

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

January 1st,

1895

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, &c., &c.

Sir:--

On the 1st of May, 1893, without solicitation on my part Mayor Gilroy appointed me to the position of Commissioner of Public Parks. I regarded the appointment as a high honor and entered with enthusiasm upon the performance of the duties of the place. Since then I doubt if any business man in our City has given more time and attention to his personal affairs than I have to the hard and exacting work of the Park Dept. So true is this that important interests of my own have seriously suffered in consequence. Still I was willing to make the sacrifice if by doing so I could have served the City to the satisfaction of my fellow citizens. Unfortunately for me, if the public prints be an index to the public mind, I have failed in this ambition. To this failure two things have contributed: First, but in a minor degree, the legislation which compelled the Park Board almost at a moment's notice, without

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plans, without preparation of any sort, to spend economically for the immediate relief of the clamorous poor, and yet for the lasting betterment of the Parks the enormous sum of one million dollars. I submit that the man who can solve such a problem to the general satisfaction has yet to be born.

The controversy in regard to the Harlem River Speedway has been another fruitful source of trouble during my term of office. My conception of the matter - the conception also of the majority of my colleagues - was that we were called upon by the law to build a course - a race-track if you will - upon which fast horses could be speeded without fear of interruption. Ex Park Commissioner Paul Dana took a different view of the matter, and, without ceasing, he has made war, and incited in all directions other people to make war upon me and those of my colleagues who were not of his mind. With this action, I can, of course, find no fault; at least it must be admitted that Mr. Dana has the courage of his convictions, and that he is

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an open foe. I cannot say so much for some of the eminent artists and others who have so harshly criticised me and my associates in connection with the driveway question. The trouble with them has been that they did not know what they were talking about. Most of them have never even seen the Harlem River Speedway, and even Mr. Frederick Law Ormstead who is the chief exponent of their views calmly admitted at a public meeting of the Park Board that he understood that the speedway was situated on the top of the Harlem River heights, while as a matter of fact it is now being constructed upon piles and retaining walls on the very edge, and in places out into the river itself. So much for the artists and the "Landscape Architect", whatever that newly coined term may mean. As for the so called "horsemen" who first came to my associate Judge Tappan and myself importuning and entreating us to take the stand which we did take, and ~~afterwards~~ ^{recently} asked the Mayor to remove us for taking that stand, I embrace this opportunity of saying that for them I entertain that wholesome contempt

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which all straight forward men must feel for trimmers and time servers. And now, Sir, without going into further details as to the difficulties which I have encountered while conscientiously trying to perform the duties of a Park Commissioner, I hasten to say that I am a Democrat and attached to an organization which is opposed to you politically. The people by whom you have been elected expect that you will bring about a very great improvement in the City Government. In the attempt which I am sure you will make in this direction, it seems to me that you would be hampered by having at the head of one of your most important Commissions a man of my political predilections. In justice to you then, as well as in justice to myself, it gives me very great pleasure to resign to you the position of Commissioner of Public Parks. Such resignation to take effect as soon as my successor is appointed. At the same time as a life long resident and tax payer of the City of New York, proud of my city and always anxious for its growth and progress, I bespeak for you and for your ad-

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ministration every success which your warmest advocate
could desire.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

Sincerely yours,

George C. C. Foster

Geo. C. Clausen

July 1. 1895

Resigning his office of
Park Comr.

With Great Respect,

Sincerely yours,

New Parks

New York, 15 Jan 1895

1. Laws of 1894 Ch 56 Lays
out a New Park 145' to 155' &
Bradhurst av & Edge Court av
or so much thereof as the
Coms of appraisal shall deem
advisable - -

Ch 366 New Park: & Nichols PK
2. boundaries irregular. Land
Expensive - proceedings
set in motion on the petition
of the Mayor (p 767 1st Sec)

3. Ch 581 Fort Washington PK
See City Map for boundaries

4. Ch 746 East River & 111th St.
or so much thereof as
I believe Coms have

been appointed in all these
Cases.

The dimensions of two of the Parks,
No. 1. & No. 4 may be curtailed
by the Commos.!! if this is to be
done, no time should be lost

These four Parks will take a
heap of money beside the cost
of Construction, and the expense
of paying for the land and
improving the same. will have
a tendency to restrict the
acquisition of small Parks
where they are more needed

Tappen

EAST RIVER AND 111 St. PARK.

Jan 15 1895

Commissioners Kling, Harnett and Mooney gave a hearing to property owners there was a large attendance (50) also Counsel All wanted the land taken as laid down on the Map-

After they were heard, I said the Mayor, to whom the subject was new wanted a few days to look into the matter- I said I only bore that message that I did not represent the Mayor but speaking for myself as a citizen, and knowing much about Parks and the proposed tenement house Parks, I advocated taking about half the land up to the water front and then spend other money on the childrens play grounds elsewhere where they are more, much more needed.

The commissioners have seen the land once- they expressed considerable pleasure that I ~~had~~ stated to them the view of the case from a public stand point and not in the interest of owners.

Adjourned to 25th January 11 A.M.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
49 and 51 Chambers St.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Jan'y 22^d 1895

In the matter of New Park 111th St &
East River, the Comm^{rs} hold a
meeting on 25 Jan'y 11 for a
further hearing as to the dimensions &c
Corp Council Clark has deputed
M Olenдорф to attend the meetings
of the Comm^{rs} and Mr Olenдорф
asked me if Mayor Strong has
expressed any views on the question
~~This letter~~ All the owners want the City
to take the entire area. Now if their
views of compensation are moderate and
not extravagant, and if these views can be
obtained before hand, it will enable the
Comm^{rs} to decide whether the City can afford
to buy all or not —

Ry A. D. Tappan

*City of New York,
Department of Public Parks,
49 and 51 Chambers St.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

January 31st, 1895.

