

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

C

New York,

March 16th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

So as to prevent any question that would unjustly injure the Hotel. Majestic, owing to the examination, statements, etc. made before the Commissioner of Accounts, I have had careful examinations made of the said building and would report to you that the same is perfectly safe; that there are evidences of some irregularity in the foundation construction, but any indications of weakness are such as to cause in my judgment no reason for declaring said building unsafe.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

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P. M.

DISBURSMENT

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TELEPHONE COMPANY

2000 HILL ST.

CHICAGO, ILL.

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

March 17, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your card in re Mr. W. C. Dickerson received.

This gentleman has been one of the very troublesome ones, who have been dealing with this Department, whose plans have been very inaccurately and carelessly prepared, and whose demands have frequently been of the most arrogant and disagreeable nature, whose treatment of the various employees of this Department in the past was such that I have had to interfere to prevent trouble, and who has received every courtesy always at the hands of this Department since I have been here and who was previously known in this Department as the "kicker".

I feel it only just and right to inform you the truth regarding him. Nearly every man that finds fault with this Department now is one who has been enabled by the laxity and carelessness of the Department heretofore to put through the Department some of the many buildings that now exist in this city in total violation of the law, and which this Department, the Fire Department and the Board of Underwriters can all bear direct evidence to, and which at any time is likely to be a source of great loss of life and sorrow in this community, and also has been a great injury to the investment of millions of dollars, in that many innocent people have purchased properties which

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

W. L. S. #2

are not built according to law, and which at any time may involve them in lawsuit and expense or accident.

I know that I have your co-operation in preventing any such charges as above being made during your administration.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable.
Sup't of B'ldgs.

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was not built according to law, and

DIRECTOR

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B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

March 18, 1896.

W.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong, Chairman,

Of the Honorable Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Dear Sir:-

I now find as the busy season is coming on and the requirements of this Department are more pressing, that the condition of which I advised Your Honorable Body, when you refused to allow me the necessary appropriation of \$10,000 for Contingencies & Emergencies has occurred, that is, that the amount of \$2400 which was granted me for Contingencies & Emergencies (\$1000 of which was for Law Library, leaving \$1400) will be exhausted by the first of April.

So as to prevent, at the most important season of the year, the disastrous results which will occur from the condition of affairs above mentioned, I would respectfully request that you transfer to this fund the unexpended balance remaining to the credit of this Department for "Salaries" for the year 1895, amounting to \$4874.08.

As I stated to you when before your Board, the Contingencies & Emergencies Fund has never been less than \$4000, and yet you cut it down to \$1400 in the very face of the fact that last year, when this Department did double the work it has ever done before, its Contingencies & Emergencies Fund needed by December 1895 was \$7000 and was increased to \$10,570 to meet the Ireland Building accident.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable.
Sup't of B'ldgs.

159.

DEAR SIR:-

OF THE HONORABLE BOARD OF

HON. WM. L. STRONG, Chairman,

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

INSURANCE

CHIEF OF BUREAU

S.W. CO

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B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York, March 19, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Exactly as I stated when before the Honorable Board of Estimate & Apportionment for appropriation for the present year, my Contingencies & Emergencies Fund has run out entirely. They gave me only \$1400 for this purpose, where in every year previous \$4000 had been allowed, and where last year I required largely in excess of that amount. I asked for the present year \$10000.

This is a very serious matter, so serious that if this Contingencies & Emergencies Fund is not allowed by Mr. Fitch to reach the \$10000 that I have asked for, there will be an entire cessation of the operations of this Department, as the year cannot be gone through, no matter how carefully handled this Department may be and how many restrictions may be put upon it, unless it has the funds necessary for this particular branch of its work.

I would respectfully ask you as Mayor of the City to aid me in this matter. The amount asked to be appropriated in mine of the 18th and 19th to the Honorable Board of Estimate & Apportionment is only for temporary relief, as before the end of the year an additional sum will have to be granted. I can give you figures from the last and previous years which will positively prove this. This

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

W. L. S. #2

Department is now doing more than double the work that has ever been done before. This is so serious a matter that it must receive attention, otherwise the more grave complaints and great risk of accident and life will be the result .

. If necessary for me to be present , this matter being so very important, I shall be pleased to come down immediately upon receipt of telephone message to that effect.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

160.

W. J. S. 45

OMEGA WINDMILL

SILVERMOUNT COMPANY

W. J. S.

76 550 R

DISCOUNT

B. W

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York, March 19, 1896.

M.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Chairman, Of The Honorable Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Dear Sir:-

In regard to application made to the Sinking Fund Commission for right to lease property belonging to Messrs. Boehm & Coon, located at 3rd Ave. & Cortlandt Ave. & 146th St. for branch office of this Department, if impossible to get any appropriation for this specific purpose except by allowing the same to be paid from the amount that I have asked be transferred to my Fund for Contingencies & Emergencies from the remaining credit of this Department of "Salaries" Account for 1895, amounting to \$4874.08, I am perfectly willing that this should be done as the importance of having this branch office is so great that I am ready to do anything that will aid in the proper handling of my Department and the public good.

I realize that if the Contingencies & Emergencies Fund of this Department should not be sufficient to carry the Department through the year, that Your Honorable Board will have to make additional appropriation to meet it or it will absolutely stop the Department in the future.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

191.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Office of Attorney General

STEVENS & COMPANY

Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

THE BUREAU OF LANDS

S.W. 50

THE BUREAU OF LANDS

State of New York.

No. 1121.

Int. 887.

IN ASSEMBLY,

February 25, 1896.

Introduced by Mr. ADLER—read once and referred to the committee on affairs of cities.

AN ACT

To provide for the construction of a public park or open space to be used as a playground for children, also to be used by venders and hucksters in selling merchandise on hand-carts, and for the construction and erection of booths, sheds and stands and buildings thereon.

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

- 1 Section 1. The commissioner of street cleaning of the city of
- 2 New York, and the commissioners of the sinking fund of the city
- 3 of New York, are hereby appointed and constituted a board of
- 4 commissioners for the purposes and with powers as hereinafter
- 5 set forth and according to the statutes in such cases made and
- 6 provided.
- 7 § 2. It shall be the duty of the said board of commissioners
- 8 and they are hereby authorized and empowered to select a site

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

1 conveniently situated in the tenth or thirteenth wards of the
 2 city of New York, upon which to erect a public park or open space
 3 to be used as a playground for children and for the erection and
 4 construction of booths, sheds and buildings thereon, and for the
 5 use of venders, hucksters, or push-cart men, for the sale of goods,
 6 wares and merchandise upon hand-carts, booths, or stands, under
 7 the supervision and regulation of the commissioner of street
 8 cleaning of the city of New York.

9 § 3. The said board of commissioners as constituted in section
 10 one of this act, shall appoint three discreet and disinterested per-
 11 sons, being citizens of the United States and residents of the
 12 city and county of New York, to act as commissioners of estimate
 13 and the corporation counsel of the city of New York shall make
 14 application to one of the justices of the supreme court of the
 15 state of New York, for the first judicial department, to confirm
 16 the appointment of said commissioners of estimate, who shall
 17 thereupon enter upon the performance of their duties according
 18 to the statute in such cases made and provided.

