

BOX

16

FOLDER

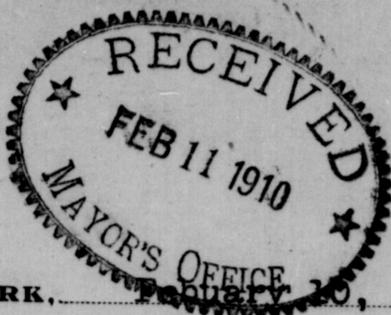
177

**Police, Dept. of-Three
Platoon Bill**

1910-1911

JOHN F. MAHER
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
2093 TIEBOUT AVE.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE



X
NEW YORK, February 10, 1910

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

S i r :

As the father of the 3-Platoon Bill which I first had the pleasure to introduce in the Legislature of this State in 1898, and also in '99 & 1900, I wish to call your attention to the remark made by the present Police Commissioner, Mr. Baker. He states that if a policeman will not do six hours patrol duty honestly under the present system, how is he to be expected to do eight hours under the 3-Platoon? It seems to me that when he made this statement he showed his entire ignorance of the difference between the present system and the 3-Platoon system.

Any one who understands both systems knows how much easier it is for a policeman to do eight hours honest patrol under the ~~system~~ 3 Platoons than it is to do six hours under the one now in vogue.

For instance, Patrolman Jones goes on duty at 2 A.M., during his tour he makes an arrest, he has therefore to be in the Magistrate's Court at 9 A.M. and with luck favoring him he may be able to leave there at 10 A.M. If he has a case in Special or General Sessions, or the Supreme Court, he may be detained there until 4 P.M., after which he reports back to his station, then goes to his home for supper and has to be back in the station at 7:45 so as to again go on patrol at 8 P.M. until 2 A.M.. This is not an exceptional case, but on the

✓

JOHN F. MAHER
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
2093 TIEBOUT AVE.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE

#2

NEW YORK, 19

contrary it is something that happens to hundreds of men in the Department every day, and it is hardly to be expected that a policeman who is, after all, only human, could stand such a strain as this and if he does neglect his duty after such a long siege of work the blame should be placed, not on the individual but on the system which allows such things to exist.

Under the 3-Platoon system a patrolman, after doing eight hours patrol, even supposing he has got to go to court next morning, will still have reasonable time to rest before he is again called upon to go on patrol.

As a citizen and one who supported your Honor's candidacy, I respectfully ask of you to investigate the present system and in accordance with the platform presented by the Democratic Party at its last City Convention, that your Honor will re-establish the 3-Platoon system. I can assure you, Sir, that when you understand this system thoroughly you will realize that it will do more to take the Police out of politics than anything that has yet been thought of. There must be something radically wrong with the Department when so many crimes are being committed and the perpetrators have escaped unpunished. But what can be expected of the rank and file of the Department when pool rooms and gambling houses have been opened up since January the 7th, and when patrolmen are compelled to sign reports stating that no illegal places exist on their post, when as a matter of

JOHN F. MAHER
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
2093 TIEBOUT AVE.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE

#3

NEW YORK, 19

fact a pool room or gambling house is doing a wide open business.

Such a state of affairs could not possibly exist except through the incompetency or dishonesty of those who are now at the head of the Department. Do not imagine that this is a wild statement in regard to pool rooms and gambling houses, for, your Honor, if you wish to, can readily find out where they are located.

Another fact that I think ought to be brought to your Honor's attention is this: a Patrolman makes an important arrest and immediately after bringing his prisoner to the station house he has to turn him over to a detective from the Central Office, and whatever glory may be in the case is given to the Central Office man instead of to the Patrolman who made the arrest. This in itself is very discouraging to the man on the walk and it is such a clear injustice that I think your Honor will remedy it now that it is called to your attention.

As you are probably aware, there are a number of associations in the Police Department that instead of being one united body, there are so many different bodies each one looking out for its own interest instead of the whole force looking out for the interests of the City. First, they have the Inspectors' Association, the Captain's, Desk Lieutenants', Detective Lieutenants', Sergeants', the Traffic Squad, and finally the Patrolmen's Association. This I am sure is entirely wrong, especially when such associations are used for the purpose of

JOHN F. MAHER
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE
2093 TIEBOUT AVE.

MONEY TO LOAN ON BOND AND MORTGAGE

#4

NEW YORK, 19

doing something which is not only illegal but dishonest and dishonorable. We have got as fine a police force as there is in the whole world and when the time comes that orders will be issued from Headquarters and that such orders mean what they say with no reading between the lines, then only may we expect the police force to do their full duty towards the City.

Perhaps it would be also advisable to have the Detectives at Police Headquarters look out for the business and residential districts of the City after nightfall, rather than to have them strutting about in full dress among the Cafes and restaurants of the White Light District. It is no exaggeration to say that it would be impossible to find a policeman in The Bronx between the hours of 3 A.M. and 6 A.M.

