



CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department.

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller

January 15, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Sir:

In response to the oral inquiry made by your messenger this morning at the Finance Department, I take pleasure in furnishing you with the following information:

The appropriations for the Board of Education included in the Final Estimates for 1895, 1896 and 1897 were as follows:

1895.....	\$4,962,423.14
1896.....	\$5,679,302.59
1897.....	\$5,931,239.89

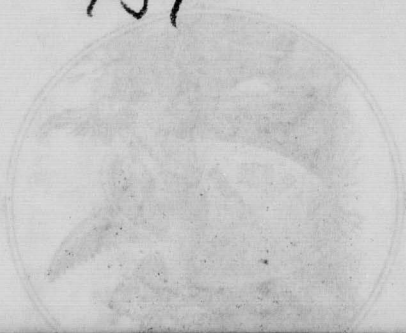
The amount of School-house Bonds authorized to be issued by Chapter 88 of the Laws of 1895 is \$5,000,000. Of this amount the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has authorized, up to January 1, 1897, \$3,525,707.53; and of this last named amount \$2,879,003.56 have been issued up to January 1, 1897.

Respectfully,


Comptroller.



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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

January 20, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Dear Sir:

I notice in your message to the Board of Aldermen, published in this morning's papers, that you refer to certain issues of bonds having been made out of the five million dollar school house bond act of 1896--i. e., chapter 728 of the Laws of 1896. The amounts referred to are the amounts which I furnished you in my communication of the 15th inst. If you will refer to my letter, however, you will notice that the figures which I furnished related to the five million dollar school house bond act of 1895--i. e., chapter 88 of the Laws of 1895.

No bonds have yet been issued under the provisions of chapter 728 of the Laws of 1896, as there is still a balance left of the amount authorized by the act of 1895 of nearly a million and a half dollars.

Very truly yours,

Ashbel P. Fitch
Comptroller.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JANUARY 29, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Sir:

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Friday, January 29, 1897.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed.

Respectfully,

Alfred P. Fitch

Comptroller .

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JANUARY 29, 1897.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Friday, January 29, 1897, for the reason that on that day I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office.

Abner R. Fitch

Comptroller.



CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

MARCH 1, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Dear Sir :

I desire to call your attention to the enclosed communication from Messrs. Bliss & Borden, requesting to be placed in funds to the extent of \$ 500., on behalf of the Grant Inaugural Municipal Committee, to cover petty expenses incident to the early arrangement, such as postage etc.

In compliance therewith I have caused a voucher for \$ 500 to be prepared payable to the order of C. N. Bliss, Chairman, to which I would be pleased to have you attach your certificate.

Respectfully,

J. L. G.

Comptroller.

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Dear Sir :

MR. WILLIAM



CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

April 12, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

M a y o r,

S i r :

I have received notice from your Secretary that there will be a public hearing at your office on April 14 at 2:30 P. M., on Assembly Bill No. 1860, entitled "An Act relating to the Brooklyn and New York Ferry Company."

This bill authorizes the Brooklyn and New York Ferry Company to establish a ferry across the East River from the foot of Broadway to the foot of East Forty-second Street, in the city of New York.

It seems to me that this is a most indefensible interference by the Legislature with the vested rights of the corporation of the City of New York in its ferry rights.

It is true that section 4 of this bill provides that nothing therein "shall be so construed as to take away or impair any "rights or franchises owned by the cities of New York or Brooklyn",

but the fact remains that the very creation of this ferry is in derogation of the ancient rights of the city of New York relating to ferries, and a serious infringement of the principle of home rule.

One of the ablest writers on law affecting the city of New York has maintained that the right of the city of New York to establish ferries is exclusive, and not subject to interference by the Legislature. In Hoffman's Treatise on the Corporation, p. 136, this question is summarized as follows:

"The lowest possible form in which the compact with the State can be presented, is this: that the Corporation shall have the first privilege of establishing new ferries within the limits fixed in their grant. No statute can then take away this franchise on the ground of taking private property for public good, unless upon a judicial conviction of the Corporation, working a forfeiture for neglect. The Corporation should first be called upon to fulfill the public duty with which its right of property is connected. When its refusal is declared in a legal judicial manner, the right of the State to confer the franchise upon another may arise. But the fact of public necessity or high utility must first be made out, and the culpable neglect of the Corporation first declared, upon a hearing, in a competent tribunal."

