

**BOX**

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**FOLDER**

**27**

**City Employees-Pensions**

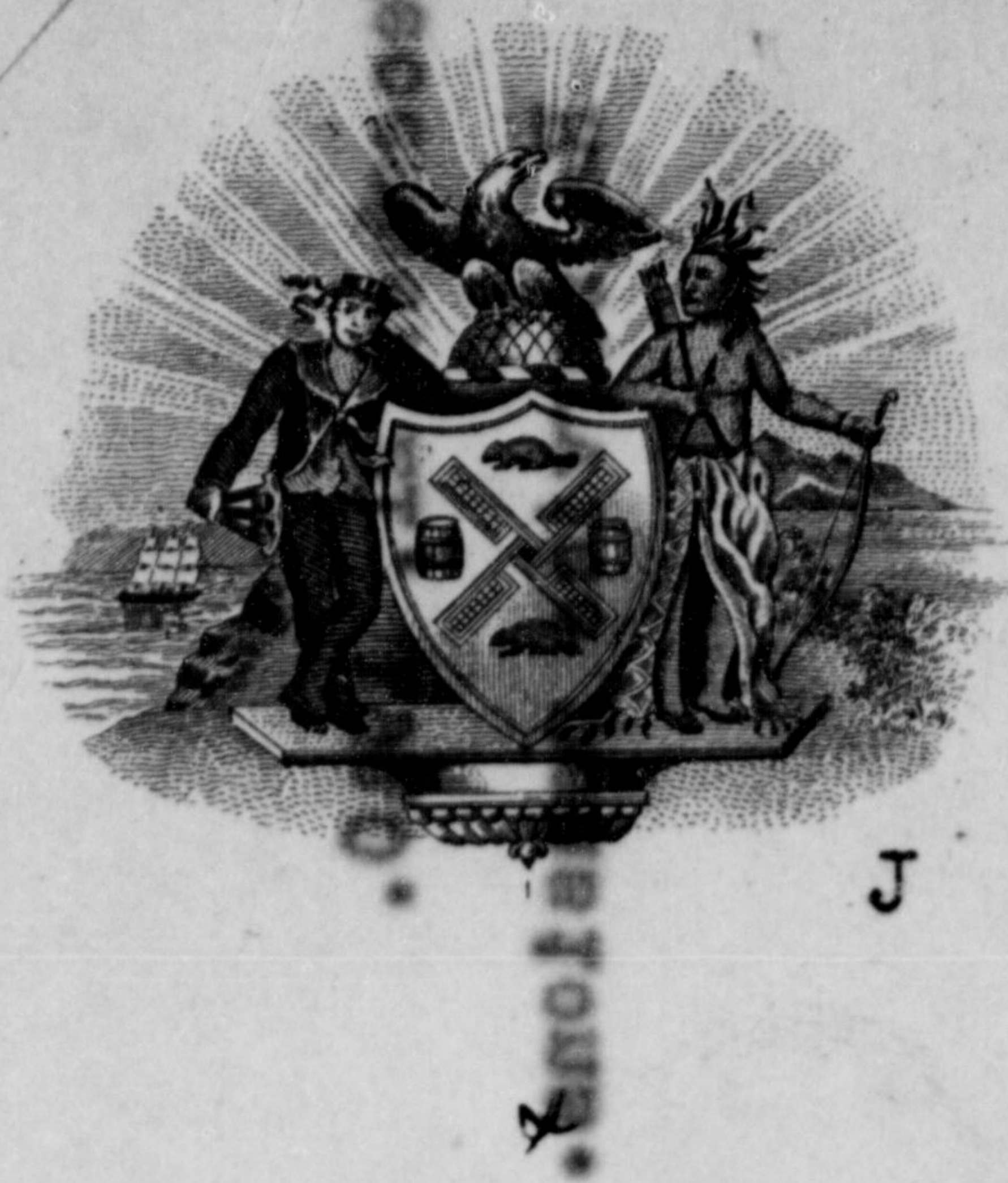
**1910-1912**



Pensioni







*Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity,*  
*Commissioner's Office,*  
*13-21 Park Row,*

HENRY S. THOMPSON,  
 COMMISSIONER.  
 J. W. F. BENNETT  
 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

*City of New York* December 21, 1910

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
 Mayor,  
 City of New York.

S i r:

It appears that under two separate Charter regulations, employees of the Health and Finance Departments are pensioned after a certain number of years of continuous service and also those who have become injured in the discharge of their duties or have become incapacitated. I believe the Commissioner of the Health Department is given authority to pension those employees who make application at the expiration of the allotted time. In the case of the Finance Department employees, it is necessary for the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to act.

As far as I have been able to learn, the Board of Aldermen has no authority to grant pensions or to authorize the head of a department to allow same. I think, however, it would be a good thing to start this agitation and would suggest that you present the matter to the Board of Aldermen for consideration.

Respectfully,

Commissioner.



December 21, 1910.

Re service pensions.

City of New York.  
New York,  
Hon. William J. Gaynor.

