

Office of Commissioners,  
NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE,  
49 & 51 Chambers Street,  
Rooms 33, 34, 35.

New York, July 8th, 1896.

Mr. Wm. J. O'Brien,

President of Workingmen's Assembly.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the promise of Col. A. D. Baird, President of the New East River Bridge Commissioners, made to you at an interview yesterday, I acknowledge, on behalf of said Commissioners, the receipt from you of the following papers,

Complaint signed by you against Patrick H. Flynn, dated July 7th, 1897.

Affidavits of Thomas H. Russell, John M. Smith, Angelo Thomasine and Patrick K. Coyle, sworn to June 28th, 1897.

I also send you a copy of the opinion of the Counsel to the Commission, to the effect that, under the circumstances, they are not called upon to take any action in the matter.

Very respectfully,

*F. B. Thurber*

Secretary.

*G. M.*

Office of Commissioners,  
NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE.  
40 & 51 Chambers Street,  
Rooms 33, 34, 35.

C O P Y .

New York, July 8th, 1896.

To the Commissioners of the  
New East River Bridge.

Gentlemen:

I have examined the papers submitted by Mr. Wm. J. O'Brien, President of the Workingmen's Assembly, including the complaint against Mr. Flynn, contractor for the New York Pier foundation of the New East River Bridge, and the affidavits of Thomas J. Russell, John M. Smith, Angelo Tomasine and Patrick K. Coyle.

The complaint against the contractor is that he is paying the stone cutters employed by him at the quarry at Saugerties less than the prevailing rate of wages in that location. The complaint asks that the commissioners take prompt action either to compel the contractor to comply with the law in this respect or that they revoke his contract. The claim of Mr. O'Brien is that the contractor is violating Chapter 385 of the Laws of 1870, as amended by Chapter 622 of the laws of 1894. Chapter 385 of the Laws of 1870, as amended by Chapter 622 of the Laws of 1894, provides that all mechanics, workmen and laborers employed by the state or any municipal corporation therein through its agents or officers or in the employ of persons contracting with the state or such corporation, for the performance of public works shall receive not less than the prevailing rate of wages in the respective trades or callings in which such mechanics workingmen and laborers are employed in said locality. It further provides that every contract hereafter made by the state or any municipal corporation for the performance of public works must comply with the requirements of this section, the requirements of the section being that the rate of wages shall be not less than that prevailing in the respective trades or callings in the locality, and that none but citizens of the United States shall be employed by the state or any municipal corporation therein or by persons contracting with the state or municipal corporation.

Office of Commissioners.  
NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE.  
49 & 51 Chambers Street,  
Rooms 33, 34, 35.

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The affidavits produced by Mr. O'Brien tend to show that the contractor is paying less than the prevailing rate of wages in the locality of the quarry ~~get~~ stone cutters.

I am of opinion, however, that this contract with Mr. Flynn is not within the statute. The provision with regard to the rate of ~~w~~ wages is limited to machanics, workingmen and laborors employed by the state or any municipal corporation therein.

The Commissioners of the New East River Bridge are, in my opinion, neither agents or officers of the state nor of any municipal corporation within the meaning of the act.

Assuming, however, that this is questionable, and that the contract with Mr. Flynn might be regarded as a contract coming within the purview of the statute, I do not think the case is one calling for any action on the part of the Commisisioners. The act does not require the public officer or department whose contractor violates the law in this respect to vacate the contract. In many cases such action assuming that it could be taken under the statute might be, and in the present case it would be, highly detrimental to the public interest in delaying the construction of the bridge. The statute provides a penalty upon the contractor, in case he violates the law, of not ~~16~~ less than \$100. nor more than \$500. It is open to any person having knowledge of the violation of the law to make a criminal complaint against the contractor for the enforcement of the statute.

The contarct with Mr. Flynn expressly provides that the contract or shall comply with all the laws of the state in the matter of wages and the class of labor to be employed. It reserves to the Commissioners the right to avoid the contract if the contractor violates any of the conditions or covenants of the contract.

