Com on

Rights + Water

N

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ELIHU ROOT.  
SAMUEL B. CLARKE.  
GEORGE E. P. HOWARD.  
BRONSON WINTHROP.  
HENRY L. STIMSON.

LAW OFFICE OF  
ROOT AND CLARKE,  
MUTUAL LIFE BUILDING, NO. 32 LIBERTY STREET,  
NEW YORK.

April 5th 1897

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor &c.,  
Chairman Gas Commission, &c.

Dear Sir:

The Bronx Gas and Electric Company, a corporation organized under the laws of this State, and doing business in this City, and which has at present the lighting of the highways in the territory composing the late Town of Westchester, has applied to the Park Department for permission to erect and maintain electric light poles, wires and appurtenances within the public parks of the annexed districts:

First: In the Bronx and Pelham Parkway from Bronx Park and Pelham Bay Park.

Second: In the Pelham Bay Park from City Island Bridge along City Island road to Bartow, and northerly and southerly on the Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park; also from the Shore Road to the City limits on the Road known as the Prospect Road or the Road over Prospect Hill; also from said Shore Road to Baychester Station.

Third: In Bronx Park, namely, so much of the Boston Road as is in Bronx Park and also along what was formerly known



as Fordham Avenue in said Park.

The Company desires to apply for the lighting of said roads and places, whenever it is decided to light the same and we, as its counsel and on its behalf, respectfully request that no contract for such lighting be made without giving said Company an opportunity to bid thereon.

The Company has a large plant at Unionport in the City of New York, sufficient to light all said roads and places, including a power house equipped with the most modern appliances.

Yours respectfully,

*Robert Helander*

GEO. J. GROSSMAN, *President.*  
952 Trinity Ave.

JNO. W. BOLTON, *Treasurer.*  
1777 West Farms Road.

ARTHUR G. BEDELL, *Cor. Sec'y.*  
Third Ave. & 175th Street.

# THE TAXPAYERS ALLIANCE

(INSTITUTED 1894.)

NEW YORK, *April, 21st* .....1897

*Hon; Wm. L. Strong;*

*Respected Sir;*

*Inclosed explains  
itself & has been endorsed  
by the 'alliance'.*

*Yours &c;  
George J. Grossman.*

Bedford Park Ass'n.  
Belmont "  
Fordham Club.  
Fox Estate Ass'n.  
Fairmount "  
Highbridge "  
Hunt's Estate "  
Mt. Hope "  
Morris Heights "  
Marble Hill "  
Model B. & L. "  
P. O. of 167th St. & Vicinity.  
P. O. of 23d Ward.  
Springhurst Ass'n.  
Tremont "  
Unionport "  
Van Nest "  
Vyse Estate "  
Williamsbridge Imp. League,  
" Taxpayers' Ass'n.  
Wakefield Ass'n.  
West Morrisania Club,  
Woodlawn Ass'n.  
Westchester "  
West Farms "  
Williamsbridge Centre Ass'n.





FRANK D. PAVEY.  
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

*State of New York,*  
*Senate Chamber.*

*Albany,* August 2nd, 1897.

#32 Nassau Street New York.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
City Hall.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Within the past two months a number of petitions have been filed in the Office of the Commissioner of Public Works asking for the location of Electric Lights in Westchester and Unionport within the territory covered by the Bronx Gas & Electric Co. I represent the Company in this matter. The list of lights which we are desirous of getting placed sooner or later foots up to one hundred and fifty-three. However, I recognize the difficulty of covering all these places this year, and I have gone over the list very carefully, and wish to urge particularly upon your attention the following three locations. While they are all about equally needed I have placed them in the order of their relative importance.

I. Unionport should have about twenty-eight more Lights. The Citizens' Association has made a very strong demand for that number. Their correspondence is on file in the Bureau of Gas and Lamps.

II. Lights are imperatively needed upon the following locations:



FRANK D. PAVEY.  
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

*State of New York,*  
*Senate Chamber.*  
*Albany.* \_\_\_\_\_ 189

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St. Lawrence Avenue	4 Lights
Commonwealth Do	4 "
Columbus Do	6 "
Main Street	
At Bridge	1 "
Bt. Silver Street & Halperin Street	1 "
Washington Avenue	5 "
Silver Street	2 "
Doris Avenue	1 "
Glebe Avenue	1 "
	<hr/> 25 Lights

III. Lights are also very much needed upon the following locations:

WEST FARMS ROAD

At West Farms Bridge	1 Light
At R. R. Station Van Nest	1 "
Between Union and Green Avenue	1 "

HARLEM ROAD

Opposite St. Peter's Church	1 "
Between Aves. B. & C.	1 "
At Draw Bridge	1 "
White Plains Road from Bronxdale to Williamsbridge	
	<hr/> 20 "
	26 Lights

This makes in all about eighty Lights which I would like very much to have approved by the Gas Commission early in August. I would suggest that it will require some little time to get these Lights up, and that October first would be a convenient date to be fixed as the time when they must be in position, and when compensation for them is to begin. This would leave only three months of the year during which provision would have to be made for their payment. Kindly take this into account in making your calculation





FRANK D. PAVEY.  
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

*State of New York,  
Senate Chamber.  
Albany, \_\_\_\_\_ 189*

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of expense, etc.