19 § 4. The said board of commissioners mentioned in section one
 20 of this act, shall have the power to agree as to the purchase price
 21 of lands, tenements and hereditaments, and after the mayor,
 22 aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York shall have
 23 acquired title thereto, the said board of commissioners shall
 24 cause the buildings thereon to be removed according to the
 25 statute in such cases made and provided.

1 § 5. The proceeds derived from the sale of such buildings and
 2 of the material contained therein, shall be appropriated for the
 3 purpose of this act.

4 § 6. The commissioner of street cleaning for the city of New
 5 York is hereby authorized and empowered, with the consent
 6 of the board of commissioners of the sinking fund of the city of
 7 New York, to direct the manner and mode of drawing plans
 8 and specifications for the erection of said buildings, booths, sheds
 9 as provided for in this act, and after the plans and specifications
 10 shall have been accepted and approved by said commissioners,
 11 to advertise for the submission of plans and specifications accord-
 12 ing to the statutes in such cases made and provided; and after
 13 such plans and specifications shall have been approved by said
 14 board of commissioners, shall advertise for bids for contracts
 15 for the erection and construction of said buildings, booths and
 16 stands, as provided for in this act, and according to the statutes
 17 in such cases made and provided.

18 § 7. For all expenses to be incurred by the authority of this act,
 19 including the expenses incurred upon the acquisition of lands,
 20 estates and interests therein, and for the construction of said play-
 21 ground, and the erection and furnishing of buildings, booths and
 22 sheds thereon, the comptroller of the city of New York, is hereby
 23 authorized and directed to issue bonds or stocks of the mayor,
 24 aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York, from time
 25 to time, to be payable from taxation and redeemable not less than
 26 ten nor more than thirty years, from the date of issue to the

1 amount of two million dollars, and the mayor and comptroller are
2 hereby directed to sign said bonds, and it shall be the duty of the
3 clerk of the common council of said city to countersign the said
4 stocks or bonds, and affix thereto the seal of said city. Said bonds
5 shall bear interest at the rate of four per centum per annum, and
6 shall not be disposed of at less than the par value thereof; and
7 of the proceeds of said bonds there shall be paid, from time to
8 time, upon requisition of said board of commissioners the amount
9 by them, from time to time, certified to be due for any of the
10 purposes of this act provided for.

11 § 8. Whenever as often as any site may be so as aforesaid
12 selected, located and laid out, as hereinbefore provided, the title
13 to the lands embraced therein and all interests in said lands
14 shall be acquired by the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the
15 city of New York.

16 § 9. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are
17 hereby repealed.

18 § 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

State of New York.

No. 802.

Int. 666.

IN SENATE,

March 2, 1896.

Introduced by Mr. PAGE—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the committee on affairs of cities.

AN ACT

To provide for enlarging the building situated in Central park in the city of New York, and occupied by the American Museum of Natural History, and for the purpose of furnishing proper facilities for increased exhibition.

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

- 1 Section 1. The department of public works in the city of New
- 2 York, with the concurrence of the board of estimate and appor-
- 3 tionment, is hereby authorized to erect and equip an addition to
- 4 the building situated in that part of Central park formerly known
- 5 as Manhattan square, and which is now in the possession and
- 6 occupation of the American Museum of Natural History, under
- 7 and in accordance with a contract made in pursuance
- 8 of chapter one hundred and thirty-nine of the laws of
- 9 eighteen hundred and seventy-six, chapter two hundred

EXPLANATION.—Matter underscored _____ is new, matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

1 and seventy of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and
 2 chapter thirty-one of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-
 3 three. Said addition shall include in its halls for public exhibi-
 4 tion suitable space for the proper display of the specimens of the
 5 museum. The trustees of said museum shall select the architects
 6 to prepare under their direction the plans, and to superintend
 7 under the direction of the commissioners of parks the construction
 8 of said addition. Said plans, when completed, shall be submitted
 9 by said trustees to the commissioners of said department for
 10 their approval, and may include any alteration of the present
 11 building made necessary by the enlargement, and such additions,
 12 improvements and repairs to it as the commissioners of said
 13 department and the trustees of said museum may agree are proper
 14 and necessary. The commissioners of said department shall pro-
 15 vide for the compensation of the architects out of the fund hereby
 16 provided for the erection of said addition. Said equipment shall
 17 include all the cases and fittings and other apparatus required
 18 for the preparation, exhibition and preservation of the specimens,
 19 books and other property of the museum.

20 § 2. For the purpose of providing means for carrying into
 21 effect the provisions of this act, it shall be the duty of the comp-
 22 troller, upon being thereunto authorized by the board of esti-
 23 mate and apportionment, to issue and sell, but not at less than
 24 their par value, bonds or stock of the mayor, aldermen and com-
 25 monality of the city of New York, in the manner now provided by
 26 law, payable from taxation, but not exceeding in the aggregate

1 the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest at the
 2 rate not exceeding four per centum per annum and redeemable
 3 within a period of time not exceeding thirty years from the date
 4 of their issue.

5 § 3. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions
 6 of this act are hereby repealed.

7 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

State of New York.

No. 1294.

Int. 1006.

IN ASSEMBLY,

March 3, 1896.

Introduced by Mr. AUSTIN — read once and referred to the committee on affairs of cities.

AN ACT

To provide for enlarging the building situated in Central park, in the city of New York, and occupied by the American Museum of Natural History, for the purpose of furnishing proper facilities for increased exhibition.

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

- 1 Section 1. The department of public parks in the city of New
- 2 York, with the concurrence of the board of estimate and appor-
- 3 tionment, is hereby authorized to erect and equip an addition to
- 4 the building situated in that part of Central park formerly known
- 5 as Manhattan square, and which is now in possession and occupa-
- 6 tion of the American Museum of Natural History, under and in
- 7 accordance with a contract made in pursuance of chapter one hun-
- 8 dred and thirty-nine of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-
- 9 six, chapter two hundred and seventy of the laws of eighteen hun-

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

1 dred and ninety-two, and chapter thirty-one of the laws of eigh-
 2 teen hundred and ninety-three. Said addition shall include in
 3 its halls for public exhibition suitable space for the proper dis-
 4 play of the specimens of the museum. The trustees of said
 5 museum shall select the architects to prepare, under their direc-
 6 tion, the plans, and to superintend under the direction of the com-
 7 missioners of parks the construction of said addition. Said plans,
 8 when completed, shall be submitted by said trustees to the com-
 9 missioners of said department for their approval, and may include
 10 any alteration of the present building made necessary by the
 11 enlargement, and such additions, improvements and repairs to
 12 it as the commissioners of said department and the trustees of
 13 said museum may agree are proper and necessary. The com-
 14 missioners of said department shall provide for the compensation
 15 of the architects out of the fund hereby provided for the erection
 16 of said addition. Said equipment shall include all the cases and
 17 fittings and other apparatus required for the preparation, exhibi-
 18 tion and preservation of the specimens, books and other property
 19 of the museum.

20 § 2. For the purpose of providing means for carrying into effect
 21 the provisions of this act, it shall be the duty of the comptroller,
 22 upon being thereunto authorized by the board of estimate and
 23 apportionment, to issue and sell, but not at less than their par
 24 value, bonds or stocks of the mayor, aldermen and commonalty
 25 of the city of New York, in the manner now provided by law, pay-
 26 able from taxation, but not exceeding in the aggregate the sum

1 of five hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest at a rate not
 2 exceeding four per centum and redeemable within a period of time
 3 not exceeding thirty years from the date of their issue.

