

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* January 10, 1896.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
WORKS.

There are seven bureaus in the Department of Public Works, as designated by the Consolidation Act of 1882, viz: the Bureau of Chief Engineer of the Croton Aqueduct, Bureau of Water Purveyor, Bureau of Streets and Roads, Bureau of Lamps and Gas, Bureau of Repairs and Supplies, Bureau of Incumbrances and Bureau of Water Register.

There are also offices not attached to any bureau, viz: the office of the Engineer in Charge of Sewers, the office of the Consulting Engineer and staff, and the office of the assistant engineer in charge of surveys and maps for street openings and new streets.

The organization by bureaus has been handed down from the organization of the former aqueduct department and the former street department, which were consolidated into the Department of Public Works by the charter of 1870.

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF BUREAUS.

Bureau of Chief Engineer of the Croton Aqueduct.

This Bureau has charge of all matters pertaining to the City's water supply, including over 400 square miles of the watershed of the Croton, Bronx and Byram Rivers; the streams, dams, reservoirs, lakes and ponds which are tributary to the City's water supply; the sanitary measures provided by law for the suppression and removal of nuisances in these watersheds which tend to the pollution of the City's water supply; the care, maintenance

and repairs of all dams, reservoirs, conduits and structures for collecting the water supply; the entire system for receiving and distributing the water supply in the City, which, on December 31st, 1895, included 750 miles of water-mains, 7,921 stop-cocks, and 9,882 fire-hydrants; the construction, maintenance and operation of high service pumping works to supply consumers on the ground above the level at which water can be delivered by gravity; the measures for the suppression and prevention of waste of water, the chief of which is the compulsory use of water meters and payment for water at meter rates; the making of surveys of lands and the preparation of maps, etc., for the Aqueduct Commissioners. In addition to these duties, this Bureau is charged with the preparation of plans, contracts and specifications for other engineering works, with the execution of which the Department is charged by special laws from time to time. The number of water-meters in use December 31st, 1895, was 32,329. The force employed on repairs of water-mains, stop-cocks and hydrants is also under the immediate charge of this bureau.

#### Bureau of Water Purveyor.

This Bureau has charge of all work on street pavements south of the Harlem River, except Macadam roadways. On December 31st, 1895, there were 387 miles of paved streets, with an area of 9,143,914 square yards. In 1895 the Bureau laid 89,267 square yards of new granite block pavement, covering more than 10 miles of streets, and 127,093 yards of asphalt, covering about 7-1/2 miles of streets. This Bureau also has charge of regulating and grading streets, curbing and flagging sidewalks, fencing vacant lots and allotment of house numbers. Under

the laws and ordinances, the duty of keeping the sidewalks in proper repair devolves upon the abutting property owners. When complaint is received that any property owner neglects this duty, the Superintendent of Street Improvements notifies the delinquent to make the needed repairs. If the notice is disregarded, the Commissioner of Public Works makes certificate to the Board of Aldermen of the necessity of the repairs as a basis for the adoption of an ordinance directing this Department to do the necessary work, and have the cost assessed on the abutting property. The Bureau of Water Purveyor also issues the permits <sup>for opening streets, and</sup> for street vaults, guy-posts, and for building fires on streets for heating roofing material, subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

#### Bureau of Streets and Roads.

This Bureau has charge of the Macadam roadways and the unpaved streets in the upper part part of the City. There are 22 miles of Macadam roadways, and 65 miles of unpaved streets. The maintenance of the Macadam roadways includes sprinkling in dry weather to prevent dust, and the cultivation and maintenance of shade-trees planted by the City and charged in local assessments.

#### Bureau of Lamps and Gas.

This Bureau has charge of all public lamps, of which there were 25,493 gas lamps, 2,752 electric lamps, 233 naphtha lamps, making a total of 28,477 lamps in use on 623-3/4 miles of streets, including the newly annexed territory, on December 31st, 1895. It has also charge of the service of gas lighting and electric lighting in the municipal buildings and offices.

#### Bureau of Repairs and Supplies.

All municipal buildings, including armories and

markets, but excluding the buildings used by the Board of Education, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Park Department, the Dock Department and the Department of Charities and Correction, are under the charge of this Bureau, in respect to maintenance and repairs. The Bureau is also charged with the furnishing of supplies, furniture and law books for all the courts and municipal offices, and the heating and cleaning of the offices. It also has charge of the 15 free floating baths in respect to all work of construction, superintendence and operation of the baths.

Bureau of Incumbrances.

The duty of this Bureau is to remove and prevent obstructions on all streets and sidewalks in the entire territory of the City, in which there are about 600 miles of streets. The entire force allowed by annual appropriations consists of the superintendent, three clerks and six inspectors.

Bureau of Water Register.

This Bureau is charged with the collection of revenue from the water service. The collections for 1895 are about \$3,508,000.

Office of the Engineer in Charge of Sewers.

This office is practically a separate bureau though not so <sup>designated</sup> ~~stated~~ by statute. It has charge of the entire system of sewerage and drainage south of the Harlem River, which, on December 31st, 1895, included 468 miles of sewers, with 5,549 receiving-basins. From six to ten miles of new sewers are constructed each year in extending the system.

*Charles H. T. Collins*  
 Commr Pub Works

January 11, 1896.

Jan 10.

Organization  
of  
Public Works  
Department



1.

*Department of Public Works*  
*Commissioner's Office*

*No 31 Chambers Street*

*New York*, January 14, 1896. *189*

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor, City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

I notice in your recent annual message that you propose to call the attention of the Board of Aldermen in a special message to the Department of Public Works.

You will permit me to suggest for your consideration whether or not some steps should ~~not~~ be taken during the present year looking to the construction of urinals in various parts of the City. I think of nothing at the moment that would do more to accommodate the people than to make a start in the construction of urinals.

This thought having occurred to me, I take the liberty of presenting it to you for such action as in your judgment you may deem proper.

Yours faithfully,

*W. H. Sewell*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

2.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York, January 23, 1896. 189*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

My dear Mr. Strong:-

In reply to your inquiry as to who pays for the break in the croton water pipe in West 57th Street, I beg to advise you that the Water Purveyor informs me that in such cases the City pays the expense. If a break should occur in the service pipe, the owner of the property to which the service pipe belongs would be required to pay the expense of its repair.

Faithfully yours,

*Atwood*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

N. Y. Dec 27/95

To the Mayor of the City of New York  
Mr Strong

Dear Sir

We the undersigned Citizens  
& Tax Payers of east 52<sup>nd</sup> St  
between 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & the river  
would respectfully ask You if  
You would please have this  
street Asphalted for the  
following reasons, There is an  
Ice Manufacturing Company at the  
foot of this street, whose wagons  
start at 2. O'clock in the morning  
& make such a noise that  
the Tenants in our houses,  
complain about the same, and  
if any rooms are empty, it  
takes sometimes a year before  
they are rented again.

We have had Two Petitions signed  
before and it never come to anything

Would You please try and have  
this done for us.

Oblige  
Yours Respectfully  
V. E. Fredericks.  
Ludwig Linn  
John Motzer  
Geo. Baumann.

Arvis Elbogen  
Anita Nijm  
R. Werner

Christian Bräthaus  
R. Assenheimer  
Henry Lewis  
A. Horstmann  
Rose Stern

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,

31 Chambers Street,

Commissioner's Office.

January 26, 1896.

V. E. Frederick, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Replying to the petition, signed by you and others, for an asphalt pavement on 52nd Street, between 1st Avenue and the East River, I beg leave to inform you that a petition has already been received for an asphalt pavement on 51st Street, from the East River to 4th Avenue. The necessity for asphalt on these parts of 51st and 52nd Streets is almost identical, except that 51st Street has two schools, and the Water Purveyor recommends that the latter street be asphalted this year, and 52nd Street at some subsequent time, our appropriations for asphalt being so limited, and the streets requiring asphalt so numerous, that we cannot pave both streets this year. I concur in his recommendation, and steps will be taken to have 51st Street paved with asphalt from 4th Avenue to the East River as early as practicable.

