

Rossiter & Wright,  
Architects,  
94 Liberty Street,

*Noting*  
New York, April 26, 1897.

Hon. W. L. Strong,  
Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir:-

We have received copy of the law which has recently passed the legislature and is now before you for action, amending the building law of New York by providing for a board of appeal nominated by the Mayor in place of the existing board of examiners. We hope that you will approve this law, for it is distinctly a step in advance and one that will be cordially approved by the best professional men in New York. The present board of examiners is not responsible to any one and it interferes with powers that properly belong to the superintendent of buildings. The proposed law is along the line of the best modern municipal government in that it concentrates power and responsibility and provides a means for holding officers up to their duty.

We are aware that this proposed law will awaken very powerful interest in opposition. In case it is desirable to have a hearing we request permission to be heard and also to demonstrate that the best part of the profession in New York are in favor of the enactment of this law.

Yours respectfully,

*Law no. 1442, 1875.*

*Rossiter Wright*

Ernest Flagg,  
Architect.

35 Wall Street,  
~~54 Broad Street,~~  
New York.

April 28th, 1897.

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

Dear Sir:-

As an architect I wish to express my unqualified approval of Senate Bill 1575 designed to abolish the present Board of Examiners in the Building Department and to create in its stead a Board of Appeal.

Any one at all familiar with the Board of Examiners and its methods must unite in the opinion that it should be abolished and a representative and responsible body established which will command the respect and confidence of the community. This respect and confidence the present Board of Examiners have never in any degree enjoyed, while their extraordinary methods have more than once laid them open to grave suspicion.

Aside from the Architects, I have reason to believe that a large and representative number of owners and builders are anxious for the present board's permanent abolition and I cannot too strongly urge upon your Honor the pressing necessity of creating a reform of which no City Department stands in greater need.

Yours truly,

Ernest Flagg.



of the community. This is

the first time that the community has

been able to do this. It is a

very important step in the

process of development. It is

a very important step in the

process of development. It is

a very important step in the

process of development. It is

a very important step in the

process of development. It is

New York, N. Y. April 28, 1897

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

Sir:

We, the subscribing members of this petition, beg to enter our urgent protest against the Bill known as Senate Bill No. 1575, legislating out of existence the present Board of Examiners in the N. Y. City Building Department, and creating in its place a Board of Appeals, respectfully ask your Honor's disapproval of the measure.

The Present Board of Examiners, consisting as it does of

A	"	"	"	N.Y. Chapter of American Ins. of Architects,
A	"	"	"	Board of Fire Underwriters,
A	"	"	"	Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange, (a
				Master Mason.)
A	"	"	"	Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange, (a
				Master Carpenter)
A	"	"	"	Society of Architectural Iron Mfgers,
A	"	"	"	Real Estate Owners' and Builders' Assn.,
				(An Architect or Builder)
A	"	"	"	Real Estate Exchange Assn., (An Archi-
				tect or Builder.)

The Chief of the New York Fire Department, and the Superintendent of Buildings, ex-officio, Chairman,

is thoroughly representative in character; the members thereof men of ability and standing in the community, chosen absolutely without regard to their political affiliations, and whose compensation is merely nominal. This Board thus selected by the different Exchanges, are necessarily men of practical experience in building lines, and have repeatedly demonstrated their thorough efficiency in the requirements prescribed.

Five members of this Board now constitute a majority adding weight to its decisions, whereas under the bill in question but three votes in a body of seven, comprising 2 Architects, 1 Civil Engineer, 1 Builder, 1 Member of the N.Y. Fire Department, 1 member of the Board of Fire Underwriters, and the Superintendent of Buildings, ex-officio, Chairman, are necessary to affirmative action.



We believe that the present bill is merely a continuation of the efforts, hitherto blocked by your Honor's sound judgment, to discredit the present Board, and to substitute for the present efficient control, one of less representative character.