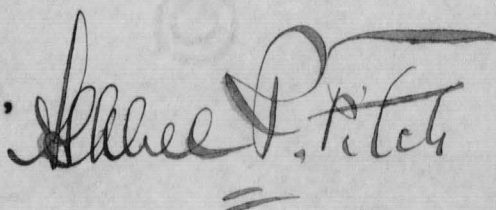
In the present case there has been, so far as I am informed, no neglect or refusal on the part of the Corporation to establish a ferry at any point where the public convenience may demand it. I have no doubt that the Board of Aldermen would, if application were made, establish, with your Honor's approval, a

ferry between Broadway, Brooklyn, and the foot of East Forty-second Street, New York. But such a ferry franchise would, according to law, be offered at public auction to the highest bidder and would be for a term not exceeding ten years.

Assembly Bill No. 1860, however, confers its privileges, without limitation of time, exclusively upon the Brooklyn and New York Ferry Company, a private corporation. To create a monopoly of this kind, free from the control of the local authorities, would be grossly unfair to the other companies now operating ferries under franchises obtained from the Common Council and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The result of such special legislation would inevitably be that these other companies would obtain similar privileges from the Legislature and the ferry rights of the corporation would ultimately be wholly lost.

This bill is more than unnecessary and unjustifiable: it is one of the most pernicious attempts at legislation that I have noticed since holding the office of Comptroller of this city, and I therefore earnestly request that you refuse to give it your official approval.

Respectfully,

The signature is written in a cursive, handwritten style. It appears to read "John V. Mitchell". There are some horizontal lines and flourishes at the end of the signature.

and please send me

of the following:

of the following:

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ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department.

April 13, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Dear Sir:

Mr. J. A. W. Pine of 130 Pearl Street has made certain allegations here in regard to the legality of the letting of certain asphalt contracts by the Commissioner of Public Works, and also as to the legality of the specifications under which the contracts are let.

Mr. Pine also claims that he is advised by counsel that the irregularities which he alleges here have the affect to release the sureties on the bonds to be given on these contracts.

He says further that certain evidence in regard to these questions has been taken by the Commissioners of Accounts and is in your hands.

If entirely consistent with the interests of the public service, I would be glad to have a copy of this evidence, or of any opinion which may have been obtained from the Corporation Counsel,

or any other information which will aid me in passing upon these contracts and upon the bonds given under them when they reach me in due course of business.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles F. Hitch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Comptroller".

Comptroller.

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance DepartmentASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

April 16, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Dear Sir:

I regret to be forced to ask your help in the following matter:

The moneys which are deposited by contractors with their bids are always sent promptly by the Departments to this office, from which they are deposited in the Security Deposit account, and are promptly returned to the contractors as soon as the bids have been opened.

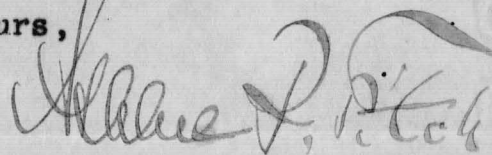
Since April 7 representatives of Messrs. Blake & Williams and other business houses have been calling here for the return of the security deposits put up by them for bids for repairing the building occupied as quarters of Hook and Ladder Co. No. 9, and for furnishing a new boiler and pumping apparatus, which I am informed were opened by the Fire Department on April 7. These moneys

Personal

should have been here on April 7 or 8, but have not yet been received by this Department. On being called upon for the return of the moneys here, we have endeavored to obtain the same from the Fire Department, but without result. I wrote to Mr. Sheffield on April 14 about the matter, but can get no answer. The rule of all the Departments has been to transmit these moneys on the day of the opening of the bids, in order to guard against possible loss by reason of the failure of the banks on which the checks are drawn.

I therefore ask that you will communicate with the Fire Department, to the end that these moneys may be received and deposited in the usual way, and paid back to the gentlemen who are entitled to receive them and are waiting impatiently to get them.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William D. Hatch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Comptroller.