Very respectfully,



Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Transmitted through the  
Water Purveyor, who will please  
note contents and act accordingly.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

..... January 27, ..... 1896. ....

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of a letter  
(dated 30th ultimo) from your Secretary, with  
a communication signed by V. E. Frederick and  
others, I beg leave to enclose herewith a  
letter addressed by me to Mr Frederick, but  
which cannot be mailed because he gives no  
address and his name is not in the City  
directory.

Very respectfully,



Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosures:

Mr Frederick's letter and  
letter to Mr Frederick.

Copy.

LAW DEPARTMENT,  
Office of the Counsel to the Corporation,  
New York, January 23rd, 1896.

Hon. Charles H. T. Collis,  
Commissioner of Public Works.

S i r:

I have received a letter from yourself, dated the 16th inst., stating that in the course of the construction of the Court Building on West 53rd Street it was found necessary to make a change in the style and pattern of the steam boilers from the upright Babcock boilers, called for in the original contract for the entire building, to horizontal tubular boilers, because the available space in the cellar between the floor and ceiling was not sufficient to admit the Babcock boilers; that by direction of Commissioner Brookfield the architect prepared the specifications for the change, and, with letter of October 16th, 1895, there was submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, for approval, the form of a supplementary contract and specifications stating that the change would involve no additional cost and that the contractor and his sureties had given their consent thereto. The subject was referred to the Comptroller, who subsequently submitted a report that the new boilers would cost \$1,399 less than the Babcock boilers, and that allowance should be made in the supplementary contract for the reduction in cost.

The contractor insists that with or without the change in boilers, he is entitled to the full amount of his contract, and that the change involves other and additional work for him in the construction of flues, etc., for which he was not to be otherwise compensated.

You enclose letter of December 14th to the architect from the contractor, that you speak of as a letter from

the architect, and a letter from the architect of December 16th. Also a letter from Baker, Smith and Co., with reference to the relative cost of Babcock and Wilcox boilers and horizontal tubular boilers; also letters from Mr Graham, Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies, of December 19th and January 13th.

Your question is as to whether or not Contractor Murphy can be compelled to allow a reduction on the contract price for the building in consequence of the change from Babcock and Wilcox boilers to horizontal tubular boilers which would involve a difference in cost in favor of the horizontal tubular boilers of some \$1,399.

I have examined the contract with reference to this work, and find that the contractor is entitled to a lump sum as a consideration of the contract.

If the change from the Babcock boiler to the horizontal boiler is ordered by the City, through the architect and he complies with the order, he is entitled to his full compensation notwithstanding any difference in the cost.

I am  
Yours respectfully,

(Signed) FRANCIS M. SCOTT,

Counsel to the Corporation.

*Department of Public Works*  
*Commissioner's Office*  
*No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* January 27, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r, and  
Chairman, Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Dear Sir:

By letter of October 16th, 1895, I submitted to your Board, for approval and authorization, the form of a contract supplementary to the contract for a Court Building in West 53rd Street and West 54th Street, authorized by chapter 43, Laws of 1892, providing for a change of boilers from the Babcock and Wilcox boilers, called for in the original contract, to horizontal tubular boilers, together with such changes and additional work on flues, smoke-stack, etc., as were involved thereby,

The change was rendered necessary by the unforeseen necessity of laying a very thick cement floor in the cellar and boiler room to keep out subsoil water which was unexpectedly encountered. This diminished the space between floor and ceiling so as not to leave sufficient room for the Babcock and Wilcox boilers, and the horizontal tubular boilers proposed in the supplementary contract were found to be the very best possible substitute. The Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies has reported to me that, for heating purposes, they are superior to the Babcock and Wilcox boilers.

Your Board has deferred action in the matter in consequence of a report by the Comptroller that the cost of the substituted boilers is \$1,299 less than the cost of the Babcock and Wilcox boilers, and that a corresponding allowance or reduction should be made in the

contract price for the building. The fact of such diminished cost is verified by information which I obtained on investigation.

The contractor for the building, however, has declined to make or accept any reduction, and the Counsel to the Corporation has given me his opinion, dated the 23rd inst. (copy enclosed) that the contractor is entitled to the full lump sum of his contract, if the change is duly ordered, notwithstanding any difference in the cost of the boilers.

I would respectfully impress upon your Board the necessity of its immediate action on the proposed supplementary contract, in order that the completion of the building may not be retarded by further delay.

Very respectfully,

*Charles S. D. Collins*  
Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* January 27th 1896.

Dear Sir;

I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., asking for permit to construct two curves to connect your 59th Street tracks with the tracks on Eighth Avenue.

This, I presume, is the initial step to taking physical possession of the tracks of the Eighth Avenue Railway Company.

I am informed that you contemplate at an early day changing the motive power on this line, and upon the Sixth Avenue line, which you have also recently acquired. I therefore think it well to give you my views upon the subject at once, that you may be saved needless and expensive preparations for work, some of which may have to be delayed.

Sixth and Eighth Avenues are two of the most important North and South streets in the City, and are already burthened with their full share of traffic, all of which must be diverted to Seventh Avenue during the period that your new construction takes possession of these streets, excepting that portion of it which may be willing to go out of its way to avail itself of Fifth Avenue. The Seventh Avenue roadway is in such poor condition that it cannot be depended upon to take care of this increased traffic; in fact my repair gangs would have to be kept constantly at work upon it, and this would be an additional embarrassment to travel.

2.

None of this traffic can well be thrown upon the East side, because the Second Avenue Railway Company contemplates changing its motive power this Spring, thus closing another of the great arteries of travel.

I may add that there is a bill before the legislature (not of my suggestion) authorizing me to repave Fifth Avenue from 9th Street to Central Park; and that I am now making surveys looking to the paving of one of the East side Avenues with asphalt, to accommodate the heavy traffic, to and fro, on that side of the City.

These municipal improvements are paramount to the rights of private corporations and cannot halt to suit the convenience of Railway Companies, notwithstanding more rapid transit is desirable. Something, therefore, will have to be postponed, otherwise the traffic on this island will be entirely paralyzed.

Your prompt acquiescence in all suggestions heretofore made to you by me, touching your use of the public highways, justifies the belief that we shall be able to agree that the work proposed by you will be so executed that the minimum inconvenience will be inflicted upon the citizens.

Please, therefore, advise me as early as possible, of some scheme which will accommodate itself to the views herein expressed.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles H.T. Collis,

Commissioner of Public

Works.

H.H. Vreeland, Esq.,  
President, *etc.*, Metropolitan Traction Co.,  
621 Broadway, City.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

.....January 29th.....1896.....

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I enclose you a copy of a letter I wrote some days ago to the Metropolitan Traction Company, touching the demand they are about to make for the occupancy of Sixth and Eighth Avenues, to change the motive power to electricity.

You will observe that it is not at all "aggressive", and will probably produce the result I desire.

I send it to your house, because I am sure you will there find a leisure minute or two to read it.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. D. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* January 31, 1896.

My dear Sir:

Complaints were received at this office during last summer of the custom practised by horse-railroad companies of establishing relay stations in the public streets where large numbers of horses were picketed during the day time to the inconvenience of the public and to the detriment of health and cleanliness.

As these railway companies are all amply able to rent intermediate stables for these horses, it occurs to me that at this season of the year it would be well to advise them that they must provide other means for caring for their animals next summer, and I think most of them would avail themselves of the suggestion.

As many of these licenses have been granted from year to year by the Common Council, I should like very much to receive your authority to notify these companies to make such provision next summer as will render the granting of privileges for horse-relays in the streets unnecessary, and this would deter them from applying to the Common Council where such privileges are always too readily granted.

