

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, October 2nd, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

In regard to the premises known as Union Park Athletic Club, 133rd St. and Willis Ave., upon which you requested report in your communication of the 29th ult., would say that it is necessary that certain alterations be made to comply with the rules of this Department, therefore, license should be withheld until such alterations are made, of which due notice will be sent you.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dict. R. O' B.)

46

Dear Sir:-

In regard to the premises known as Union Park Athletic

Club, 135th St. and Willis Ave., upon which you requested report in

your communication of the 23rd ult., would say that it is necessary

that certain alterations be made to comply with the rules of this

Department, the same should be withheld until such alter-

tions are made, of which due notice will be sent you.

Yours respectfully,

Sup't of Bldgs.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

New York, October 3rd, 1896.

M

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Finding that there has been a great deal of what is not fireproof construction passed as fireproof construction in many of our buildings, which under the law are called for to be fireproof, and appreciating the great risk and danger arising from this in the future, I determined to have the matter settled by comparative fireproof tests of materials, as used in construction. As this could be done without any cost to the city, I at once inaugurated said tests and same are now being carried on in the lots at the N. E. Corner of 68th St. and Avenue A and Corner of 82nd Street and Western Boulevard, under the direction and supervision of this Department and the Board of Examiners, representing the Fire Department, the Board of Fire Underwriters, the New York Chapter American Institute of Architects, the Mechanic and Traders Exchange, the Society of Architectural Iron Workers, the Real Estate Owners and Builders Association and the Real Estate Exchange, Limited.

As you will readily realize the importance of this to the public and to the different manufacturers and builders of the city, I know you will appreciate my action.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

Building Trades Club.

117 EAST 23^D ST. N.Y.

October 5th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

The Marble Industry Employers Association, in meeting assembled, would respectfully commend to you the administration of the Building Department of New York City, under the superintendence of Steven son Constable, Esq., and request of you that you pass favorably upon his request for an increased appropriation for this Department for the year 1897.

Under the present administration, with the moderate sum at his disposal, Mr. Constable has been able to carry out in a measure the reforms contemplated by him, and with the larger means at his command we are sure of greater efficiency in the Department work, and, therefore, a greater benefit to the Building Industry of this city.

The fact that there has been a vast improvement in the management and work of the Building Department leads us, as representative firms engaged in the manufacturing of marble in this city, irrespective of politics, to write to you this letter of commendation.

Very respectfully,

Knowles, Broo

P. Foley

Pharm + Chem

Walker Free Press

Print

Wm. K. Ferry.
Secy.

Secy.

Plushkin

David M. Leophardt.

Samuel Bailey & Son

Followed.

Ed. L. L. L. L.

Under the present administration, with the moderate sum at his disposal, Mr. Constable has been able to carry out in a measure the reforms contemplated by him, and with the larger means at his command we are sure of greater efficiency in the Department work, and, therefore, a greater benefit to the Building Industry of this city.

The fact that there has been a vast improvement in the management and work of the Building Department leads us, as representative firms engaged in the manufacturing of marble in this city, irrespective of politics, to write to you this letter of commendation.

Very respectfully,

Knowles Bros
 Foley
 Munroe & Co
 Waller F. Fee
 Trust
 Wm. K. Ferry
 Secy.
 Atkinson
 Jacob M. Leophardt
 Saul Bailey & Son
 H. M. Ward
 Rock & Smith
 Murray
 H. & S. Bailey
 John Brothman
 Emil Smith
 McHatty & Son
 S. Jackson
 Allen Kitson & Co
 John & Leeway & Bros
 J. & Maynard
 F. & D. Nanny
 G. C. Jones, Son
 Taber & Co

2

Comtable

October 24th 1888

Hon. William T. Spencer

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 8th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I received this morning from the Chief of Police copies of papers forwarded by you to the Police Board, in regard to careless blasting in the neighborhood of #179 West 76th St., indicating the desire to have the matter investigated by the Police Board.

The legal action in this matter would require that the contractor doing the work should obtain a permit from the Bureau of Combustibles in the Fire Department, filing bonds, etc. with the said Department, who also issue a direct specification covering the method of blasting, chaining, logging, etc.

I thought it might be interesting to Your Honor to have these points, in case you desire to look further into the subject. I would further add that I try to obtain through my inspectors any information in regard to blasting, as it is frequently the cause of racking or cracking or making dangerous adjoining buildings, and in several cases I have been forced to make complaint to the Bureau of Combustibles in regard to reckless blasting.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

418

NEW YORK OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HON. WILLIAM F. SLOAN

BA

RECEIVED
TELEPHONE COMPANY

S. M. COOPER

26 360 BOSTON

TELEPHONE COMPANY

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 9, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find two copies of the Rules and Regulations of this Department, compiled in accordance with the law governing this Department, for plumbing, drainage, water supply, etc. in this city.

The said rules and regulations have never been published and have always been kept in the Department. This I considered a great mistake as those dealing with the Department and the public have a perfect right to know the requirements of the Department.

Therefore, I insisted after consultation with the architects, Master and Journeyman Plumbers that the last Legislature should make it legal to publish same, which has been done in the enclosed pamphlets.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc. 2)

in the enclosed pamphlets.

49.

INDICES

INDEX

October 3, 1898.

Department of Buildings of the City of New York,

No. 220 FOURTH AVENUE, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF 18TH STREET.