Baxter

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

MAYOR.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office under date of 24th instant, enclosing for report a communication from Charles H. Baxter, President of the Union Veterans' Protective Association, charging violation of the provisions of Chapter 716 and 717 of the Laws of 1894.

In reply thereto I beg to say that this Department has not violated the law, but has always considered the applications of Veterans, and done all possible in the way of appointing them to vacancies. The two carpenters specially referred to were men who had been in the employ of the Department and who were temporarily laid off by reason of the condition of the appropriation during the last months of the year; they were men of long experience in special lines of work, whose services were of more value to the Department than ordinary mechanics, and the Commissioners therefore felt justified in reinstating them. To a large extent the work of this Department is of a special character, and it would seem but

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

proper, in the best interests of the city and to produce required results, that to some extent at least, experience and past faithful service should receive recognition in employment.

The communication from Mr. Baxter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George E. Swann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "S".

President, D. P. P.

*City of New York,
Department of Public Parks,
49 and 51 Chambers St.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

February 11th, 1895.

His Honor, Mayor Strong,

Dear Sir,

At a regular and not at a secret meeting of the Board the applications for renewal of leases of Clermont (Claremont) Hotel in Riverside and of McGown's Pass Tavern in Central Park, were received and laid over for further information as to repairs and expenses proposed to be incurred by the lessees in case of renewal.

At a subsequent meeting, three Commissioners being present, the renewals were ordered on the following grounds:

The Houses are unexceptionally kept by the lessees. The rent is fair and promptly paid. The lessees make all repairs. They own all the plant, furniture, &c. involving a large expenditure. It is unreasonable to suppose that a new comer would improve the service or serve the public any better and probably not as well as the present occupants.

The establishment being primarily for the public convenience and being well conducted every way by men of experience, it is for the best interests of the public that no change be made.

The following extract from the minutes of the Board will

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show the precedent then established in these ^{identical} cases five years ago.

Respectfully,

A B Tappen

Printer Minutes herewith please read page $\begin{array}{r} 427 \\ 432 \\ \hline 103 \end{array}$

The floating bath at Battery on license from this Dept^t
has been maintained for 10 years by the same
party on yearly renewals

Many of the principal employees of this Dept^t
have been in service for periods varying from
10 to 17 years.

*City of New York,
Department of Public Parks,
49 and 51 Chambers St.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Feb'y 12th, 1895.

Dear Sir:

At the request of this Department Professors Bean and Reeves, delegated by the Smithsonian Institute, and Chief Fish Commissioner Lawrence D. Huntington, will make an examination of the Aquarium at Castle Garden for the purpose of fully reporting thereon.

They have named next Saturday, at 10 A. M., for visiting the Aquarium, and you are respectfully invited to be present.

Your obedient servant,

A B Tappen

Acting Pres't Park Department.

To

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

OFFICE OF POLICE.

February 19th, 1895.

Mr. Charles DeF. Burns,

Secretary, D. P. P.

Sir:

In pursuance of instructions received, I have investigated complaint of Mrs. Federlein, and find that the officer referred to is Martin Gallagher.

The officer admits having asked the boy to go for some kerosene oil for use in an oil stove which he keeps in the gate box for the purpose of warming his tea, of which he partakes in the middle of his tour.

The boy came in the gate, according to the officer, about 9 o'clock A. M. on the day mentioned, and when the officer asked him to go for the oil, the boy said that he wanted to go skating. Gallagher told him that no one would be allowed on the pond for some time, as it was being cleaned, and that he would have ample time to go and return before the pond would be opened. The boy then went for the oil.

Gallagher denies having used any language which could be construed as a threat, and says that the boy was certainly mistaken in saying that his going on the pond was made conditional on his going the errand. No such thing was intended or said.

I consider that Gallagher erred in asking any child to go on an errand, and have severely reprimanded him for the same.

If Mrs. Federlein desires to prefer a charge against him, it will be necessary for her to submit an affidavit set-

2.

ting forth the facts, and the case will then be brought before the Park Commissioners.

Under our rules, we cannot prefer a charge, otherwise.

Very respectfully,

C. C. Collins,

Captain.

*City of New York,
Department of Public Parks,
49 and 51 Chambers St.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Feb'y 21st, 1895.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor.

Sir:

I am directed by President King to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of the 16th inst., enclosing a complaint from Mrs. Federlein, and to inform you that the same has been duly investigated, a copy of the report of the Captain of Police thereon being herewith enclosed.

Mrs. Federlein's letter is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

Charles E. F. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
~~132 N. CHAMBERS STREET.~~
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

May 9th, 1895.

Hon. Francis M. Scott,
Corporation Counsel.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to enclosed letter from the Mayor's secretary, we beg that you will appear before the hearing on Assembly Bill No. 1351, and oppose any increase in the salaries of the Park Police.

The Park Police, considering their duties, are extremely well paid, and there are always a large number of applicants for positions.

As we understand it, this bill would increase the cost of our police nearly \$ 70,000 per year, and in our judgment this would be an entirely unnecessary expense.

Trusting that you will be able to prevent the passage of the bill, we remain

Very truly

Gustavus L. Roosevelt
Commissioners.

City of New York.
Department of Public Parks,
49 and 51 Chambers St.

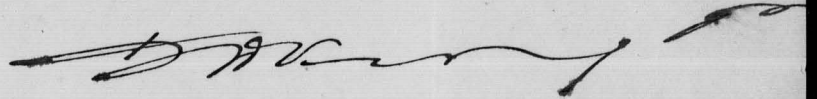
COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

March 21st, 1895.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I have your note of the 20th inst. in regard to
the 84 year old veteran. I have sent word to the Sup't of Parks
to see if there is any place where we can employ him.