Very respectfully yours,

*Charles S. D. Collins*  
Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

(List of relay stations enclosed.)

The following is the list of relay stations:

	<u>Locations:</u>
42nd St. & Grand St R. R.	14 St. 100 ft E of 3rd Ave.
Ave B & Dry Dock R R,	Stables 14 St bet. Aves A&B
2nd Ave R. R.,	29th St E of 2nd Ave.
Manhattanville, 42 St & Boul'd R. R.,	Stables 42 St E of 4 Ave.
Eighth Avenue R. R.,	Abingdon Sq., also in the vicinities of 8th Ave and 63rd and 153rd Sts.
Belt Line R. R.,	Battery Park and 14th St., bet. Aves. C. & D.
Sixth Ave. R. R.,	6th Ave. & 8th St., and stables 6th Ave and 44th St.
Seventh Ave. R. R.,	Greenwich Ave. and Perry St.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

..... Feb. 5th 1896 . 189 .....

My dear Sir;

I observe by the morning papers that a Bill is on its passage at Albany, empowering private corporations to tear up pavements to lay pneumatic tubes in this City, for the transmission of letters and parcels.

I have sent for a copy of the Bill.

My object in writing this, is to request that should it come to you for your official action, you will afford me an opportunity of being heard upon the subject.

I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles H. J. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor, etc.,

Office of General Inspector.

ROOM 14.

*Department of Public Works,  
Water Purveyors Office,  
31 Chambers St. Room 4,*

*New York,* February 5th, 1896.

Gen. C. H. T. Collis,

Commissioner of Public Works.

Sir:

In answer to your request for a statement from me as to what occurred at the interview between Mr. Brookfield and myself, and certain men who were importuning him for places, and who have since made public affidavit touching the matter, I beg to submit the following:

Mr. Brookfield sent for me and said: "Mr. Barney I have some persons in Gen. Collis's room who are importuning me for places". I told him that there were no vacancies in my force. He said: "You go in and see those people and tell them what you said to me". I did go into your room, you being absent, saw those men and told them that there were no places vacant or available at the time, but when any vacancy should occur I would notify the Commissioner. I then went into the other room and told Mr. Brookfield that if I had any vacancies to fill I did not think these men would do for the places. We laughed over the matter a little and the subject was dropped.

Very respectfully,

*Charles W. Barney*  
General Inspector.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

.....Feb. 5th 1896. 189.....

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I send you a letter just received from Mr. Barney, touching the matter of some affidavits which have been placed in your hands.

I may say that this Department, whether under Mr. Brookfield's administration or my own, does not fear the result of any investigation you may desire to make, if you deem the allegations worthy thereof.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. Collins*  
*Commissioner*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor, etc.,

Milgram -  
see me Q.

New York Jan 31/96

To the

Hon. Wm. L. Strong

Mayor of N.Y. City

Dear Sir

You will pardon  
me for notifying you in regards  
to a woman in your employ  
as cleaner in City Hall Building  
by name Mrs. Hart, but  
under your employ as  
Annie Mitchell. This  
woman is married over  
Eight years and supports  
a husband who is well  
able to do a hard days  
work. I show no animosity  
toward this woman but  
think some person who

really needs work should  
be entitled to same.

I remain Respt

Yours

Robert King,  
524 - W - 51<sup>st</sup> St.

a Tenant.

Rept Sup

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,

31 Chambers Street,

Commissioner's Office.

February 6, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the enclosed letter, addressed to you by Mr Robert King, 524 West 51st Street, stating that Mrs Annie Mitchell, a cleaner in County Court House, supports a husband who is well able to do a hard day's work and that her place should be given to some person who really needs it, I beg leave to inform you that Mrs Mitchell gave up her position as cleaner on January 31st, and that Mrs Mary Wallace was appointed in her place.

Very respectfully,

*W. C. C.*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

City Sewers,

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,  
Guildhall, E. C.,  
6th February, 1896.

Copy.

To  
Charles H. T. Collis, Esq.,  
Commissioner of Public Works,  
New York.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 21st ultimo, addressed to the Commissioners of Sewers, has been handed to me by the Principal Clerk, and, in reply, I have pleasure in sending you the following information with regard to the wood pavements in the City of London.

These (together with the asphalt pavements in this City) are always laid through the intervention of contractors, and it is the invariable custom of the Commission to enter into a contract for laying the pavement, and for its maintenance by the contractor for two years free of cost, and for fifteen years afterwards at a fixed charge per square yard per annum.

The first cost of the ordinary creosoted wood block pavement, laid upon a foundation of Portland cement concrete, six inches thick, is at the present time about 8s/6d per yard superficial.

The cost of maintenance, which of course differs according to the situation and the amount of traffic in the street, varies from 9d to 1s/ per yard per annum.

The Commission has recently laid out one of the main streets in the City with Jarrah Australian hard wood. The blocks were five inches deep, laid upon a foundation of Portland cement concrete six inches thick. The first cost was 13s/6d per yard superficial, the contractor undertaking to maintain it for two years free of cost and then for fifteen years at 9d per square yard per annum.

With regard to the durability of wood pavement, it is difficult to express an opinion, as the wear and tear varies greatly, as stated above, according to the locality and extent of the traffic, in addition to which, as the pavements are maintained by the contractors for so long a term, it is not customary to keep a detailed record of relays and repairs.

I may, however, state that the wood surface in the main streets has to be relaid once, and sometimes twice, during the contract term of maintenance.

The Jarrah pavement has only just been laid, and no opinion of its durability can, therefore, be formed yet.

With regard to the copies of the specifications, I regret that as they are not printed I am unable to comply with your request, but I send you a copy of the printed form of contract, which embodies nearly all the clauses in the specification.

I remain  
Yours truly,

(Signed) D. J. Ross,

Engineer to the Commissioners of Sewers of  
the City of London.

Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office.

No. 31 Chambers Street,

New York, February 7, 1896. 189

Gen. C. H. T. Collis,

Commissioner of Public Works.

Dear Sir:-

I herewith transmit a comparative statement of the expense of running the Bureau which I am in charge of for similar work for the year 1894, and the year 1895, just expired.

The state of affairs existing in the Bureau when I took charge of it on the first of March, 1895, as shown above in the first part of this statement annexed hereto, shows that \$14,021.20 was the cost of running the Bureau for salaries alone.

For the year 1895, from the first of March to the last of December, the cost of running the Bureau for salaries was \$6492.00, making a saving of \$7529.20 in this one item alone.

Respectfully,

*John C. Graham*

Supt. of Repairs & Supplies.

*Reply referred to the Mayor  
for his information —*

*C. H. T. C.*

Comparative statement of salaries paid employees doing similar work in the Bureau of Repairs & Supplies viz: \_\_\_\_\_

1894

No.	Position	Name	Salary	Salary per year	Total
1	Clerk	J. R. M. Striel	\$2000 <sup>00</sup> per year	2000.00	
1	Foreman (Census) Detached	C. Massey	4 <sup>00</sup> per day 365 days	1460.00	
1	Skilled Labourer	M. H. Heddenkamp	3 <sup>00</sup> " 365 "	1095.00	
1	"	H. O'Donnell	2 <sup>50</sup> " 313 "	782.70	
1	Foreman (Civil Repairs)	R. Youdsburg	4 <sup>00</sup> " 313 "	1252.00	
1	" (Repairs)	J. Daly	4 <sup>00</sup> " 313 "	1252.00	
1	" (Painting)	E. M. Gray	4 <sup>00</sup> " 313 "	1252.00	
1	" (Steam Heating)	R. W. Crocker	5 <sup>00</sup> " 365 "	1825.00	
1	" (Baths)	E. J. Hyde	5 <sup>00</sup> " 365 "	1825.00	
1	"	M. J. Delaney	3 <sup>50</sup> " 365 "	1277.50	\$ 14071.20
<u>1895</u>					
1	Clerk	J. J. Deane	\$1000 <sup>00</sup> per year	1000.00	
1	"	M. H. Heddenkamp	1000 <sup>00</sup> " "	1000.00	
1	"	E. P. Bolander	1000 <sup>00</sup> " "	1000.00	
1	Stenographer & Typewriter	Miss G. L. Brophy	15 <sup>00</sup> " week	780.00	
1	Foreman, Cleaning Public Buildings & Parks	J. Brodie	4 <sup>00</sup> per day 365 days	1460.00	
1	" (Repairs)	J. Stanley	4 <sup>00</sup> " 313 "	1252.00	6492.00
<u>Recapitulation</u>					
Salaries		1894		14021.20	
"		1895		6492.00	
<u>Saving</u>				7529.20	

*Department of Public Works,  
Bureau of Incumbrances,  
31 Chambers Street, Room 16*

*New York, \_\_\_\_\_ 189*

COPY.