RECEIVED  
JAN 2 1911  
CITY OF NEW YORK

December 21, 1910



February 21, 1911.

Dear Mr. Haag:

My mind is maturing to the proposition that we ought to have a pension system for permanent city employees. I therefore look upon your scheme with favor.

Sincerely yours,

*W. J. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

Joseph Haag, Esq.,  
Secretary, Board of  
Estimate & Apportionment,  
New York City.



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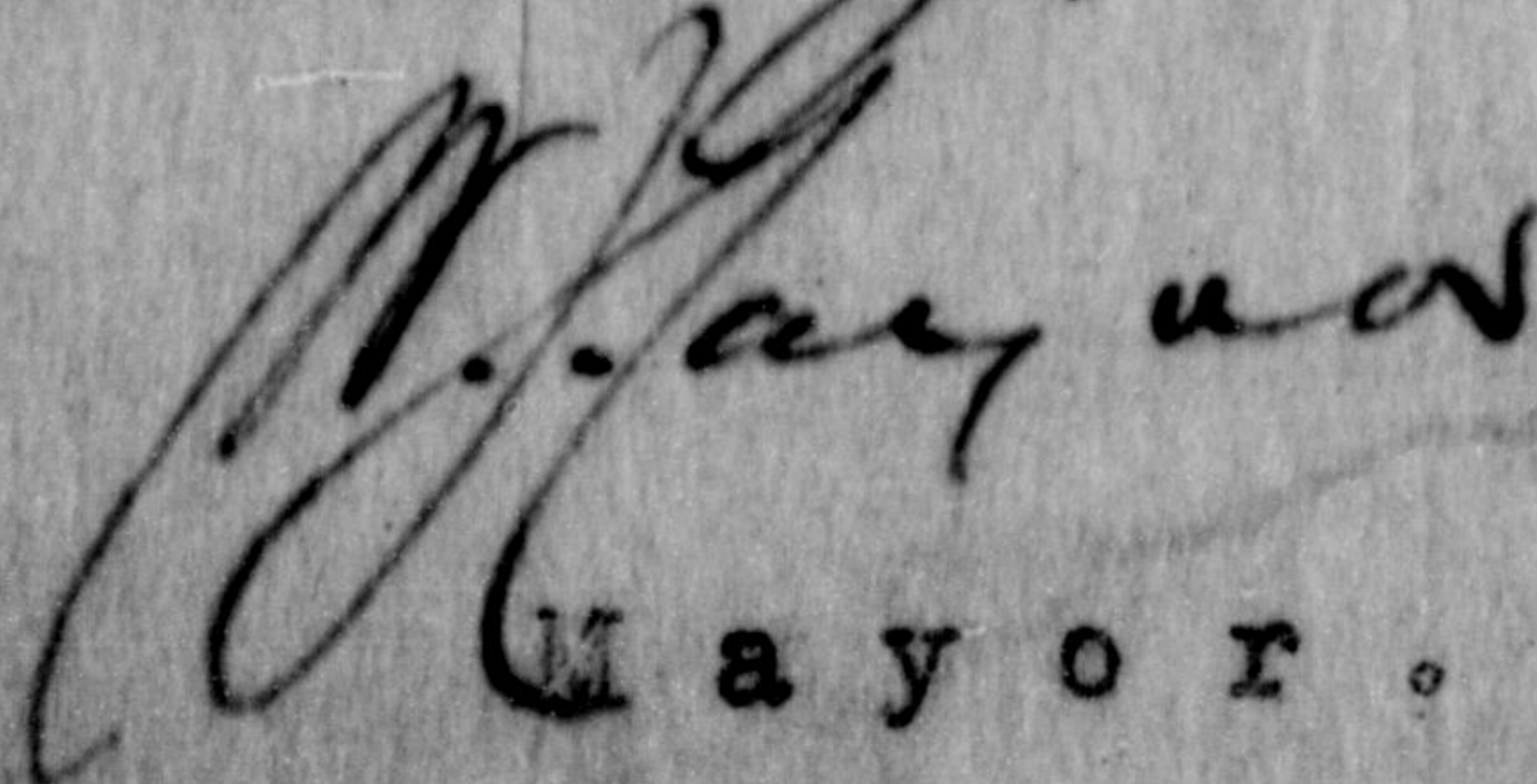
February 14th, 1911.

Dear Mr. Schieffelin:

I thank you  
for your letter with regards to pen-  
sions to City employees. It ought to  
be taken up by somebody. Suppose you  
have a conference with the Commissioner  
of Accounts and see whether he could  
do the matter.

I have recently entertained the  
matter of pensions in the Correction  
Department, and have since been think-  
ing that pensions ought to be general.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mayor.

William Jay Schieffelin, Esq.,  
41, Park Row,  
New York City.



June 26, 1911.k

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

I have already provided for a commission to consider a comprehensive system for all of the departments, and have a bill ready for the next Legislature, but I see no reason to veto the present bill of the Street Cleaning Department. If there be anything crude in it the commission can correct it next year.

Very truly yours,

*W. A. H. H.*  
Mayor.