New York, October 8th 1896

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSAFE BUILDING,

Number S 1143 to 1151 Madison Avenue
and 49 to 63 East 85th Street

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City
of New York, Owners

You will please take notice that the building

situated on the front of the lot on
 the North side of East 85th Street commencing
 about on feet from the Northeast corner of East 85th Street
 and Madison Avenue being a 5 story brick building, about
185 feet front, 185 feet rear, 110 feet
 deep, 65 feet high, and occupied as a Grammar School No. 6
 and known as No. S 1143 to 1151 Madison Avenue and 49 to 63 East 85th Street, in the City of New York,

has been reported to me as unsafe and dangerous in the following respects, to wit:

In that by reason of excavation on adjoining property,
the Easterly wall of building and fence walls are
in an unsafe condition.

You are therefore required to make same safe and secure by
doing all necessary shoring, and underpin the said
walls to the depth of the adjoining foundation forthwith,

You will also take notice that unless you immediately certify to the Superintendent of Buildings, your assent or refusal to secure or remove said building, a survey will be ordered to be held thereon, as the law directs, and all costs and expenses incurred therein will become a lien on said building.

Stevenson Crestable
 Superintendent of Buildings.

10

Form 33—1896.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Record No. 2763/96

NOTICE RELATING TO UNSAFE BUILDING.

To

Hon. William L. Strong
"Mayor"

Residence

Business

City Hall

BRING THIS NOTICE WITH YOU.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 10, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 9th inst, enclosing complaint of "A Large Property Owner", concerning building at 84th Street and Third Ave .

The matter will receive immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

50.

October 10, 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 14, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with examination of the New Murray Hill Theatre, East Side of Lexington Ave. between 41st and 42nd Streets, as previous to their opening on Monday, they have agreed to remove the various violations existing against the said building, license can be issued.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

51

OFFICE OF THE
SHERIFF

CLERK OF THE COURT

1878

October 14, 1896

Department of Buildings of the City of New York.

No. 220 FOURTH AVENUE, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF 18th STREET,

New York, Oct 15th 1896

To Lucas Brothers

"owners"

You will please take notice that there exists a violation of Chapter 410, Laws of 1882, and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, at the premises hereinafter described, in that

of making alterations. Putting up new show windows intended to exhibit dry goods and extending same 12 inches beyond the building line in violation of Law also cutting openings in brick walls on 1st story and not yet having received an approved permit for the same

The building and premises to which this notice refers are situated on the

Front of the lot on the *West* side of
3rd Avenue commencing about *50* feet from
 the *South West* corner of *124th Street* and
3rd Avenue, and known as Number *2286 Third Avenue*
 said building being *2* story *Brick* building, about *25*
 feet front, *25* feet rear, *96* feet deep, and _____ feet high, and
 occupied or intended to be occupied as a *Dry Goods Store* and located in the City of New York.

By the commission of the said violation you have incurred a penalty of Fifty Dollars.

Should you fail to comply with this notice within ten days after the service thereof, you will incur a further penalty of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars.

You are hereby required to remove said violation forthwith, or legal proceedings will be commenced against you.

Stephen J. Coostable

Superintendent of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Rep. No. *4883*

NOTICE TO REMOVE VIOLATION.

To

Lucas Brothers, "owners"

Residence

Business *# 2288 Third Avenue*

BRING THIS NOTICE WITH YOU.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, — October 16th, 1896. *At*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I see by the various papers this morning that what little discussion took place before your Honorable Board yesterday, in regard to Civil Service, has been generally misstated. This you of course, having been present, will readily see.

I wish to place on record that I thoroughly approve and believe in Civil Service, when properly and thoroughly handled, and with the co-operation of the head of any Department with the honest intention of trying to aid Civil Service in accomplishing its purpose, there is no question as to its being the proper method, under existing political complications that frequently arise, of securing good and efficient employees in the various City Departments.

From and through Civil Service have come the best men in my Department and some of the poorest, and if proper wages were paid by this Department, a different class of men would apply to Civil Service and consequently a better class of men would come up qualified for appointment in this Department.

I simply wish Your Honor to understand my position in this matter without a question. As to the details and methods of Civil

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE
SUPERINTENDENT.

New York, _____

W.L.S.#2

Service, you well know that there never was any Department or Branch of a Department, but there were improvements and changes which experience would develop and make necessary.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 16, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 15th inst, requesting report on premises known as Worth's Museum, Sixth Avenue and Thirtieth Street, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts, has been made.

In reply I would state that the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B..)

53

DE BUREAU

THE AMERICAN

1871

October 16, 1886.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

M.
New York, October 16, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

I have your communication of the 14th inst, in which you state that a complaint has been filed at your office relative to "buildings on the South side of East 84th Street, in the rear of 1437 Eighth Ave." *3d Ave.*

If you will kindly furnish me with the correct location, I shall give same my immediate attention.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

Have sent to 1437-8th ave - but south side of East 84th St - must be incorrect - S.C.

54

OF BUILDINGS

THE BUILDING

THE BUILDING

October 16, 1888

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

OK.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

N.
New York, October 16, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In brief, the report made upon the premises #398 First Ave., by Inspector P. C. Spence, of this Department, of building desired to be altered to a lodging-house by the Public Charities Commission of this city, states as follows:

According to law, the first tier of beams would require to be fireproof.

The building covers the entire lot, not allowing for the Light & Ventilation required by law.

The fire-escapes are insufficient.

Means of egress are insufficient.

The large central well hole, 5 x 12, feet, is not fireproof.