The act further provides that any officer or officers or agents of this State or such (municipal) corporation who shall openly violate misfeasance in office and be liable to compensation or removal accordingly by the head or Governor of the department to which such officer is attached.

Office of Commissioners,  
NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE.  
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It is claimed by Mr. O'Brien, as I understand, that the Commissioners should take some affirmative action against the contractor to prevent further violation of the statute by him, but I know of no process or proceeding by which they can compel obedience to the statute on the part of the contractor, even if it were clear that his case is within the statute. If he violates the law he subjects himself to prosecution therefor, and this seems to be the appropriate remedy. And especially in view of the doubt that exists whether the case is one within the statute, it is my opinion that the Commissioners are not called upon to take any affirmative action in the matter-

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Wm. G. Choate.

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New East River Bridge

Letters

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NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSION  
TREASURER'S REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TO JULY 31, 1897.

1897  
June 30

RECEIPTS  
Statement Rendered \$1,074,650.00

The foregoing disbursements include the bills and accounts which have been certified to by the President and Treasurer of the Commission in accordance with the Act.

		\$1,074,650.00
July 31	To Balance	602,006.97
	With Comptroller of City of New York	\$301,003.54
	With Comptroller of City of Brooklyn	301,003.43

1897

DISBURSEMENTS  
Furniture and Fixtures

June 30	Statement Rendered	\$ 2,022.73	
July 9	F.E.Brandis Sons & Co.	245.00	
	The New York & New Jersey Telephone Co.	50.00	2,317.73

RENT ACCOUNT

June 30	Statement Rendered	6,866.70	
July 7	Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank	150.00	
	Manufacturers' Nat'l Bank	166.67	7,183.37

SALARIES

June 30	Statement Rendered	93,278.59	
July 31	Commissioners	1,500.00	
	Officers and Appointees	3,076.86	97,855.45

BORINGS ACCOUNT

June 30	Statement Rendered	20,795.20	20,795.20
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FRANCHISE ACCOUNT

June 30	Statement Rendered	205,488.88	205,488.88
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PROPERTY ACCOUNT

June 30	Statement Rendered	62,242.64	62,242.64
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NEW YORK TOWER FOUNDATION

June 30	Statement Rendered	29,418.50	
July 10	Patrick H. Flynn	4,273.38	33,691.88

EXPENSE ACCOUNT

June 30	Statement Rendered	33,284.15	
July 6	H.C.M. Ingraham	4,500.00	
7	Wm. G. Choate	4,500.00	
9	The Brooklyn Citizen	38.16	
	Patrick Reynolds	550.00	
	Dr. Chas. F. McKenna	38.50	
13	New York & New Jersey Telephone Co.	41.65	
	F.B. Thurber, Secretary	49.44	
21	F.B. Thurber, Secretary	58.73	
	The Evening Post Job Printing Office	7.25	43,067.88

Total Disbursements	472,643.03	
Balance	602,006.97	
	1,074,650.00	

*Andrew Baird* President,  
*Richard J. ...* Treasurer.

C O P Y.

Engineer's Office, Brooklyn,  
Wednesday, August 4, 1897.

To the Commissioners of the New East River Bridge.

Gentlemen:

During the two weeks ending August 3, 1897, progress on the tower foundations has been as follows:

New York tower foundations.

At Pier 58 work has gone on intermittently. The laying of the masonry was resumed on the afternoon of July 31st and stopped at noon of August 3d. Two courses are finished. The third lacks a few stone and the fourth has been started. It is not probable that any more stone will be laid this week. During the month of July about 850 cubic yards of masonry were completed, making a total of 920 yards laid. The prospect of receiving stone more rapidly than heretofore is not encouraging. In one pier there will be 5,250 cubic yards of limestone and if the present rate of supplying limestone continues, assuming the granite to be delivered as fast required, it will take the contractor fully five months to finish the north pier and six months more to finish the south pier.