Elliot H. Goodwin, Esq.,  
Civil Service Reform Association,  
79, Wall St., Manhattan.



A.C.M.  
R.H.

MEMORANDUM FOR HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR.

The Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, to which were referred the recommendations for the retirement on annuities of numerous employees of the City, made since June 1, 1912, has decided to recommend a new sliding scale of annuities that, in my judgment, may operate to defeat the beneficent purposes of Chapter 669 of the Laws of 1911.

Retirements heretofore made have been upon annuities at the rate of one-half the average compensation for the period of three years immediately prior to the time of retirement. It is now proposed that the basis of computation of future grants of annuities shall be

One-half, where the average of compensation is \$1000. a year, or less;

One-half of the first \$1000. and 20% of the remainder, where the average of compensation is between \$1,000. and \$2,000. a year;

One-third, where the average of compensation exceeds \$2,000. a year;

No annuity to exceed \$2,000. a year.

Under this new scheme, the annuity recommended in the case of Warden Fallon will be but \$1,000., instead of \$1,500., which he would receive on the old basis; Deputy Warden Jones, \$660., instead of \$900., and Assistant Engineer Brown, of the Bureau of Sewers, Manhattan, \$1,333.33, instead of \$2,000. There are a number of other prospective annuitants who will be affected in the same ratio.

Doubtless, all the pending applications for retirement were made in the belief, upon the part of recommending officers as well as the applicants, that the original plan of retiring upon the basis of one-half the average of compensation would be continued. It is probable there will be much dissatisfaction, if such retirements are now made upon substantially smaller annuities. The change in policy may also operate



to keep in the service other superannuated employees, whose retirement is advisable, but will hardly be recommended by heads of departments in view of the changed conditions. It this happens, the primary purpose of the law -- the abolition of a stagnating influence in the City's civil service -- will be balked.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alexander C. MacKully.*  
Assistant Corporation Counsel.



Jan. 9, 1913.k

S i r :

In the case of the widow of John Moran, who is applying for the usual pension, the fact that there was never any ceremonial marriage does not enter into the case. In those days what is called a common law marriage was just as good as a ceremonial marriage by the laws of the state. I write this to you because one of the priests of his parish has spoken to me about the matter. Please confer with me about this case. I understand that Deputy Commissioner Dillon is ruling that there must be some certificate or paper to show the marriage. That is not so. Such obstacles should not be put in the way of the widows of policemen. They have raised a large family of children, who were all regularly baptised in the church. Proof of the common law marriage is overwhelming.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. Gaynor*  
Mayor.

R. Waldo, Esq.,

Commissioner of Police.



January 27th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. deRoode:

I have read your proposed  
pension bill with care, and I am  
willing to adopt it, as I think it  
very comprehensive and just.

Sincerely yours,

*W. F. Wagner*

Mayor.

Albert deRoode, Esq.,  
Examining Board of Plumbers,  
149, Church Street,  
New York City.