- 1 Chas. Horner Builder 289-4<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 2 Thomas Burman 19 East 128<sup>th</sup> St
- 3 Chas L P. Foster Builder 289 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 4 George J. Wells Builder 136 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 5 Geo. Curran 572 W 36<sup>th</sup> St
- 6 Gaylor & Co. Carpenter 439 E. 144<sup>th</sup> St
- 7 Mr. J. Ritchie 693 E 15<sup>th</sup> St
- 8 Chas. Seidatz Electrician 10 West 23<sup>rd</sup> St
- 9 Durham Wheeler Architect 115 East 23<sup>rd</sup> St
- 10 George H. Smith Material First East 26<sup>th</sup> St
- 11 Wm L. Crow Builder 289-4<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 12 Francis N. Howland Bldg. Material First East 26<sup>th</sup> St
- 13 John F. D. Bann Mason Builder 1368 Broadway
- 14 Ferry & Co. Marble 147 W. 105<sup>th</sup> St
- 15 John J. Roberts Plaster 289 - Fourth Ave
- 16 Samuel J. Aiken Builder 2 W 14<sup>th</sup> St
- 17 Stephen M. Wright 289 Fourth Ave
- 18 Kenny A. G. G. G. 420 Broadway
- 19 Wm. J. G. G. 538 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St
- 20 Reber & Sons 431-11<sup>th</sup> Ave



- 21 Edward Franke Builder 30 W. 114<sup>th</sup> St.
- 22 Henry J. Gelling " 289. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 23 ~~Robert~~ ~~W. G. Gelling~~ Marble 9<sup>th</sup> St. 104<sup>th</sup> St.
- 24 L. B. Weeks & Son Builders 289 - 4<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 25 Theo J. Brady 156 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 26 Marc Cudde 459 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 26 J. J. Brennan 63 or 23 St.
- 27 John Huntington 8 W 91<sup>st</sup> St.
- 28 The Coudville firm 550-52 W 41<sup>st</sup> St
- 29 A. E. Lander 111 Fifth Ave
- 30 Walter Riedel 156 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- 31 William Craig 156 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 32 W. H. Murphy Contractor 156 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 33 Frank Malone. 156. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 34 T. Mahoney & Sons 156 - 5 Ave.
- 35 James J. Frawley 156. 5 Ave
- 36 Joseph W. Cody 549 West 111<sup>th</sup> St
- 37 Albert J. Adams Jr #1202 Broadway.
- 38 ~~Walter~~ ~~Walter~~ Builders 156 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave City.
- 39 Mac Asphaltum Cement Co 103 Maiden Lane
- 40 John J. Dougan. Granite. 158 Nassau St NY.
- 41 Alfred Benhauer Builder 124 Maiden Lane
- 42 Thomas F. Ryne. 1066 Madison Ave
- 43 Ryne & Murphy " "



- 44 W. H. Harkinson 116 W 33<sup>rd</sup> St
- 45 Mrs Brown 245 W 5<sup>th</sup> St
- 46 Paul E. Conover 253 Broadway
- 47 Allen H. Dugan 522 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St
- 48 W. C. Smith Builder 34 1/2 W 29<sup>th</sup> St
- 49 Warren Conover 253 Broadway
- 50 James Thomson 939 8<sup>th</sup> Ave
- 51 Ronald Taylor 156 Fifth Ave
- 52 E. A. Vaughan 103 Maiden Lane
- 53 D. Mitchell Builder 155 E 44<sup>th</sup> St
- 54 Robert C. Lestie Builder 122 W 29<sup>th</sup> St
- 55 ~~John G. Brown~~ ~~to John R. Danner~~ 410 W 34<sup>th</sup> St
- 56 William H. Arnold 140<sup>th</sup> Street & R. Ave
- 57 Hamilton Jay Combes 45 W 28<sup>th</sup> St
- 58 Augustus Meyers 542 W. 21<sup>st</sup> St
- 59 Odell Lusher 37 W 15<sup>th</sup> St
- 60 Elliot Smith 53<sup>rd</sup> St & E. R.
- 61 W. O. Kealy Material 1123 Broadway
- 62 C. E. Cheney 35 E 20<sup>th</sup> St
- 63 Will R. Clark 156 - 1<sup>st</sup> Ave
- 64 Henry P. Robinson <sup>Mason's Material</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> East River
- 65 T. J. Duff 131 W 35<sup>th</sup> St