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance DepartmentASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

April 29, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor,

Sir:

I transmit herewith a report made to me by the Collector of Assessments and Clerk of Arrears in regard to Assembly Bill No. 753, entitled "An Act to create a division of notification in the Department of Finance in the city of New York", which bill will be before you for a public hearing this afternoon.

The views expressed by the Collector of Assessments meet with my approval.

Respectfully,

Comptroller.

1704.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office.*

APRIL 29, 1897.

HON. ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

Dear Sir :

I have the honor to report as follows in regard to Assembly Bill No. 753, entitled "An Act to create a division of notification in the Department of Finance in the city of New York":

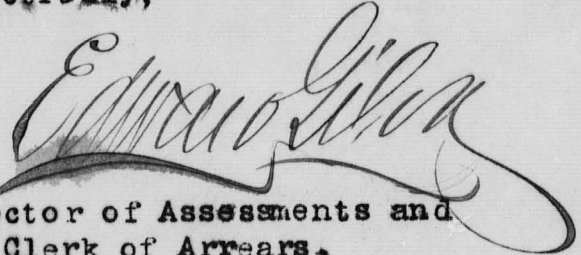
I believe there is merit in the idea of notifying property owners of assessments for local improvements as soon as the same shall have been confirmed, and the list relating thereto filed in the office of the Comptroller. If it were necessary however, to register each application on a separate folio of a volume, and to begin operations with a sufficient number of volumes to include every lot number in New York, I would consider the advantages of this Bill to be more than offset by the great expense entailed; since to comply with the law in this matter would require about three hundred volumes of 1,000 pages each, costing about \$ 20,000.

I believe, however, that substantial compliance with this law will be made and practical effect given to it by starting with a small number of volumes; using only so many folios as may be required by the applications which may be made from time to time; but starting also

with a complete set of indices upon which shall appear consecutively every lot number in the city of New York, and against which cross-references can be entered of the folio numbers of applications for registrations made pursuant to this law.

If, as I believe, this can be done, the proposed law would, in my judgment, prove to be an excellent piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward Gilman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed title.

Collector of Assessments and
Clerk of Arrears.

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department.

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

May 24, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 21st inst. in regard to a meeting of the Sinking Fund to pass on a resolution adopted by the Board of Docks on May 20th in relation to the improvement of the North River water front.

Before this meeting is called I should like to discuss with you some of the questions involved in this resolution, and I should be pleased to have you advise me when it would be convenient for you to have this interview.

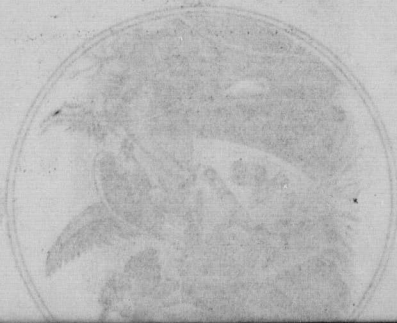
Very truly yours,

Ashbel P. Fitch

Comptroller.

HOW. MILLER T.

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller

May 26, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor,

My dear Sir:

Referring to our recent conversation in regard to the work done by John Monks & Son, I find, upon investigation, that the matter was not objectionable. I presume that the reports referred to relate to Secretary's order No. 15667, to be found in the report of the Dock Department printed in the City Record on April 24th of this year, on page 1568.

If this is the work referred to, it was done by the contractors for private owners, and at their expense, though under the supervision of the Engineer-in-chief of the Dock Department. This kind of work does not constitute a contract with the city for work or supplies, and it is very different from work done or supplies sold to the city.

Very truly yours,

Ashbel P. Fitch
Comptroller.

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My dear Sir:

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JUNE 2, 1897

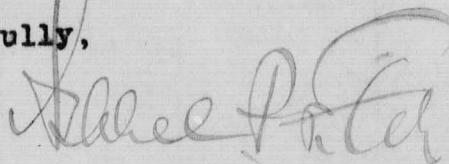
HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
M a y o r ,

Dear Sir :

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Wednesday, June 2d 1897, after 1 o'clock P.M.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed.