Feb. 8, 1896.

Mr. D. H. Pollock,

529 Sixth Ave.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication of Feb 6th transmitted through the Mayor's Office complaining of signs, flags and other obstructions in front of these premises belonging to one Philip H. Schnoter.

I respectfully wish to report that the owner of these obstructions has been notified to remove them, and if the notice is not complied with, within a reasonable time, the same will be taken down and removed to the Corporation Yard.

Respectfully,

(Signed) William Henkel.

Supt. of Incumbrances.

*Department of Public Works,  
Bureau of Incumbrances,  
31 Chambers Street, Room 16*

*New York, \_\_\_\_\_ 189*

Feb. 8, 1896.

Mr. Job E. Hedges,

Secretary.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith copy of the communication sent this day by me to Mr. D. H. Pollock in answer to his complaint of February 6th.

Respectfully,

*William Henkel*

Supt. of Incumbrances.

*Department of Public Works,  
Water Purveyors Office,  
31 Chambers St., Room 1,*

*New York* Feb. 8, 1896

Genl. C. H. T. Collis,

Commissioner of Public Works.

Sir:-

Yesterday afternoon in response to an invitation from Mr. Lewis, the Engineer in Charge of Pavements and Roads in Brooklyn, Mr. Towle and myself went over there. The wind was so high, I did not dare make any extended trip, but we went from the Municipal Building to Rensen Street, and through Rensen Street to Columbia Heights and to Orange, and through Orange to Fulton, with excursions into the side streets.

There is no doubt that the workmanship in New York City is superior to that in Brooklyn, the surfaces being generally better than in Brooklyn. In Rensen Street some compressed rock had been laid near the western end, which had not been successful. The same may be said of a piece laid on 101st Street, in this City, between Lexington and 4th Avenue. The difficulty in each case was that the powder was laid during the extreme cold which we had in November.

On Columbia Heights the Alcatraz Company had laid the whole area, except a short distance, which was laid some six or

*Department of Public Works,  
Water Purveyors Office,  
31 Chambers St. Room 1,*

2 -- Genl. C. H. T. C.

*New York,*

*189*

seven years ago with Kentucky rock. The Kentucky rock, I may say in passing, was standing very well; in fact, I was surprised to see it in such good order and with such small evidence of having been repaired. The work done by the Alcatraz Company I am afraid will result in ultimate failure. The surface seems to be disintegrating, not pitting as some of our pavements do, but to be wearing off generally, either by traffic or the weather, over the whole surface. This is a matter of interest, because the same material has been used by J. J. Cummings & Co., now the California Asphalt Company, on 20th and 21st Street, West Washington Place, Barrow Street, and Spring and Clark Streets, in this City. The work here is eminently satisfactory, and Mr. Lewis thinks that the partial failure in Brooklyn is due to a lack of skill in compounding the paving material.

In Brooklyn, as you know, there is only a five years guarantee, and Mr. Lewis tells me that the law prescribes that he shall pay in full within 30 days from the completion of the work. That, I understand, is also the law in regard to assessment work here. In view of the possibility of a failure through ignorance, either on the part of the Water Purveyor and his in-

Department of Public Works,  
Water Purveyors Office,  
31 Chambers St. Room 1,

3 -- Genl. C. H. T. C.

New York, \_\_\_\_\_ 189

spectors, on the one side, or the contractor, on the other, to lay a pavement which will last, I beg leave to suggest that I be empowered, if it is possible, to draw contracts, with a five years guarantee, prescribing a payment of 85 per cent. on the completion of the work and 3 per cent. per annum for the ensuing years, if the pavement is satisfactory to the Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully,

*Edward D. Ditch*

Water Purveyor.

I may add that Mr. Lewis has driven with me over many of our new Asphalt pavements and is emphatic in his admiration of their surface & general excellence. He repeated this endorsement when Mr. Lusk and myself were in Brooklyn, saying he had sent some of his inspectors over to see the style of work we were getting.

*Ditch.*

*Department of Public Works*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* February 10th 1896.

My dear Mr. Mayor;

Since my recent conversation with you in regard to the relative cost of paving with asphalt in New York and Brooklyn, I have obtained the following information.

In Brooklyn the manner of bidding on such pavements, is by separate items.

- 1st: A price per square yard for the asphalt wearing surface, including the binder.
- 2nd: A price per lineal foot for new curb, where required.
- 3rd: A price per lineal foot for old curb reset.
- 4th: A price per cubic yard of concrete foundation.
- 5th: A price per square foot of new bridgestone.
- 6th: A price per square foot of flagging relaid (adjoining the curb)
- 7th: A price per square yard for relaying the old pavement for a foundation.

The bids received in Brooklyn January 22nd last, were unusually low, and will average:

For wearing surface, of asphalt.....	\$1.11
Curb reset.....	.16
Concrete foundation.....	.80
Flagging.....	.10
	<hr/>
	\$2.17

This was on a guarantee to keep the pavement in repair for a period of five years.

In this City the work is let out as a whole, the contractor in each case bidding for the complete pavement. The last bid was \$2.75 per square yard, on a

2.

guarantee to keep the pavement in repair for five years.

The asphalt required in Brooklyn is one-half inch, (or 20%) thinner than that called for in New York, and the traffic there being much lighter than here, the contractor takes that into consideration in estimating the amount of repairs he will have to put upon the street during the existence of his guarantee.

Our "Consulting Engineer" informs me that at least Fifty-five cents per square yard should be allowed for these two items, which would bring the cost of Brooklyn pavement if laid under the conditions which apply to the New York pavement, up to \$2.72.

I enclose a letter from Mr. North, the Water Purveyor, who has made a personal inspection of the comparative merits of the Brooklyn and New York pavements.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor,  
N.Y. City.

*Department of Public Works,  
Bureau of Incumbrances,  
31 Chambers Street Room 16,*

*New York, \_\_\_\_\_, 188*

Feb. 14, 1896.

General Charles H. T. Collis,  
Commissioner of Public Works.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the enclosed communication relative to the removal of five push-carts from the sidewalk in front of 121 Orchard St. I respectfully wish to state that these wagons were removed during a raid made by this Department during the night time of February 12th.

Numerous complaints are continually being received at this Department in relation to the storing of all kinds of vehicles upon the sidewalks; the most recent of which are from the City Vigilance League of 46 & 48 Ridge St., Mrs. Rebecca Fream of the same Society, and the Police Department.

Upon investigation of these complaints I find wagons, trucks, push-carts, and in fact all kinds of vehicles are stored upon the public sidewalks by the owners of the same to evade the enforcement of the law against them by the Street Cleaning Department, who remove vehicles from the carriageway only.

The storing of vehicles on the sidewalks is one of the most grievous evils encountered by this Bureau in the performance of its duty.

The obstruction of the public sidewalks by these people is not the only reason that complaints are made, but of the great convenience it affords to commit nuisances in these overcrowded districts and in many cases complaints have been received from the Health Department for this reason.