I will advise you further in regard to this matter, upon receipt of the plans and papers.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

55

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

1817 ST.

October 18, 1955

New York

Mason Builders' Association,

C. A. COWEN, SEC.,

289 FOURTH AVENUE.

"Telephone Call, 1701-18th Str."

New York, October 19th, 1896

R E S O L V E D, By the Mason Builders' Association
in regular meeting assembled:

F I R S T, We endorse the present administration of
the Building Department, and are convinced of its integrity and
honesty of purpose:

S E C O N D, Appreciating that the lack of Finances
is crippling this Department and seriously hampering its effi-
ciency, we urge that the additional appropriation asked for by
the Department of Buildings, be granted by the Board of Estimate
and Apportionment for the year 1897:

T H I R D, That a copy of the above Resolutions
shall be forwarded to his Honor, the Mayor.

Chas. A. Cowen

Secretary.

John B. Smith

President.

20

#220 Fourth Ave.,

New York.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to yours of the 21st inst, introducing Judge Howland. would say I had the pleasure of a long interview with the gentleman and went carefully over all the points in relation to the matter, about which he desired information, and I think I thoroughly explained the situation of the case to his complete satisfaction.

I did not call at your office today, as you desired in reference to this

matter, as Judge Howland said he would see you personally, and as I had very important matters to attend to in the Department.

Yours respectfully,

Stephen B. Eastabrook
Sup't of B'ldgs.

October 21, 1896.

56

Don't let

Department.

important matters to be

see how personally and

matters, as things happen

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

H.J.H.

New York, Oct. 22, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

In answer to yours of October 13th, I beg to state that as the Consolidation Act, Section 1080, states as follows,

"Personal service of the summons in an action against the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the City of New York must be made by delivering a copy thereof within the state to the mayor, comptroller, or counsel to the corporation", and as I had found that any paper in any action against the city has always received prompt attention when served upon your Honor and in accordance with the above Act, I therefore have acted as heretofore.

I will now arrange to serve upon one of the other officials as the law directs and in duplicate to the particular Department against which the action is necessary.

Hoping this will be satisfactory, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

57

Oct. 22, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

S. A. U.

New York, Oct. 23, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

In compliance with the provisions of Section 49, Chapter 410, Laws of 1882, and Chapter 275, Laws of 1892, I have the honor herewith to submit my report of the operations of this Department for the Quarter ending September 30th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

58

FOR THE CHURCHES AND
HONOR DELEGATES TO THE
CHURCHES AND DELEGATES OF

DEAR SIR:--

MEMORIAL OF THE CHURCH
HON. WILLIAM T. STANLEY

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

New York, October 26, 1896. *M*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your communication of the 24th inst, would state I have forwarded to Mr. A. F. Everett, #21 South 12th St., Ann Harbor, Michigan, a copy of the Building Laws of this Department, as you desire.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

59

OF BUILDINGS

THE ARCHITECT

R 1871 ST

October 26, 1895

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



H.J.H.

New York, Oct. 28th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Noting that the lessees of 728 Broadway, known as the Broadway Athletic Club, have advertised for an exhibition to be given there on Friday evening, October 30th, and as they have not as yet complied with the laws governing such a building and in case of panic, serious accident and loss of life might result, I have given them formal notification that unless, immediately complied with, I would take immediate steps to prevent the use of said building on that night.

The same parties have given me the same trouble across the Harlem in a great frame structure they have there, but finding I was determined to do my duty and not allow any risk from accident, they are about conforming to the law.

Their action in this matter has been so gross and the risk is so great that I ask your Honor's support in case of necessity.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

60

Oct. 28th, 1893.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, October 31, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In confirmation of my telephone message to your office yesterday evening, in regard to the Broadway Athletic Club, #728 Broadway, I would state that the said building has been made to conform to the requirements of this Department.

Thanking you for your prompt action in this matter, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

OCTOBER 21, 1888

INDICES

19

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

New York,

November 2, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

It is with pleasure I report that by the prompt action of our volunteer emergency corps, we were enabled between Saturday night and Sunday morning to prevent what might have been a very serious accident at #508 Broome St.

So prompt has Mr. Galligan been in this work that I feel it but right that I should call it to Your Honor's attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

P.S.-

T. P. Galligan & Son,
Emergency Corps, Building Department.

62

November 2, 1895.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, November 4, 1896..

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 2nd inst, requesting report on premises known as the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, Madison Avenue and Forty-fifth Street, for which application for license to give theatrical performances, has been made.

In reply I would state that the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

63

November 4, 1886.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

M.
New York, November 7, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In confirmation of telephone message and in accordance with your request for report on the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, situated on Madison Avenue and 45th Street, I beg to state that upon examination I find that concert hall license can be granted.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

P. S.- The hall is unsuited for theatrical license as it now stands.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

64

November 7, 1898.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, November 9, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 7th inst, requesting report on premises known as the New York Athletic Club, 55th Street and Sixth Avenue, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts, has been made.

In reply I would state that the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

65

November 9, 1888.

Stron

or of

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, November 12, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 11th inst, requesting report on premises known as Majestic Hall, located at #125 East 125th Street, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts, has been made.

In reply I would state that the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

66

November 12, 1886

STON

NOV 12

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, November 12, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have been forced to increase the hours of this Department one hour daily to try and keep up with the work of the Department. I notify you of this as there has been some little dissatisfaction among some of the employees, and if any complaints should come to you, you will understand the case.

The hours of the Department are now from nine to five o'clock.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

67

DRUGS

November 18, 1876

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



New York, November 12/1906. MA

BW

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to report to you the good fortune in there having been no loss of life in the collapse of the old buildings, #35/7 Vesey Street.