Yours very truly,



To

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

ARGUMENT OF C. C. SHANE

May 14/95

in favor of THE PARK POLICE BILL before
HIS HONOR, MAYOR STRONG.

MR MAYOR: Everyone whose good fortune it was to witness the Park Police Parade last week must have felt proud that he lived in a City which possessed such a magnificent Park. I have visited all the principal Parks in the large cities of Europe, and I must say that there is not one in Europe which compares in grandeur with our own Central park. Those whose good fortune enables them daily to visit the Park, whether in their carriage, on the bicycle or on foot or on horse-back have a conscious feeling of safety when they know that at any moment they can call for assistance upon the best Park Police in the world.

The citizens of New York are not only proud of their City and its parks but they are also proud of their Police force. No city can boast of a better Police organization than the City of New York. Here any citizen can walk the streets, day or night, fully conscious that his property and person are protected, and what a satisfaction it is to possess this feeling. ^{we feel a special pride in our} I was pleased with ^{Police} them during the past week, when your Honor reviewed them. The mark of intelligence was stamped on their faces, ~~and~~ they were a handsome lot of fellows. Show me a man who has a proper regard for his appearance, and as a rule, I will show you a good officer. Not only were the Officers well dressed, but the horses presented

HIGHEST AWARDS FOR FINE FURS AT THE WORLDS FAIR

TELEPHONE 696-38th ST.

* CHICAGO, 1893 *

ESTABLISHED 1



No 124-126 WEST 42ND STREET

New York, _____ 18____

an appearance of which we were all proud. Now, if we would have good public servants, we must pay them for the services they render. Not only should we pay men for their time, but also for certain risks they take. Then, too, intelligence should be rewarded. I do not believe there is a more intelligent lot ~~is~~ of men, and certainly not a better looking body of men in any Police force in the world than our own Park Police.

Now I ~~understand~~ ^{am informed} that your Honor is called upon to endorse a bill which has passed the Senate and Assembly. The bill, as I understand it, is for the purpose of paying these men their just dues for the service they render. The bill which your Honor is called upon to endorse does not change or disturb in any way the method or extent of the present Park powers. It merely ~~declares~~ ^{declares} four grades of service for park Patrolmen instead of two as at present, based upon the length of service, and it prescribes and increases ~~the~~ the salary for Patrolmen, the maximum increase being \$200.00 a year for those of greatest length of service, and for the mounted force an increase of \$150.00 per year. It increases the salary of Roundsmen and Sergeants \$100.00 a year respectively; it makes no change in the salary of Captain, ~~and I will~~ call your Honor's attention to the fact that the increases here asked for are in each case \$100.00 a year less than that paid to men of similar rank and grade in the Municipal Police force. It will be well to call your attention here to the fact that the Police reorganization Bill prepared by The Committee of Ten contemplated

the merging of The Park Police with that of the Municipal police which would have given them in the event of its passage a greater increase in salary, coupled with what they, from experience well know would be less arduous duties. In the light of this fact I cannot well see how any fair minded ^{Citizen} ~~man~~ can deem their request as exacting or unfair. Some of the many reasons which may be urged in the advocacy of the Bill is that their salary should be equal to that paid to the Municipal force, for the reason that their work is equally as difficult and dangerous; their qualifications are quite, if not more, severe than theirs. Their expenses for living, uniforms, and so forth are great, and during the past sixteen years their salaries have never been increased, but have in reality been diminished. Years ago, when what we call ^{now} ~~now~~, the Park Police were then called gate-keepers, and Park Keepers, they received \$3. per day and their uniform furnished them; now they receive only \$1100.00 per year and the men furnish their own uniform, thus leaving them scarcely \$1000.00 per year for their services. During the past 8 Years over 3000 acres have been added to The Park Department jurisdiction, and there have been no increase in the number of patrolmen, so that the duties incident upon that great acquisition of territory have been very largely increased. During the past five years it has been the constant aim of our City authorities to furnish free concerts in our City Parks. Upon all these occasions these faithful men are called upon to serve extra turns

of duty outside of their regular tours for which they receive neither recognition nor compensation, being required, as I am informed to spend four and five nights out of every week on duty at various City Parks between the first day of May and the first of November. Further, between these dates they are not allowed one single days vacation, and during the whole time instead of serving the eight hours which popular conception and opinion believes to represent the full extent of their active duty, they are actually required to serve from 11 to 12 hours. During the winter months when skating is in vogue these men are detailed to duty at the various lakes where the duties are of the most severe and exacting kind, and where exposure and risk is very great. Now I call particular attention to this, your Honor, because as I understand, stress has been laid upon the fact that the Park Police officers duty calls for but eight hours active service every day. Assuming this to be the fact, it is well to remember that between the arrests and the amount of time consumed in bringing their prisoners to the various Police Courts, extra tours for concerts, public parties, and celebrations in Summer, and ice duties in winter these frequently make the duties of The Park Police more than 12 hours per day. This is not as in the case of the Municipal force regulated by six hour shifts but most if not all of it is performed in continuous stretches of duty of from 8 to 15 hours duration. Now this is not generally understood. I did not know it until the other day that these men worked so many hours.

The Surgeon's Report and Hospital records show that the average for sickness and accident in the Park Police Department exceeds that of the Municipal force by a large percentage. Diseases such as rheumatism,, pneumonia, la grippe, and diabetes, all resulting from the peculiar kind of duty, in damp and exposed walks and roads in the Public Parks, and the risks, which especially mounted men are subject to upon drive ways, all clearly show the reason for such excess of Hospital and Surgeon cases over those of the Municipal force.