I am very desirous of getting your approval.

Yours very truly,

*Frank D. Pavey*

Geo. Commerson

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57.



To the Honorable the Gas Commission of the City  
of New York.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, residents and taxpayers of that part of the City of New York, formerly known as the town of Westchester, respectfully ask that electric lights be located, erected and maintained on the road in said late town of Westchester known as the Old White Plains Road, being the continuation of the Bear Swamp Road from Bronxdale northward to the late village of Williams bridge.

Said road is winding in its course; it is traversed by a trolley line of cars, namely the Union Railway Company; the road is narrow and at frequent places there are turn-outs of the railway which occupy the whole highway; the greater part of the distance there is no sidewalk and the road is wholly unlighted; the trolley cars run at a high rate of speed; so that the condition of this road is such that it is a constant menace to the life and limb of all pedestrians, bicyclists and to people in carriages.

Your petitioners earnestly urge upon your Honorable Body to have this condition of affairs ameliorated by locating electric lights thereon. Other parts of said late town of Westchester have been lighted and your petitioners urge that this important highway and dangerous place be likewise lighted.

Dated August 18th 1897.

*For Signatures see next page.*



W. H. Birchall  
John F. Gher  
Joseph B. Bolton  
Thos Bolton Jr  
W. B. Birchall  
Armus Bromiley  
Geo Kreigh  
Jacob Radlein  
Mrs. E. Greenhalgh.  
John Hunt  
John Zimmerman  
Frank D. Willis  
Matthew Waldron  
John Wrigley  
Mr. Jacob Rader  
H. S. Thwaites  
Thos Thwaites  
Mrs. H. G. Leach  
C. B. Godfrey  
William Thwaites  
Emma Hill  
Chas W. Thwaites  
My Ranch  
Frederick Radlein  
Ellen A. Wilkinson  
Charlotte Willis  
Denton Parrshall  
Nicolas Radlein  
Estate of Frank Booth  
Mrs Joseph Thwaites  
C. T. Aslee



Hugh. Danzherly  
Est. of George Booth. (G.B.)  
Estate of Robert Hall, J.B.  
Nancy Hall  
H.B. Mace  
Thomas Booth  
William H. Bolton  
James D. Bolton

To the Gas Commis-  
sion of the City  
of New York

Petition

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NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1897.

HON. William L. Strong,

Mayor of City of New York.

SIR:--

We, the undersigned residents of Park Avenue from 165th to 170th Streets, do earnestly petition your Honor, to assist us in securing better services from the North River Electric & Power Co. in lighting the thoroughfare mentioned above. It has been a common occurrence with this company not to have our street lighted more than four or five days in one week. We have complained often to this company in regards to this matter, and it seems that they pay no attention to our requests. It may be that their machinery is not in the best of condition, and if such is the case, we, citizens, should not suffer for their negligence, and we pray that your Honor will assist us in our just demand to have the streets lighted every night in the week, which is asking nothing more than what is being done in other streets. At 3 A.M. to-day, the lights were extinguished.

*Geo. W. Kuenneth 1330 Vanderbilt Ave. 8/16/97*  
*Kaspar Hartmann - 1294 Park Ave.*  
*Jonas Hering*  
*G. Spielberger 1390 Park Ave. Cor. 170 St.*  
*W. L. Long*  
*A. M. Wuer*  
*James M. Entie 1390 Park Ave. E 170 St*  
*Bernh. Brian 1386 Park Ave*  
*Mrs. Schuttlin 1384 Park Ave.*  
*1382 Park Ave*  
*1364 Park Ave*



Amor Lerner 1380 Birch Ave.  
William Wolf 1380 Park Ave.

W G Hosking 1380 Park Ave  
Miss Mary Winter 1368 Park Ave

Mrs. James. M Loughlin 1366 Park Ave

Mrs. Vatter 1366 Park Ave

Mr. Purcell 1364 Park Ave

A. Schmitt 1362 Park Ave

John Riordan 1360 Park Ave

Mrs. Julia C. Heffernan 1358 Park Ave

Thomas Fieger No 1352 Vanderbilt Ave.

Wm J Reine 1344 Park Ave

Geo. G. Walker 1338 & 1340 Park Ave.

Jacob Schmitt 1300 Park Ave.