- 66 Edwin's Outwater 510 1/2 W 24<sup>th</sup>
- 67 Lewis Harding 147 E 125<sup>th</sup> St
- 68 R. H. Casey 109 W 30<sup>th</sup> St  
N.Y.
- 69 Hugh Getty 274 1/2 1<sup>st</sup> Ave
- 70 Isaac A. Hopper 219 W 125<sup>th</sup> St
- 71 See I have Marble Co 782 Locust Ave N.Y.C.
- James C. Hough 10 Liberty Pl
- P. Gallagher 156 - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Jackson and Son Works  
Per John Cooper and 315 1/2 W 24<sup>th</sup>
- Wm. Turner 12 Broad St
- Post + McCord 289 - 7<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Frank Edwin 236 W 101<sup>st</sup> St
- White + Anderson 167 E 126<sup>th</sup> St
- Charles J. Wills 186 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Emil Kleppert 528 E 25<sup>th</sup> St
- George Crawford 252 W 73<sup>rd</sup> St
- John W. Hogenkamp & Son 136 W 55<sup>th</sup> St
- The Prince & Hinkel Iron Works - 535 - W - 33<sup>rd</sup> St
- J. A. Hoffman 132 E 41<sup>st</sup> St
- Charles Andrews 156 5<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Alfred J. Ackert 14 Wall Street



Gustavus Duane

21/25 Bethune St

George W. Litinger

41 King St

John Madley & Co

614-624 Cast 19 St?

W. E. Lyon

202 E. 46 St

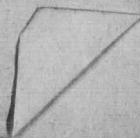
John E. Nicholson

646 Hudson St

Charles Brown

117 E. 23 St

102.





D. O. MILLS,  
15 BROAD STREET,  
NEW YORK.

New York, April 29, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

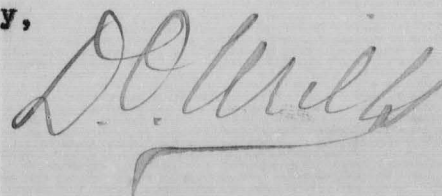
Dear Sir:

It affords me pleasure to urge your favorable consideration of Senate Bill No. 1575 which abolishes the present Board of Examiners of the Building Department and substitutes therefor a Board of Appeal. This latter board is to consist of seven members two of whom shall be respectively the Superintendent of Buildings and the Chief of the Fire Department, the remaining five to be appointed by your Honor without the imposition of any restrictions save that two shall be architects, one a civil engineer, one a builder and one a member of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters

I unhesitatingly recommend the Bill to your favorable consideration. An experience of some years with the present board long since convinced me of the absolute necessity for its abolition, and I believe I voice the sentiment of a large and representative class of builders and owners when I say that the Bill of Senator Page is calculated in an important degree to work a substantial reform in this department.

I sincerely trust that it will become a law.

Yours truly,



22



# State of New York.

G. O. 671.

No. 1442, 1575.

Int. 1096.

## IN SENATE,

April 5, 1897.

Introduced by Mr. PAGE—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the committee on affairs of cities—reported favorably from said committee with amendments, and ordered reprinted as amended, and when reprinted to be referred to the committee of the whole.

### AN ACT

To amend section five hundred and four of chapter four hundred and ten of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled "An act to consolidate into one act and to declare the special and local laws affecting the public interests in the city of New York," as amended by section forty of chapter two hundred and seventy-five of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-two, in regard to superintendent of buildings.

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

1 Section 1. Section five hundred and four of chapter four hun-  
2 dred and ten, of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-two, as  
3 heretofore amended, is hereby further amended so as to read as  
4 follows:

5 § 504. The superintendent of buildings shall have power  
6 [except as herein otherwise provided] to pass upon any question

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



1 relative to the mode, manner of construction, or materials to be  
 2 used, in the erection or alteration of any building, or other struc-  
 3 ture, provided for in this title, in any part of the city of New  
 4 York, to make the same conform to the true intent and meaning of  
 5 the several provisions of this title. He shall also have power to  
 6 vary or modify the provisions of this title, upon application to  
 7 him therefor, in writing, by any owner of such building or struc-  
 8 ture, or his representative, where there are practical difficulties in  
 9 the way of carrying out the strict letter of this law, so that the  
 10 spirit of the law shall be observed, the public safety secured, and  
 11 substantial justice done; but no such deviation shall be permitted,  
 12 unless a record of the same shall be kept by the said superin-  
 13 tendent of buildings, and a certificate be first issued to the party  
 14 applying for the same. Such certificate shall not be issued until  
 15 a board of [examiners consisting of a member of the New York  
 16 Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, one member of  
 17 the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, two members of the  
 18 Mechanics and Traders' Exchange of said city, one of whom shall  
 19 be a master mason and one a master carpenter, one member of  
 20 the Society of Architectural Iron Manufacturers of said city, one  
 21 member of the Real Estate Owners and Builders' Association of  
 22 said city, who shall be an architect or builder, and one member  
 23 of the New York Real Estate Exchange, Limited, who shall be  
 24 an architect or builder, and the chief of said fire department, all  
 25 of whom shall be appointed by their respective organizations, and  
 26 so certified to annually to the said superintendent of buildings]