A case in point. I am informed that a Park Policeman is credited with having stopped 67 runaways, saving thereby the lives of many persons and always at the risk of ^{his} ~~their~~ own, and another has saved several from drowning in Central park. These are but ~~two~~ instances of many which might be cited.

There have been many deaths and ^{many} members of the force are now suffering total disablement incurred in the discharge of their duties in our Parks. I maintain that the risks and the danger of The Park Police exceed that of the Municipal Policemen and that in their tours of duty through the Park and roads they are exposed to the inclemency of the weather more than any of the Officers in the City tours can possibly be. All this I hold, Mr Mayor, brings into full effect the application of the adage that "the laborer is worthy of his hire", and I claim that they do not receive by several hundreds of dollars per year the amount which their ability, character and service entitle them to.

Let us pay our Policeman and our Firemen all that they are fairly entitled to. The Park Police to-day are not receiving the just compensation for the services they are rendering in this City.

When our little children go into the Park as they do by thousands every pleasant afternoon, the mothers feel they can trust the little ones away because they are watched over by ~~these special men~~ the park Police. As guardians alone of the lives and safety of ladies and children in our Park these men are called upon for the exercise of the finest gifts of discretion and judgment.

I am quite sure, Mr. Mayor, that I voice the sentiments and express the feelings of every man and woman in the City who enjoys our grand park; when I say we proudly point to the records of our Park Police.

Now your Honor knowing as I do, that you want justice done believing that it is in the line of reform to raise men's salaries when you know that they are worthy of it, I ask you to endorse the Bill now before you. By doing that our Park Police will have justice done them and the citizens of New York will not be accused of withholding that which is due.

Let us pay our Policemen, pay our firemen, and pay all who are employed by our City whatever we believe they honestly earn.

If we are to economise let us not do it at the expense of the Park Police. They have not had their just dues for many years, ~~and~~

is it not time to do them justice? I trust your Honor will prove

by indorsing the bill that you are the friend of the City's protecting hand

CITY OF NEW YORK,
~~DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,~~
~~49 & 51 CHAMBERS STREET.~~

The Arsenal, Central Park

May 2nd, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,


Mayor.

Dear Sir:

Referring to Assembly Bill No. 913, being "AN ACT to amend Chapter 417 of the Laws of 1892", upon which a public hearing has been announced for 3 P. M. this day, I have the honor to say that the act referred to is intended to permit this Department to make necessary repairs to the existing roadways in Pelham Bay Park and other new parks outside of the 23rd and 24th Wards, the roadways of which are much in need of repair, and for which there is at this time no available appropriation under the existing law.

There is no objection on the part of this Department to the approval of this bill.

Very respectfully yours,



President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,

~~10 & 51 CHANDLER STREET~~

The Arsenal, Central Park.

May 6, 1895.

File

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

S i r:-

Enclosed herewith I beg to hand you an invitation for the annual parade of our Park Police, which is to take place on the Mall in Central Park on Thursday next at 10 o'clock A. M., and to extend to you a further invitation to review the parade.

I desire to express the hope of the Commissioners that you may be able to be present on that occasion.

Respectfully,

Wm. L. Strong

President, D.F.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
~~45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100~~
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

May 8th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of 3rd instant, enclosing a communication from A. Rosenblum, relative to the public urinal at Grand Street and East Broadway. Directions have been given to have the same kept open during the evening hours.

Mr. Rosenblum's communication is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



President, D. P. P.

JOHN L. COFFIN.
GEORGE WASHINGTON HART.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HART.



Hart & Brother

Commission Merchants

191 CHAMBERS STREET,

New York, MAY 10 1895 189

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

Dear Sir:— At about 5.30 yesterday afternoon (May 9), as I approached the north steps of the foot bridge leading from City Hall Park to the Brooklyn Bridge, I saw a Park policeman rush upon and seize two men who were vending flowers. He caught each by the sleeve near the wrist, began jerking them violently about, and each time he swung them around in range he administered a violent kick. One of them he kicked with all his might at least ten times; the other got loose and he made no effort to recapture him, but started across Park Row with his prisoner, evidently to take him to the police station. From first to last neither of the men made the slightest resistance, and the arrested man still held his bunch of flowers in his hand as



New York, _____ 189

he went with the officer. The assault was witnessed by fully 500 persons, and traffic on the stairway was stopped and the side of the footbridge lined with people watching the disgraceful spectacle, frowning and commenting on the brutal exhibition. One or two gentlemen remonstrated with the officer, but what his replies were I do not know.

I regret now that I did not follow the officer and obtain his number; but I could easily identify him, and am willing to give my testimony against him.

The flour venders at this point are, during the rush hours, a nuisance, and should be kept away; but, of whatever offence these men may have been guilty, there can be no possible justification of an officer assuming punitive powers, and, least of all, exercising them in so public and brutal a manner. My indignation was deeply aroused, and I was ashamed. I am ready to help in preventing the possibility of such another spectacle.

Very Respectfully,

John L. Coffin.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
~~199-51 CHAMBERS STREET,~~

The Arsenal, Central Park.

Copy

May 13th, 1895.

John L. Coffin, Esq.

191 Chambers St.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 10th inst. complaining of the conduct of a Park Policeman at City Hall Park, was transmitted to this office by the Mayor. A charge has been preferred against the officer in question, and the same will be tried at this office at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday, 15th inst. The Commissioners would be glad to obtain your testimony in the matter.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

David H. King, Jr.

President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
~~TO THE PRESIDENT, D. P. P.~~
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK,

May 13th, 1895.