Respectfully,

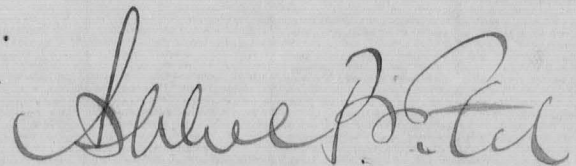


Comptroller.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JUNE 2, 1897

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Wednesday, June 2, 1897, after 1 o'clock P.M., for the reason that during that period of time I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office.



Comptroller.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JUNE 4, 1897

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

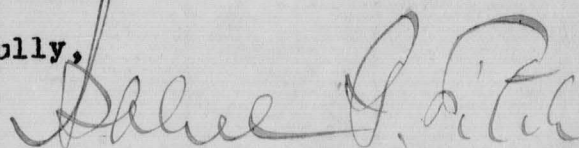
M a y o r ,

S i r :

I am in receipt of your favor of 3d inst. enclosing letter from William Jameson National Home, Togus, Me., June 1, 1897, seeking "Bounty Money" claimed to be due him since 1863.

I will have the matter investigated and report the findings to Mr. Jameson at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully,



Comptroller.

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HON. WILLIAM P. S

City of New York
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office

JUNE 30, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

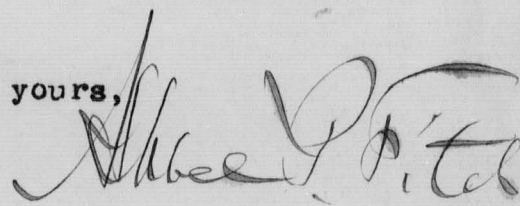
Mayor, Chairman, Board of City Record,

S i r :

I transmit herewith a copy of an advertisement which the Committee of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund appointed to select suitable quarters for the branches of the city government now located in the Brown-stone building, propose to publish in order to secure offers from property-owners and agents.

I respectfully request that the Board of City Record authorize the publication of this notice in the following newspapers for a period of five days: Mail and Express, Tribune, Sun, Daily News and Real Estate Record and Guide.

Very truly yours,



Comptroller.

It having become necessary to provide suitable offices for the several branches of the city government now occupying the "brown-stone" building, in the City of Hall Park, viz : the Sheriff's Office, the First Judicial District Court and the Department of Street Cleaning, the undersigned, a Committee of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, request that proposals for leasing such offices in the vicinity of the City Hall, be transmitted to the Comptroller at his office, No.

280 Broadway. *The amount of space required may be approximately ascertained by examination of the offices now in use in the Brown-stone building.*

ASHBEL P. FITCH, Comptroller,

ANSON G. McCOOK, Chamberlain,

JOHN T. OAKLEY, Chairman, Committee on Finance,
Board of Aldermen.

580 ВЛОЕГНАВЪ.

of course and of course

be transmitted to the Comptroller at his office, No.

reserving such offices in the vicinity of the City Hall."

donors of the Spring Fund, request that probate for

Cleaning, the undersigned, a Committee of the Commis-

Judicial District Court and the Department of Street

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Now occupying the "prow-stone" building, in the City of

prices for the several benches of the city Government

If having become necessary to provide antiplague of-

C. H. K. H. H.

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*City of New York,
Finance Department.
Comptroller's Office.*

JULY 2, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

M a y o r ,

Dear Sir :

I desire to acknowledge receipt of the communication addressed to you by Messrs. Hoadly, Lauterbach & Johnson, under date of "July" (June?) 30th 1897, requesting information concerning the amount of interest which has accrued upon the sum of \$ 250,000 deposited with you by the Third Avenue Railroad Company on November 14, 1895, in connection with the sale of franchise of the Kingsbridge Extension.

You will no doubt recall the fact that on November 14th 1895, the check of said Company for \$ 25 0,000 was, in accordance with the Eleventh condition of the franchise agreement adopted by the Board of Aldermen, turned over to you as Mayor, and was by you on said date deposited with the Knickerbocker Trust Co.

Said deposit having been made by you, no account of accrued interest has ever been filed in this Department, and upon application having been made to this Department for said information by Hoadly, Lauterbach & Johnson, I suggested application to you for the same, as I presumed that any account of such accrued interest would be filed in your office.

If the Knickerbocker Trust Co. has not as yet rendered such an account, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of an inquiry by the Mayor addressed to said Company.