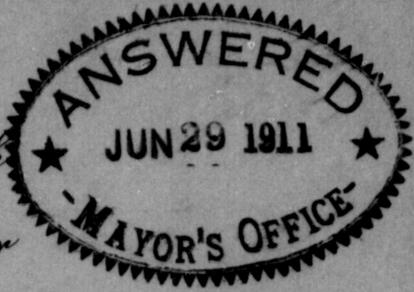
Trusting your Honor will pardon me for taking up so much of your valuable time, I have the honor to be

Respectfully yours,

John F. Maher

WWR

Police Department
of the
City of New York
Office of
The Commissioner



New York June 27, 1911.

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

Sir:-

I have the honor to invite your attention to the so-called Jackson bill recently signed by the Governor, which requires that a three platoon system of duty for policemen be established in cities of the first and second class, with certain exceptions.

A compliance with this law will require that the Traffic Staff as now organized be disbanded. The traffic work will have to be done by the various precincts. The men now doing traffic work are pleased with the tours of duty which they now perform. The change will mean that all men in the precincts where traffic is regulated must be instructed as traffic men, which will take considerable time.

The bill as applied to the patrol force will cause no change from the system recently established.

Very respectfully,


Police Commissioner

State of New York.

No. 80, 835.

Int. 80.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 18, 1911.

Introduced by Mr. JACKSON — read once and referred to the Committee on Affairs of Cities — reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and re-committed to said committee.

AN ACT

To promote the health and efficiency of policemen in cities of the first and second class.

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

- 1 Section 1. Within thirty days after this act takes effect, the com-
2 missioner of police, superintendent of police, chief of police, or
3 other officer or officers, having the management, control or direction
4 of the police force of any city of the first or second class in this
5 state, shall divide the sergeants, roundsmen and patrolmen of
6 such force (but not including *traffic squads, Bridge Squads and Harbor Squads* detective sergeants) who may be
7 on duty in the open air, on the streets or other public places of
8 the city, into three platoons. No one of such platoons nor any
9 member thereof shall be assigned to more than one tour of duty;

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

1 such tour of duty shall not exceed eight hours of each consecutive
 2 twenty-four hours, nor more than eight hours of reserve duty of
 3 each consecutive seventy-two hours, excepting only that in the
 4 event of strikes, riots, conflagrations, or occasions when large
 5 crowds shall assemble, or other emergency, or on a day on which
 6 an election authorized by law shall be held, or for the purpose of
 7 changing tours of duty, so many of said platoons, or of the mem-
 8 bers thereof, may be continued on duty for such hours as may be
 9 necessary.

10 § 2. The tours of duty of sergeants, roundsmen, patrolmen,
members of Traffic Squads, Bridge Squads and Harbor Squads,
 11 (not including detective sergeants) on duty in the open air, on
 12 the streets or other public places of a city of the first class or a
 13 city of the second class shall be changed at least once in each cal-
 14 endar month. Provided, however, that in cities of the first and
 15 second class which on December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and
 16 ten, had in force and operation a three platoon system, the
 17 tour of duty of such platoons and each member thereof,
 18 and the manner of changing such tours of duty may, at
 19 the election of the local authorities, having the management,
 20 control or direction of the police force, be and continue as the
 21 same were in force and in operation on said December thirty-
 22 first, nineteen hundred and ten.

23 § 3. Policemen, while on reserve duty as mentioned in the first
 24 section of this act, shall not be required to render any service
 25 except in case of an emergency, and shall be free to retire for sleep
 26 during reserve duty in their station house, subject to call in case of

1 an emergency. For the purpose of this act, an emergency shall be
 2 defined as enumerated in section number one of this act.

3 § 4. Any commissioner of police, superintendent of police,
 4 chief of police, or other officer or officers, having the management,
 5 control or direction of the police force of any city of the first
 6 or second class in this state, (excepting such cities which on De-
 7 cember thirty-first, nineteen hundred and ten, had in force
 8 and operation a three platoon system) who shall fail to
 9 divide such force ^(except detective sergeants, traffic squads, bridge squads and harbor squads) into three platoons within the time pre-
 10 scribed in section one of this act shall be deemed to have
 11 forfeited his office and, upon the written petition of any
 12 citizen of this state, must be removed therefrom by the
 13 supreme court of the judicial district within which such city is
 14 contained. A copy of such petition must be served upon the
 15 officer accused and he shall have the right to appear and to give
 16 evidence and to be heard in his defense.