As I reported to the Board of Apportionment, in regard to this class of building, there are hundreds of them in the city in which from age, change of occupancy and use, improper repairs, etc. the slightest overloading is liable to cause just such an accident, and as already there have been a number since I have been here, and likely to be many more, you can readily see how important this matter is, and proves the importance of a block to block inspection, especially in certain sections, as soon as possible.

I find the adjoining buildings, #31/3 Vesey Street, also in unsafe condition and am taking immediate measures to prevent accident there.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

68

November 13, 1968

CITY OF NEW YORK.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

Nov 7 1896

Hon. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor.

Sir:

I herewith make application for a License to
give ~~local instrumental concerts~~ *Ref. Musical*

as provided by Section 1998 of the Consolidation Act, on

the premises located and known as *N.Y. Athletic*

Club, 55 W 46 St Street,

in the City of New York. No wines or liquors to be
sold on the premises.

Very respectfully,

Edward J. Strick

Captain C.Y.A.C.

*Wrote S.
Nov. 7/96*

*147
148*

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M
New York, November 14, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with request for report on premises known
the New York Athletic Club, 55th Street and Sixth Avenue, who have
made application for a license to give vocal and instrumental concerts,
I beg to state that upon examination I find that license can be granted.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

69

INDICES

November 14, 1896

FOR WILLIAM L. S.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, November 18, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with request for report on premises known as Majestic Hall, located at 125 East 125th Street, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts has been made, I beg to state that upon examination, I find that license can be granted, provided fire-escape is erected on the 125th Street front, as per order pending in this Department, No.1367/'95.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B,ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

22

November 18, 1898.

CITY OF NEW YORK.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

Nov. 17 1896.

Hon. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor.

Sir:

I herewith make application for a License to
give *social instrumental excise*
as provided by Section 1998 of the Consolidation Act, on
the premises located and known as *Casino*
Mace Hall 127 St + 25 St Street,
in the City of New York. No wines or liquors to be
sold on the premises.

Very respectfully,

Herman Dege
Noted
S. Comstock Nov 17/96

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

New York, November 18, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 17th inst, requesting report on premises known as "The Casino", located at 127th Street and Second Avenue, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts, has been made.

In reply I would state that the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

M.
New York, November 19, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to inquiry in regard to premises known as "The Casino" located at 127th Street and Second Avenue, would say that no license should be granted to said building, until the various changes required to make same safe for the purposes for which they intend to use them, have been complied with.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of Bldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

183.

Rev. William A. B. B.

THE NEW YORK COMPANY

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

M.
New York, November 21, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 20th inst, requesting report on the premises known as the Polo Athletic Club, located at Eighth Ave. and 155th Street, for which application for license to give vocal and instrumental concerts and athletic performances, has been made.

In answer I would state the matter will be given immediate attention.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

70

DEPT

62

November 21, 1896

Strong,

Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

S. A. U.

M.
New York, Nov. 24, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

If a Mr. William J. Tiernan of No. 313 West 27th St. makes any complaint of not being able to obtain a position here, complaining of this Department or Civil Service, the explanation is that he has never been certified by Civil Service for a position in this Department and consequently could not be appointed.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

71

Nov. 24, 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S. A. U.

New York, Nov. 30, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

I submit herewith a statement showing the present organization of this Department, and also a synopsis of its operations for the Week ending November 28th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S. A. U.

New York,

Nov. 30, 1896.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYEES & DUTIES.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Assistants.</u>
Superintendent -- Stevenson Constable --	1	
<u>General</u>		
Clerks, Stenographers & Assistants		12
1st Deputy Superintendent -- L. F. J. Weiher, Jr. --	1	
<u>General Supervision</u>		
Clerks and Assistants		5
Acting 2nd Deputy Superintendent -- F. M. Rutherford -	1	
<u>General Inspection.</u> <u>Branch Office.</u>		
Assistant		1
-----0000000-----		
<u>City South of Harlem River divided -- 35 Districts.</u>		
Chief District Inspector -- John O'Connor --	1	
Clerks		2
District Inspectors		35
Chief Special Inspector -- Henry H. Swinburne --	1	
Special Inspectors		11
Clerks		2
Office Boy		1

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



(2) *New York*

Officers Assistants

5

69

Branch Office.

City North of Harlem River divided -- 8 Districts.

Chief Inspector -- August Birnstiel --

1

Inspectors

11

Plumbing Inspectors

6

Clerks

4

Messengers

3

Cleaner

1

Chief Clerk -- William H. Class --

1

General Clerical Force

Clerk-stenographer

1

Statistical Clerk

1

Timekeeper Clerk

1

Assistant "

1

Unsafe Building Clerk -- Franklin P. Duffey --

1

Assistants

4

Plan Clerk -- Phillip J. McKinley --

1

Assistants

4

Violation Clerk -- Thomas J. McCabe --

1

Assistants

7

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

(5) *New York,*

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Assistants</u>
	7	116
Fire Escape Clerk -- Washington Parker --		1
Assistants		2
Chief Messenger -- George Morgan --		1
Messengers, General Help		16
Cleaners		3
Chief Examiner -- Fred E. Wilcox --	1	
Assistants		4
Iron & Steel Inspectors		10
Elevator Inspectors		4
Clerk		1
Chief Engineer -- William W. Ewing --	1	
Assistants		6
Chief Plumbing Inspector -- John T. Corcoran --		
Examiners		2
Inspectors		11
Clerks		2

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



(4) *New York,* _____

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Assistants</u>
	9	179
Attorney -- John Vinton Dahlgren --	1	
Assistants		5
Stenographers		2
Clerks		5
Office Boy	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u> <u>192</u>

-----000000-----

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S. A. U.