Peter Schmitt 1300 Park Ave

Jacob Puffer 694 E 169 St.

T H Mulcahy 169<sup>th</sup> E 169 St

George Hay 1310 - 1330 Park Ave

Wilhelm Wanner 1330 Park Ave

Conrad Stover 700 E 169 St cor Park Ave



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
150 NASSAU STREET,

*New York,* Sept. 17th, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor,

Sir:--

A meeting of the Gas Commission  
will be held Tuesday, the 21st inst., at  
10.30 a.m. at the Mayor's Office. Your  
attendance is respectfully requested.

Yours Respectfully,



Supt. Lamps & Gas.  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
150 NASSAU STREET,

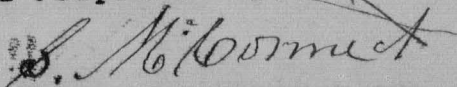
New York, Nov. 29th, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r,

Dear Sir:--

Please attend a meeting of the  
Gas Commission to be held in the Mayor's  
Office on Wednesday next, December 1st, im-  
mediately following a meeting of the Board  
of Estimate and Apportionment.

Yours respectfully,



Supt. Lamps & Gas

Secretary.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Bureau of Lamps and Gas,  
150 NASSAU STREET,

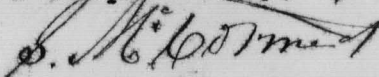
*New York, Dec. 27th, 1897*

Hon. William L. Strong,  
MAYOR,

Sir:--

Please attend a meeting of the Gas Commission to be held at the Mayor's office at 12 M. of Wednesday, December 29th, for the purpose of receiving and opening proposals for the lighting of public gas and electric lamps for the year 1898.

Yours respectfully,



Supt. Lamps & Gas

Secretary

WHEREAS, the gas companies of the city of New York have combined recently and thereafter discharged most of the employes of the respective companies; and

WHEREAS, the pretext of such acts has been that of economy, for the purpose of deluding the public and dissuading them from any attempt to obtain illuminating or fuel gas at any price less than that at present fixed by these companies; and

WHEREAS, it is of common notoriety and information that the present cost of supplying is one-third of the amount charged the consumer, \$1.25 per 1,000 cubic feet; and

WHEREAS, this consolidation has for its object the maintenance of the present high price of gas, the stifling of competition, control of the entire gas product and its output in the city of New York; and

WHEREAS, this combination is vicious, illegal and inimical to the interests and welfare of workmen and consumers alike; and

WHEREAS, the opposition of this combination of gas companies is most potent and dangerous to any attempt to secure to the citizens light or fuel gas at any rate other than that sought to be maintained by this combination of gas companies, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that we, the former employes of the combined gas companies of the city of New York, condemn this greedy and heartless attempt to force the citizens of New York to consume the products of these companies, and these



alone, at their present fixed high price.

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York be made acquainted with the illegal combination of these companies and their inhuman wholesale discharge of their employes, and the ground of their opposition to the attempts made to furnish cheaper light and fuel gas to the citizens of the city.

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of New York, his Honor Mayor Strong, and the Aldermen of this city, be urged to take prompt and speedy action to obtain for the city of New York the right to maintain its own gas works and mains and to furnish to this city the gas required for fuel, light and other purposes, at the minimum price consistent with the expenses of such a public work, or to favor any measure which may offer immediate relief to the citizens of this city from the control and capacity of the existing companies.

RESOLVED, that we strive to enlist the support of the various labor organizations of this city and the Legislators of our respective districts to aid us in the attempt to secure for ourselves and all citizens relief from this illegal and oppressive monopoly, and to obtain for this municipality gas for all purposes at a price consistent with its low cost of production.

RESOLVED, that we request the Attorney-General of this State to exert the full power of his office to enforce existing laws in prosecuting trusts and monopolies which are



unlawfully combined against the interests and welfare of the people; and

RESOLVED, that we, as a body, appeal to his Honor Mayor Strong and the Aldermen of the city of New York to exert their power in opposition to the acts herein recited.

*James W. W. W.*

*Adam Fair*  
*Secy.*



## Memorandum

### Electric Light and Gas in the Streets.

Some figures have been shown of comparative cost in the "Brush" district. They are entirely misleading, for the reason that said district embraces Union and Madison Squares. In time past both these were scantily lighted, and, after midnight, nests of vice and disorder. It is not in the least fair to base an average for the streets on the tall-mast lights, which have (1) made the parks perfectly proper and safe all night (2.) given great enjoyment to scores of poor people all summer, and (3.) are confessed to be a credit and ornament to the city.

A fair estimate in the streets named in the bids would be the "cutting-out" of eight gas lamps by each electric lamp, say four to five on the main street and three to four on the side street.

As regards the quantity of light given, no argument could equal the experiment by His Honor, the Mayor of standing at the Corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth St., and looking, first



South and West and then North and East.