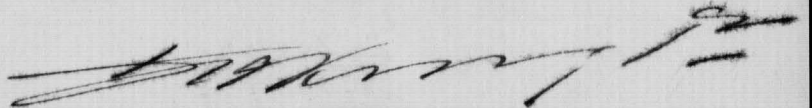
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of the 11th instant, enclosing complaint of John L. Coffin as to the conduct of a Park Policeman in City Hall Park. As requested, I enclose herewith copy of the reply sent to Mr. Coffin, from which it will be seen that the matter is receiving proper attention.

Very respectfully,



President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,

~~100 WEST HAMBURG STREET~~

The Arsenal, Central Park.

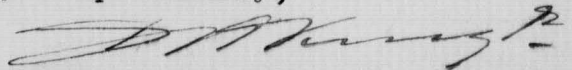
May 13th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

My Dear Sir:

I have the communication from Mr. Terhune, Chairman, of No. 54 Pine Street, in regard to the state of affairs in Battery Park. If it is as Mr. Terhune states, it is deplorable. He need have no fears but what the Park Commissioners will give this their immediate attention. To start with, I have directed the Captain of Police to change every officer in that park and to put it in the hands of another Sergeant; that order must be carried out no matter what happens, and to make any arrests that will further this end. Should there not be an immediate change for the better, I will ask Mr. Terhune to communicate with me at once.

Yours very respectfully,



President, D.P.P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

May 20th, 1895.

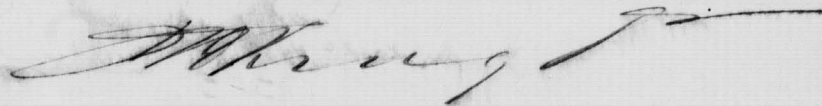
Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of the 11th instant, relative to a public hearing to be given on Senate Bill, No. 1249, entitled, "An Act to amend Chapter 102 of the Laws of 1893", &c.

This bill has the approval of the Commissioners of Public Parks, and they would respectfully recommend its passage.

Very respectfully,



President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

May 23rd, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of the 20th instant, enclosing a communication from Mr. P. Leckler, relative to Crotona Parkway. Mr. Leckler's complaint will be investigated and receive careful attention.

Very respectfully,



President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

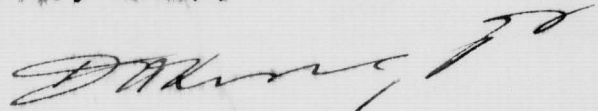
June 7th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I have your communication of June 5th, in regard to
the East River Park. I have requested the Superintendent to
report on the petition of the citizens in that neighborhood.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. Aldrich", with a stylized flourish at the end.

President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

June 10th, 1895.

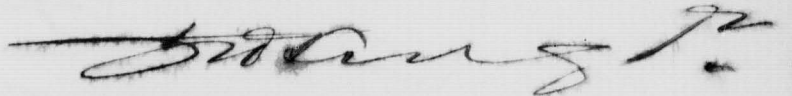
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a resolution of the Board of Aldermen No. 557, relative to repairs to flag staff at the Battery Park, and to report that there is no objection to the approval of the resolution, which is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



President, D. P. P.



CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

June 19th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

My Dear Sir:

Will you please have one of the other members of the Board of Street Opening take my place on the committee on the opening of Longwood Avenue. I find that it will be impossible for me to get rooms on the steamer sailing two weeks from to-day, and am therefore sailing to-morrow. I expect to be gone but a very short time, and if this matter remains open, will take it up at once on my return.

Yours very truly,



President, D. P. P.

C O P Y.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
49 and 51 Chambers St.

June 27th, 1895.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Rev. Frank Mason North, D. D.,

150 Fifth Avenue.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication relative to a proposed meeting in Tompkins Square has been forwarded by his Honor, the Mayor, to this Department.

In reply thereto I beg to say that it has been the policy of this Department for many years to uniformly decline to issue permits for meetings in that park. A large element of socialists and anarchists live in that vicinity, and it has been frequently found necessary, in the interest of public safety, to refuse the organizations representing them the privilege of meeting there. This Department is very unwilling to establish what might be considered a precedent by these people in insisting that permits be granted to them for public meetings at that point. There are, however, very good facilities for holding public meetings at Union Square, and we would be happy to issue a permit to you for that park for any date that you desire, if that will answer your purpose. Kindly let me know,

Respectfully,
(signed) Charles DeF. Burns,
Secretary, D.P.P.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

June 27th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office, transmitting an application from the Rev. Frank Mason North for permission to hold a meeting at Tompkins Square. We have communicated with Mr. North on this subject, and enclose herewith a copy of our letter to him.

Very respectfully,

Charles D. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

June 27th, 1895.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.

Mayor's Office.

My Dear Sir:

Referring to our recent conversation, I have to say that I find the list of desired appointments under date of May 1st. Prior to that date, the few appointments made in this Department were entirely of veterans upon application papers which had been filed under the veteran law. Since that date, no appointments whatever have been made, excepting from the list received from the Civil Service Board.