New York, Nov. 30, 1896.

Synopsis of Operations for the Week ending Nov. 28, 1896.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	14
Estimated Cost	\$1,246,200.
Plans filed for New Buildings, - Branch Office	13
Estimated Cost	\$305,850.
Plans filed for Alterations, - Main Office	12
Estimated Cost	\$24,624.
Plans filed for Alterations, - Branch Office	5
Estimated Cost	\$2,100.
Buildings reported as unsafe	54
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	15
Other violations of the law reported	194
Unsafe Building Notices Issued	96
Fire Escape Notices Issued	20
Violation Notices Issued	272
Fire Escape Cases forwarded for prosecution	12
Violation Cases forwarded for prosecution	73
Complaints lodged with the Department	53
Iron & Steel Inspections made	5666

-----0000000-----

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

BW



New York,

I am carefully following up the report made to you six weeks ago of the various conditions likely to result from the depth of foundations and constructions now in use and the likelihood of damage to properties in the vicinity of same. Am finding constant confirmation of the need of most careful action being taken to prevent settlements in buildings adjacent to or near excavations for the larger class of buildings.

Finding that it was impossible for the inspectors to carry the plans and papers connected with buildings with them, I am establishing a method of photography by which I shall be enabled to give them a small copy which will be of great help in their work, and expect in a few days to have perfected the system, so if after the first of the year, sufficient means be allowed, a great saving in time and increased accuracy will be accomplished.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable

Sup't of B'ldgs.

against

WILLIAM L. FINDLEY,
Attorney to Fire Department,

Nos. 157 and 159 East 67th Street,

New York.

Department of Buildings.

194.

Organization

— and —

Synopsis of Operations

— for —

Week ending Nov. 28. 1896.

#220 Fourth Ave.
New York.

December 2, 1896.

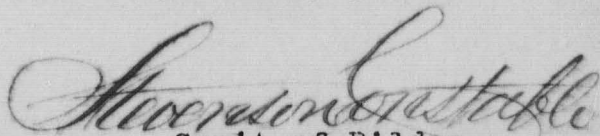
Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to
acknowledge receipt of your letter
of the 29th ult. introducing Mr. Joseph
Richardson, who called here today.

You may always count upon my
showing all due attention to any citizen
who may call on me.

Respectfully yours,


Sup't of B'ldgs.

73

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 7, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

I submit herewith a synopsis of the Operations of
this Department for the week ending December 5th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

75.

Dec. 7, 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 7, 1896.

Synopsis of Operations for the Week ending Dec. 5, 1896.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	18
Estimated Cost	\$359,800.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	14
Estimated Cost	\$53,000.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	27
Estimated Cost	\$73,240.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	8
Estimated Cost	\$10,150.
Buildings reported as unsafe	62
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	25
Other violations of the law reported	121
Unsafe Building Notices issued	126
Fire Escape Notices issued	32
Violation Notices issued	392
Fire Escape Cases forwarded for prosecution	9
Violation Cases forwarded for prosecution	111
Unsafe Cases forwarded for prosecution	1
Complaints lodged with the Department	91
Iron & Steel Inspections made	6197

-----oooOooo-----

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

Nº 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

(2)

New York,

Dec. 7, 1896.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS.

Number of Passenger Elevator Violations issued	1892 (5 men)	90
" " " " "	1893 (5 men)	105
" " " " "	1894 (4 men)	70
" " " " "	1895 (4 men)	226
" " " " "	1896 (4 men) (to Dec. 1)	946

(twice the number of elevators in 1896 than in 1892.)

Number of inspections	1895	4056
" " " "	1896 (to Dec. 1st)	5255

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



HJH

New York, Dec. 7, 1896.

#3

Of the sixty-two unsafe buildings reported during the week, eight required immediate attention by the Department and necessitated the calling out of the Emergency Corps. Two of which, 110 Bleecker Street and 278 Spring Street, were very important and by the prompt and efficient action and work of the Emergency Corps, working on Bleecker Street all day Sunday, a very serious accident was averted. On Spring Street, by working from 7 at night until 11 and continuing by additional work for two or three days, a serious accident was averted.

Mr. Dahlgren, Attorney for the Department, went before the Raines Law Investigating Committee, as it seems very evident that Dr. Parkhurst does not fully understand the law. I think if the Doctor will get the assistance of good legal advice, he will find that the action of this Department is in accordance with the Building law, and when he considers all circumstances surrounding the matter, has been pretty thoroughly, reasonably and carefully carried out. I have advised said Committee that any further information or evidence that this Department can furnish will be willingly given.

I have decided, owing to the importance of the case and the

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



HJH

New York, Dec. 7, 1896.

#4

chances that there will be many suits in regard to the #1078 Madison Avenue disaster, that a regular soil test be made, which will be started on the 8th instant. This will prove positively the bearing capacity of the soil, etc..

