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**Building Code- Proposed
Changes**

1911

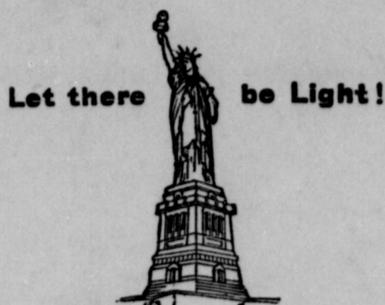
CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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)



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TEL. CORTLANDT 5898-5899

December 28, 1911.

To the Members of the Board of Aldermen
of the City of New York.

Gentlemen:

To pass on practically the last day of the existence of your Board, a building code which has not been published so that it can be examined by the citizens of New York City, would be a violation of every principle which should govern your action on this important subject. Neither the members of your board who are not on your building code committee nor the public can know the contents of the proposed code; to examine it would require time and advice from those whose professional training and practice fits them to pass on the technical matters which such a code must necessarily affect.

While it may be true that the amendments made by the committee have met the objections of the Mayor, there must be opportunity to examine the changes and consider their effect upon the other provisions of the proposed ordinance.

Any building code which is fit to pass cannot suffer from being examined by competent persons before it is enacted. One which is passed in the circumstances under which this proposition comes before you, will always be subject to grave suspicion of its good faith, and instead of settling the rules for the construction of buildings, will only serve to leave the entire matter the subject of further controversy.

(2)

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If the code now proposed will bear examination and find approval as a proper one, it will come before your successors with the presumptions in its favor. To pass it now, after the delays which your board has permitted would raise the presumption that it is done, not in the public interest, but for some private purpose.

It is respectfully suggested that you do not adopt this proposed code at your meeting, but leave the subject to be dealt with by your successors, after due publicity and proper hearings.

Very respectfully,

Committee on Building Code of the
Citizens Union:

H.F.J. Porter, Chairman,

Walter Lindner,

Henry W. Hodge.