I find in many instances the storing of vehicles on the sidewalk is only done through custom, and not from necessity, as many of the owners who persist in violating the law in this respect have ample room to store these vehicles inside of the building instead of on the sidewalk.

The only remedy to insure the free and clear condition of our sidewalks is a strict and impartial enforcement of the law, and this is never done oppressively.

The five push-carts referred to belonging to Mrs. Rappaport are now in the Corporation Yard, and may be redeemed by the owner by applying at this office for an order for the same, and paying the charges for the cost of removal.

Respectfully,

*William A. ...*

Supt. of Incumbrances.

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,  
31 Chambers Street,  
Commissioner's Office.

Feb. 15th 1896. 189

My dear Sir;

I enclose you a report from Mr. Henkel, Superintendent of the Bureau of Incumbrances, upon the subject of the complaint of Mrs. Rappaport, 121 Orchard Street.

Mr. Henkel informs me that these people have been frequently notified of this violation of the law, which is complained of by the citizens of the neighborhood, but they have utterly disregarded his admonitions.

By degrees we are getting these nuisances abated, and in no case that has come to my knowledge has there been the slightest oppression.

I am, very truly yours,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.

CITY OF NEW YORK.  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

Mrs Rappaport

121. Orchard Street

has had 5 public carts taken  
by the street C Department  
~~there~~ on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> inst  
they were chained to the  
house within the stop line

Three were taken by the  
Bureau of Encumbrances  
Department of Public Works

W. W. W. W.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* February 17th 1896.

My dear Sir;

Some weeks ago a Bill was introduced at Albany, authorizing the pavement of Fifth Avenue with wood, and I deemed it my duty at once to write a letter to the authorities of the City of London, where this pavement has been in use for some years, requesting a copy of the specifications used in inviting proposals.

This morning I am in receipt of a very interesting letter upon that subject from the Commissioner of Sewers of that City.

You will see that the letter incidentally refers to asphalt pavements, which the Commissioner says are always laid on a seventeen years guarantee, at a fixed charge per square yard, per annum for repairs, no charge, however, being made for the first two years.

I presume the first two years constitute the period of their severest test.

It is desirable that you should know this, in view of our recent conversation upon the subject.

Please return me enclosure,

And oblige,

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor,  
N.Y. City.

*I have made a copy of  
Mr Ross' letter which you  
may retain, retaining me  
the original - C.A.T.C.*

LAW DEPARTMENT,  
Office of the Counsel to the Corporation,  
New York, May 18th, 1895.

Copy.

Hon. Charles H. T. Collis,  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a letter dated the 8th inst., asking me to look at the agreement made between the City and the Street Sprinkling Association in order that I may inform you whether it has any greater force and effect than a license, and, if not, whether it is not revocable at the option of the City.

The agreement in question is dated the 26th of April, 1893, and at the time of its execution, the Commissioner of Public Works was authorized by chapter 267 of the laws of 1893, which went into effect on the 4th of April of that year, and which amended section 337 of the Consolidation Act, to "grant a license or privilege to the Street Sprinkling Association for the sprinkling of all streets, avenues, roads and public places under his jurisdiction aforesaid with water from the public supply, for a period not exceeding ten years, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations, and the payment of such annual sum as he (the Commissioner of Public Works) may (might) determine, but not less than the amount now received by said city for said privileges."

Acting in pursuance of this power, a valid contract or agreement, vesting in the Street Sprinkling Association the privilege or license in question was executed. This license is not revocable. This document, although called a "license", contains all the elements of a "contract" and, in my opinion, constituted a valid contract between the City and the Street Sprinkling Association. It was one which the Commissioner of Public Works had legislative power to make, and having been duly made, invested the contractor with certain rights of which he cannot lawfully be deprived without his own consent.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) FRANCIS M. SCOTT,

Counsel to the Corporation.

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,  
31 Chambers Street,  
Commissioner's Office.

March 2nd 1896.

189

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I send you a copy of some  
correspondence had with the Corporation Counsel  
last Spring, in reference to the subject of the  
rights of the Street Sprinkling Association.

I will send you more information upon  
the subject to-morrow, but this in the meantime  
will serve to show you that the matter had not  
escaped my observation.

I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles S. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

Copy.

May 8th,

1895.

My dear Sir:

Will you be kind enough to look at the enclosed agreement made between the City and the Street Sprinkling Association, and inform me whether it has any greater force or effect than a license, and, if so, whether it is not revocable at the option of the party of the first part?

I call your attention to certain words underlined in blue pencil.

I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CHARLES H. T. COLLIS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. Francis M. Scott.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* March 6th 1896.

My dear Sir;

I have received a copy of a Bill introduced at Albany, by, I think, Mr. Featherston, (which I have mislaid) prohibiting the use of foreign asphalt in Cities, for paving purposes.

If this Bill should become a law, it will exclude the production of the Trinidad Lake; the overflow or (Land Asphalt) at Trinidad; the Bermudez from South America, and all European rock asphalt.

This would substantially limit this Department to the production of a single Company, which procures its asphalt, called "alcantrez" from Southern California.

It is true there are other deposits in the United States, but the tests have not yet proved satisfactory.

I ask that you will communicate these facts to Mr. John Proctor Clark, your representative at Albany, that he may protect the interests of the City, when the Committee to whom the Bill is referred, is considering the question.

I am,

Very truly truly,

Charles H.T. Collis.

Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. Francis M. Scott,  
Corporation Counsel.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

..... March 6th 1896. 189 .....

My dear Sir;

I enclose you a copy of a letter this day sent to the Corporation Counsel, upon the subject of a Bill now before the Legislature at Albany, limiting this Department to the use of a single production of asphalt, in the construction of pavements.

If the Bill should become a law, I shall be compelled to deal only with the parties controlling the "alcantrez" deposit in Southern California, and under these circumstances there would be no hope of encouraging any honest competition in the future.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. D. Collis*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street.*

*New York,* March 11, 1896.

Copy.

William H. Einhaus, Esq.,  
22 Maiden Lane.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has forwarded to this Department for attention your letter to him of 2nd inst., complaining of signs at Nos 14 and 15 Maiden Lane.

In reply, I beg leave to say that the Superintendent of Incumbrances has caused an inspection to be made, which shows that the signs extended beyond the limit prescribed by the City Ordinances. The owners of the signs have been notified to remove them or to change their position so that they will be within the prescribed limits. The owners have promised to comply with the notice by moving the signs back within the legal limits as early as practicable.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) A. H. STEELE,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,  
31 Chambers Street,  
Commissioner's Office.

March 11, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a copy of my letter of this date to William H. Einhaus, in reply to the communication addressed by him to you, and by you referred to this Department for attention.

Very respectfully,

*W. C. C. W.*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,

31 Chambers Street,

Commissioner's Office.

March 18, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r .

Dear Sir:

In answer to the letter of 13th inst. from your Secretary, with a communication addressed to you by Mr Henry C. F. Koch, complaining of the bad condition of 7th Avenue, north of Central Park, I beg to say that I have informed Mr Koch that, under contracts which have been entered into, the delivery of material with which to put the Macadam roadways in order will begin about April 15th, when the work of repairing the roads will be vigorously prosecuted by the Bureau of Streets and Roads.

Very respectfully,

*Atwell*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

*City of New York.*  
*Department of Public Works,*  
*31 Chambers Street,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

March 25th 1896. 189

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I find that 87th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, and from the Boulevard to Tenth Avenue, is paved with asphalt blocks; also Manhattan Avenue from 100th Street to 103rd Street.

I have let contracts upon which the work has not yet commenced, for asphalt blocks on 158th Street from 11th Avenue to Boulevard Lafayette; and on 85th Street from the Boulevard to Amsterdam Avenue.

The price per square yard on the latter contracts is \$3.26 and \$3.30. This, you will observe, is much dearer than the sheet asphalt.