On July 31st a blow-pipe with connections was rigged up and on Monday, August 2nd, the excavation of material was started. But a small gang of men is at work inside. They are getting out the soft river mud which underlies the sand. The discharge empties into the river, which may cause difficulty with the authorities controlling the deposit of material in the river. The Contractor is not yet ready to lower the caisson and his object appears to be to keep the half-dozen pressure men at work.

The south caisson is progressing at the usual rate. The chords for all the trusses are in place and many of the diagonals. The working chamber is being sheathed.

Brooklyn Tower Foundations.

The present state of the work on the Brooklyn tower foundations is as follows: The contractor has leased from the B. & N. Y. Ferry Company the South 6th street pier and has built a high fence separating it from the street. He has an office building half completed. He has also obtained from the American Sugar Refining Company possession of 100 feet of bulkhead to a depth of 80 feet next to South 6th street. He is taking down a portion of the building thereon. He is beginning the construction of launching ways on this area. He has leased the rights of the City in the South 5th street pier. He has received and unloaded on the pier about 150,000 feet B.M. of timber and has driven nine piles as a start toward the construction of an extension of the South 6th street pier.

Respectfully submitted,

L.L.Buck,

Chief Engineer.

ANDREW D. BAIRD, President.  
SALEM H. WALES, Vice-President.

FRANCIS B. THURBER, Secretary.  
RICHARD DEEVES, Treasurer.

Office of Commissioners

## New East River Bridge,

49 & 51 Chambers Street,

ROOMS 33, 34, 35.

COMMISSIONERS—NEW YORK.  
HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG, Mayor,  
SALEM H. WALES,  
FRANCIS B. THURBER,  
RICHARD DEEVES.

COMMISSIONERS—BROOKLYN.  
HON. FREDERICK W. WURSTER, Mayor,  
ANDREW D. BAIRD,  
JAMES A. SPERRY,  
HENRY BATTERMAN.

New York, Aug. 5th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

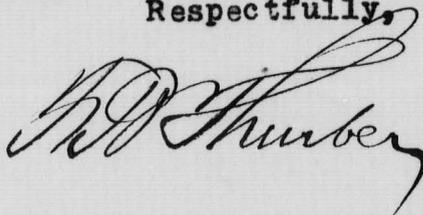
City Hall,

New York.

Dear sir:

I enclose for your information a copy of the report of  
the Chief Engineer on the progress of the work, submitted at a meeting of  
the Commissioners held August 4th.

Respectfully,



Secretary.

Telegram congratulating New York City Mayor William L.  
Strong and Brooklyn Mayor Wurster on signing bridge  
contracts.

Aug. 23, 1897  
Mayors Papers, Box 6042

FROM SCRAPBOOK 6/02

Form No. 1.

# THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

457

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECEIVED BY	CHECK
64	W. D. ...	T. D.	✓

RECEIVED at 990 Sixth Ave., N. Y., bet. 55th and 56th Sts.

8/23 1897

Dated 369 Fulton St. Bklyn N Y 23

To Hon W L Strong

The Judge contracts have all been signed  
 & I congratulate both you & Mayor  
 Wurster & the City of Bklyn  
 Wm. Berrie, Pres.

CABLE OFFICE.

Open until MIDNIGHT, including SUNDAYS.

DIRECT WIRES.

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(Copy)

Engineer's Office, Brooklyn,

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1897.

To the Commissioners of the New East River Bridge.

Gentlemen:

At the close of the two weeks ending August 17th ult. the condition of the work was as follows:

The north New York caisson was carried down so that the average elevation of the cutting edge was 26  $\frac{9}{10}$  feet. The soft mud had been removed. The riprap and other trash had not yet been hoisted out. The pressure men struck or were called out by the Union because the wages paid were \$2.25 instead of \$2.50 per day. This has not interfered with the work, as the masonry is not in a condition to allow sinking to proceed rapidly. The fourth course of masonry had not yet been finished; the fifth course was about half laid. Some stones for the sixth course were on hand. A small gang of men can easily take care of the supply of stone.

At the quarry there is no material change in the conditions.