17 § 5. Any commissioner of police, superintendent of police,
 18 chief of police, or other officer or officers, having the management,
 19 control or direction of the police force of any city of the first
 20 or second class in this state, and any inspector, captain, lieuten-
 21 ant, sergeant or roundsman of the police force of any such city,
 22 who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be guilty
 23 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished
 24 as prescribed by law.

25 § 6. All general or special laws inconsistent with this act, or
 26 with any part thereof, are hereby repealed. Provided, however,

1 that this act shall in no manner affect any provisions of such laws
2 concerning furlough or leave of absence of policemen or exempt-
3 ing patrolmen from obligation to wear uniform when not on
4 actual duty.

5 § 7. This act shall take effect July second, nineteen hundred
6 and eleven.

~~Effect is Aug 2nd~~

The Merchants' Association of New York

"To foster the trade and welfare of New York"

OFFICERS

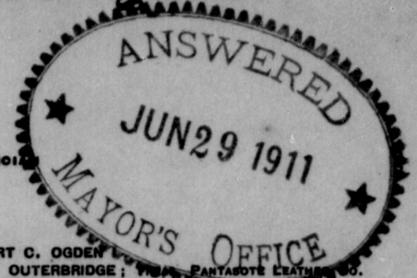
HENRY R. TOWNE, PRESIDENT
GUSTAV H. SCHWAB, 1st Vice-Pres. GUSTAV VINTSCHGER, TREASURER
WM. A. MARBLE, 2d Vice-Pres. S. O. MEAD, SECRETARY
E. H. OUTERBRIDGE, 3d Vice-Pres. FREDERICK B. DE BERARD, STATISTICIAN
JOHN W. GRIGGS, COUNSEL

DIRECTORS

JOHN N. BEACH; J. H. FITHIAN & Co.
WILLIAM C. BREED; BREED, ABBOTT & MORGAN
IRVING T. BUSH; PRES. BUSH TERMINAL CO.
FRANK R. CHAMBERS; ROGERS PEET & Co.
HARRY DOWIE; SECY-TREAS. DE WINTER & Co.
THOMAS H. DOWNING; R. F. DOWNING & Co.
PROF. JOSEPH F. JOHNSON; DEAN, SCHOOL OF COMMERCE,
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

J. H. KILLOUGH; J. H. KILLOUGH & Co.
CHARLES R. LAMB; PRES. J. & R. LAMB
WM. A. MARBLE; VICE-PRES. R. & G. CORSET CO.
MARCUS M. MARKS; DAVID MARKS & SONS
HERMAN A. METZ; PRES. H. A. METZ & Co.
DANIEL P. MORSE; PRES. MORSE & ROGERS
WM. H. McCORD; PRES. POST & McCORD
J. CRAWFORD McCREERY; THE JAMES McCREERY REALTY CORP.

ROBERT C. OGDEN; PRES. FANTASOTE LEATHER CO.
E. H. OUTERBRIDGE; PRES. FANTASOTE LEATHER CO.
THOMAS W. ORMISTON; AUSTIN, WERNER & CO.
ALBERT PLAUT; LEHN & FINK
GUSTAV H. SCHWAB; OELRICHS & Co.
HENRY R. TOWNE; PRES. YALE & TOWNE MFG. Co.
GUSTAV VINTSCHGER; PRES. MARKT & HAMMACHER Co.
SILAS D. WEBB; PRES. CHINA & JAPAN TRADING Co.
J. G. WHITE; PRES. J. G. WHITE & Co., INC.



TELEPHONE, 935, 936 & 342 FRANKLIN

54 60 (OLD NO. 66-72) LAFAYETTE ST.,

June 29, 1911.

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

Dear Mr. Mayor:-

An examination of the workings of the three platoon police measure, which became a law June 16th, shows that it will be destructive of the Traffic, Bridge and Harbor Squads and will very seriously impair the efficiency of traffic regulations in this City. This conclusion has been reached after discussing the subject with Police Commissioner Waldo.

He informs us that it will be necessary to abolish the present organization of the Traffic Squad, and to substitute therefor precinct details. Inasmuch, however, as, under the terms of the law, no patrolman may be assigned to the same tour of duty for more than one month, the men will require to be constantly shifted. They will be placed upon posts strange to them, and new men, wholly unaccustomed to the handling of traffic, will at intervals be injected into the work. All benefit of experience and special skill will thereby be lost, and the present efficiency of this admirable branch of the Police Department greatly impaired.

Commissioner Waldo authorizes us to say to you that he believes that the law just passed should be so amended as to except from its scope the Traffic, Bridge and Harbor squads, the latter two of which

Hon. Wm. J. Gaynor.

2:

resemble the first in their requirements as to special knowledge, experience and continuous service in a specific location. The continuance of the traffic squad in a state of efficiency is a matter of great importance to business interests, inasmuch as effective traffic regulation is absolutely essential to the ready movement of trucks through the crowded business streets, in the absence of which business interests are subjected to heavy and wasteful expense by reason of the delay incident to traffic blockades.