Yours very truly,

*Charles F. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

*Department of Public Works.*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street.*

Copy.

*New York,* March 31, 1896.

J. Proctor Clark, Esq.,  
Asst. Counsel to the Corporation.

Dear Sir :

I have received notice from Hon. George C. Austin of a hearing before the Assembly Committee on Cities on Thursday next, the 2nd proximo, on Assembly Bill No 1,270, in relation to the widening and improvement of East 149th Street, between the Southern Boulevard and the Harlem River.

The Bill provides that where the street is now legally opened, sewered, graded, paved or otherwise improved, no part of the cost of widening and improving shall be borne by abutting property, and that such cost shall be a charge on the City.

As the street is now opened, graded, sewered and paved for the entire distance, the Bill would peremptorily place the entire cost of widening and further improvement on the taxpayers at large, and give immunity to the abutting property from assessments which in all other similar cases fall on such property. The Board of Street Opening and Improvement has power, under the present law, to determine the proportion of cost to be assessed on abutting property and on the City respectively, and may place the whole or any part on either. The Board should not be deprived of the opportunity to determine this matter equably after due investigation and deliberation.

I therefore respectfully request that you will use your influence and efforts in opposition to the Bill.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) CHARLES H. T. COLLIS,

Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,*

March 31,

1896

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

I enclose for your approval a copy  
of a letter I have prepared to forward to Mr  
J. Proctor Clark, regarding Assembly Bill  
No 1,270 for the widening and improvement of  
East 149th Street, between the Southern  
Boulevard and the Harlem River.

Yours respectfully,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

# State of New York.

No. 674, 1703.

Int. 595.

## IN ASSEMBLY,

February 5, 1896.

Introduced by Mr. AUSTIN—read once and referred to the committee on affairs of cities — reported from said committee with amendments—ordered reprinted and recommitted to the committee on affairs of cities.

### AN ACT

To provide for the construction, maintenance and operation of certain structures in cities and towns for the promotion of public health and comfort.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 Section 1. It shall be lawful for Alexander De Fosse, and those
- 2 who may now or hereafter be associated with him to locate, erect,
- 3 maintain and operate structures for public lavatories, and
- 4 urinals at convenient points in, upon and along the streets,
- 5 avenues, roads, parks and public places in cities and towns of
- 6 the state, and to exhibit advertisements and signs thereon, sub-
- 7 ject to the restrictions, conditions and limitations hereinafter
- 8 contained and provided.
- 9 § 2. The said grantee and his associates are hereby authorized
- 10 and required within two months after the passage of this act, to

EXPLANATION.—Matter underscored ————— is new; matter in brackets [ ] is  
old law to be omitted.

1 organize as a corporation under the business corporation acts of  
 2 eighteen hundred and ninety-two chapter six hundred and eighty-  
 3 seven, six hundred and eighty-eight and six hundred and ninety-  
 4 one of the legislature, and such corporation when so formed shall  
 5 have all the powers and privileges granted and be subject to all  
 6 of the liabilities imposed by said acts, not inconsistent herewith.

7 § 3. The corporation so to be formed and its successors shall  
 8 have power to issue its bonds or obligations for the construction,  
 9 equipping, maintaining and operating of said lavatories and uri-  
 10 nals to an amount not exceeding the amount of its paid up capital  
 11 stock necessary for such purposes.

12 § 4. The structures so to be erected for urinals shall be and  
 13 remain for free public use, except as aforesaid, and for the  
 14 benefit of the public and for the use of the various depart-  
 15 ments of the respective cities as may be required.

16 § 5. For the use of the structures so to be erected as lavatories,  
 17 a fee may be charged and collected by the said company, not to  
 18 exceed the sum of five cents a person, and which shall include  
 19 together with the use of said lavatories necessary toilet articles  
 20 in connection therewith, as soap, paper, towels, et cetera, and  
 21 attendance, but at least one closet shall at all times be kept and  
 22 maintained for free public use, without charge, in each of said  
 23 lavatories, so to be erected.

24 § 6. The proposed location of all or any of the structures to be  
 25 erected under the authority of this act shall be first submitted  
 26 to and approved by the commissioner of public works, or other

1 similar officer in any city or town, and for that purpose he shall  
 2 permit the said company, its officers or servants to enter upon  
 3 the streets, roads, avenues and public places in said city or town  
 4 to erect and maintain such structures, and to make proper and  
 5 necessary connection for the same with any adjacent sewer, water,  
 6 gas or electric light supply, and any such structures shall after  
 7 their erection be under the care and custody of the said corpora-  
 8 tion, subject to the supervision of the commissioner of public  
 9 works or other similar officer, who is hereby authorized to make  
 10 proper and necessary rules for the use and maintenance of the  
 11 same, subject to the rights of the said company as aforesaid.

12 § 7. Before proceeding to the erection of any of the structures  
 13 herein authorized the plans and specifications therefor shall be  
 14 first presented to and approved by the mayor, or other similar  
 15 officer, of the city or town, in which the structures are about  
 16 to be erected, and in case any such structure shall be  
 17 erected in any public park the said plans and specifications  
 18 shall be first presented to and approved by the commissioner of  
 19 public parks thereof, or other similar officers, and said structures  
 20 shall then be under the care, custody and control of the said  
 21 company subject to the supervision of the department of public  
 22 parks in the city, who are hereby authorized and empowered to  
 23 make proper and necessary rules for the use and management  
 24 thereof.

25 § 8. The entire cost of the construction of the said structures  
 26 shall be borne wholly by said company, and no city or town shall

1 be liable or authorized to contribute, or expend money to aid in  
2 the construction of any of said structures directly or indirectly.

3 § 9. The said structures herein authorized shall be kept by  
4 the said company at all times in a clean wholesome and sanitary  
5 condition, and shall be kept well lighted during the same hours  
6 at night as the public lamps in the cities or towns in which they  
7 may be erected, and they shall also at all times be supplied with  
8 an abundant flow of pure water, and shall be subject to the  
9 inspection of the board of health, or other similar officer, of the  
10 city or town in which they may be located; the cost of maintaining  
11 and operating said structures and of supplying them with water  
12 and light shall be borne entirely by the said company.

13 § 10. All advertisements which shall be exhibited on the said  
14 structures shall be free from any objectionable features, and  
15 shall be on enamelled metal or specially prepared chemical paper  
16 on glass translucent both by day and night, which advertisements  
17 may be subjected to the approval of the proper authority before  
18 exhibition.

19 § 11. The said corporation shall, during the first five years, after  
20 the commencement of the operation of its said franchises within  
21 any of the cities of the state having a population of five hundred  
22 thousand or more, annually on the first day of November, pay  
23 into the treasury of said respective cities in which its structures  
24 are located, to the credit of the sinking fund thereof one per cent.  
25 of its gross receipts for and during the year ending the next pre-  
26 ceding thirtieth day of September; and after the expiration of

1 said five years make a like annual payment into the treasury of  
2 the said respective cities for the credit of said sinking funds of  
3 two per centum instead of one per centum of said gross receipts.  
4 In every other incorporated city or town the local authorities  
5 shall have the right to require the payment annually of such per-  
6 centage of gross receipts not exceeding one per cent. into the  
7 treasury of said city or town, as they may deem proper. In case  
8 the said company shall fail to pay such percentage of its gross  
9 earnings, as aforesaid, after said first day of November, it shall  
10 pay in addition thereto five per cent. a month of such percentage  
11 until paid. The president and treasurer of the company shall,  
12 on or before the first day of November in each year, make a  
13 verified report to the comptroller or treasurer of the city or town  
14 of the gross amount of its receipts for the year ending the next  
15 preceding thirtieth day of September, and the books of said  
16 company shall be open to inspection and examination by said  
17 comptroller, treasurer or his duly appointed agent for the purpose  
18 of ascertaining the correctness of said report as to said gross  
19 receipts. The corporate rights, privileges and franchises  
20 acquired under this act, shall be forfeited to the people of the  
21 state of New York, if the said corporation shall fail to comply  
22 with all the provisions of this section, and upon judgment of  
23 forfeiture rendered in a suit brought in the name of the people or  
24 the attorney-general, shall cease and determine. Any person  
25

1 intentionally making a report as herein provided which shall  
2 be false shall be guilty of perjury.