I have suggested to Civil Service, as there have been great delays in getting Inspectors for this Department, that they have their examinations far enough ahead to always have a number of men to draw from. Also that the Building Inspectors of this Department be divided into Mason Building Inspectors, those who are accustomed to build and superintend such buildings as are now being built throughout the main portion of the City and in which masonry, iron work and fireproof construction are the most essential and prominent parts, and Carpenter Building Inspectors, those who have been accustomed to build frame structures and lighter class of buildings, which are built beyond the fire limits and the outlying districts and annexed territory, so as to be able to place in both classes of buildings, men thoroughly competent to handle the men under them. I suggested this some months ago but the Commissioners, for some reason or other, have been unable to get them to act upon the matter. They have now promised to do it and I hope that if I can pay the proper wages, I shall be able to secure the most com-

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



HJH

New York, Dec. 7, 1896.

#5

petent help possible for this most important work.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable

Superintendent of Buildings.

per W. H. C.

against

WILLIAM L. FINDLEY,
Attorney to Fire Department,

Nos. 157 and 159 East 67th Street,

New York.

Dept. of Buildings

Synopsis

- of -

Operations

- for the -

Week ending

Dec. 5th 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, December 8, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

As promised Mr. Roosevelt yesterday, at the meeting before Your Honor of the heads of the different Departments of the city, I herein enclose copy of letter sent him, giving the exact jurisdiction of this Department.

In sending copy to you, knowing your deep interest in this matter, I wish to call your attention to the fact that this covers all the main points of jurisdiction of this Department, and the law under which we act.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs

(Dic.S.C.)
(Enc.)

In Re of Raines Law

BW.

COPY

B.DeY

Dec. 8th, 1896.

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,

President, Board of Police Commissioners.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:-

In compliance with your request of yesterday, I herewith desire to briefly state to you the requirements of the Building Laws in their relation to hotels in this city:

1. No building HEREAFTER erected that is over thirty-five feet in height can be used as a hotel unless it be fire proof. (See Section 20, Chapter 275, Laws of 1892). This requirement of law applies to all buildings put up subsequently to April 9th, 1892.

2. Buildings ALREADY erected, namely: Prior to April 9th, 1892, that are five stories in height, or are four stories in height with a basement above a cellar, must comply with the provisions of Section 16, Chapter 275, Laws of 1892, if the same are altered to be used as hotels. The provisions of this section comprehend certain fire proof changes in the building. If the building exceeds five stories in height there are additional fire proof requirements.

I notice that it is claimed by the Society for the Prevention of Crime that this section applies to all buildings. I have consulted, however, with my Attorney, Mr. Dahlgren, in regard to this matter, and he informs me that there can be no doubt that the Society is mistaken in its construction of the statute.

With regard to fire escapes I would say that that is a matter left by the law entirely to the discretion of the Superintendent of Buildings (See Section 34, Chapter 275, Laws of 1892), and that this discretion is only to be exercised when that official deems the means of egress insufficient.

The above are the main provisions of law applicable to hotels in this city. There are several others of minor importance, such as

2. To Hon. Theodore Roosevelt.

the provision that all hotels shall have a stop-cock in the sidewalk to shut off the gas (See Section 26, Chapter 275, Laws of 1892), a compliance with which is always easily secured on account of the small cost arising therefrom.

The provisions of law applicable to other hotels are such as apply in general to all buildings over the city.

I would here add that this Department has no jurisdiction over the light and ventilation of hotels. From what I have herein set forth, you will readily see that there are hundreds of buildings which may be used as hotels without any interference on the part of this Department. In quite a number of cases where I attempted to act, the owners denied my right, the matter was referred to Mr. Dahlgren, and he decided that the provisions of law did not apply.

In closing I would beg to say that while I am ever ready, as a citizen, to aid in the enforcement of the law, that the main object of the creation of the Department of Buildings was the physical safety of the people and not their moral security; that, therefore, while I am ready to aid to the best of my endeavor in the enforcement of the Raines Law, yet I cannot see how it is just for this Department to be held responsible in any way for the non-enforcement of that law.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

(Signed) STEVENSON CONSTABLE

Superintendent of Buildings.

75

top-coat in the sidewalk to

5, Laws of 1892), a compi-

account of the small coat

other hotels are such as

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BV

M.
New York, December 14, 1896 .

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Will you please advise me if and when concert hall license has been issued for #332 Bowery, as they have done work there contrary to our approval.

Upon knowing the date of issuance of license (if issued) I shall be pleased to inform you at once as to what action I would advise.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C:)

76

December 14, 1896

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 14, 1896. *N.*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

I submit herewith a synopsis of the Operations of
this Department for the Week ending December 12th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 14, 1896.

Synopsis of Operations for the Week ending Dec. 12, 1896.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	26
Estimated Cost	\$583,800.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	35
Estimated Cost	\$229,100.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	23
Estimated Cost	\$56,450.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	9
Estimated Cost	\$4,520.
Buildings reported as unsafe	65
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	20
Other violations of law reported	147
Unsafe Building Notices issued	106
Fire Escape Notices issued	27
Violation Notices issued	337
Fire Escape Cases forwarded for prosecution	6
Violation Cases forwarded for prosecution	144
Unsafe Building Cases forwarded for prosecution	2
Complaints lodged with the Department	108
Iron & Steel Inspections made	6611

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

BW

New York, December 14/'96.

The enclosed list of some of the highest buildings in the city, either entirely built or finished since I have been here, I think will be interesting as it illustrates the great height to which many are being constructed.

It gives me pleasure to report that the system adopted of photographing bad work or careless construction has proved very advantageous to the Department, and is becoming a great aid in proving the existence of careless work and in insuring immediate correction of the defects. In unsafe buildings, such as the Broome Street, of which I enclose two photographs, it enables us to have a record of the exact condition that exists at the time of our taking action in a matter, thus saving great cost to the city in having afterwards to go to the expense of a lawsuit, etc.