4 § 3. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions
 5 of this act are hereby repealed.

6 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

163.

34. This shall take effect of this and hereby repeal
1825. All acts and parts of
not exceeding thirty years
existing for the term of
the hundred thousand of

State of New York.

No. 879.

Int. 716

IN SENATE,

March 6, 1896.

Introduced by Mr. PAGE — read twice, and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the committee on affairs
of cities.

AN ACT

To promote the public health of the city of New
York, and to provide for the construction of a
building for an ambulance station and vaccine
laboratory.

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

- 1 Section 1. The sinking fund commissioners of the city of New
- 2 York are hereby authorized, whenever required so to do by the
- 3 board of health of said city, to designate and set apart land
- 4 located on the south side of East Seventeenth street, between
- 5 Avenue C and the East river in said city, and adjacent to the
- 6 hospitals now under the control and supervision of the board of
- 7 health of the city of New York, as will be requisite for the con-
- 8 struction thereon of a building as an ambulance station and
- 9 vaccine laboratory, to promote the public health of the said
- 10 city, in accordance with the plans and specifications and for the

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

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1 purposes mentioned in the next section of this act, and the said
2 land so designated and set apart shall be and the same is hereby
3 set apart and appropriated for the purposes of the building in
4 this act provided for.

5 § 2. The said board of health is hereby authorized and directed
6 to construct upon the site so designated and set apart a building
7 as an ambulance station and vaccine laboratory, the entire cost,
8 expense and equipment of which shall not exceed fifty thousand
9 dollars.

10 § 3. The said board of health is hereby authorized to employ
11 a competent architect, whose services shall be paid for out of the
12 funds hereinafter provided, to prepare plans and specifications
13 for said building, and he shall submit the said plans and specifi-
14 cations to the said board of health for approval, who shall have
15 power to approve, reject or modify the same. When the said
16 board shall have selected and approved a plan or plans and speci-
17 fications for said building, and shall decide to proceed with the
18 work or any part thereof, they may direct that said work shall be
19 executed. The said board of health shall publicly advertise for
20 proposals for the erection in whole of such building, and for the
21 doing of all work and the supply of all materials necessary for
22 the completion and equipment of the same for use and occupa-
23 tion. The forms of all contracts, for which proposals are so
24 invited, shall first be approved by said board before advertise-
25 ment thereof. Such advertisements shall be inserted in the City
26 Record, and in at least three of the public newspapers of the city

1 of New York, to be selected by said board, and shall be con-
2 tinued therein for at least ten consecutive days. All bids or pro-
3 posals received in response to said advertisements shall be pub-
4 licly opened by and in the presence of the said board, or a majority
5 of them, and they shall award the contract for which bids and
6 proposals have been so advertised for as aforesaid to the lowest
7 bidder thereof, or they may reject all such bids, and readvertise
8 for bids and proposals, and may reject all bids and readvertise as
9 often as they may deem it to be for the best interests of the city
10 so to do. The terms of all such contracts shall be settled by the
11 counsel to the corporation as an act of preliminary specification
12 to the bid or proposal. Said contract or contracts, when
13 awarded, shall be executed by the said board in behalf of the
14 mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York.

15 § 4. The bidder to whom the contract is awarded as herein-
16 before provided must give security for the faithful performance
17 of his contract, in such sum as shall be prescribed by the said
18 board, and in the manner prescribed by the ordinances of the
19 common council of said city applicable to similar work, and the
20 adequacy and sufficiency of this security shall, in addition to the
21 justification and acknowledgment, be approved by the comp-
22 troller. If the lowest bidder for any contract shall neglect or
23 refuse to accept the contract within five days after notice that the
24 contract has been awarded to his bid or proposal, or if he
25 accepts but does not execute the contract and give the proper
26 security, the said contractor shall forfeit the money deposited by

1 him at the time of making his bid, as hereinafter provided, and
 2 the said contract shall be readvertised and relet as hereinbefore
 3 provided. No bid shall be accepted from, or contract awarded
 4 to, any person who is in arrears to the corporation upon debt or
 5 contract, or who is a defaulter as surety or otherwise upon any
 6 obligation to the corporation. Every bidder, as a condition
 7 precedent to the reception or consideration of his proposal, shall
 8 deposit with the comptroller a certified check drawn to the order
 9 of said comptroller upon one of the state or national banks of said
 10 city, or money (such check or money to accompany the proposal)
 11 to such an amount, not exceeding five per centum of the amount
 12 of the required security for the faithful performance of the con-
 13 tract bidden for, or as the aforesaid board shall determine and
 14 prescribe. Within three days after the decision as to who is the
 15 lowest bidder, the comptroller shall return all deposits made to
 16 the persons making the same, except the deposit made by the
 17 lowest bidder, and if the lowest bidder shall refuse or neglect
 18 within five days after notice that the contract has been awarded,
 19 to execute the same and give the proper security, the amount of
 20 such deposit made by him shall be forfeited and retained by the
 21 said city as liquidated damages for such neglect or refusal, and
 22 shall thereafter be appropriated to and expended in the erection
 23 of the building herein provided for, but if the said lowest bidder
 24 shall execute the contract, and give the proper security within
 25 the time aforesaid, the amount of his deposit shall be returned
 26 to him.

1 § 5. The said contracts, when executed, shall be carried out
 2 according to their terms, under the direction and supervision
 3 of the said board. In case any work shall be abandoned by any
 4 contractor, or if the said work or any part thereof shall, in the
 5 opinion of the said board, be by the said contractor unnecessarily
 6 delayed, or if the said contractor shall, in the opinion of the said
 7 board, willfully violate any of the provisions of his contract, or
 8 execute the same in bad faith, so that said work is not being
 9 done or progressing according to the terms of said contract, and
 10 the said board of health shall so certify in writing, notice shall be
 11 given by said board to the sureties of said contractor, and if
 12 said sureties shall fail to continue the performance of the work
 13 according to the terms of said contract, the said board shall notify
 14 said contractor to discontinue all work under his contract, or any
 15 part thereof, and the said contractor shall thereupon discontinue
 16 said work, or such part thereof, and the said board of health
 17 shall thereupon, with the consent and approval of said board,
 18 or a majority of them, and not otherwise, have power to place
 19 such and so many persons as he may deem advisable, by con-
 20 tract or otherwise, to work at and to complete the said work,
 21 or said part thereof, or so much of said work, or such part thereof,
 22 as said board shall direct, and the said contractor and his sure-
 23 ties so failing to perform said contract shall be jointly and
 24 severally liable to the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the
 25 city of New York for any and all loss or damage caused by their
 26

1 failure to complete the contract entered into by them as con-
2 tractor and surety.