1 appeal shall also approve the proposed modifications of the law.  
 2 [The said examiners shall each take the usual oath of office  
 3 before entering upon the performance of their duties. The super-  
 4 intendent of buildings shall be ex officio, a member of said board  
 5 of examiners and be chairman thereof.] Said board of appeal  
 6 shall consist of seven persons. The superintendent of buildings and  
 7 the chief of the fire department shall be ex officio members thereof;  
 8 and the superintendent of buildings shall be chairman. The re-  
 9 maining five members of said board of appeal shall be appointed  
 10 by the mayor, and shall be subject to removal, but only after  
 11 written charges have been preferred and a hearing had thereon.  
 12 They shall hold office for a term of one year and until their suc-  
 13 cessors be appointed, unless sooner removed. Two of them shall  
 14 be architects, one a civil engineer and one a builder; and one a  
 15 member of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters; and they  
 16 shall take the usual oath of office before entering upon the per-  
 17 formance of their duties. In cases in which it is claimed by an  
 18 owner, in person or by his representative, that the provisions of  
 19 this title do not directly apply, or that an equally good and more  
 20 desirable form of construction can be employed in any specific  
 21 case than that required by this title, then such person shall have  
 22 the right to present a petition to the board of [examiners] appeal,  
 23 through the superintendent of buildings, and may appear before  
 24 said board and be heard; and said board shall consider such peti-  
 25 tion in its regular order of business, and, as soon as practicable,  
 26 render a decision thereon. The said board of [examiners] appeal



1 are hereby authorized and empowered to grant or reject such peti-  
2 tion, and their decision shall be final. If such decision is favorable  
3 to said petitioner, a certificate shall be issued by the superin-  
4 tendent of buildings in accordance therewith. At least [five]  
5 three affirmative votes shall be necessary to the granting of any  
6 application or petition by said board. No member of said board  
7 shall pass upon any question in which he is pecuniarily interested.  
8 The said board shall meet once in each week upon notice from  
9 the superintendent of buildings. The chief clerk in the office of  
10 superintendent of buildings shall be the clerk of the said board,  
11 and shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall be kept in  
12 the office of the superintendent of buildings. All the members of  
13 the said board of [examiners] appeal, and the clerk of said board,  
14 shall be entitled to and shall receive ten dollars for each attend-  
15 ance at a meeting of said board, to be paid by the comptroller from  
16 the contingent fund upon the voucher of the superintendent of  
17 buildings. No permit for the erection of any building on a wharf,  
18 pier or bulkhead shall be granted unless the same be also ap-  
19 proved by the said board of [examiners] appeal. The said board  
20 of appeal shall have power and authority to do and is hereby  
21 charged with the duty of doing the several matters and things  
22 heretofore provided to be done by the board of examiners; and  
23 the said board of examiners is hereby abolished.  
24 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

D'OENCH & SIMON,  
ARCHITECTS,  
No. 289 FOURTH AVENUE,  
KENNEDY BUILDING.

A. F. D'OENCH.

B. SIMON.

New York, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1897

Hon. Wm. R. Grace,  
No. 1 Hanover Sq.

My dear Mr. Grace:

I believe the enclosed  
bill would be an improvement on our  
present law.

Yours very truly

A. F. D'Oench



W. R. GRACE & Co.

NEW YORK.  
LONDON. SAN FRANCISCO.  
LIMA. CALLAO.  
VALPARAISO. SANTIAGO.  
CONCEPCION.

Cable Address, "GRACE"

Letters, P. O. BOX 2866.

1 & 2 Hanover Square.

*New York,* 1st May, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
New York City.

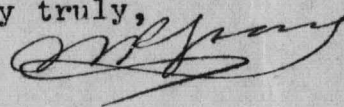
My dear Mr. Mayor:

The enclosed bill was handed to me by a friend, Major F. O. Briggs, Treasurer of the John A. Roebling Sons' Co., who seems to be very anxious that this bill should be approved by your good self.

Fearing that I might make a mistake in recommending such a bill - although I read it carefully and it commends itself to my judgment, - I sent it to ex-Superintendent of Buildings .A..F. D'Oench, who writes me the enclosed letter.