Respectfully,

James F. Ritch

Comptroller .

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1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 6, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor, and Chairman of the
Board of City Record,

S i r :

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your communication of June 29th, inquiring if this Department has on hand any unnecessary blanks, blank books or stationery supplies, and in reply thereto would state that there are none, as the Annual Requisitions for such supplies are always based upon very close estimates.

Respectfully,

Wm. L. Patch

Comptroller.

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1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 9, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

M a y o r ,

Dear Sir :

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Friday, July 9, 1897, after 12 o'clock, noon, and Saturday, July 10, 1897.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed.

Respectfully,



Comptroller.

1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 9, 1897.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Friday, July 9, 1897, after 12 o'clock noon, and Saturday, July 10, 1897, for the reason that during that period of time I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office.

James P. Fitch

Comptroller.

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1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 12, 1897.

HON. JOHN JEROLOMAN,
Acting Mayor,

S i r :

A meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund will be held at the Comptroller's Office, on Wednesday, the fourteenth day of July, at 12 o'clock M., for the purpose of opening bids for an addition to the public building in Crotona Park, and transacting such other business as may be brought before the Board.

Respectfully,

Edgar Lacey
Secretary.

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*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 14, 1897,

HON. JOHN JEROLOMAN,

Acting Mayor, etc.,

Dear Sir :

I have received today a communication from the Supervisor of the City Record, informing me that the members of the Board of City Record have authorized the publication in certain newspapers of the advertisement for the sale of City Bonds and Stock on July 29th 1897, in accordance with my request of the 12th inst.

Please accept my thanks for the prompt action of the Board in the matter.

Yours truly,



Comptroller.

1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 15, 1897.

HON. JOHN JERLOMAN,

Acting Mayor,

Dear Sir :

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Thursday, July 15, 1897, after 2 o'clock P.M.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed .

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to William J. Lyon, the Deputy Comptroller mentioned in the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'W'.

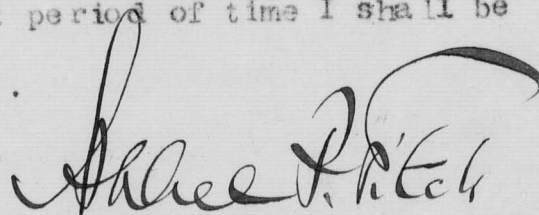
Comptroller.

1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 15, 1897.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Thursday, July 15, 1897, after 2 o'clock P.M., for the reason that during that period of time I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office.



Comptroller.

1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 16, 1897.

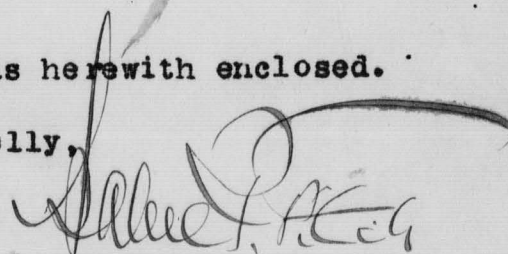
HON. JOHN JEROLOMAN,
Acting Mayor,

S i r :

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Saturday, July 17, 1897.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed.

Respectfully,



Comptroller.

1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

JULY 16, 1897.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Saturday, July 17, 1897, for the reason that on that day I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office .



Comptroller.

City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office

1703.
JULY 16, 1897.

318197
BION L. BURROWS, ESQ.,
Secretary, Mayor's Office,

S i r :

Referring to your communication of the 15th
inst., in the matter of approval of Auctioneers Bonds, I would ask
whether the same was addressed to me by you at the request of
either the Mayor or the Acting Mayor.

Yours truly,



Comptroller.

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1703.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

July 19, 1897.

HON. JOHN JEROLOMAN,

Acting Mayor, etc.,

S i r :

In addition to the newspapers specified in my communications to you, for authority to publish the advertisement for the sale of City Bonds and Stock on July 29, 1897, I respectfully request that the following newspapers be authorized to publish the said advertisement, viz:

Harlem Local Reporter,

Town Topics.

The last named Journal was included in the authorization of the Board of City Record for the Bond Sale of Nov. 9, 1896.

I enclose a requisition for the approval of the Board.