The Gas Companies charge the city  $\$17.50$  per lamp, per year, say about  $\$.15$  per 1000 feet. But they also charge the city for straightening, relading, refitting, removing, resetting and fitting up the lamp posts.

Still again, the city has paid for some 26000 lamp posts and thus, with the immensely valuable franchise conferred on the gas companies, put them in a position to extend throughout the city and charge, and compel the payment by citizens of,  $\$2.25$  per 1000

The electric light companies have paid for everything, posts, lamps, and all, and do not receive one cent for work on them.

The bids made this year contemplate the lighting up, not only of handsome residence Avenues, but districts where a poorer class of people derive the greatest enjoyment in the evening, from a brilliantly illuminated street, such as Eighth Avenue would be. There is no doubt, of course, that the bill for such electric light is greater than the bill for the scanty light now furnished by the gas companies. No fair man can contend for one moment that this increased expenditure



is anything like, in proportion to, the increased light furnished. The question whether this increased light not only would be very popular but is actually demanded at the present time may be safely left to the testimony of the Police authorities and the expressed opinions of citizens of all classes, without one dissenting voice.

Relative to Electric  
and Gas Light - criti-  
cising the letter of  
April 9 - of Supt of Lamps  
& Gas.

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Bidder.	For Gas Co and Lighting each Lamp Per Year.	For each Lamp Post Straightened.	For each Column Released.	For each Column Refilled.	For each Lamp Post Removed.	For each Lamp Post Reset.	For each New Lamp Fitted Up.
Consolidated Gas Co. ✓	\$17.50	\$1.50 ✓	\$1.50 ✓	\$3.50 ✓	\$3.50 ✓	\$8.00 10	\$8.00 10
N.Y. Mutual Gas-light Co. ✓	17.50	1.50 ✓	1.50 ✓	3.50 ✓	3.50 ✓	8.00 10	8.00 10
Equitable Gas-light Co. ✓	12.00	1.50 ✓	1.50 ✓	3.50 ✓	3.50 ✓	10.00 ✓	10.00 ✓
Central Gas-light Co. ✓	28.00	1.50 ✓	1.50 ✓	1.50 ✓	3.50 ✓	8.00 ✓	8.00 ✓
Northern Gas-light Co. ✓	30.00	1.50 ✓	1.50 ✓	3.00 ✓	3.50 ✓	8.00 ✓	8.00 ✓
Yonkers Gas-light Co. ✓	30.00	1.00 ✓	1.00 ✓	1.00 ✓	1.50 ✓	8.00 ✓	8.00 10 ✓
A.C. Illuminating Co. 70% 255.50	70¢						
Brush & Co. Illuminating Co. 70% 255.50	70¢						
N.Y. & A.J. Globe Gas-light Co. ✓	25.00	1.00 ✓	1.00 ✓	2.00 ✓	3.00 ✓	5.00 ✓	5.00 ✓

Statement, showing the prices now paid for.  
Lighting and Maintaining the Public Gas Lamps.

Contractor.	For Gas to and Lighting each Lamp per year.	For each Lamp Post Straightened	For each Column Re-leaded.	For each Column Re-fitted.	For each Lamp Post Removed.	For each Lamp Post Reset.	For each Man Lamp Fitted Up.
Equitable Gas Light Co.	12.00	1.50	1.50	3.50	3.50	10.00	10.00
Consolidated Gas Co.	17.50	1.50	1.50	3.50	3.50	8.00	8.00
N.Y. Mutual Gas Light Co.	17.50	1.50	1.50	3.50	3.50	8.00	8.00
Central Gas Light Co.	21.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	3.50	8.00	8.00
Northern Gas Light Co.	28.00	1.50	1.50	3.50	3.50	8.00	8.00
Yonkers Gas Light Co.	27.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	8.00	8.00
N.Y. & N.J. Globe Gas Light Co.	25.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	5.00	5.00
Mul-Schub Light Co.	22.98	1.00	1.00	1.50	2.50	4.00	—

Electric Lamps, as now Lighted.

Brush Electric Illuminating Co.	367 Lamps at 35¢ pr. night.	441-	(Subway, 65¢) 35¢
East River Electric Light Co.	401 "	35¢ "	-68 35¢
United States Illuminating Co.	417 "	35¢ "	35¢
Mount Morris Electric Light Co.	18 "	32¢ " 878-	55¢ 25¢
Harlem Lighting Co.	78 "	35¢ "	35
Do.	19 "	50¢ " Mt. Morris Park,	30
Do.	4 "	60¢ " Harlem Bridge,	60
North New York Lighting Co.	26 "	35¢ "	35
		Harlem Bridge 2.	60.



Gas com.  
Lamps & Gas.

Statement of prices  
paid by city for  
lighting

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