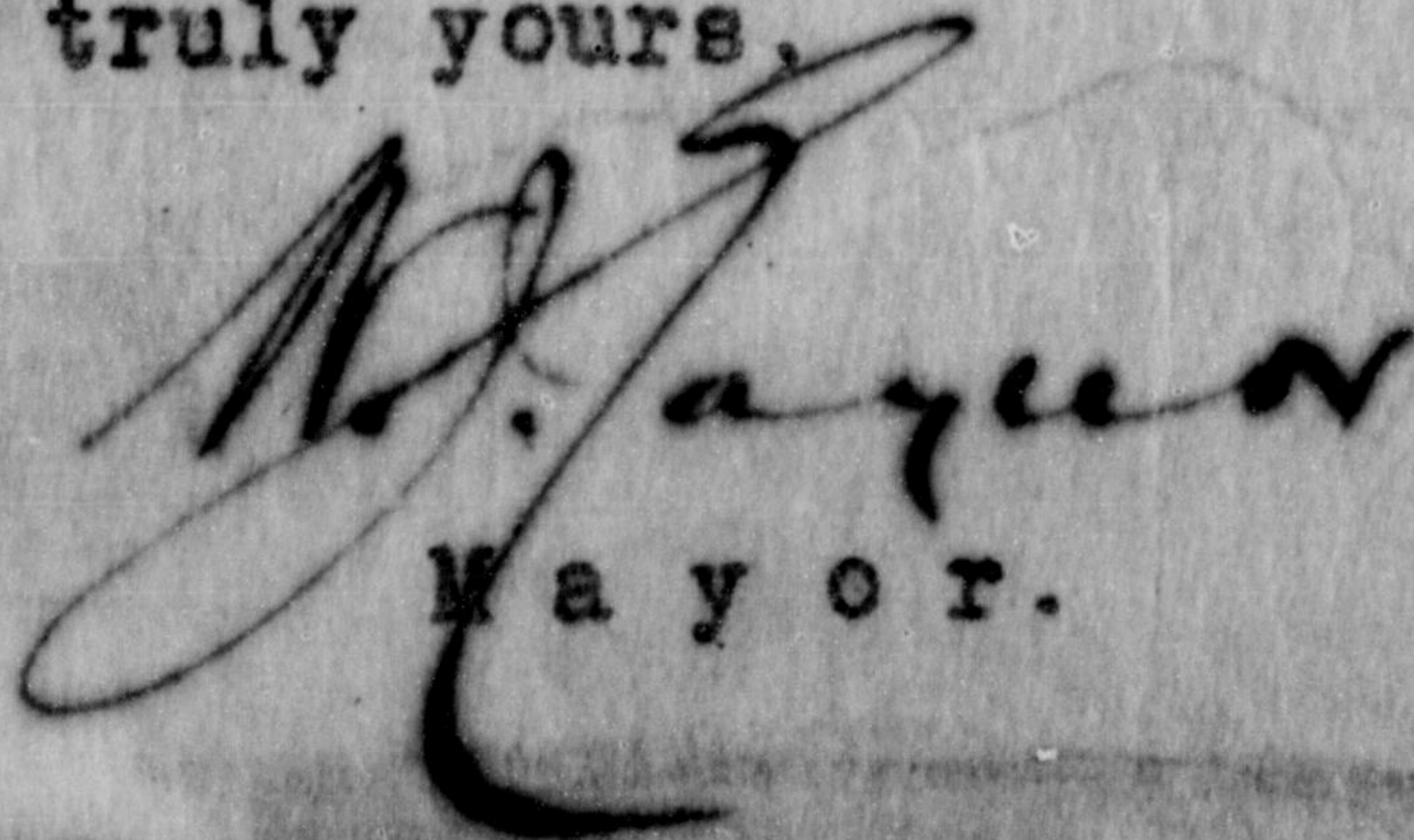
February 4th, 1913.      s

Dear Mr. de Roode:

Your letter of February 3rd with regard to the pension bill is at hand. I note what you say of the objections of Mr. Haag. I am glad you consulted him, because he is one of the best informed men, if not the best informed, in the whole city government. Yes, I think it would be well as you suggest to not put in the \$2,000 limit, but to leave it to the Board of Estimate to establish the limit, or else to make a limit for each case separately. Mr. Haag says that the present law should not be repealed until the new act gets into operation. I suppose you can frame your repealing clause to so provide.

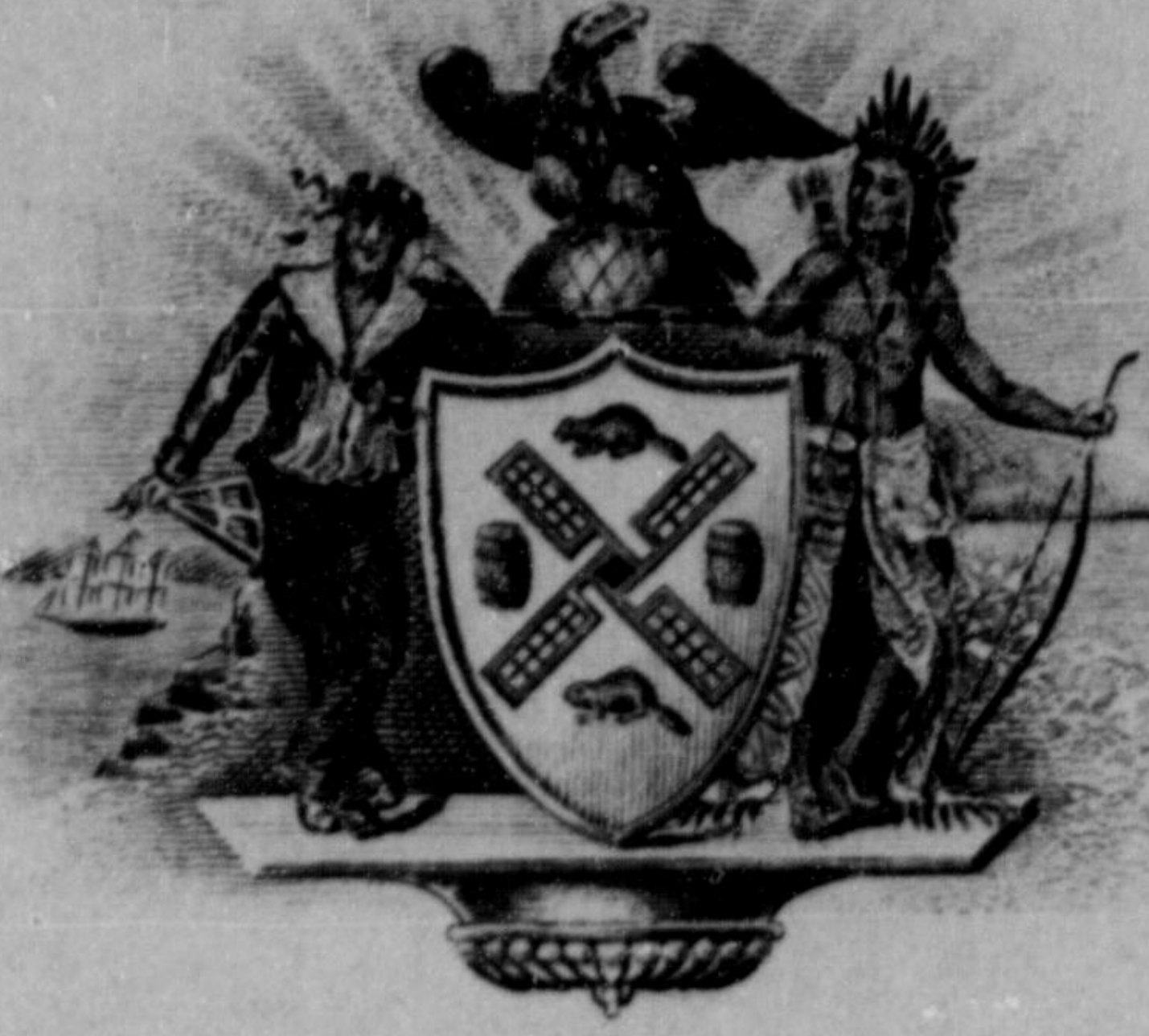
I note your letter about Mr. Harvier. You will have to bear with him. He writes to me every day, some days several times. I do not remember about Larney, except that the then Fire Commissioner did not want to have him under him, and dismissed him. There was no politics at all in it.