I therefore take pleasure in commending the matter to your favorable consideration, and I am, with great respect,

Yours very truly,



Major F. O. Briggs,

Treasurer, John A. Roebling Sons' Co.,

Trenton, N. J.



**PORTLAND CEMENTS,**

SOLE AGENT  
FOR THE UNITED STATES

—FOR—

**DYCKERHOFF & SONS.**

**STAR, STETTIN.**

**HEYN BROS.**

**HILTON, LONDON.**

**HENRY (Dufosses & Henry.)**

**ROYAL CROWN.**

—•••••  
**LENNE VORWOHL ASPHALT MASTIC.**  
—•••••

**E. THIELE,**  
78 WILLIAM STREET,

New York,

May 1st, 1897.

Hon. Mayor W. L. Strong,  
City Hall,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Being interested in the building trade, I have carefully examined the bill which will come before you, to abolish the Board of Examiners, and substitute in its place a Board of Appeal, and consider this a vast improvement upon the present provisions of law. I sincerely hope that you will approve of the bill, and remain,

Very respectfully yours,

*E. Thiele*

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OFFICES OF  
TRACY AND MAGONIGLE  
ARCHITECTS  
156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK,

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897

The Honorable

The Mayor of the City of New York,  
Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned  
beg to advocate most heartily  
the signing of the act, Senate  
no, 1442, 1575, abolishing the  
present Board of Examiners of  
the Building Department and  
substituting therefor a Board  
of Appeal consisting of seven  
persons, which act is now  
before you for final approval.

We believe this bill to be a  
measure extremely necessary for  
good municipal government  
in this department.

We remain

Yours very respectfully,  
Tracy & Magonigle

W. GEDNEY BEATTY,  
ARCHITECT,  
111 FIFTH AVENUE,  
NEW YORK CITY.

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

My Dear Sir :

I heartily in -  
dorse the Act introduced by Mr Page  
regarding the "Board of Appeals" in -  
stead of the present "Board of Examiners"  
in connection with the Building Depart -  
ment.

It seems to me it will be of  
great advantage and beneficial to all  
concerned.

Very respectfully yours  
W. Gedney Beatty

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1897  
—



23

JOSEPH WOLF,  
Architect,  
No. 1 Madison Avenue,  
"THE METROPOLITAN"  
New York. REMOVED TO  
Townsend Building,  
1125 Broadway, Cor. 25th St,

May 3rd, 1897.

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

Dear Sir:

I wish to signify my approval of the Bill abolishing the old Board of Examiners in the Building Department, and establishing a Board of Appeal. I think this a great step in the right direction, and will certainly meet with the hearty approval of all the Architects and others interested in building operations.

The old Board as at present constituted has become antiquated and is not at all in harmony with the more advanced methods of building. I am,

Yours very respectfully,

*Joseph Wolf, A.I.A.*  
*Architect,*



OFFICES OF  
GEORGE MARTIN HUSS,  
ARCHITECT.

ROOMS 22, 23, 24.

STANDARD THEATRE BUILDING,  
1285 AND 1287 BROADWAY.  
ELEVATOR AT SOUTHERLY ENTRANCE.

NEW YORK, 3d., May, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor,

New York, N.Y.

Sir:

Referring to the bill In Senate G.O. 671. No. 1442, 1575.  
Int. 1096 introduced by Mr Page relative to the abolishing the  
present Board of Examiners and substituting therefor a Board  
of Appeal of seven members, as an architect in regular practice  
here in New York I would earnestly and respectfully request your  
favorable consideration of the said bill so that it may become a  
law.

Respectfully,

*Geo. Martin Huss.*

23



GEO. W. KRAMER, F. A. I. A.,

ARCHITECT,

No. 1 MADISON AVENUE,

NEW YORK

May 4 1897

His Honor Mayor Strong

I understand that the  
so called Page bill comes before you on  
Thursday next. I trust you may  
consider same favorably as it is  
without doubt a move in the right  
direction. Too much is now left at the  
discretion of irresponsible parties, we  
have building laws but do not know  
what they are in many instances  
because interested parties can exercise  
discretion, obviating the letter but  
violating the spirit. As an Architect  
I would request you to endorse the  
proposed reforms

Respectfully,  
Geo. W. Kramer

YOUNGS & CORNELL,  
ARCHITECTS,  
CHURCH MISSION BUILDING,  
4TH. AVE. & 22ND. ST.,  
NEW YORK.