3 § 6. For all expenses to be incurred under the authority of
4 this act, the comptroller is hereby authorized to issue bonds or
5 stock of the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of
6 New York, from time to time, to be payable from taxation, and
7 redeemable in not less than ten or more than twenty years
8 from the date of issue, in amount not exceeding fifty thousand
9 dollars, and the mayor and comptroller are hereby authorized
10 and directed to sign said bonds, and it shall be the duty of the
11 clerk of the common council of said city to countersign the
12 same and affix thereto the seal of said city. Such bonds shall
13 bear interest at a rate not exceeding three per centum per
14 annum, and shall not be disposed of at less than par value
15 thereof; and of the proceeds of said bonds there shall be paid
16 from time to time, upon the requisition of the board of health,
17 or a majority thereof, the amount by them certified to be due
18 for any of the purposes in this act provided.

19 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

FHD

New York, March 26, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith copies of certain bills, hereinafter mentioned, that have been introduced into the Senate and Assembly in regard to the erection of certain buildings in the City of New York.

The wording of these bills in regard to the approval of plans for the buildings therein provided for is not precise, and, as a consequence, there might be some doubt as to whether the effect of their enactment would not be to abrogate the jurisdiction of this Department in approving the plans and specifications for the aforesaid buildings.

While I do not think, however, that such construction could be placed upon the said bills as at present worded, nevertheless, I am of the opinion that all bills providing for the erection of structures in New York City and the approval of plans therefor by various Departments other than this Department should specifically state "that nothing therein contained should be so construed as to impair or abrogate the power or jurisdiction of the Department of Buildings."

The bills above referred to are as follows: Assembly Bills Nos. 1121 and 1294; Senate Bills Nos. 802 & 879.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

March 26, 1896.

MB

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that Hon. Chas. Page by request has introduced a bill into the Senate, entitled "An Act for the protection of public parks of the City of New York."

The bill provides that no vehicles laden or unladen, other than those for pleasure or those in the service of the Park Department shall be allowed on any road, street or driveway passing through, on, or over any public park in the City of New York.

As this bill, if allowed to become a law, would prevent the passing across of such park driveways as Riverside Drive at the intersection of some of the streets leading to the great public wharves above 59th Street, which wharves have been found of inestimable value to the builders of this city for the receipt by water of various building materials used in the construction of buildings in this vicinity, and as it is impossible for them to get their materials from the said wharves without crossing certain park driveways, I feel it right as Superintendent of Buildings, having charge of the building interests of this city, to call Your Honor's attention to the hardship that this would impose, and to see if it would not be possible to have the intersections of such driveways and specific streets coming from said

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

W.L.S.#2

New York,

wharves freed from the said restrictions or some form of permit granted
for transit over the said intersections.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

162.

for transit over the said intersect
wharves freed from the said restrict

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

March 26, 1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to herein submit to you my views in regard to the proposed Tenement House Act which has been introduced into the Legislature at Albany. I have addressed to the following gentlemen, a letter substantially the same as this:

Hon. Hamilton Fish, Speaker of the Assembly Committee,

Hon. Nevada N. Stranahan, Chairman of the Senate Committee
on Affairs of Cities,

Hon. Geo. C. Austin, Chairman of Assembly Committee on
Affairs of Cities,

Hon. O. H. La Grange, President, Fire Department,

Hon. Chas. G. Wilson, President, Health Department,

F. C. Moore, Esq., President, N.Y. Board of Fire Underwriters,

and a number of others who I thought might be interested in this, and I have asked these gentlemen to co-operate in an endeavor to defeat the passage of the bill.

1st. A great change is made in the provision of the present law providing that: "No one continuous building hereafter constructed shall be built or converted to the purposes of a tenement or lodging-house in the city of New York, upon an ordinary city lot, and no existing tenement or lodging-house shall be enlarged or altered, or its lot be diminished so that it shall occupy more than sixty-five per centum of the area of said lot. But where the light and ventilation of such tene-

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

#2 Hon. W. L. S.

New York,

ment or lodging-house are, in the opinion of the superintendent of buildings, materially improved, he may permit such tenement or lodging-house to occupy an area not exceeding seventy-five per centum of the said lot."

The proposed law if enacted will permit the occupation by tenement and lodging-houses of seventy-eight per centum of the area of lots upon which they are erected and entirely takes away the discretion of the superintendent of buildings with regard to insisting upon improved light and ventilation of such houses. In other words three per centum more of the area of lots may be occupied by such buildings than can be done under the present law even with the condition of improved light and ventilation thereof, which the superintendent at present is empowered to require before permitting the occupation of more than sixty-five per centum of lots by such buildings.

The enactment of the proposed law will effect a retrogression of twenty years in humanitarianism in regard to tenement houses, for under it worse tenements could be erected than those which have been erected during the past twenty years. Such an enactment will deprive the poorer classes of people of the protection which a wise legislature has thrown around them in the past and would be an outrage upon the community.

2d. Quite as outrageous would be the lessening of the protection afforded to the occupants of such buildings by the fire-proof

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



#3 Hon. W. L. S.

New York,

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

construction as at present required. The framers of the proposed act have drafted it so as to permit a much larger number of ^{such} buildings than is at present possible to be constructed without fire-proof staircases, thus greatly increasing the risk to life in case of fire, not only to the occupants of said buildings but to the fire men of the city, and for no other apparent reason than that of saving a few hundred dollars in the cost of construction. It is simply outrageous. The law at present reads: "In all tenement-houses hereafter constructed or buildings hereafter converted to the purposes of a tenement house, all staircases shall be fire-proof; but this provision as to staircases shall not apply to buildings which are not over five stories high above the cellar and which contain not more than three suites of rooms on a floor."

In other words at present staircases in tenement and lodging-houses must be fire-proof unless said buildings are not over five stories high and providing there are not more than three suites of rooms on each floor. Under the present law if tenement buildings are over five stories high, no matter how many suites of rooms they contain on a floor, the staircases thereof must be fireproof, and if tenement buildings are only five stories high or under and contain more than three suites of rooms on a floor, the staircases must be fire-proof. But under the proposed law a building, no matter how many stories high, if it does not contain more than three suites of rooms on a floor need not have fire-proof staircases, and a building only five stories high

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



New York,

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

#4 Hon. W. L. S.

or under, no matter how many suites of rooms it may contain on a floor need not have fire-proof staircases.

The bare mention of such a change as this should be sufficient to prevent the passage of the bill.

The present law provides that the entrance hall and entire stairwell and stairs shall be built of such slow burning construction or fire-proof material as the superintendent of buildings shall decide upon in cases where there is no requirement that the staircases of tenement buildings shall be entirely fire-proof, and also that on the second floor of all tenement houses not fire-proof throughout all entrances from stairs to halls shall be closed off with fire-proof double swing doors which shall be closed every night not later than ten o'clock.

The present requirement is a most proper safeguard and without doubt results, in case of fire, in frequently allowing occupants to escape by the stairs. To leave out this requirement as is done in the proposed act would result not only in frequently compelling the occupants of such buildings to resort to the more difficult egress afforded by fire escapes, but undoubtedly quite as frequently bring about such a condition of affairs that the occupants would be caught between the floors on the stairs, and through their quick destruction be utterly unable to reach the fire escape on either floor or any other place of safety. To say nothing of the fact that the proposed changes with

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



#5 Hon. W. L. S.

New York,

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

regard to fire-proof and semi-fire-proof construction of staircases increases to a very great extent the ease and rapidity with which a fire can spread throughout such buildings.