Very truly yours,

  
Mayor.

Albert de Roode, Esq.,  
Examining Board of Plumbers,  
149, Church Street,  
New York City.

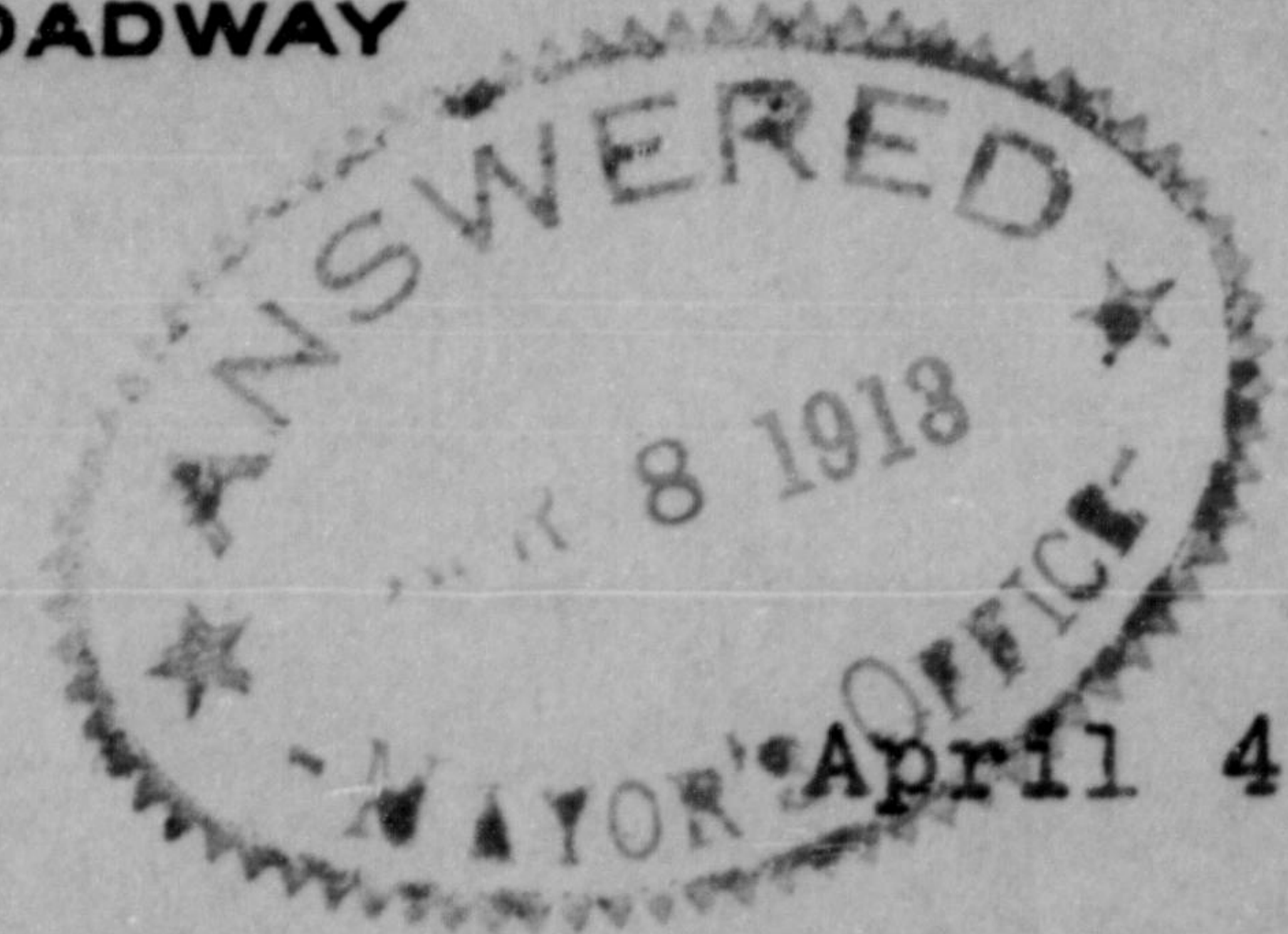




JEREMIAH T. MAHONEY  
HARRY M. RICE  
COMMISSIONERS

CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ACCOUNTS

280 BROADWAY



April 4, 1913.