Yours very truly,

Charles FitzGerald

Secretary, D. P. P.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

June 27th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office under date of the 26th inst, enclosing communication from Mr. F. K. Keller, concerning the condition of trees on the Western Boulevard, and to say that the Department of Parks has no jurisdiction in the matter. The care of the trees on this avenue is under the control of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Keller's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

Charles D. F. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

1
New York June 19th 1895

Hon. W^m L. Strong
Mayor City of New York
Dear Sir

I wish to call your attention to what is taking place in City Hall Park during the day but more so after dark. My attention was attracted on Friday evening June 7th by something I saw while crossing the Park from the Bridge to Warren St, and I thought that I would investigate the cause, and I have kept up my investigation until last night and the following is what I found. I found a band of thieves and well organized in every way. They are protected in every way by the

2

Park Police (If they are not protected
then the Police are more than stupid)
for what is done they see and
pay no attention to it whatever.
I dressed my self for the work
I had in hand, and in that way
I was able to mix in with
the gang and talk with them
and listen to what they were
talking about, and also to learn
the names of some of them.
I am sure that the Police are
in some way interested in the
evil being of these thieves for
they say that they are all right
with the Cops, and from what
I have seen I think it is true.
One of the gang said he had
made over \$15.00 dollars last
week & another had a fine
gold watch and diamond stud
to show for one nights work

and it was all made in
City Hall Park. The names
by which some of these people
are known are Jerry the Mick,
Geo. Baker, Chappie Livingston,
Reddy the Boot-Black, Josh,
The Skinny Jew, &c. The Police
know them by these names for
I have heard them address the
several once using the names
I have given you. On last
Thursday evening I saw one of
the gang follow a gentleman
from the Bridge entrance of the
Park over to Broadway and Nassau St.
asking for money and when
it was refused, he struck
the gentleman in the face and
walked back into the Park,

How I do know that a person
can the nature of it but did
nothing in the matter
they will find that what I have
written is only too true. Have
you men dress like the people
they are looking for and they
can then mix in with them
and hear what they have
to say.

Yours Respect-
A Citizen

Now I do know that a Policeman saw the whole of it, but did nothing in the matter, any more than to stand and laugh and talk with the thief. This evening at half past eleven o'clock a Gentleman Crossing the Park was asked for money and when he refused the thugs followed him into a Broadway Car and called him every name he could think of, then he jumped off the car and walked back into the Park and had a nice talk with one of the Park Police. You may think that I am putting it in a very strong way, well all you have to do is to place a few men you can trust and who will tell the truth, in the Park in Citizens Clothes and

C O P Y.

New York, June 29th, 1895.

Mr. Charles DeF. Burns,

Secretary, D. P. P.

S i r:

In reply to the communication sent by "A Citizen" to his Honor, Mayor Strong, I would respectfully state that I have caused Sergeant Fitzpatrick to make a most rigid investigation of the statements made therein, and he reports that there is no truth whatever in the letter, as far as it relates to the Park Police.

The officers at present doing duty in City Hall Park, are in their first month at that place, and have shown considerable industry in ridding the park of peddlers, &c.

If the person signing himself "A Citizen" were acting in good faith, I think he would not have sent an anonymous communication.

I am, very respectfully,

(signed)

C. C. Collins,

Captain.

P. S. Enclosed please to find Mr. Hedges' letter, also the "Citizen" letter.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
4 and 51 Chambers St.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

July 1st, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office under date of the 21st ult. enclosing a communication signed "A Citizen", concerning an alleged band of thieves in City Hall Park, and in reply beg to forward herewith copy of a report made by the Captain of Police on the subject.

Very respectfully,

Charles A. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

July 5th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office under date of 3rd inst. enclosing a complaint from Horace B. Fry, Esq. of the Union League Club, concerning damage being done to the trees in Bryant Park by caterpillars. As requested, a reply direct to Mr. Fry has been made, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Charles L. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

C O P Y.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
42 and 51 Chambers St.
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

July 5th, 1895.

Horace B. Fry, Esq.

Union League Club.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd inst. which was referred to this Department by his Honor, the Mayor, I beg to say that we have a report from the Entomologist of the Department upon a complaint similar to yours, in which he says that he is doing all in his power to keep the insects in subjection; that they never were worse than they are this year, and that with the small force at his command, it is impossible to cover all the city parks as they should be. He states that he is working overtime to subject them, and will at once attend to the trees in the down-town parks, including Bryant Park, and do the best he can to check their ravages.

(signed)

Respectfully,

Chas. DeF. Burns,
Secretary, D. P. P.

City of New York
Department of Public Parks
~~*42 and 51 Chambers St.*~~
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

July 8th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 27th of June last, relative to a proposed location at the corner of Central Park and 5th Avenue, between 60th and 61st Streets, for a monument in memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of the late war, and to say that at a meeting of the Board of Parks held on the 3rd inst. the matter was referred to President King who will give it consideration after his return from his vacation.

Very respectfully,

Charles D. Burns

Secretary, D. P. P.

[Handwritten signature]

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK,

Latitude $40^{\circ} 45' 58''$ N. Longitude $73^{\circ} 57' 58''$ W.

Height of Instruments above the Ground, 53 feet; above the Sea, 97 feet.

Abstract of Registers from Self-Recording Instruments

For the week ending July 13th 1895

DANIEL DRAPER, PH. D.,
Director.



Barometer.

Thermometers.

DATE	7 A. M.		2 P. M.		9 P. M.		MEAN for the Day.	MAXIMUM			MINIMUM		
	Observed Height.	Reduced to Freezing.	Observed Height.	Reduced to Freezing.	Observed Height.	Reduced to Freezing.		Observed Height.	Reduced to Freezing.	Time.	Observed Height.	Reduced to Freezing.	Time.
July Sunday, 7	29.742		29.732		29.722	29.732		29.754	9.6m		29.700	5.0m	
Monday, 8	29.736		29.722		29.700	29.719		29.740	9.6m		29.690	11.0m	
Tuesday, 9	29.678		29.650		29.800	29.709		29.890	12.0m		29.656	3.6m	
Wednesday, 10	29.560		29.958		30.000	29.973		30.026	12.0m		29.890	0.6m	
Thursday, 11	30.086		30.080		30.060	30.075		30.090	8.6m		30.022	2.6m	
Friday, 12	30.073		30.026		30.000	30.033		30.072	7.6m		29.998	12.0m	
Saturday, 13	29.958		29.870		29.920	29.916		29.998	0.6m		29.800	4.0m	
Mean for the week, - - - - - 29.879 Inches.													
Maximum " " at 8 am July 11 " 30.090 "													
Minimum " " at 3 am " 9 " 29.656 "													
Range " " - - - - - 434 "													