W. H. W. Youngs.

Frank T. Cornell

New York, 4<sup>th</sup> May 1897

Hon W<sup>m</sup> L. Strong Mayor Etc

Sir The enclosed Senate Bill, recently passed by the state legislature meets with our hearty and unqualified approval.

As Architects we feel we cannot too strongly urge you to give the proposed measure your prompt approval

It is our conviction that it will afford the exact relief required by our profession from the ever increasing spirit of arbitrary prejudiced and wholly unreasonable antagonism so long manifested by the old Board of Examiners - subjecting us to no end of annoyances and inconvenience and our clients and the building interests of this great city to serious delays and ~~large~~ <sup>unnecessary</sup> increase of expense in construction and in some cases involving large financial losses

Very truly yours  
Youngs & Cornell





CITY  
OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF DOCKS,  
COMMISSIONERS  
EDWARD C. O'BRIEN, Pres.  
EDWIN EINSTEIN, Treas. \* JOHN MONKS.

GEO. S. TERRY, Secretary.

PIER "A" N.R.  
BATTERY PLACE.

New York

May 4, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:

At a special meeting of the Board of docks held this day, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved that this Board respectfully requests His Honor, The Mayor, to disapprove of an Act passed by both branches of the Legislature, entitled 'An Act to Consolidate into one Act and to declare the special and local laws affecting public interest in the city of New York as amended by section 40 of chapter 275 of the laws of 1892, in regard to superintendents of buildings,' a public hearing upon which will be held at the office of The Mayor on Thursday, May 6th, 1897 at three o'clock P.M."

Yours respectfully

Ass't Secretary.

1897.

105



Spencer Trask & Co.

*Bankers,*

Nos. 27 & 29 Pine St.  
New York.

Spencer Trask.  
Geo. Foster Peabody.  
Edwin M. Bulkley.  
Charles J. Peabody.

New York, May 4th, 1897.

Hon. William M. Strong,

Mayor's Office, New York City.

Dear Sir:-


I understand that you have appointed Thursday for a hearing in reference to the Senate Bill No. 1442-1575, providing for a new Board to act in place of the present Board of Examiners.

Having had occasion in the last year or so to look into the matter, and having studied the proposed Act, I desire to urge that you should give it your approval.

I believe that the proposed changes will be beneficial, and that they will materially add to the efficiency of the Building Department.

I trust therefore that you will see fit to approve same.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Spencer Trask", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

24

Examiners.

Aiding for a

a person in

Dear Sir:-

My

Hon. William

Dear Sir

James Lloyd & Co



# State of New York.

G. O. 671.

No. 1442, 1575.

Int. 1096.

## IN SENATE,

April 5, 1897.

Introduced by Mr. PAGE—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the committee on affairs of cities—reported favorably from said committee with amendments, and ordered reprinted as amended, and when reprinted to be referred to the committee of the whole.

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

1 Section 1. Section five hundred and four of chapter four hun-  
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4 follows:

5 § 504. The superintendent of buildings shall have power  
6 [except as herein otherwise provided] to pass upon any question

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



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 2 used, in the erection or alteration of any building, or other struc-  
 3 ture, provided for in this title, in any part of the city of New  
 4 York, to make the same conform to the true intent and meaning of  
 5 the several provisions of this title. He shall also have power to  
 6 vary or modify the provisions of this title, upon application to  
 7 him therefor, in writing, by any owner of such building or struc-  
 8 ture, or his representative, where there are practical difficulties in  
 9 the way of carrying out the strict letter of this law, so that the  
 10 spirit of the law shall be observed, the public safety secured, and  
 11 substantial justice done; but no such deviation shall be permitted,  
 12 unless a record of the same shall be kept by the said superin-  
 13 tendent of buildings, and a certificate be first issued to the party  
 14 applying for the same. Such certificate shall not be issued until  
 15 a board of [examiners consisting of a member of the New York  
 16 Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, one member of  
 17 the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, two members of the  
 18 Mechanics and Traders' Exchange of said city, one of whom shall  
 19 be a master mason and one a master carpenter, one member of  
 20 the Society of Architectural Iron Manufacturers of said city, one  
 21 member of the Real Estate Owners and Builders' Association of  
 22 said city, who shall be an architect or builder, and one member  
 23 of the New York Real Estate Exchange, Limited, who shall be  
 24 an architect or builder, and the chief of said fire department, all  
 25 of whom shall be appointed by their respective organizations, and  
 26 so certified to annually to the said superintendent of buildings]