Hon. WILLIAM J. GAYNOR,

M a y o r.

S i r :

It has been called to our attention from time to time in newspaper articles and also in communications addressed to this department, that the system of pensioning city employes can be much improved. We have casually investigated the matter and believe that the time is now ripe for a systematic investigation of the pension system, in order that some scientific plan may be devised that shall for all time remove the grounds of criticism. While we have no definite plan in view, it occurs to us that the granting of pensions to city employes might better be in the hands of a Board of Pensions, rather than in the hands of the individual heads of departments, for the purpose of proper control. There certainly should be some legislation that would prohibit a pensioned city employe from obtaining other remuneration in the city or state service.

We would therefore request that you authorize us to look into and investigate the entire subject of city pensions, in order that from the preliminary report made by this office, you may make



W. J. G.-----2

additional suggestions as to what means and methods shall be taken  
to improve the city's pension system.

Very truly yours,

*Jeremiah T. Mahoney*  
*Hampton*

Commissioner of Accounts.

JTM/MCB



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WILLIAM H. ALLEN  
HENRY BRUERE  
FREDERICK A. CLEVELAND

261 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

May 6, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

We respectfully urge you to disapprove Senate Bill #1047, Int. #931, permitting the pensioning of employees of the city court, which is now before you. May we submit the following reasons as to why, in our view, the bill merits your disapproval?

- 1 - This bill is unscientific in that it calls for no contribution from the employees to be pensioned. If the bill is passed the future liability of the city can not be estimated. A worse condition may arise than has occurred in respect of the police pension fund where the city's direct contribution has increased from \$194,000 in 1905 to \$1,264,000 in 1913 and promises to grow indefinitely
- 2 - The expense of maintaining the proposed system is a county rather than a city charge and should be borne by the county rather than by the city as a whole
- 3 - A pension system should be uniform as well as scientific. The permanent interest of all employees is retarded by these piecemeal pension laws which grant special favors to certain employees.

Very truly yours,

*Henry Bruere*  
Director.

B/M



# CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION

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HARRY W. MARSH }

NEW YORK May 7, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor of the City of New York,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant about the pension bill for city court employees which is now before you.

There has been a retirement system for employees of the appellate division, first department, since 1911, like that proposed in the city court bill. This system was amended this year to provide, among other things, for retirement of an employee after thirty years service in the discretion of the justices, whether the employee be disabled or not, and required him to pay one per cent of his salary to a retirement fund. A second bill providing for retirement of employees in the appellate division of the second department in the same way as that proposed in the city court bill was also passed and approved. It is my understanding that these bills do not fall within the class mentioned in the constitution which require the approval of the Mayor.

In spite of the pension system for the appellate division, I really hope that you will disapprove the bill for the city court employees. Beside the unscientific system of retirement which the bill establishes, it seems to me that this is a good opportunity to stop



Hon. William J. Gaynor

-2-

meddling from Albany on city matters, particularly those which have to do with our pocket books. Why not let the city authorities handle the pension question now in some comprehensive fashion, as they have the power to do under the new home rule act?

In connection with legislation, may I particularly call your attention to the passage of the Walker removal bill, which gives all competitive employees in the state and all its civil divisions not only a right to a trial before removal, but to a review by the courts under a writ of certiorari. The bill is now before the Governor and we need the strongest show of opposition to it that we can get in order to get his veto of it. You have already written me that you disapprove the principle of this bill. Would it be too much to ask you to write the Governor personally telling him what you think about it and asking him to veto it? I sincerely hope that you will do this.

Very truly yours,

*Robert W. Peckham*  
Secretary.



May 7, 1913. d

Dear Mr. Bruere:

Your letter of May 6th, opposing the City Court pension bill, is at hand. Do you know that a similar bill for the Supreme Court has been passed? They take the position that it does not need to be submitted to the Mayor, and that it will become a law by the approval of the Governor. If that bill is to become a law I have very little reason left for vetoing the City Court bill. Can you not get a hearing before the Governor and get him to veto the bill applicable to the Supreme Court? I was greatly surprised to learn of the passage of that bill. We should have a general pension law for this city, instead of having all this pensioning by piecemeal legislation. I have tried to have such a general bill passed but with no substantial success.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. May*  
Mayor.

Henry Bruere, Esq.,  
Bureau of Municipal Research,  
261, Broadway, New York.