Very respectfully,

Sheel P. Fitch
Comptroller.

John Jeroloman
Acting Mayor

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District Attorney's Office,
City & County of
New York.

July 27th 1897

Hon. John J. Jerolomon
Acting Mayor of the City of New York
New York City

My dear Judge-

This will introduce
to you, Mr. Irving Michelson whose
mother leased from the City a certain
number of houses, at monthly rental of
\$157. and paid same to Mr. David O'Brien
Collector of the City Revenue on the 7th
day of July 1897.

It seems that on the
9th day of July the Comptroller
cancelled the lease by reason of
the fact that no notice of such
leasing was ever given to the
public and consequently Mr. Michelson
could not obtain possession of the
premises.

The Collector has
not given Mrs. Michelson any
satisfaction, when this money

will be returned to her, and assigns the reason that this money was paid into Treasury of the City, and he therefore cannot return it.

I will be profoundly grateful to you, if you will give the young man, such advice officially, as will enable his mother to obtain this money, without instituting any action; for the reason that Mrs. Michelson next month has to pay, a mortgage and expects to do so with the money now in the possession of the City, otherwise she may be unable to do so.

Trusting that you will comply with my request. I beg to remain

Very truly yours

J. A. Rosalby

M. L. M.



CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

JULY 29, 1897.

HON. JOHN JEROLOMAN,
Acting Mayor,

Dear Sir :

I have carefully considered the communication by you referred to me, addressed to you, under date of the 27th inst., by Otto A. Rosalsky in behalf of Mrs. Michelson, in the matter of return of certain rentals paid to the City.

I am informed by the Collector of City Revenue, that arrangements have already been made with the attorney for Mrs. Michelson, for repayment as soon as it can be determined exactly how much rent has been collected by her from tenants, which amount must of course be retained by the City.

The Deputy Comptroller also states that he personally assured Mrs. Michelson that the amount due to her would be returned as speedily as possible.

Any apparent delay has been caused by the fact that an investigation has shown that the statement of rents collected by Mrs. Michelson is untrue, and that as a matter of fact a larger amount had actually been received by her.

Arrangements are now being made to settle the matter, if possible this week.

W. J. H.
Respectfully,

Shirley L. Patch

Comptroller.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

SEPTEMBER 3d, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

M a y o r ,

Dear Sir :

You are hereby informed that, pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, for the reason that I shall be absent from the Comptroller's Office, I have designated and authorized William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to act as Comptroller of the City of New York, on Saturday, September 4, 1897.

A copy of the authorization is herewith enclosed .

Respectfully,



Comptroller.

*City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office*

SEPTEMBER 3, 1897

Pursuant to the provisions of section 124 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882, I hereby designate and authorize William J. Lyon, Deputy Comptroller, to possess every power and perform all and every duty belonging to the office of Comptroller of the City of New York, on Saturday, September 4th, 1897, for the reason that on that day I shall be absent from the Comptroller's office.

Abner P. Fitch
Comptroller.

City of New York,
Finance Department
Comptroller's Office

Nov 29th 1897

R. W. Gibson Esq
Architect

Dear Sir.

The perspective of which
you write - to day - is in the Mayor's office
and I cannot get it for you at this moment.
Will do so in the course of the day. Sorry
to delay you.

Yrs Truly
Eug W. Dean

P.S. If you would send a
note to the Mayor's office - you
doubtless can obtain it.

E W D

Received from Mayor's office
the above picture.
O. J. Savage

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance DepartmentASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller

DECEMBER 6, 1897.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

M a y o r ,

S i r :

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 1st inst., enclosing voucher in favor of John T. Brady for \$5,000, balance due under contract dated April 19, 1897, with the Municipal Grant Monument Committee, and for payment in full for additional work on the stands, seats, etc.

Respectfully,

*J. L. G.**Ashbel P. Fitch*

Comptroller.

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CITY OF NEW YORK.

Finance Department

ASHBEL P. FITCH,
Comptroller.

December 17, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Dear Sir:

With this I send you a set of the photographs taken at Gettysburg.

The total of the bill paid by Mr. Fitch for these photographs is \$62.

Your proportionate share is \$12.40, for which you may send Mr. Fitch a check at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Strong

Secretary.