1 appeal shall also approve the proposed modifications of the law.  
 2 [The said examiners shall each take the usual oath of office  
 3 before entering upon the performance of their duties. The super-  
 4 intendent of buildings shall be ex officio, a member of said board  
 5 of examiners and be chairman thereof.] Said board of appeal  
 6 shall consist of seven persons. The superintendent of buildings and  
 7 the chief of the fire department shall be ex officio members thereof;  
 8 and the superintendent of buildings shall be chairman. The re-  
 9 maining five members of said board of appeal shall be appointed  
 10 by the mayor, and shall be subject to removal, but only after  
 11 written charges have been preferred and a hearing had thereon.  
 12 They shall hold office for a term of one year and until their suc-  
 13 cessors be appointed, unless sooner removed. Two of them shall  
 14 be architects, one a civil engineer and one a builder; and one a  
 15 member of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters; and they  
 16 shall take the usual oath of office before entering upon the per-  
 17 formance of their duties. In cases in which it is claimed by an  
 18 owner, in person or by his representative, that the provisions of  
 19 this title do not directly apply, or that an equally good and more  
 20 desirable form of construction can be employed in any specific  
 21 case than that required by this title, then such person shall have  
 22 the right to present a petition to the board of [examiners] appeal,  
 23 through the superintendent of buildings, and may appear before  
 24 said board and be heard; and said board shall consider such peti-  
 25 tion in its regular order of business, and, as soon as practicable,  
 26 render a decision thereon. The said board of [examiners] appeal



1 are hereby authorized and empowered to grant or reject such peti-  
2 tion, and their decision shall be final. If such decision is favorable  
3 to said petitioner, a certificate shall be issued by the superin-  
4 tendent of buildings in accordance therewith. At least [five]  
5 three affirmative votes shall be necessary to the granting of any  
6 application or petition by said board. No member of said board  
7 shall pass upon any question in which he is pecuniarily interested.  
8 The said board shall meet once in each week upon notice from  
9 the superintendent of buildings. The chief clerk in the office of  
10 superintendent of buildings shall be the clerk of the said board,  
11 and shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall be kept in  
12 the office of the superintendent of buildings. All the members of  
13 the said board of [examiners] appeal, and the clerk of said board,  
14 shall be entitled to and shall receive ten dollars for each attend-  
15 ance at a meeting of said board, to be paid by the comptroller from  
16 the contingent fund upon the voucher of the superintendent of  
17 buildings. No permit for the erection of any building on a wharf,  
18 pier or bulkhead shall be granted unless the same be also ap-  
19 proved by the said board of [examiners] appeal. The said board  
20 of appeal shall have power and authority to do and is hereby  
21 charged with the duty of doing the several matters and things  
22 heretofore provided to be done by the board of examiners; and  
23 the said board of examiners is hereby abolished.  
24 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.



Wm. B. Kendall.  
Sole Agents.

Bigelow Carpet Co.  
100 & 102 Worth St.



New York, May 4<sup>th</sup> 1897

Hon. W. L. Strong, Mayor  
Dear Mr Strong

May I express the hope  
that Senate bill No. 1442, 1575, copy  
of which I enclose, will receive  
your approval, my reason being  
that it provides for the appoint-  
ment of a majority of a Board  
of Appeal, by the Mayor, in place  
of one apparently beyond his  
control,

Yours, dear Sir

Yours very truly  
Wm. B. Kendall

I fully concur with Mr Kendall's  
opinion

Geo. P. S. Apple  
Wm. F. King



R. H. Robertson,

Architect,

160 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.

May 4<sup>th</sup> 97

To the Hon. William L. Strong  
Mayor of the City of New York  
Dear Sir:

I wish  
to add my voice  
in Earnest support of  
of an act now before  
the Senate of the State  
which relates to the  
formation of a Board  
of appeal as a  
Substitute for the

present Board of  
Examiners in the  
Department of Building  
in this city. Having  
had a large Experience  
in this dept. as a  
Practicing Architect  
for over twenty five  
I feel confident  
that the proposed  
change would be  
for the public  
interest and make



for greater peace in the work of  
this most important bureau.

I cannot too strongly urge this  
measure on your favorable  
consideration

Yours with respect  
Your obedient servant

W. H. Robertson

MEMORANDUM.