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### DIRECTORS

WILLIAM H. ALLEN  
HENRY BRUERE  
FREDERICK A. CLEVELAND

281 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

May 9, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor, Mayor,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

My dear Mayor Gaynor:-

Thank you for your letter of May 7th. I am informed that the governor has already approved the pension bill for the Supreme Court. Do you not think that you have good reason for vetoing the City Court pension bill on the ground which you state - that the city should have a general pension law? The governor in approving the Supreme Court pension bill acted from the standpoint of the state. In pension matters the city is very much more advanced and has very much larger responsibility. Besides it seems to me that there would be no inconsistency in your taking a more advanced position than the governor has in this matter.

A little later on we should like to put in your hands the results of a pension study which we are now making. The right kind of pension law would do a great deal, it seems to us, to increase the efficiency of the departmental forces.

Sincerely yours,

*Henry Bruere*  
Director

B/J

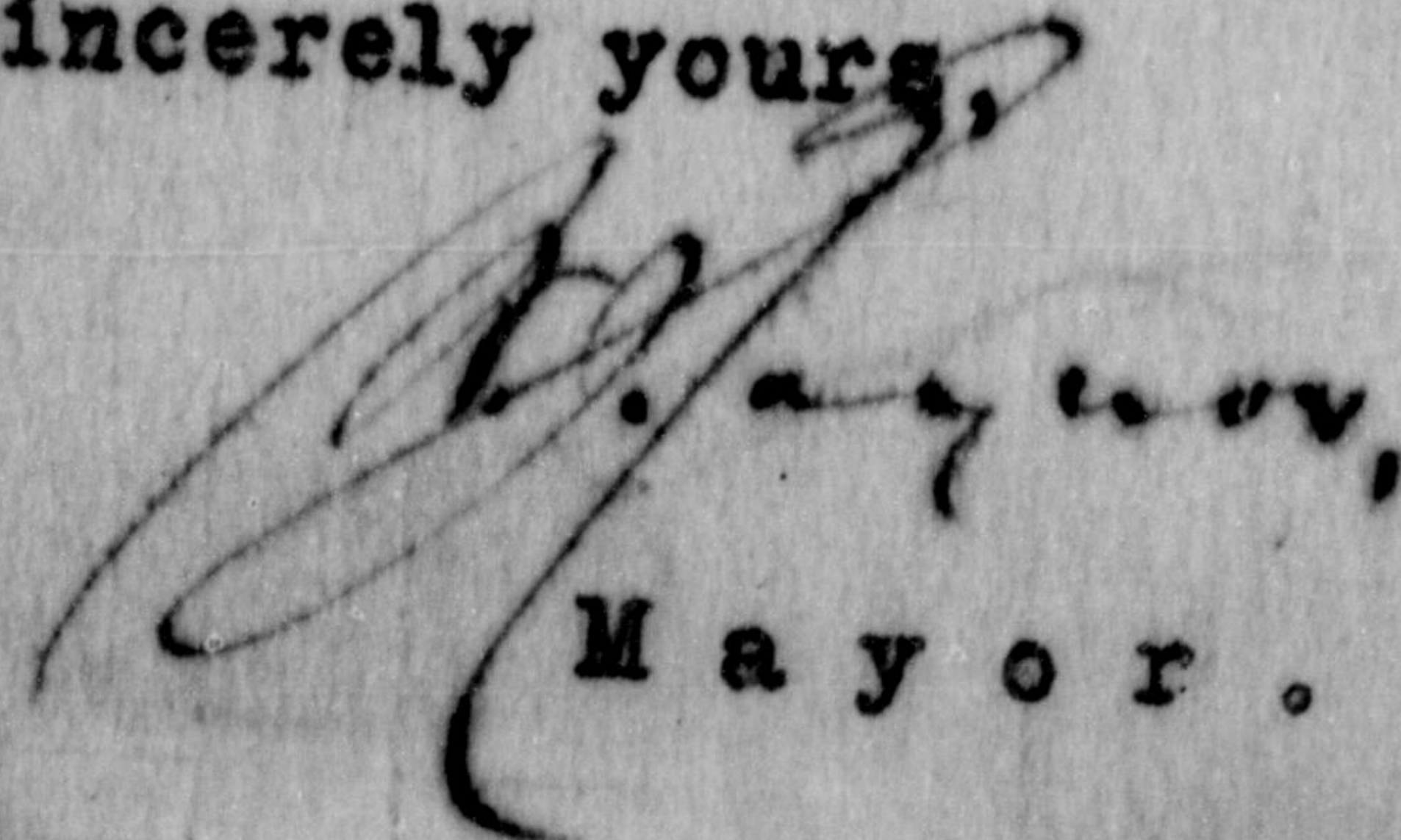


May 12th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. Bruere:

Your letter of May 9th, with regard to the City Court pension bill, is at hand. I accepted it, being largely influenced by the fact that the Supreme Court is to have a similar pension bill, and on the advice that the City Court is not a part of the city government. I am glad that you are working on a general pension bill. I trust you will keep it up and that my successor will have the pleasure of accepting such a bill for the city. I tried to have such a bill put in shape, but met with many obstacles. Mr. deRoodt worked with me on the matter some.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mayor.