We trust, therefore, that you will agree with us that steps should at once be taken to induce the Legislature to modify the measure by passing an amended act along the lines indicated. It would be hopeless at this late date to expect to get such a bill passed unless it be presented as an administrative measure and endorsed by you. We, therefore, earnestly request that you will take the matter up with the leaders of the Legislature, and ask them to promptly pass the desired bill.

You will see by the enclosed clipping from the "New York Herald" that Senator Wagner and Assemblyman Smith have both expressed themselves as willing to pass the suggested amendments in case Commissioner Waldo deems them necessary. The Commissioner has assured us that he will see you personally and confirm to you the statement made to us that he thinks the amendments necessary to continued efficiency of traffic regulation.

Very truly yours,

THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

By *Henry R. Jones.*

President.

Memo. for the Mayor:

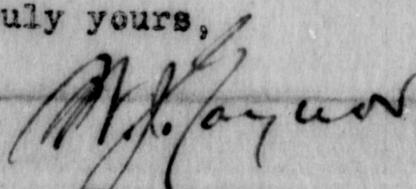
From Mr. Henry R. Towne, of the Merchants' Association, requesting you to write to Senator Wagner and Assemblyman Smith and request them to amend the three platoon law which has just been passed so that the traffic, bridge and harbor squads will not be disintegrated. Mr. Towne has discussed the matter with Commissioner Waldo and understands that the traffic policemen are to continue their work but under disadvantageous conditions as they will be assigned hereafter to precincts and the same specially picked men can not be permanently continued as traffic policemen for more than one month at a time. In other words there will be a constant shifting of the men and the special training that has been secured can not be utilized.

June 29, 1911. k

Dear Mr. Towne:

Your letter with regard to the three platoon law is at hand. It was never accepted by any city, or presented for acceptance. On looking at the law I find that it makes a different rule for different cities, and is therefore not a general law applying to all cities. The constitutional provision contemplates a general law making the very same rule for each and all the cities. It does not contemplate a so-called general law which makes one rule for one city and another for another. As this law does just that, as you will see on looking at section 2, I do not see how it can be called a general law, and therefore not required to be presented for acceptance by the different cities. I wish the lawyer of the Association would look at that. The Governor and the rest of them talk about home rule for cities and laud it to the skies, and then comes along a law like this which is anything but home rule. We had already adopted the three platoon system. We did not need another law for it. The present law is not adapted to the city of New York.

Very truly yours,


M a y o r.

Henry R. Towne, Esq.,
President Merchants' Association,
New York City.

✓

9
6/30/11
R

(2)

June 29, 1911.e

S i r :

Your favor of June 27th advising me that under the three platoon law recently passed by the legislature professedly by its title to affect all the cities of the state of the first and second classes the traffic squad of this city will have to be disbanded and the traffic work done by the various precincts instead, is at hand. It is very much to be regretted that such legislation should be passed without the consent of this city as the constitution contemplates. ~~We are constantly told from Albany that they believe thoroughly in the home rule for cities and yet along comes an Act like this which is absolutely against the home rule principle.~~ We had already put our police force on the basis of the three platoon system before this law was passed, except that in order to have a regular traffic squad we had to modify the system a little. This law makes it impossible to have a regular traffic squad, as it requires *tours to be changed every 30 days.* When I look at the bill I find that

in place of being a general bill for all of the cities as is expressed in its title, it is no such thing. It lays down one system for some cities and another system for others. I call your attention to section two which says that the tours of duty shall be changed at least once every month, except in cities where the three platoon system already existed at the beginning of this year, in which case the tours need not be changed every month. I therefore can not help believing that the bill is unconstitutional. The constitutional provision is that if a bill applies to any number of cities less than the whole number of a class, it must be accepted by the Mayor of each city before it becomes a law. It seems to me very clear that the meaning of the whole provision is that in order to be a general law relating to all the cities of a class, it must apply the very same provision to each city. A law which provided a different rule for each city, instead of one and the same rule for all, certainly would not be a general law for cities within the meaning of this constitutional provision. And that is the trouble with this Act. As I have pointed out it does not establish the same rule for every city,

but a different rule for different cities. It follows that it is a special city law, instead of a general city law, and therefore has to be accepted by the cities before it can become a law, whereas it has not been accepted by this city or any other city. Please have your eye out to see some way by which we can contest this mischievous legislation. The policemen here do not want it and nobody wants it. They have the three platoon system already in the very way that they want it, which is also the way best adapted to this large city.

Yours very truly,

W. J. ...
Mayor.

Rhinelanders Waldo, Esq.
Commissioner of Police.