		7 A. M.		2 P. M.		9 P. M.		MEAN		MAXIMUM			MINIMUM			MAXIMUM							
DATE		Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	Time.	Wet Bulb.	Time.	Dry Bulb.	Time.	Wet Bulb.	Time.	In Sun.					
July																							
Sunday,	7	72	71	86	78	80	78	79.3	75.6	90	5.0 ^m	81	5.0 ^m	71	8.6 ^m	70	8.6 ^m	126.10 ^m					
Monday,	8	71	70	81	77	76	75	76.0	74.0	83	4.0 ^m	78	4.0 ^m	71	7.6 ^m	70	7.6 ^m	127.12 ^m					
Tuesday,	9	76	75	86	80	79	71	80.3	75.3	89	4.0 ^m	81	3.0 ^m	69	12.0 ^m	63	12.0 ^m	136.20 ^m					
Wednesday,	10	59	53	74	64	69	62	67.3	60.3	77	5.0 ^m	65	5.0 ^m	58	6.6 ^m	54	6.6 ^m	139.20 ^m					
Thursday,	11	60	56	66	61	66	62	64.0	59.6	69	4.0 ^m	64	6.0 ^m	60	6.6 ^m	55	6.6 ^m	101.30 ^m					
Friday,	12	63	61	78	70	70	66	70.3	65.6	80	4.0 ^m	70	3.0 ^m	61	6.6 ^m	60	6.6 ^m	127.10 ^m					
Saturday,	13	66	64	75	71	68	66	69.6	67.0	76	4.0 ^m	73	4.0 ^m	65	12.0 ^m	62	12.0 ^m	115.12 ^m					
										Dry Bulb.			Wet Bulb.										
Mean for the week,										-	-	-	73.4	Degrees,		-	-	-	68.2	Degrees.			
Maximum										"	"	at	5.0 ^m	7	"	90	"	at	5.0 ^m	7	"	81	"
Minimum										"	"	at	6.6 ^m	10	"	58	"	at	6.6 ^m	10	"	54	"
Range										"	"	-	-	-	-	32	"	-	-	-	27	"	

Wind.

Hygrometer.

Clouds.

Rain & Snow. Ozone.

DATE	DIRECTION			VELOCITY IN MILES				FORCE IN POUNDS PER SQ. FT.					
	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	9 P. M. to 7 A. M.	7 A. M. to 2 P. M.	2 P. M. to 9 P. M.	Distance for the Day.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Max.	Time	
July													
Sunday,	7	W	SW	SSW	25	33	23	81	0	1/4	0	3/4	2.40 P.M.
Monday,	8	SE	S	SSW	31	28	35	94	0	1/2	0	1	7.40 P.M.
Tuesday,	9	ENE	NW	NW	17	17	53	86	0	0	1 1/2	2 1/2	10.40 P.M.
Wednesday,	10	NW	N	NW	79	53	32	164	1/2	1/4	0	2	0.60m
Thursday	11	N	NW	SW	45	17	16	78	0	0	0	1/4	3.40 P.M.
Friday	12	WSW	S	SSW	19	27	69	115	0	1	1/2	1 3/4	4.40 P.M.
Saturday,	13	SW	S	NNE	62	33	21	116	0	1/4	0	1 3/4	4.0 P.M.

DATE	Force of Vapor				Relative Humidity				Clear, Overcast, 10.			DEPTH OF RAIN AND SNOW IN INCHES					
	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Mean.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	Mean.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.	9 P. M.	TIME OF BEGINNING	TIME OF ENDING	DURATION H. M.	AMOUNT OF WATER.	DEPTH OF SNOW.	0. 10.
July Sunday, 7	74.5	85.0	93.1	84.2	95	68	91	84	7	6	10	0	=	=	=	=	0
Monday, 8	72.0	87.3	85.4	81.5	95	82	95	90	10	10	10	=	=	=	=	=	0
Tuesday, 9	85.4	94.2	65.1	81.5	95	76	65	78	8	10	10	=	=	=	=	=	7
Wednesday, 10	38.0	46.2	46.2	43.4	76	55	65	65	0	0	0	=	=	=	=	=	4
Thursday, 11	39.6	47.0	50.2	45.6	76	73	78	75	9	10	10	=	=	=	=	=	0
Friday, 12	51.0	62.5	58.6	57.3	88	65	80	77	3	10	10	=	=	=	=	=	0
Saturday, 13	56.9	70.4	61.2	62.8	89	81	89	86	8	10	10	=	=	=	=	=	2

Distance Traveled during the Week, 734 Miles.

Maximum Force " " 2 1/2 Lbs.

Total Amount of Water for the Week, .09 Inch.

Duration for the Week, 2.00

DATE.	7 A. M.	2 P. M.
Sunday,	Warm close.	Hot close.
Monday,	Close. hazy.	Close hazy.
Tuesday,	Suttry hazy. dew	Warm close.
Wednesday,	Mild pleasant	Warm pleasant
Thursday,	Mild cloudy	Mild cloudy.
Friday,	Mild hazy. dew	Warm pleasant
Saturday,	Mild hazy.	Mild cloudy.

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✓
CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

July 31st, 1895.

My dear Sir:-

I had hoped to call on you to-day, but have been detained all morning at the Park Department, where there is a great deal of detail to look after. I have been there for a part of every week this Summer; and am just starting for a little yachting trip as far as Bar Harbor, where my address will be care of "The Louisburg." Mr. Juilliard is away at present, but will be here next week.