Henry Bruere, Esq.,  
261, Broadway,  
New York City.



June 11th, 1913.M

Dear Mr. Perkins:

I am about to appoint a commission to frame a general pension system for the employees of this city, and I am anxious to have you serve as President thereof. We now have separate pension laws for several different departments. Each session of the Legislature passes some amendment, or some new law for another department. The recent so-called home rule bill for cities seems to empower the Board of Aldermen to pass pension laws. It is my desire to have a comprehensive law framed for the whole city, whether it is to be passed by the Legislature or by the Board of Aldermen. The time is arrived for the doing of this great work, and it ought to be done in the best manner possible. Will you help in the way I request?

Sincerely yours,

*W. A. H. H.*  
Mayor.

George W. Perkins, Esq.,  
71, Broadway,  
New York City.



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Bureau of Municipal Research  
261 Broadway

June 17, 1913.


My dear Mr. Mayor:

I am delighted to learn that you are taking up the matter of a general pension system for all city employees. Upon my return to the city I received your letter of June 11th asking me to become a member of your proposed commission.

Mr. Perkins called me up yesterday, telling me of your request that he take the chairmanship of the commission. We conferred this afternoon regarding it after his interview with you. Mr. Perkins stated that he would attempt to arrange a further interview with you at which we both could be present.

May I therefore defer definite action on your invitation until we have discussed the matter? Please be assured that we shall be very glad to help in any way possible in the furtherance of your plans.

Sincerely yours,

  
Director.

Hon. William J. Gaynor  
Mayor, City of New York

B-IF



July 24, 1913. v

S i r s :

I am appointing you a Commission to frame a scientific pension law for this City. We now have separate pension laws, such as they are, for the Departments of Police, Fire, Street Cleaning and Health, and also a general law applicable to all the employees of the City for retirement after a long term of service. They are unscientific and largely patchwork. I trust you will be able to frame a pension law for this City which will serve as a model not only to all other cities, but also to all private employers. The advancing spirit of the age calls for it. Many private employers have already gone further than any of our cities in the way of pensioning old and disabled employees. I shall be most glad to work with you now and then, and advise with you; and, if desirable, I shall add to your number.

Sincerely yours,

*M. J. Mayor*  
Mayor.

Messrs. George W. Perkins, Albert de Roode, Eugene H. Outerbridge, Henry Bruere, Francis D. Pollak, James Creelman, Daniel Harris, Joseph Haag, John A. Bolles, Frank L. Dowling, S. Herbert Wolfe and Arthur Williams; and Mrs. Frank H. Cothren.



THE EVENING MAIL  
NEW YORK

EDITOR'S OFFICE



August 1, 1913.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I thank you for your letter appointing me to membership on a Commission to frame a new pension law for the city, and I will be glad to give that service to New York.

I agree with you that humane provision should be made for the retirement of all faithful public employees after long service. The idea appeals not only to the moral sense, but is supported by sound business reasoning.

My own observation convinces me that long employment under the peculiar but necessary restrictions of the public service has a tendency to unfit men and women to earn their living in private positions.

Faithfully yours,

James C. Crocker

JC-B




August 5, 1913. v

My dear Mr. Creelman:

Your letter of August 1st is at hand. I am glad you will give your service to the framing of a pension law for this city. One sentence in your letter strikes me very forcibly. I never thought of it before, namely, that your observation convinces you that employment under the restrictions of the public service tends to unfit men and women to earn their living in private positions. It seems to me you are right about that.

Very truly yours,

  
Mayor.

James Creelman, Esq.,  
Care of The Evening Mail,  
New York City.



# CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

A Union of Citizens without regard to party, for the purpose of  
securing the honest and efficient government of the City of New York

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41 PARK ROW (OLD TIMES BUILDING)

Let there be Light!



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TEL. CORTLANDT 5898-5899

Hon. William J. Gaynor,  
Mayor, City of New York,  
City Hall, New York.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

The enclosed report of the Pension Committee of the Citizens Union is based upon a study, over a period of nearly a year, of the problem of providing on a sane basis retirement pensions for city employees. There are bills in the Legislature at the present session to provide pension systems for various departments, and at least one bill to provide a pension system for all city, county and borough employees. These bills, however, are unsound and extravagant in their provisions and would work injustice.

We fear that, unless a scientific pension system is drawn up soon, the city may have an unscientific and extravagant system forced upon it. We would be glad, therefore, to cooperate in the preparation of a scientific pension system. As our committee points out, it must be based on the age and length of service of employees. Tables must be prepared giving informa-



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tion regarding the number of employees of each age and each length of service, in order that the city may be able to estimate the results of any proposed pension system.

I suggest that either the Municipal Civil Service Commission or the Commissioner of Accounts, in cooperation with the heads of departments, or the heads of departments themselves, should undertake to prepare such tables. Is this suggestion timely?

We would be glad to cooperate. so far as we are able, in any manner you suggest.

Very truly yours,

*Wm. Jay Schuffelin*

Chairman.