3d. The proposed law will not contain the requirement of the present act providing that "in all houses erected or converted after June 16, 1879, which shall be used (etc.) for tenement or lodging-houses every room used (etc.) by any person or persons for sleeping shall have at least one window with movable sash for an opening of not less than twelve square feet, admitting light and air directly from the public street or yard of said house, unless sufficient light and ventilation shall be otherwise provided in a manner and upon a plan approved by the Department of Buildings.

Under the proposed law, therefore, tenement houses may be erected without the necessity of having such a window as above described in every sleeping room. Under the proposed act the sleeping rooms in such buildings need not be as well ventilated and lighted as under the present law. The requirements of the present law in this regard is absolutely essential to the proper sanitation of tenement houses and to leave this requirement out would have a most injurious effect, not only upon the occupants of such buildings but upon the whole community.

Proper light and ventilation afforded to the poorer classes has an extremely beneficial effect not only upon their health but also

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

Hon. W. L. S. #6

New York,

upon their morals, and nothing is better established than that the health and morality of the poorer classes affects to a great degree the health and morality of the whole community.

I have the honor to remain,

Respectfully yours,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

164.

health and morality of the poorer
upon their morals, and nothing is

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

HON. W. L. S. A.

SHERIFFS CONSTABLE

SUPERINTENDENT

DEPARTMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

FHD

New York, March 30, 1896.

W

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Permit me to present for your consideration the following statement respecting a class of cases that frequently arise in this Department..These cases are of peculiar importance and the enforcement of the law in relation thereto, as interpreted by this Department, presents the anomalous condition of the legislative department and an executive department of this City operating at cross purposes; the one authorizing the execution of certain construction and the other requiring its removal. I allude to the cases where the Common Council of the City has passed resolutions authorizing the erection of bay-windows that extend beyond the building line into the area of public streets. I am advised that no authority is vested in the Common Council to pass such resolutions, no power to do so having been delegated to it by the Legislature, and that notwithstanding such resolutions no right to erect such bay-windows is acquired. Acting under such advice this Department has not approved the construction of such bay-windows.

As an instance, I would respectfully refer to a case now pending in this Department, to wit:-Violation Record No. 590/'96, Alexander Mc Donald, owner, relating to premises situate on the east side of Union Avenue about 196 feet north of 152d Street. The applica-

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

Hon. W. L. S. - page 2.

New York, March 30, 1896.

tion for the erection of this building was approved in December last, on condition that the bay-windows should not project beyond the building line. Notwithstanding this condition the building is now in course of construction and the bay-windows are being built beyond the building line into the area of the street. In response to a notification from this Department the said owner has written as follows:- "In reference to my bay window as I got permission from Mayor Strong and the board of Aldermen to erect the same I think I have a right to do so."

I have cited this one case to illustrate the state of affairs to which allusion has been made herein.

I sincerely trust that steps may be taken to obviate these difficulties and that this Department may be in harmony with the other Departments of the City.

I beg to request that you will favor me with an expression of your views respecting the above matters.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

165.

line. Notwithstanding this condition on condition that the pay-windows at
tion for the erection of this building

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

SUPERINTENDENT
STENSON COMPTROLLER

HON. W. L. G. & Co

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

FHD

New York, April 1, 1896 .

Mr. Henry Grasse,

Dear Sir:-

You are hereby appointed Assistant Attorney to the
Department of Buildings; your appointment to take effect this day.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

160-

Mr. Henry Grasse,

Office of Attorney

SUPERINTENDENT
STANBORN CONSOLIDATE

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DISPATCH

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B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

New York

April 9, 1896.

W.

Hon. Board of Estimate and Apportionment,
City of New York.

Gentlemen:-

I respectfully request a transfer of \$1000 from the Appropriation for "Fees for Serving Summonses" for the year 1896, to the Appropriation for "Contingencies & Emergencies" of this Department for the year 1896.

Requisitions have been made on the Appropriation for "Contingencies and Emergencies" for the current year so that the balance at this date is but \$43.80, after allowing \$1000 for Law Library.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

(Copy)

(D)

New York, April 9, 1896.

Hon. Board of Estimate and Apportionment,
City of New York.

Gentlemen;-

I respectfully request a transfer of \$1000 from the Appropriation for "Fees for Serving Summonses" for the year 1896, to the Appropriation for "Contingencies & Emergencies" of this Department for the year 1896.

Requisitions have been made on the Appropriation for "Contingencies and Emergencies" for the current year so that the balance at this date is but \$43.80, after allowing \$1000 for Law Library.

X
(Signed) Yours respectfully,
Stevenson Constable.

Sup't. of B'ldgs.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



A.E.H.

New York, April 13th, 1896.

Handwritten initials, possibly "WJ", in cursive script.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to yours of 11th instant, I will see if we have any copies remaining of the building law to forward to the Memphis Board of Fire Underwriters, in compliance with theirs of 7th instant which yours enclosed.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

167.

Yours enclosed.

of this undersigned, in compliance
copies remaining of the building in

Yours truly

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

April 13, 1896.

Me.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

On looking over the records, I see that the term of office of Jas. M. Morrow as Journeyman Plumber on the Examining Board of Plumbers expired on January 1st, 1896.

As the said gentleman seems to be satisfactory to the Board and the Board's action, as far as my Department is concerned since my superintendence of this Department, seems to have been careful and thorough, I would advise his reappointment from January 1st, 1896.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

P. S.-

Mr. Morrow's full name and address are:
James M. Morrow, #211 West 104th St. N.Y. City.

168.

A.

STATION COMPOSITE

SUPERINTENDENT

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

HOT. R. J. SPONE.

DEPARTMENT

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2 W CORNE

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

OFFICE OF

SUPERINTENDENT.

A.E.H.

New York, April 18th, 1896.

m

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find letter received from Mr. A. B. Bachman in answer to mine of 15th instant. Kindly return same after examination, and oblige,

Yours respectfully,

Shaverin, Esq.
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

B. W.

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



New York, April 18, 1896.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. A. Hoebberman, mason and builder, came into this office today making complaint against the Health, Fire and this Department in re the law regarding bakeries, etc. in which joint rights are vested in the three Departments.

What with the heat of the bakery and the heat of the weather, he seemed to feel rather uncomfortable; probably after a night's rest I will be able to deal with him. As he may make complaint to you, I thought best to advise you beforehand.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

169.

APR 11 1911

Handwritten signature

APR 11 1911

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

R E S U M E of Action of the Department of Buildings in relation to Assembly Bill, Print No. 724, 2028.

On February 6th, 1896, a Bill was introduced by Mr. Gledhill into the Assembly, and on being printed was given the Number 724; it was afterwards numbered 2028.

The bill was entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed on buildings in course of construction in the cities of the State".

The bill was read once in the Assembly, and referred to the Committee on Labor and Industry; reported from said Committee with a substitute - ordered reprinted and recommit-
mitted to the Committee on Labor and Industry; reported from said Committee with amendments - ordered reprinted as amended and placed on the order of second reading - amended on second reading and referred to the committee on revision reported from said committee with recommendations, ordered reprinted and placed on the order of third reading.