The south caisson is progressing slowly. The trusses are in place, but some of the rods have not yet been put in. The chamber is planked and partially calked. Some calking has been done on the outer walls. Nine courses of timber are yet to be added to the walls and cribbing.

On the Brooklyn tower foundations, launching ways have been completed, considerable timber has been delivered, and much of the iron. Framing and building of one caisson has begun. I understand that a contract has been closed for the limestone.

Respectfully submitted,

L.L.Buck, Chief Engineer.

NEW EAST RIVER

BRIDGE COMMISSION.

Treasurer's Report of

Receipts and Disbursements to Aug. 31st, 1897.

1897  
 July 31      RECEIPTS  
 Statement Rendered      \$1,074,650.00

1897      DISBURSEMENTS

July 31	<u>Furniture and Fixtures</u> Statement Rendered	\$ 2,317.73	\$ 2,317.73
July 31	<u>Rent Account</u> Statement Rendered	7,183.37	
Aug. 4	Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank	150.00	
" 6	Manufacturers' National Bank	166.67	
" 6	The Department of Docks	484.92	7,984.96
July 31	<u>Salaries</u> Statement Rendered	97,855.45	
Aug. 31	Commissioners	1,500.00	
" 31	Officers and Appointees	3,133.32	102,488.77
July 31	<u>Borings Account</u> Statement Rendered	20,795.20	20,795.20
July 31	<u>Franchise Account</u> Statement Rendered	205,488.88	205,488.88
July 31	<u>Property Account</u> Statement Rendered	62,242.64	62,242.64
July 31	<u>New York Tower Foundation</u> Statement Rendered	33,691.88	
Aug. 6	Patrick H. Flynn	8,850.62	42,542.50
July 31	<u>Expense Account</u> Statement Rendered	43,067.88	
Aug. 18	C. J. Fox	300.00	
	A. V. Benoit	18.92	
	A. B. Gritman	300.00	
	H'y Roth	300.00	
	N.Y. Telephone Co.	15.59	
	J.H. Schumann	100.00	
	Martin Joost	100.00	44,202.39
	Total Disbursements		488,063.07
	Balance		586,586.93
			<u>1,074,650.00</u>

\$1,074,650.00

With Comptroller City of New York	\$293,293.53
" " " of Brooklyn	293,293.40
Aug. 31 To Balance	586,586.93

*Andrew Baird* President.  
*Richard J. ...* Treasurer.

The foregoing disbursements include the bills and accounts  
 which have been certified to by the President  
 and Treasurer of the Commission  
 in accordance with the  
 ACT.

NEW EAST RIVER  
TREASURER'S REPORT OF

BRIDGE COMMISSION.  
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TO SEPT. 30, 1897.