Finding that the second floor of the building in which our Branch Office across the Harlem is located, is now vacant, if a reasonable arrangement can be made, I think of taking the same in place of the present third floor. I will advise you further.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Enc.)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



New York, Dec. 14, 1896.

HEIGHT OF PROMINENT BUILDINGS.

American Surety Co., Broadway, Corner of Pine Street.

23 Stories; Height 306 ft. 1 in. - 84 ft. 8 in. by 85 ft. 6 in.

American Tract Society, Nassau Cor. Spruce Street.

23 Stories; Height 306 ft. -- 100 ft. 7 in. by 94 ft. 6 in.

Manhattan Life Insurance Co., 64 - 68 Broadway.

17 Stories; Height 348 ft. - 67 ft. by 125 ft.

New York Life Insurance Co., Broadway and Leonard Street.

12 Stories; Height 244 ft. - 60 ft. front, 82 ft. rear, 400 ft. deep

St. Paul Building, Broadway and Ann Street.

26 Stories; Height 308 ft. - 39 ft. 4 in. by 27 ft. by 104 ft. by
54 ft. 3 in. by 83 ft.

Bank of Commerce, Nassau and Cedar Streets.

20 Stories; Height 270 ft. - 106 ft. 2 in. by 109 ft. 6 in.

Gillender Building, Wall and Nassau Streets.

16 Stories; Height 273 ft. - 26 ft. by 73 ft. 5 1/2 in.

St. James Building, Broadway & 26th Street.

16 Stories; Height 204 ft. - 94 ft. 8 1/2 in. by 148 ft. 11 1/2 in.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

-2-

New York,

13 to 21 Park Row.

25 Stories; Height 382 ft. - 104 ft. 2 in. by 153 ft. 11 in.

Bowling Green Building, 5 - 11 Broadway.

16 Stories; Height 272 ft. - 162 ft. by 201 ft.

against

WILLIAM L. FINDLEY,
Attorney to Fire Department,

Nos. 157 and 159 East 67th Street,

New York.

Department of Buildings.

Synopsis

— of —

Operations

— for the —

Week ending Dec. 12. 1896

HJH

COPY

File Building Dept

No. 13 William Street,

New York City, December 17th, 1896

Stephen Constable, Esq.,

Superintendent of Buildings,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

The Executive Committee of the Society for the Prevention of Crime has received a communication from your Department regarding "Raines law" hotels. We do not agree with your construction of Section 480 of the Consolidation Act, as amended. We believe that it applies to all buildings that have been altered in any way to become hotels regardless of height. The making of bedrooms by partitions or otherwise is a sufficient alteration.

May we urge your use of the power to bring actions in courts of record and to obtain injunctions preventing the continuance of business in premises where the fire and building laws have been disregarded?

We have in mind the instituting of proceedings of this nature and other proceedings, but we prefer to wait and give your Department the opportunity of commencing.

From our observations it appears that many of the "Raines hotels" made their alterations and are doing business without any permit from you. A comparison of the list of hotels with your list of permits issued will show the places that we mean. These offending places are subject to your visitation.

Will you kindly remember that our communications to you are entirely impersonal?

We respectfully request you to proceed by actions for penalties and by actions for injunctions to compel compliance with Section 480 of the Laws of 1882, as amended (page 28 of your Manual), at the hotels Nos. 74 Stanton Street, 139 Chrystie Street, 61 Forsyth Street, 65 Mott Street, 75 Mulberry Street, 22 Baxter Street, 89 Park Street,

-2-

169 East Houston Street, 85 Chrystie Street, 20 Bayard Street, 117 Mulberry Street, 20 Baxter Street, 17 Baxter Street, and 6 Mott Street and to prevent the doing of business at said places while the law is not obeyed.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) T. D. Kenneson,
Secretary.

COPY

B. de Y.

Dec. 18, 1896.

To the

Executive Committee of the Society for the Prevention of Crime.

My dear Sirs:-

I am in receipt of your communication of December 17th,
and have duly considered its contents.

The interpretation that I have attached to Section 480 is pursuant to the advice of my Attorney, Mr. Dahlgren. In his opinion, the section in question does not apply to buildings that are under five stories, or to structures that are under four stories in height above a basement and cellar.

As the gentleman in question is the person designated by law to determine such questions, I certainly do not feel justified in adopting an interpretation contrary to what he thinks.

In view of the difference of opinion, however, that appears to exist concerning the construction to be placed upon Section 480, I have determined to refer the question to the Corporation Counsel, and will enforce the law accordingly, unless overruled by the Courts.

Trusting that this will satisfy your Society, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) Stevenson Constable

Superintendent of Buildings.

COBA

December 18, 1896.

This list taken from yours of the 17th, will be examined into immediately.

To the Executive Committee of the Society for the Prevention of Crime,
T. D. Kenneson, Secy.

RAINES LAW HOTELS.

74 Stanton Street, 139 Chrystie Street, 61 Forsyth Street, 65 Mott Street
75 Mulberry Street, 22 Baxter Street, 89 Park Street, 169 East Houston
Street, 85 Chrystie Street, 20 Bayard Street, 117 Mulberry Street,
20 Baxter Street, 17 Baxter Street and 6 Mott Street.

December 18, 1896.

BW
COPY

V.F.

Dec. 18, 1896.

Hon. Francis M. Scott,

Counsel to the Corporation, 2 Tryon Row, City.