3 § 12. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed  
4 as binding any city or town in which the said structures may be  
5 placed to contribute in any manner to the expense of maintaining  
6 them except as hereinbefore provided, and further, provided that  
7 the said company shall at all times indemnify and save harmless  
8 any city or town in which said structures may be located from all  
9 costs, damages or expense in any manner arising from their  
10 location, erection, maintenance or use.

11 § 13. The franchises herein granted shall only extend for a  
12 period of thirty years from the passage of this act, and all struc-  
13 tures erected under the provisions of this act shall, after said  
14 period be and become the property of the city or town in which  
15 they may be erected respectively.

16 § 14. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are  
17 hereby repealed.

18 § 15. This act shall take effect immediately.

12

March 30

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,*

March 30th 1896.

My dear Sir;

I desire to call your attention to Bill No. 604, 1703, introduced by Mr. Austin, entitled "An Act to provide for the construction, maintenance and operation of certain structures in cities and towns, for the promotion of public health and comfort".

The placing of public lavatories, etc., in the streets of New York should be absolutely controlled by the City authorities, and not by any private corporation, and a Bill has recently been passed; has been approved by the Mayor of this City, and is in the hands of the Governor for approval, which will inaugurate a system under the control of this Department, which if found to be successful will doubtless be extended by the Legislature in the future.

The scheme referred to has doubtless been introduced by Mr. Austin "by request". A careful reading of it will satisfy you that it is to be used more for advertising purposes than for public comfort, and you are well aware that the present administration is doing its best to gradually enforce the laws and ordinances against the use of lamps and other public property for such purposes.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES H.T. COLLIS.

Commissioner of Public Works.

J. Proctor Clarke, Esq.,  
Albany,  
New York.

City of New York.  
Department of Public Works,  
31 Chambers Street,  
Commissioner's Office.

March 30th 1896

Dear Sir;

I enclose you a copy of a letter that I propose to send to Mr. John Proctor Clarke, Assistant Corporation Counsel, at Albany, if I have your sanction.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. Collins*  
Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor,  
New York.

(copy)  
Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office.

No. 31 Chambers Street,

New York, March 31st, 1869

General Charles H. T. Collis,  
Commissioner of Public Works.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your power of attorney of this date,  
extending my powers for three months from this date.

I have the honor to inform you that I have handed to Mayor  
William L. Strong my resignation as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works,  
bearing date of today, and I am awaiting his action thereon.

Very respectfully,

*At. C. W.*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* March 31st, 1896 ~~189~~

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of City of New York.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

I respectfully tender my resignation of the office of  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Yours faithfully,

*Atwell*

Department of Public Works  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street,

New York, April 1, 1896.

My dear Mr Mayor:

I beg to call your attention to Assembly Bill No 754, upon which there will be a hearing before the House Committee on Cities to-morrow, the 2nd inst., at 3 P. M., entitled "An Act to provide for the construction of a bridge over the Mot Haven Canal at 135th Street in the City of New York."

The Bill provides that the cost of said bridge, which is, in my opinion a benefit only to the immediate locality, shall be charged to the City.

I take the liberty of enclosing a redraft of the Bill, with such amendments as will protect the City from these constant schemes, by special legislation, to put the burden of local improvements upon the taxpayers generally.

The amendments I suggest are underlined.  
of the Act as amended

If you approve, I shall be glad if you will forward the same to Mr J. Proctor Clark at Albany this evening.

I am  
Very truly yours,

*Charles H. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

(Enclosure.)

*Department of Public Works,*

BUREAU OF WATER REGISTER.

Copy.

*New York,* March 4th, 1896.

Hon. C. O. Johnson,  
N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor dated the 1st inst., with bills enclosed for premises #1 and 4 Chatham Sqr., and in reply can only say that I indeed thank you for your very kind attention, and I can further add that in all of my 30 years experience with officials connected with your dept. none have been so prompt, as courteous and kind as you, and the honorable Mr. Mayor Strong is indeed to be congratulated on your appointment.

Thanking you once more, and with my kind regard,

I remain,

Very truly yours,

BENJ. MARKS.

*Department of Public Works,*

BUREAU OF WATER REGISTER.

*New York,* April 6th, 1896.

The Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I take the liberty of enclosing copy of a letter received recently in which you are mentioned.

I have had the pleasure of receiving several letters similar to this one.

Very respectfully,

*Charles J. Mason*

Water Registrar.

*Department of Public Works,*  
*Commissioner's Office,*  
*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* April 7th 1896.

COPY.

J. Proctor Clark, Esq.,  
Asst. Counsel to the Corporation.

Dear Sir;

My attention has been called to Assembly Bill No. 1972, to authorize the Commissioner of Public Works and the Mayor and Common Council of Mount Vernon to enter into a contract to supply that City with water from the Bronx River pipe line. The clause in the Bill providing for arbitration in case of disagreement tends to make a contract compulsory.

The City of New York is in no position to divert any of the water supply which it can obtain from the Bronx and Byram rivers for the supply of any other city or town. That entire supply is now needed for the population of the 23rd and 24th Wards, and, with the prospective growth of that part of the City, the supply will in a few years become inadequate, and will have to be supplemented from the Croton Aqueducts. Furthermore,, the City of Mount Vernon is above the level at which water can be delivered from the Bronx River conduit by gravity.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to oppose the Bill to the best of your ability.

Very respectfully,

(signed) CHARLES H.T. COLLIS.

Commissioner of Public Works.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street,  
New York, April 8, 1896.

My dear Mr Mayor:

I take the liberty of enclosing a  
copy of a letter I have addressed to Mr J. Proctor  
Clark, requesting him to oppose Assembly Bill No 1972.

Yours respectfully,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Enclosure.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* April 10th 1896 *189*

My dear Mr. Mayor;

The meeting of the Aqueduct Commission, on Wednesday next at 3 P.M., will, I think, be of sufficient importance to warrant your presence.

The contractors who are constructing the Croton Dam received notice some time ago that they were not fulfilling their obligations to the satisfaction of the Board, and they have been cited to appear before the Board on Wednesday. Unless they give some better guarantee for the future, it may become necessary to revoke their contract, which is a very serious matter. The contractors are a firm of three persons who are quarreling among themselves.

Perhaps it would be well that you send for Mr. Cannon and have a talk with him upon the subject in advance of the meeting, as he is more familiar with it than I am, and could better advise you.

I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles H. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* April 10, 1896.

Robert Jaffray, Esq.,  
7 West 46th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letters of 4th and 6th inst. to him, complaining of scarcity of water in your house.

In reply, I beg to say that the Chief Engineer of the Croton Aqueduct reports that your house is supplied with water from the high service station at 98th Street, and that the large increase of buildings in that district during the past five years has so greatly increased the consumption of water that the pumping plant is not of sufficient capacity to furnish an adequate supply of water. New high service works at 180th Street and the Harlem River are approaching completion and will be put in operation next month, when the supply and pressure of water will be increased.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*  
*Commissioner's Office,*  
*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* April 11, 1896.

Copy.

Richard H. Ewart, Esq.,  
25 West 39th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 4th inst. to him, referring to your letters of March 9th and 27th to this Department, concerning failure to regularly light the lamps in your block and defects in the asphalt pavement.

The Superintendent of Lamps and Gas reports that on the night of the 8th inst. he visited your block and found all the lamps lighted and giving good light. He also states that he notified the Consolidated Gas Company to repair a lamp in which he found a hole in the side-light, evidently broken by a stone.