In the meanwhile the Department of Buildings took the following action in relation to the bill: On the 5th day of March, a letter was addressed asking for the date of hearing on the bill (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. A.). To this letter there was no response to the writer thereof, but on the 10th day of March, the Superintendent of Buildings received a letter dated the 9th, giving a notification of hearing on the bill on the 11th. If the notification had been sent immediately on ~~xxxxxx-
xxxxxxxxxx~~ of the receipt of the letter of the 5th, there would have been time to have prepared for, and been present, at the hearing. As it was, however, there was not sufficient time so to do.

Therefore, EDWARD S. HOSMER, Assistant Attorney to this Department, communicated with Mr. Audett, Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Industry, over the telephone. Mr. Audett asked Mr. Hosmer if it would be satisfactory to the Department of Buildings if this bill was reported out favorably on condition that if the Department wanted a hearing on the bill, the bill would be recommitted, and another hearing given. Mr. Hosmer, after consultation with the Superintendent of Buildings, notified Mr. Audett that such action would be satisfactory to the Department, and thereupon Mr. Audett promised that if the Department of Building desired a hearing the bill would be recommitted and a hearing granted. On the same day, the Superintendent addressed a letter to Mr. Audett (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. B.).

Thereafter, on March 13th, this Department wrote asking for a rehearing. (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. C.). No response was had thereto, and again on March 25th, this Department wrote requesting a rehearing (A copy of which is hereto attached, marked Ex. D.). March 28th, received a letter from Mr. Audett, dated the 26th. (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex E.) On March 28th, wrote both Mr. Audett and Mr. Gledhill (Copies of which are attached hereto, marked Exs. F. & G.). On April 6th, wrote Mr. Audett (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. H.). On April 8th, the Superintendent of Buildings addressed a letter to Mr. French and Mr. Pavey (copies of which are attached hereto, marked Exs. I & J.)

Thereafterwards, Mr. Hosmer had a consultation with Senator Pavey, and Senator Pavey suggested that the ob-

jections this Department had to the bill might be overcome by having the bill amended so it should not take effect until January 1st, 1897. Senator Pavey said there would be no difficulty in having such amendment made.

Mr. Hosmer thereupon consulted with the Superintendent of Buildings, and on April 15th, a letter was written to Senator Pavey, (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. K.) Stating that if such amendment was made, the bill would then be satisfactory to this Department. On April 21st, letters were addressed to Mr. Austin and Mr. Gledhill (A copy of which is attached hereto, marked Ex. L.)

Yet despite the urgent and repeated requests of this Department of Buildings, that the bill be amended so as to relieve this Department from responsibility in regard to its provisions until such time as it might be enabled to obtain sufficient means to carry out the provisions thereof and despite the further fact that the amendment was so simple and could have been so easily made, the bill passed the Legislature without any such amendment. The result of which is to throw a grievous burden upon this Department in the administration of the affairs thereof, and to place a grave responsibility upon the Superintendent of Buildings without at the same time ~~xx~~ giving the means to undertake the work and seeing the provisions of the Act are complied with

Exhibit A.

Mar. 5, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,

Chairman of the Committee on Labor & Industry,
Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

My Dear Sir:-

Will you kindly inform me whether or not there is to be another hearing before your Committee of Bill No. 724, and if not, can you tell me when and how I can find out the action of your Committee in regard thereto?

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Attorney to Department of Buildings

It is entirely impossible for this Department in its present financial condition to attempt the work of enforcing the provisions of this bill should it become a law, unless a special appropriation is made therefor. The necessary inspection to enforce the provisions thereof, with regard to any particular building, might seem to take up but a very small amount of time; but even so, there being many buildings to be inspected, the aggregate amount of time so taken up would be very great; to say nothing of the additional time taken up by the more frequent inspections of buildings which would be necessary in order to enforce the provisions of the proposed act. In order therefore, to enforce this act, this Department would need to employ more men, and, as it is, the Department has not enough to adequately and properly accomplish the work which it is

Exhibit B.

Mar. 11, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,
Chairman of the Committee on Labor & Industry,
Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 9th instant is at hand. I was not aware before that a hearing would be had so soon upon the bill entitled, "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed on buildings in course of construction in cities of the State of New York"; consequently I cannot be present thereat.

Naturally, I most heartily approve of anything which, in any way, affords increased protection to human life, in the erection of buildings. With regard to this particular bill, however, I have not had time to critically consider its provisions, save in the following particular:

It is utterly impossible for this Department in its present financial condition to attempt the work of enforcing the provisions of this bill should it become a law, unless a special appropriation is made therefor. The necessary inspection to enforce the provisions thereof, with regard to any particular building, might seem to take up but a very small amount of time; but even so, there being many buildings to be inspected, the aggregate amount of time so taken up would be very great; to say nothing of the additional time taken up by the more frequent inspections of buildings which would be necessary in order to enforce the provisions of the proposed act. In order therefore, to enforce this Act, this Department would need to employ more men, and, as it is, the Department has not enough to adequately and properly accomplish the work which it is

- 2-

charged with doing.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Superintendent of Buildings.

Exhibit C.

March 13th, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,
Chairman of the Committee on Labor & Industry,
Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Hosmer, Assistant Attorney to the Department, informs me that you stated to him over the telephone that even if the bill, entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed on buildings in course of construction in cities of the State of New York," was reported on favorably by your Committee, it would be so reported on condition that a further hearing would be had thereon if this Department desired it.

In view of the fact that it is utterly impossible for this Department, in its present financial condition, to attempt the work of enforcing the provisions of this bill should it become a law, without a special appropriation being made therefor; I beg to request that this Department may have the opportunity of being heard before your Committee in reference to this bill.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Superintendent of Buildings.

Exhibit D.

Mar. 25th, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,

Chairman of Committee on Labor & Industry,

Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

On the 13th instant I wrote you in reference to the bill entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed in buildings in course of construction in the cities of the State of New York", asking you when we could have a hearing on said bill. I have not yet had the favor of an answer. Will you kindly let me hear from you in this matter?

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

Exhibit E.

Albany, March 26th, 1896.

Mr. J. V. Dalhgren,
New York City.

My dear Sir:-

Your esteemed favor of 25th at hand. I desire to state that I am under the impression that I informed your Department, when the hearing would take place on the bill entitled "An act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed in buildings in course of construction in cities of the State of New York".

The final hearing took place on the 18th, and the bill has been passed out of my Committee and is now on the order of 3rd reading in the Assembly.

I would suggest that you write to Mr. Gledhill, the introducer of the bill in reference to a hearing as he has full charge of the measure now.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR J. AUDETT.

Exhibit F.

March 28, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,
Assembly Chamber,
Albany, N. Y.

My Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th inst. is at hand.

I have the honor to give you a resume of my action in relation to Bill introduced by Mr. Gledhill and which you refer to in your letter. I wrote you on the 5th inst. asking you to notify me of the date of the hearing on said bill. To that letter I had no response, but on the 9th or 10th inst. you wrote to Mr. Constable stating that a hearing was to be had on the 11th inst. Mr. Constable wrote you on the 11th stating that it was too late for him to appear at the hearing on account of the shortness of the notice but sending you his views at length on the matter. On the same day in behalf of Mr. Constable I had a communication with you on the telephone in which you asked if it would be satisfactory to this Department if you reported the bill out favorably, but on the condition that if this Department wanted a hearing the bill would be recommitted and a rehearing had at which this Department might appear. I replied that that would be a perfectly satisfactory arrangement and I understood from you that that condition would be attached to the report of the Committee reporting the bill favorably.