Dear Sir:-

Kindly advise me whether the following provision of law applies to ALL buildings which are hereafter altered to be occupied as hotels, or only to such as are five stories in height, or have a basement and four stories in height above a cellar. The requirement in question reads:

"Every building hereafter altered to be occupied as a hotel, and every building hereafter erected or altered to be occupied as a lodging-house, and every tenement-house, apartment house and dwelling-house five stories in height, or having a basement and four stories in height above a cellar, hereafter erected or altered to be occupied by one or more families on any floor above the first, shall have the first floor above the cellar or lowest story constructed fireproof with iron or steel beams and brick arches." (Section 16, Chapter 275, Laws of 1892)

As it is extremely important for this Department to be properly posted with regard to the above question, I would request your views at an early date.

I enclose an opinion written by my Attorney on the 13th day of May last, in which on Pages 6 and 7, he discusses the above matter. As his interpretation, however, has been disputed by the Society for the Prevention of Crime for this City I hereby, pursuant to Section 215 of the Consolidation Act, refer the matter to your office.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) STEVENSON CONSTABLE

Superintendent of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

No. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S. W. Corner 18th Street.

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
Superintendent.

BW

New York, December 19/1906. ¹⁸⁹

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your communication of the 18th inst, I enclose copy of letter forwarded by me to the Society for the Prevention of Crime, in answer to one received from them, copy of which I also enclose herewith.

Immediately upon receipt of their letter, I decided this was the best step to take, as the laws under which we act in this matter have been so thoroughly digested and defined by my Attorney, that I thought this would be the best way to show my thorough willingness to co-operate with them in every reasonable and honorable way.

I have had my Attorney suggest to Senator Raines an amendment to the Raines Law, which if Your Honor and the citizens of this city deem it a reasonable and good law, I think will greatly aid in preventing future misunderstandings of the law and violations of the same.

Awaiting your further advice, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)
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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 21, 1896. M -

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

I submit herewith a Synopsis of the Operations of
this Department for the Week ending December 19th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 21, 1896.

Synopsis of Operations for the Week ending Dec. 19, 1896.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	20
Estimated Cost	\$330,700.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	21
Estimated Cost	\$225,600.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	22
Estimated Cost	\$162,200.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	6
Estimated Cost	\$5,200.
Buildings reported as unsafe	77
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	18
Other violations of law reported	160
Unsafe Building Notices issued	143
Fire Escape Notices	25
Violation Notices issued	388
Fire Escape Cases forwarded for prosecution	11
Violation Cases forwarded for prosecution	104
Complaints lodged with the Department	114
Iron & Steel inspections made	5832

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



HJH

New York, December 23rd, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

Having carefully gone over all matters relating to the Appropriation for this Department for 1897 in accordance with our last interview, I have sent memoranda this day referring to same, to Mr. Charles V. Adee, Secretary of the Board of Apportionment.

Allow me to thank you for your careful examination, consideration and thought of these matters, and hope that as the needs are so urgent, you may be able to provide the necessary means.

Yours respectfully,

Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic.S.C.

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NGS

December 23rd, 1904

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



HJH

New York, Dec. 24th, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to advise you in regard to a resolution approved by the Board of Aldermen on December 23rd, 1896, in regard to the closing of public offices on "Saturday, December 26th, 1896 and Saturday, January 2nd, 1897" that I deem it impossible for this Department to close on those days on account of the volume of work in hand, the great delay it would cause to the public dealing with the Department and the daily routine inspection of buildings in course of construction and also the great danger the public will be subjected to by the withdrawal of the forces of this Department from routine services for three days in succession at each period.

Hoping this meets with your approval, I am,

Very respectfully,

Superintendent of Buildings.

(Dic.S.C.)

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 28, 1896

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:--

I submit herewith a Synopsis of the Operations of
this Department for the Week ending December 26th, 1896.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

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Dec. 28, 1880

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Dec. 28, 1896.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 26th, 1896.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	28
Estimated Cost	\$686,000.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	26
Estimated Cost	\$102,200.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	26
Estimated Cost	\$48,300.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	5
Estimated Cost	\$11,200.
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	14
Buildings reported as unsafe	49
Other violations of law reported	127
Unsafe Building Notices issued	88
Fire Escape Notices issued	19
Violation Notices issued	326
Fire Escape Cases forwarded for prosecution	11
Violation Cases forwarded for prosecution	87
Unsafe Building Cases forwarded for prosecution	1
Complaints lodged with the Department	99
Iron & Steel Inspections made	3,879

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,

S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



BW

New York, December 30, 1898? *m.*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Allow me to thank you for your interest in the examination into the needs and requirements of this Department, and for your aid in obtaining the granting of the various sums which the Board of Estimate and Apportionment have allowed, increasing the appropriation for the operation of this Department.

While I regret exceedingly that they could not see their way to grant the full amount asked for and necessary, and also to make proper provision for the inspection of music halls, etc. according to law, for the Emergency Corps, and for the storage and safe keeping of records, I shall do the very best I can with the appropriation granted.

Again thanking you, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

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records, I shall do the very best I can with the appropriation granted.
 law, for the Emergency Corps, and for the storage and sale keeping of
 proper provision for the inspection of waste halls, etc., according to
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 While I regret exceedingly that they could not see their way
 operation of this Department
 and Apportionment have allowed, increasing the appropriation for the
 obtaining the granting of the various sums which the Board of Estimate
 into the needs and requirements of this Department, and for your aid in
 Allow me to thank you for your interest in the examination
 Dear Sir:-

1896