The Water Purveyor reports that the defective pavement in 39th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues, has been repaired.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*  
*Commissioner's Office,*  
*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* April 11, 1896.

William Ginger, Esq.,  
218 West 37th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 8th inst., stating that you have complained to the Bureau of Incumbrances in this Department of the erection of an awning at No 619 9th Avenue.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances reports that no action was taken on your complaint because, upon inspection, it was found that the awning was an iron one, and was being erected in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance of the Common Council which permits the erection and maintenance of iron awnings across sidewalks.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* April 11, 1896.

Copy.

Messrs Frederick Hollender and Co.,  
115 Elm Street.

Dear Sirs:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter to him of 1st inst., requesting that a boot-black stand and a fruit-stand be removed from the N. W. corner of Chambers Street and Broadway.

In reply, I would state that, upon receipt of your letter, the owners of the stands referred to were notified to remove them, but failed to do so, whereupon the stands were removed to the Corporation Yard by the Bureau of Incumbrances.

The owner of the fruit-stand has made application to the Board of Aldermen for a permit to maintain his stand, and has a card from the Clerk of the Common Council showing that such an application has been made. It is unusual to remove stands when the owners thereof produce evidence that they have applied to the Common Council for permission to maintain them, but in this case it was found that candy was being sold at the stand in violation of law. The owner of the stand states that he will in future confine the sale of articles strictly to those allowed by permits granted by the Common Council, and if it is found that the provisions of the permit are not violated, this Department will be powerless to interfere.

We are also informed that permits for the erection and permanent maintenance of boot-black stands inside the

2

stoop-line will be issued by the Common Council in accordance with a recent Act of the Legislature.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street*

*New York,* April 16, 1896.

Copy.

H. G. Hardy, Esq.,  
422 West 147th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 2nd inst., concerning the bad condition of the crossings on the north side of 145th Street, between 8th and St. Nicholas Avenues.

In reply, I would say that the Superintendent of Streets has given orders to have these crosswalks kept in good and clean condition in future.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* April 21, 1896.

Messrs Meyers Bros.,  
188 Canal Street.

Dear Sirs:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 9th inst., complaining that there has been placed at the north-west corner of Mulberry and Canal Streets a stand for the sale of soda-water, candies, cigarettes, etc., in violation of law.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances reports that the stand in question is maintained under a permit granted by the Common Council for the sale of soda-water, newspapers, etc., and as no evidence of violation of the permit has been discovered, no action in the matter has been taken by this Department.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
No. 31 Chambers Street

Copy.

New York, April 21, 1896.

Frederick Hollender and Co.,  
115 Elm Street.

Dear Sirs:

The Mayor has referred to this Department your letter to him of 10th inst., stating that the fruit-stand of which you formerly complained has been replaced upon the open sidewalk grating over your basement-store at Nos 71 and 73 Chambers Street.

In reply, I would inform you that the fruit-stand in question is now maintained in accordance with a permit granted by the Common Council, and that so long as that permit is in force, this Department cannot interfere in the matter.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* April 21, 1896.

H. Ungrich, jr., Esq.,  
107 West 124th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has transmitted to this Department for attention your letter of 10th inst. to him, complaining of wooden buildings encroaching on the sidewalk at the north-west corner of 123rd Street and Pleasant Avenue.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances is investigating the matter, and proper steps will be taken to insure the removal of the encroachments as early as practicable.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

Copy.

~~150 Nassau Street~~  
150 Nassau Street,

*New York,* April 30, 1896.

William A. Soles, Esq.,  
President,  
Park Avenue Property Owners' Protective Association,  
1691 Park Avenue.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 21st inst., concerning the condition of Park Avenue, from 98th Street north to the Harlem River.

The Water Purveyor reports that from 98th to 102nd Street the avenue is not paved, no ordinance for that improvement having been passed. The rest of the avenue is under the general control of the Park Avenue Improvement Commission. The pavement is dilapidated partly through their operations, and partly by natural wear. The Water Purveyor understands that about the 15th of May the new steel structure will be put in use, and that the Park Avenue Improvement Board propose to remove the present obstruction and fill up the roadway where it has been cut, they being charged with paving the whole area with granite.

The matter of insufficient lighting is being attended to by the Superintendent of Lamps and Gas.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.



NEW YORK CITY CIVIL SERVICE BOARDS,  
NEW CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING

COMMISSIONERS.  
EVERETT P. WHEELER, CHAIRMAN.  
EDWIN L. GODKIN,  
EDMUND RANDOLPH ROBINSON,  
CHARLES W. WATSON,  
J. VAN VECHTEN OLCOTT,  
S. WILLIAM BRISCOE,  
SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

NEW YORK, May 13, 1896. 1896

General Charles H. T. Collis,  
Commissioner of Public Works,  
No. 150 Nassau Street,  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your communication of  
May 7, in regard to J. J. Mehegan, and to inform you that I read  
the same to the Commissioners, at a meeting held on the 11th instant

The Board instructed me to state, that it was not within  
their power to make exception in the case of Mehegan, as requested.

Respectfully yours,

*S. William Briscoe*

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office,

150 Nassau Street,

New York, May 25th 1896. 189

My dear Mr. Mayor;

You will remember the case of J.J. Mehegan, the son of the man who lost his life by falling from a window in the Register's Building.

I have, with your consent, made an effort to have the son certified to me by the Civil Service Commission, so that he might take the place of his father, but you will see by the enclosed communication that the Civil Service Board declines to do it.

Perhaps if you see Mr. Watson we can bring it about. This is a most deserving case, and appeals to my sympathy.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. D. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

150 Nassau Street,

*New York,* May 26, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

On the accompanying report of the Committee on Law Department, and the report of the Committee on Finance, to amend Section 195 of Chapter 6, Article 10 of the Revised Ordinances, so as to no longer classify as vaults "openings which are used exclusively for light and ventilation, and which openings shall not be in width more than four feet in the clear from the house-line, and which shall be covered with an iron railing or such other suitable material as may be satisfactory to the head of the City department granting the permit," I have the honor to report that the portion of the amendment which allows other suitable material as well as iron railing to be placed over an opening commonly known as an area, would permit the placing of patent lights, and then no charge could be made. As the revenue from this source amounted last year to about \$50,000, it seems that the proposed amendment should not be approved.

Very respectfully,

*Howard Thomas Wells*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* May 27th 1896. *189*

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I opened bids to-day for asphalt paving, and the successful bids were \$2.93, \$2.94 and \$2.98. This is the lowest price ever bid.

The successful bidders are the Barber Asphalt Company and the California Asphalt Company, both good contractors.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* May 29th 1896. *189*

My dear Mr. Mayor;

A day or two ago you handed me a remonstrance from citizens in regard to the condition of the sidewalk in front of Nos. 2 and 4 Norfolk Street.

I have had the subject examined, and enclose you Mr. Henkel's report thereon.

It appears that we have repeatedly given attention to this matter, but have been defied, so I directed that all the obstructions should be removed to the Corporation Yard.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. D. Collis*  
*Comr.*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office, City.

*Department of Public Works,  
Bureau of Incumbrances,  
150 Nassau St.,*

*New York,* May 29, 1896 *189*

Gen. C. H. T. Collis,

Commissioner of Public Works.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to report that the obstructions complained of at 1, 2 & 4 Norfolk St. consisting of old furniture, store-fixtures, stands, awnings, &c. have been removed to the Corporation Yard, and the sidewalks are now free and clear.

The premises 1 & 2 Norfolk St. are occupied as a second-hand furniture store and the goods are constantly displayed on the sidewalk. Repeated warnings to keep the sidewalk clear seem futile, and many seizures have been made heretofore.

I shall however cause a re-inspection of the place to be made as often as the duties of the office will permit and remove all obstructions from there.

Respectfully,  
*William Henkel*  
Supt of Incumbrances.