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CITY OF NEW YORK

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller's Office.

Position

- a* Comptroller.
- a* Deputy Comptroller,
- Assistant Deputy Comptroller,
- Confidential Clerk to Comptroller,
- B* Transfer Tax Clerk,
- B* Chief Clerk,
- Part 1* *D* Law Clerk,
- B* Contract Clerk,
- B* General Clerk,
- a* General Bookkeeper,
- B* 1st. Assistant Bookkeeper,
- B* 2nd. " "
- B* 3rd. " "
- B* 4th. " "
- B* Recording Clerk,
- Part 1* *D* Engineer,
- Part 1* Engineer on Pavements and Pavement Work,
- Part 1* *D* Assistant Engineer,
- Custodian of Mortgages, Title Deeds Etc.
- B* Stock & Bond Clerk,
- B* Ass't. Stock & Bond Clerk,
- B* Copying & Bookkeeping Clerk,
- 7* Keeper of Records,
- Security Deposit Clerk,
- Part 2* *D* Examiner of Trust Accounts,
- " " " Examiner of Interest Accounts,
- " " " Examiner of Pay-roll Accounts,
- Part 2* *D* Examiner,
- B* Clerk,
- 7* Stenographer & Typewriter
- 7* Typewriter
- 7* Doorkeeper,
- 7* Messenger,
- 7* Watchman,
- Q* Office Boy,
- Q* Laborer,

AUDITING BUREAU:

- a* 1st. Auditor of Accounts,
- a* 2nd. "
- a* Deputy Auditor of Accounts,
- Part 2* *D* Examiner of Coupons,
- " " " Examiner of Claims,
- B* Registrar of Claims,
- Part 2* *D* Examiner of Accounts of Institutions,
- B* Disbursing Clerk,
- B* Assistant Disbursing Clerk,
- B* Warrant Clerk,
- Part 2* *D* Inspector,
- Part 2* *D* Inspector of Coal,
- Part 2* *D* Inspector of Provisions,
- a* City paymaster,
- a* Paymasters 1st. Clerk,
- 2nd. "
- 3rd. "
- 4th. "
- 5th. "
- 7* Messenger in Paymasters Office and Auditing Bureau.

Bureau for the Collection of Assessments and Arrears of Taxes and Assessments, and of Water Rents.

- a* Collector of Assessments and clerk of Arrears.
- Assistant Collector of Assessments and Clerk of Arrears,
- and Bookkeeper.
- B* Assistant Bookkeeper,
- a* Cashier,
- B* Recording Clerk,



AUDITING BUREAU.

- a* 1st. Auditor of Accounts,
a 2nd. "
a Deputy Auditor of Accounts,
Part 2 II Examiner of Coupons,
" " " Examiner of Claims,
B Registrar of Claims,
Part 2 II Examiner of Accounts of Institutions,
B Disbursing Clerk,
B Assistant Disbursing Clerk,
B Warrant Clerk,
Part 2 II Inspector,
Part 2 II Inspector of Coal,
Part 2 II Inspector of Provisions,
a City paymaster,
a Paymasters 1st. Clerk,
2nd. "
3rd. "
4th. "
5th. "
f Messenger in Paymasters Office and Auditing Bureau.

Bureau for the Collection of Assessments and Arrears of Taxes
and Assessments, and of Water Rents.

- a* Collector of Assessments and clerk of Arrears.
Assistant Collector of Assessments and Clerk of Arrears,
and Bookkeeper.
B Assistant Bookkeeper,
a Cashier,
B Recording Clerk,
Apportionment Clerk,
B Redemption Clerk,
B Examining Clerk,
B 1st. Bill Clerk,
B Bill Clerk,
Part 2 II Examiner,
" " " Interest Examiner.
" " " Assessment Examiner.
f Messenger.

BUREAU FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES.

- a* Receiver of Taxes.
a Deputy receiver,
a Cashier,
a Assistant Cashier,
B Adjustment Clerk,
B Recording Clerk,
B Chief Bill Clerk,
Part 2 II Examiner.

BUREAU FOR THE COLLECTION OF CITY REVENUE AND OF
Markets.