I wrote for such a rehearing, and I now have your favor of the 26th inst. suggesting that I write to Mr. Gledhill in reference to the hearing and stating that he has full charge of the measure. May I ask if the bill was report-

Page 2.

March 28, 1896.

ed out on the condition that it would be recommitted should we desire a hearing. The favor of an early response would be appreciated.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

Exhibit G.

March 28, 1896.

Hon. William H. Gledhill,
Assembly Chamber,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith a copy of letter sent to Hon. Arthur J. Audett on March 11th by the Superintendent of Buildings in regard to Bill No. 724, introduced by you, into the Assembly.

I had a communication with Mr. Audett and he promised me that if the Committee reported the bill out favorably it would do so on condition that the bill would be redomitted for a rehearing if this Department desired a hearing on said bill. This Department does desire such a hearing and I would be greatly indebted to you for anything you can do in the premises to assist us in this matter.

The favor of a response is requested. I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

Exhibit H.

April 6th, 1896.

Hon. Arthur J. Audett,
Assembly Chamber,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I wrote you on March 28th in reference to the bill introduced by Mr. Gledhill. I have not as yet received any reply thereto. Will you kindly write me a reply by return mail stating whether or no the bill was reported out on the condition that if this Department wanted a hearing the bill would be re-committed.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,

Assistant Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

Exhibits I. & J

Dear Sir:-

I beg to submit the following statement in relation to the bill entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed on buildings in course of construction in cities of the State of New York."

Naturally I approve most heartily of any measure which affords increased protection to human life in the erection of buildings, but I cannot object too strenuously to having this Department charged with the grave responsibility entailed upon it by the proposed law to see that certain conditions exist on buildings in the course of their erection that will protect human life, unless I am given the means to adequately inspect the construction of such buildings. There are from eighty to ninety large buildings of steel construction and from two to three hundred other buildings erected in this City each year, all of which would require constant inspection to see that the provisions of the proposed law are complied with.

Already I have not the adequate force to do the work which this Department is charged with the duty of doing and I am not willing to have this Department charged with the grave responsibility with which it would be charged under the proposed law, unless provision is made for appropriation of at least \$7,500 per annum in order that men may be employed to properly perform the work which the proposed law will require of this Department.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed)

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,

Sup't. of B'ldgs.

Copy of the foregoing letter sent to

Mr. French
Mr. Stranahan
Mr. Pavey.

Exhibit K.

April 15th, 1896.

Hon. Frank D. Pavey,

Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Pavey:-

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

I consulted with Mr. Constable in regard to the Geldhill bill, entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury and death to persons employed on buildings," etc. Mr. Constable stated that he would be satisfied if the bill was amended so that the act would not take effect before the first of January next year, and he will himself write letters in accordance therewith to Mr. Geldhill and Mr. Austin in the Assembly and to Mr. Stranahan in the Senate. Of course you understand that Mr. Constable is very much in favor of the bill and of anything that will protect life, and his only objection to having the bill take effect at once is that he has not the force to see ~~that~~ that the law is carried out and he does not want the responsibility unless he has the means of seeing that it is enforced.

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Asst. Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

Exhibit L.

April 21st, 1896.

Hon. George C. Austin,

Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have had a consultation with Senator Pavey in reference to the act entitled "An Act to afford protection against injury or death to persons employed on buildings in course of construction in cities of the State of New York", in which he stated he thought it would be possible to have the bill amended so that the act would not take effect until Jan. 1st, 1897. After consultation with Hon. Stevenson Constable I am able to inform you that with such an amendment the Building Department will withdraw its objection to the bill.

Mr. Constable wanted it distinctly understood that the reason for his asking for the amendment so that the act will not take effect until next year is solely due to the fact that he has not the funds to employ inspectors to see that the provisions of the law are carried out, and it will not be possible for him to obtain any from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment until next year.

If the act made provision for compensation of employees to carry out its provisions, Mr. Constable would have been only too glad to have had the act take effect at once.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Assistant Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

(Same letter sent to Mr. Gledhill.)

Rec. No.
434

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT

A.E.H.

New York, April 22nd, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have just received resolution of the Board of Aldermen signed as approved by you giving permission to G. A. Schellenger to erect, place, and keep two bay windows on premises Northeast Corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 114th Street. As same is contrary to the enactment of the legislature governing this Department, it is impossible for me to approve said resolution.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

M

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

OFFICE OF

SUPERINTENDENT.

U.

New York, Apr. 23, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

In compliance with the provisions of Section 49, Chapter 410, Laws of 1882, and Chapter 275, Laws of 1892, I have the honor to herewith submit my report of the operations of this Department for the three months ending March 31, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson
Superintendent of Buildings.

172.

Vol. 32, 1888.

NEW YORK

1888

1888

1888

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

B. W.

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT.

New York, April 24, 1896.



W.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of letter sent to the Board
of Estimate and Apportionment by special messenger on April 9th.
As this matter is very important, I await action.

Yours respectfully,

Henry S. Crestable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

Board of
Estimate & App.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

OFFICE OF
THE BOARD OF
ESTIMATE & APPROPRIATION

FOURTH FLOOR

25 W. CORNER 18TH ST.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

1896.

April 24, 1896.

1.

New York, Apr. 21, 1896.

Stevenson Constable Esq.,
Supt. of Buildings,

Sir:-

London Theatre.
235 Bowery,
James Donaldson.

In compliance with order I examined the London Theatre # 235 Bowery; this being my first official examination of the premises, and find the same with the exception of the surrounding walls constructed entirely of wood with semi circular wooden roof, this surrounded by buildings which are used for exits (more or less) South side known as Volks Garden, recently destroyed by fire, F. E. leading from London Theatre to an unsafe roof.

The fire escape on front is defective, railing not braced boiler is located under stage, several late improvements being made for safe escape in case of fire on front and back.

The dressing rooms under stage are dark, ^{dirty} and filthy, beams overhead resting on wooden girder, ends being rotten and decayed.

I must consider this place as hazardous and dangerous and in case of fire at a performance a catastrophe with loss of life is unavoidable, I recommend this establishment be closed.

Respectfully submitted,
August Birnstiel.
Chief Inspector.

Copied

Apr. 21 - '96.

170.

London Theatre.

Report of Examination

Mrs. Birnstiel.

Respectfully submitted,

SUMMARY of REPORT ---April 21,1896.

L O N D O N T H E A T R E

#235 Bowery.

Examination by Chief Special Inspector August Bernstiel
April 21,1896.

The building entirely non-fireproof, only surrounding walls being constructed of brick; surrounded by buildings , through some of which, in case of necessity, exits are made.

. Stair-ways of frame construction.

One fire-escape leads to an unsafe roof.

Front fire-escape defective.

Some improvements being made to escapes front and back, but not sufficient.

Boiler located under stage.

Dressing rooms under stage, dark and filthy.

Beams rotted and decayed.

General construction and condition of building renders it unsafe for the purpose for which it is being used.

*Stevenson & Co. Stable
Supk. Bldg.*

One fire-escape leads to an outer roof.
 Stairways of iron construction.