1897  
Aug. 31

RECEIPTS  
Statement Rendered

\$1,074,650.00

1897

DISBURSEMENTS

Aug. 31	Furniture and Fixtures Statement Rendered,	\$ 2,317.73	\$ 2,317.73
Aug. 31	<u>RENT ACCOUNT</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	7,984.96	
Sept. 9	Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank	150.00	
	Manufacturers' Nat'l Bank	166.67	8,301.63
Aug. 31	<u>SALARIES</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	102,488.77	
Sept. 30	Commissioners	1,500.00	
	Officers and Appointees	3,133.32	107,122.09
Aug. 31	<u>BORINGS ACCOUNT</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	20,795.20	20,795.20
Aug. 31	<u>FRANCHISE ACCOUNT</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	205,488.88	205,488.88
Aug. 31	<u>PROPERTY ACCOUNT</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	62,242.64	
Sept. 1	William Dick	85,000.00	
	Mary A. Hayes	10,000.00	
	Henry Parry	8,064.00	
	Matthew Melody	25,500.00	
	Frederick Hoehn	12,000.00	
	Thomas Bauchle, Chas. A. Smylie, and Adolph E. Smylie	87,750.00	
	Hiram Williams	26,650.00	
	Adolph Schoneberger	4,750.00	
	Caroline Reoch	6,000.00	
	John Drescher	8,500.00	
	Catharine Wilkinson	4,500.00	
	Matthew, William and Daniel Melody	9,000.00	351,956.64
Aug. 31	<u>NEW YORK TOWER FOUNDATION,</u>		
Sept. 3	Statement Rendered	42,542.50	
	Patrick H. Flynn	14,535.00	57,077.50
Aug. 31	<u>EXPENSE ACCOUNT</u>		
Aug. 31	Statement Rendered	44,202.39	
Sept. 9	Electric Light Engraving Co.	207.63	
13	F. B. Thurber, Secretary	13.52	
	F. B. Thurber, Secretary	45.27	
	William R. Cock	70.00	
15	New York Telephone Co.	37.49	
	Wm. J. Moran	20.32	
22	The Evening Post Job Printing Office	130.06	
	Dr. Charles F. McKenna	28.50	
	E. G. Freeman	24.67	
	Albert Frank & Co.	581.31	
24	The Standard Union	47.70	
	Brooklyn Daily Times	39.60	
	Engineering Record	22.00	
25	Brooklyn Freie Presse	54.90	45,525.36
	Total Disbursements		\$798,585.03
	Balance		276,064.97
			\$1,074,650.00

\$1,074,650.00

1897  
Sept. 30

To Balance

276,064.97

With Comptroller of New York

\$138,032.53

With Comptroller of Brooklyn

138,032.44

The foregoing disbursements include the bills and accounts which have been certified to by the President and Treasurer of the Commission in accordance with the Act.

Andrew D. Baird President  
Richard J. [Signature]

ANDREW D. BAIRD, President.  
SALEM H. WALES, Vice-President.

FRANCIS B. THURBER, Secretary.  
RICHARD DEEVES, Treasurer.

Office of Commissioners

## New East River Bridge,

49 & 51 Chambers Street,  
ROOMS 33, 34, 35.

COMMISSIONERS—NEW YORK.  
HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG, Mayor.  
SALEM H. WALES.  
FRANCIS B. THURBER.  
RICHARD DEEVES.

COMMISSIONERS—BROOKLYN.  
HON. FREDERICK W. WURSTER, Mayor.  
ANDREW D. BAIRD.  
JAMES A. SPERRY.  
HENRY BATTERMAN.

New York, Oct. 4th, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

New York.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copy of Treasurer's Report up to sept.  
30th, 1897.

Yours very truly,

*John C. Boulton*  
Assistant Secretary.





NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSION.

Treasurer's Report of Receipts and Disbursements to November 30th, 1897.

1897  
 Oct. 31                      Receipts  
                                     Statement Rendered                      \$1,074,650.00

Nov. 30                      To Balance                                      142,774.08  
                                     With Comptroller of New York City                      \$71,387.03  
                                     With Comptroller City of Brooklyn                      71,387.05

*Andrew Baird President*

1897  
 Oct. 31                      Disbursements  
                                     Furniture and Fixtures  
                                     Statement Rendered                      \$ 2,317.73      \$ 2,317.73  
  
                                     Rent Account  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      8,618.30  
 Nov 3                      Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank                      150.00  
                                     Manufacturers Nat'l Bank                      166.67                      8,934.97  
  
                                     Salaries  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      111,755.41  
 Nov 30                      Commissioners                      1,500.00  
                                     Officers and Appointees                      3,133.32                      116,388.73  
  
                                     Borings Account  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      20,795.20                      20,795.20  
  
                                     Franchise Account  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      205,488.88                      205,488.88  
  