I regret Mr. King's continued absence, on account of the very serious illness of his wife necessitating an important surgical operation, but so far I think nothing has gone wrong.

I trust your visit to Richfield has removed all traces of the gout, and that you will not allow your public duties to interfere with your personal health and happiness.

Very sincerely yours

G. S. Harris

Hon. W. L. Strong.

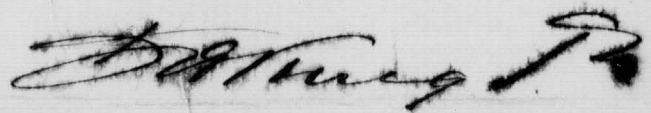
CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL CENTRAL PARK.

August 31st, 1895.

My Dear Sir:

I have your letter of August 30th and beg to thank you for the kind words contained therein. I hope to get down to see you in the course of a few days, after I get things to rights in the Department. It will give me pleasure to go down with you to spend a night at Elberon the week after next, if that will be convenient to you.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. Aldrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Hon. William L. Strong.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

Sept. 16th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

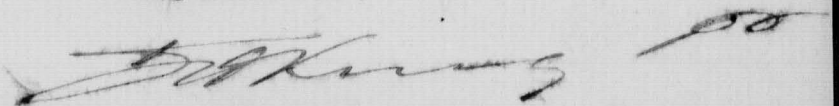
Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a letter from your office under date of the 12th instant, enclosing a communication from F. S. Jerome, concerning a charge which he brought against Park Policeman John F. Mooney, and to say in reply thereto that the charge referred to by Mr. Jerome was heard in October, 1894, by the predecessors of the present Board of Park Commissioners, and the records show that decision was reserved, pending the determination of a civil action brought by Mr. Jerome against the officer in the same matter. I am informed that the reason for reserving decision on this charge was the unwillingness of the Commissioners, in view of the conflicting testimony, to do anything that might possibly influence the decision of the case by a jury.

Mr. Jerome's letter is herewith returned.

Respectfully,



President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 18th, 1895.

To His Honor,

The Mayor of New York.

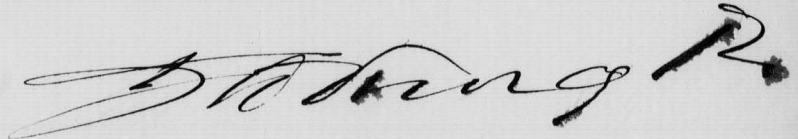
Dear Sir:-

Since assuming the duties of President of the Department of Public Parks, ill-health required me to visit Europe, where I had the misfortune to lose my wife by death.

My doctor insists that I must take a complete rest from business duties, and I am reluctantly obliged to tender you my resignation from the Department of Public Parks, to take effect October 1st, or sooner, at Your Honor's convenience.

With high regards and thanks for your kind courtesy, I am

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 18th, 1895.

To His Honor,

The Mayor of New York.

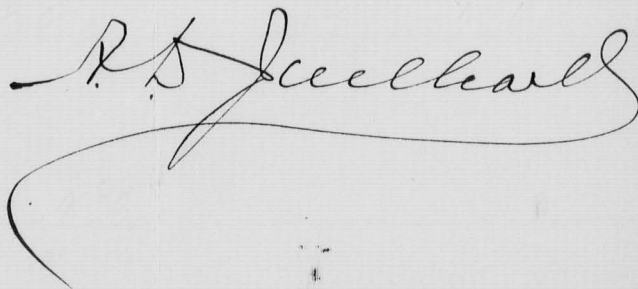
Dear Sir:-

When I assumed the position of Commissioner of Public Parks, it was with the understanding, that Hon. David H. King, Jr. should be President and executive officer.

As he is now unable to continue in this position, and as I cannot devote my entire time to the duties of the Department of Public Parks, I hereby tender you my resignation, to take effect October 1st or earlier, at Your Honor's convenience.

With high regards and thanks for your kind courtesy, I am

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. S. Freeland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text "Very truly yours".

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK:

TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR,

Mayor's Office,

City Hall Park,

PERSONAL.

NEW YORK CITY.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 18th, 1895.

To His Honor,
The Mayor of New York.

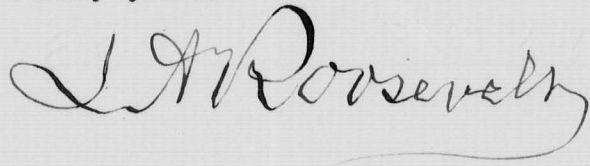
Dear Sir:-

When I assumed the position of Commissioner of Public Parks, it was with the understanding, that Hon. David H. King, Jr. should be President and executive officer.

As he is now unable to continue in this position, and as I cannot devote my entire time to the duties of the Department of Public Parks, I hereby tender you my resignation, to take effect October 1st, or earlier, at Your Honor's convenience.

With high regards and thanks for your kind courtesy, I am

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. M. Roosevelt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Very truly yours".

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK,

TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR,

Mayor's Office,

City Hall Park,

PERSONAL.

NEW YORK CITY.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 18th, 1895.

To His Honor,
The Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir:-

When I assumed the position of Commissioner of Public Parks, it was with the understanding, that Hon. David H. King, Jr. should be President and executive officer.

As he is now unable to continue in this position, and as I cannot devote my entire time to the duties of the Department of Public Parks, I hereby tender you my resignation, to take effect October 1st or earlier, at Your Honor's convenience.

With high regards and thanks for your kind courtesy, I am

Very truly yours

J. H. Starn.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR,

Mayor's Office,

City Hall Park,

PERSONAL.

NEW YORK CITY.