Through some of which, in case of necessity, exits are made.
 being constructed of brick, surrounded by buildings.
 The building entirely non-fireproof, only surrounding walls

April 21, 1900.

John Smith.

LONDON THEATRE

SUMMARY OF REPORT --- APRIL 21, 1900.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

(D)

New York, Apr. 25, 1896.

M.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of examination made of the London Theatre, NO. 235 Bowery, by the best Theatre Inspector I have.

Under his report, I must consider said building as too dangerous to allow its being re-licensed.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

170

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

B. W.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

April 27, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find list of a number of theatres, for which licenses can be granted for the coming year, although in some of them there are still small matters pending which should be carried out, but the disposition seems to be to do what is required,

Yours very respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

B. W .

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

April 27, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find list of a number of music halls, museums, etc. for which licenses can be granted for the coming year, although in some of them matters have not been quite carried out as they should be and are still pending, but the disposition seems to be to do what is required .

Yours very respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

174.

B. A.

SUPPLEMENTARY
RETURN ON COMPLAINT

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY

Hon. Wm. J. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

DEPARTMENT OF

RECORDS

J. W. CORNE

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



New York, April 28, 1896.

m

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 24th inst. I have ordered special re-examination to be made of the premises #268 Bowery and #2157 Amsterdam Ave. and shall report tomorrow.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

175.

B. A.

Hon. Mr. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of

CHIEF ATTORNEY.

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1881
CITY OF NEW YORK

S. W. COHEN

THE NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

B. W.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

April 29, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find additional list of theatres and music halls, for which licenses can be granted for the coming year, as any matters incomplete in same will be completed as required by this Department.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

THEATRES.

✓ Garrick

65 West 35th Street.

✓ Standard

B'Way. & 33rd., Street.

Music Halls, Museums etc.,

✓ Columbia Music Hall

117-125 E. 125th St.

✓ Majestic Hall

117-125 E. 125th St.

✓ Trocadero Music Hall

23rd. St. & 6th Ave.

✓ Blanks Winter Garden

3rd. Ave. Near 13th St.

✓ Proctors Pleasure Palace

58th St. Near 3rd., Ave.

✓ Gaiety Museum

138 Bowery

✓ Variety Music Hall

161 Bowery.

✓ Germania Assembly Rooms

291-293 Bowery.

✓ Terrace Garden

58th St. Near 3rd., Ave.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

(D)

New York,

THEATRES.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Abbeys, | B'Way. & 38th St. |
| ✓ American | 8th Ave. Bet. 41st., & 42nd., Sts. |
| Berkeley Lyceum, | 44th St., Near Madison Ave. |
| ✓ Broadway, | Broadway & 41st., St. |
| ✓ Carnegie Hall, | 7th Ave., & 57th St. |
| ✓ Columbus | 125th St., bet Lexington & 4th Aves. |
| ✓ Empire | Broadway bet. 39th and 40th Sts. |
| ✓ Fifth Ave., | 28th St., & Broadway. |
| ✓ Germania | 8th St., & 4th Ave. |
| ✓ Grand Opera House, | 23rd., St., & 8th Ave. |
| ✓ Harlem " " | 125th St., near 7th Ave. |
| ✓ Herald Square, | Broadway & 35th St. |
| ✓ Irving Place, | Irving Pl. & 15th St., |
| ✓ Metropolitan O. H. | Broadway, 7th Ave., 39th & 40th Sts. |
| ✓ Proctors 23rd., St. | 23rd., St. bet 6th & 7th Aves. |
| ✓ Union Square, | 14th St., near Broadway. |
| ✓ Tony Pastors, | 14th St., near 3rd., Ave. |

THEATRES.

Adlers Theatre,		104 Bowery.
Bijou	"	1239 Broadway.
✓ 14th St.,	"	107 West 14th St.
Garden	"	Madison Ave., & 27th St.
✓ Hoyts	"	24th St. Near Broadway.
✓ Miners Bowery	Theatre	165-167 Bowery.
✓ Miners 8th Ave.	"	310 - 8th Ave.
✓ Olympic	"	3rd., Ave., 130th St.
✓ Olympia	"	Broadway 44th to 45th Sts.
Palmers	"	1228 Broadway.
✓ Peoples	"	201 Bowery.
✓ Lyceum	"	314-4th Ave.
Star	"	Broadway & 13th St.
✓ Thalia	"	46 Bowery.
✓ Windsor	"	45 "

B. W.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

April 29, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find additional list of music halls, museums &c. for which licenses can be granted for the coming year, although in some of them there are still small matters pending which should be carried out, but the disposition seems to be to do what is required.

Yours very respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

Music Halls, Museums, &c.

✓ Atlantic Garden	Bowery near Canal St.
✓ Atalanta Casino	155th St. and 8th Ave.
✓ Appels	428 8th Ave.
✓ Aschauers	5 Battery Place
✓ Abbey, The	332 8th Ave.
Beethoven	5th St. near Bowery
✓ Grand Central Palace	Lexington Ave. 43rd to 44th St.
✓ Krum's Concert Hall	167 Chrystie St.
Manhattan Park	155th St. and Bradhurst Ave.
✓ Mendelsohn Glee Club	40th St. near 6th Ave.
✓ Royal Music Hall	3rd Ave. near 129th St.
✓ Scharman's Concert Hall	114 East 13th St.
Sulzer's Harlem River Park	2nd Ave. and 128th St.
Theiss's Alhambra Hall	14th St. near 3rd Ave.
Turn Hall	4th St. between 2nd Ave. and Bowery
✓ Olympia	Broadway, 44th to 45th St.
✓ Globe Museum	Bowery near Houston St.
✓ Harlem Museum	3rd Ave. between 114th and 115th Sts.
✓ Huber's	8th Ave. near 28th St.
✓ Huber's	14th St. near 4th Ave.
✓ Worth's Museum <i>American Museum</i>	6th Ave. and 30th St.

* THE *

LONDON

THEATRE,

~ 235 AND 237

BOWERY. ~

JAMES DONALDSON,

Sole Proprietor and Manager.



James Donaldson's Enterprises:

LONDON THEATRE, Bowery.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Harlem.

New York,

April 28th 1896

Mr. J. L. Strong, Mayor.
Dear Sir.

I am in receipt of your communication of report from Sept. of Buildings & would state that I am willing to do everything in reason that I can to comply with the Law, but as I have contracts with Companies up to the latter part of June, there are many things I cannot do, until I close my regular season, when I will immediately attend to it, as I have done heretofore, all that I have been required to do, as soon as I possibly can. Trusting this will be satisfactory to you, & that I can get my License on Friday morning. I am in Respectful

James Donaldson

3

Yours truly,

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

B. W.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

May 1st, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of letter received from Mr.
James Donaldson in regard to the London Theatre.

On condition that the subject matter of the said letter is
carried out, as therein agreed, license could be granted for the
said theatre.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY.

New York,

May 1st, 1896.

COPY

Stevenson Constable, Esq.,

Supt. Dept. of Buildings,

Dr. Sir-

I agree immediately to make proper exits and fire escapes in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Buildings.

And on closing the London Theatre in the middle of June, I will comply with every requirement of your Department.

(Signed) Jas. Donaldson

per J. H. Curtin