                                     Property Account  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      351,956.64  
 Nov 4                      Harriett B. Hoffman                      5,666.66  
                                     G. Willett Van Nest                      2,833.34  
                                     Marinus, Thomas, and Julia C. Willett                      5,666.66  
                                     G. Willett Van Nest and M. Taylor Pyne                      2,833.34  
                                     William Dick (Interest)                      165.28  
 17                      Matthew, William E. and Daniel Melody                      21.25  
                                     Matthew Melody                      60.20  
 24                      Harriet B. Hoffman, G. Willett Van Nest  
                                     and others                      77.92  
                                     William J. Buttling, Sheriff                      114.75  
                                     Granville W. Harman, Register                      672.50  
                                     Everett N. Blanke                      180.35  
                                     Title Guarantee & Trust Co.                      168.40  
                                     Title Guarantee & Trust Co.                      360.00  
                                     The Long Island Title Guarantee Co.                      1,246.40  
                                     Gerry & Murray                      100.50  
                                     New York TIMES, The                      555.80                      372,679.99  
  
                                     Brooklyn Tower Foundation  
 Nov 3                      Colin McLean                      16,897.50  
 30                      " "                      13,103.25                      30,000.75  
  
                                     New York Tower Foundation  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      101,625.15  
 Nov 3                      Patrick H. Flynn                      9,724.85  
 30                      " " "                      2,805.00  
                                     " " "                      15,195.45                      129,350.45  
  
                                     Expense Account  
 Oct 31                      Statement Rendered                      45,717.55  
 17                      Electro Light Engraving Co.                      18.00  
 24                      A. V. Benoit                      106.97  
 29                      Benj. D. Benson & Son                      23.75  
 30                      F. B. Thurber, Sec'y                      52.95                      45,919.22  
  
                                     Total Disbursements                      931,875.92  
  
                                     Balance                      142,774.08  
                                     1,074,650.00

The foregoing disbursements include the bills and accounts which have been certified to by the President and Treasurer of the Commission in accordance with the Act.

**NEW EAST RIVER**

**BRIDGE COMMISSION.**

**Treasurer's Report of**

**Receipts and Disbursements to Dec. 31st, 1897.**

<b>1897</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	
Nov. 30	Statement Rendered	\$1,074,650.00
		<hr/>
Dec. 31	To Balance	\$ 90,156.18
	With Comptroller of New York City.	\$45,078.07
	With Comptroller of Brooklyn	45,078.11

<b>1897</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>		
Nov. 30	Furniture and Fixtures Statement Rendered	\$ 2,317.73	\$ 2,317.73
<hr/>			
Nov. 30	Rent Account Statement Rendered	8,934.97	
Dec. 1	Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank	150.00	
15	Manufacturers' Nat'l Bank	166.67	9,251.64
<hr/>			
Nov. 30	Salaries Statement Rendered	116,388.73	
Dec. 31	Commissioners	1,500.00	
	Officers and Appointees	3,389.99	121,278.72
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Nov. 30	Borings Account Statement Rendered	20,795.20	20,795.20
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Nov. 30	Franchise Account Statement Rendered	205,488.88	205,488.88
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Nov. 30	Property Account Statement Rendered	372,679.99	
Dec. 15	Frank D. Pavey	263.00	
	" "	2,500.00	
	" "	2,500.00	377,942.99
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Nov. 30	Brooklyn Tower Foundations Statement Rendered	30,000.75	
Dec. 29	Colin McLean	9,420.55	39,421.30
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Nov. 30	New York Tower Foundations Statement Rendered	129,350.45	
Dec. 29	Patrick H. Flynn	21,267.00	150,617.45
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Nov. 30	Expense Account Statement Rendered	45,919.22	
Dec. 15	New York Telephone Co.	52.45	
	Evening Post Job Printing Office	6.00	
	Wm. G. Choate	5,500.00	
	H. C. M. Ingraham	5,500.00	
22	F. B. Thurber, Secy.	60.77	
29	N. Y. & N. J. Telephone Co.	42.80	
	L.L. Buck	43.20	
	A. V. Benoit	15.00	
	William Lamb	173.85	
	Robt. Thomas	66.62	57,379.91
<hr/>			
Total Disbursements			984,493.82
Balance			90,156.18
			<hr/>
			1,074,650.00

The foregoing disbursements include the bills and accounts which have been certified to by the President and Treasurer of the Commission in accordance with the Act.

*Andrew Baird* President  
*Richard Sevel* Treasurer