- a* Collector of City Revenue and Supt. of Markets.
B Chief Clerk,
a Clerk of Markets.
B Clerk of Washington and West Washington Mkts.
a Deputy Collector of City Revenue.

CLEANING MARKETS.

- a* Sweeper.
a Cartman.

BUREAU OF THE CHAMBERLAIN.

- a* Chamberlain.

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APPLICATION No.

PATROLMAN.

SCHEDULE C.

NAME

DATE OF EXAMINATION

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SUGGESTIONS.

1. The Police Department.

This Department is practically independent of the supervision of the Comptroller, the financial officer of the City.

The funds required to defray the expenses of the Department are paid in bulk on requisition of the Commissioners, to their Treasurer; and no examination or audit is made by the officers of the Department of Finance of claims against the Police Department.

The Legislature should unify and harmonize the financial administration of the City by making the bills of the Police Department subject to audit and examination by the Finance Department, and make them as well as salaries payable by the Comptroller by warrants drawn by him on the Chamberlain and countersigned by the Mayor.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF DOCKS.

This Department is in need of remedial legislation. Its important functions are necessary to the commercial supremacy of the City; but limitations upon expenditures and safeguards for due economy may well be provided. At the

same time its operations should be certain and uniform, and it should not be crippled for want of necessary means or by reason of defective laws.

This Department was limited by the Charter of 1870 which created it to an expenditure of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum; and the powers and duties of the Commissioners governing it were such as were established and defined by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The Legislature subsequently in the same year elaborated a plan for the government of this Department by which its functions were made exceedingly important and which plan is substantially unchanged to the present time. These important functions it is not now necessary to detail; the financial features of the legislation is all that needs comment.

To meet the expenses of the Department bonds were authorized to be issued by the Comptroller under the direction of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund; and the interest on these bonds was to be met by taxation each year and when the principal sums became due in not less than thirty years after issue of the bonds they were also to be included in the tax levy.

It was provided that no more than three million dollars of these bonds should be issued in any one year.

Under this system the annual expenditure has varied greatly as appears by the following statement of Dock Bonds annually issued from 1870 to 1884.

1870	\$495,000
1871	1005,000
1872	1000,000
1873	194,500
1874	1380,500
1875	875,000
1876	465,000
1877	466,800
1878	488,200
1879	525,000
1880	573,500
1881	1102,500
1882	937,000
1883 1883	770,000
1884	1,775,000

1885 issued in — 700,000
Dec 84

Under the operation of the recent Constitutional Amendment restricting municipal indebtedness, these bonds can no longer be issued. Legislation now becomes necessary to meet the changed condition of things.

The expenditures of this Department should be provided for in the annual tax levy and should be limited to a reasonable sum. I do not think that it should exceed a million dollars per year, and might well be half that amount.

3. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

This Department is a consolidation of functions which were formerly separated, mainly relating to our water supply and to the lighting and paving of streets and care of the sewers and public buildings of the City. Its annual expenditures are large; and its employes and officials numerous.

In my judgment its operations should be much simplified. The collection of revenues derived from the sale and use of water should be entrusted to the Finance Department.

A Department should be created which would have sole control not only of the structures and property connected with the present water supply, but also of the New Croton Aqueduct now entrusted to a special Commission.

Another Department or a single Commissioner should have all or nearly all the other powers of the present Department of Public Works. Here should be massed all those duties connected with the paving, repairing, repaving and lighting of streets. The care of public buildings and the maintenance of the public sewers. If a Bureau of Incumbrances is to appropriately remain in such a Department, the duties of the Bureau of Permits connected with the Mayor's Office should also go there. The present powers of the Department of Public Parks in relation to tunnels and bridges, streets, and avenues and sewerage and drainage in the 23rd & 24th Wards, would be more consistently lodged in the

new Department.

Heads of Topics.

1. Constitutional Amendment concerning Municipal Charters.
2. Exemptions from Taxation.
3. Present system of collecting personal taxes.
4. Abolition of Assessment Commission.
5. Abolition of Armory Board.

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R. D. Rice

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2. Abolition of Armory Board.

4. Abolition of Assessment Commission.

3. Present system of collecting personal taxes.

8. Exemptions from taxation.

Charters.

1. Constitutional Amendment concerning municipal