To.....To the Hon. Wm. L. Strong,.....  
.....Mayor of New York. ....

FROM  
DOWNING VAUX, }  
MARSHALL L. EMERY, } ARCHITECTS,  
68 Bible House, Astor Place,  
New York, May 4th 1897

Dear Sir:-

I would respectfully request that you sign the bill,  
which I understand awaits your approval, creating a Board of  
Appeals in the Building Department, to replace the present  
Board of Examiners.

Sincerely Yours,

*Downing Vaux*



Marshall L. Emery,  
Architect.  
Bible House.

New York, May 4th 1897

To the Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir.-

I would respectfully request that you sign the bill, which I understand awaits your approval, creating a Board of Appeals in the Building Department, to replace the present Board of Examiners.

Yours respectfully,

*Marshall L. Emery*

JOHN T. WILLIAMS,  
NEW YORK LIFE BUILDING,  
COR. BROADWAY AND LEONARD ST.

J.T.W.

NEW YORK,

May 5, 1897.

Mr. W. L. Strong, Mayor,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I understand there is to be a hearing before you on Thursday in relation to the Senate bill No. 1442,1575, an Act which proposes to abolish the present Board of Examiners and create a Board of Appeals in their place. I wish to say that I am in favor of a modification of the law relating to the Building Department in this respect. It has my most hearty approval.

Yours truly,

*John T. Williams*  
Architect & Builder.



OFFICE OF  
**RICHARD V. HARNETT & CO.**  
**AUCTIONEERS AND REAL ESTATE BROKERS,**

— \* 71 & 73 LIBERTY ST. \* —

[MONEY LOANED ON BOND AND MORTGAGE.]

MEMBERS OF THE REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE AND AUCTION ROOM [LIMITED.]

STOCKS & BOND SALES TUESDAYS.

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT, 1204.

*New York, May 5 1897.*

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

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Real Estate Exchange of the City of New York, of which I am a member of the Board of Directors, I appeal to you in relation to the present Board of Examiners as now constituted — and representing different associations, namely, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects represented by Mr. Lebrun, the New York Board of Fire Underwriters represented by Mr. F. Y. Moor, the Mechanics' & Traders Exchange represented by Warren A. Conover and Edwin Dolts, a carpenter, the Society of Architects and Iron Manufacturers represented by Wm. J. Iyer, the Real Estate Owners & Builders Association represented by Cornelius O'Reilly, the Real Estate Exchange and Auction Room, Limited, represented by Mr. Samuel McMillan. This Board of Examiners, constituted as above, it is proposed to legislate out of office by a bill which has passed both the Senate and the Assembly and is now before you for your approval or disapproval. Knowing the deep interest which these delegates take



OFFICE OF

# RICHARD V. HARNETT & CO.

## AUCTIONEERS AND REAL ESTATE BROKERS,

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TELEPHONE CORTLANDT, 1204.

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

in building matters and their efforts to secure the safest and best construction and that no modifications of the law may be adopted except such as may be justly and duly requested; and knowing that these associations from time to time have picked from their midst men who are well qualified to fill the positions they were to occupy. I have no hesitancy in asking you to veto the bill or any bill which would legislate such a competent body of men out of office. I can see no possibility of any members of the Board being selected outside of these associations who would be better fitted to fill the positions.

I feel that the present bill is in the interest of politics instead of good building and safe construction and that the men who have stood out so long for safe construction, should be retained free from any political trammel. We know what has happened in the past but we cannot look into the future.

Yours respectfully  
Richard V. Harnett



25

REPRODUCTION OF  
A DOCUMENT FROM THE  
PAST

REPRODUCTION

*J. A. Henry, Fleming.  
V. Hugo, Koehler.*

*Fleming & Koehler,  
Architects,  
Office Number 1 Broadway,  
New York*

*Telephone Connection.  
Office Hours 2 to 4 P.M.*

New York, May 5, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor of N. Y. City.  
Mayor's Office, City.

Dear Sir:-

We have been requested to address a letter to Your Honor and to define our position in reference to an appeal introduced in the Senate, by Mr. Page, on April 5th. Which appeal refers to the Board of Examiners of this city.

We favor the change in said Board of Examiners and we consider the Page bill as meeting the requirements of this city in a far more effective way than the Board created under the Laws of 1882.

We trust that you will indorse the Bill calling for a new board of Appeal, as the same will, in our opinion, improve the system of supervising and comptrolling the building in this city.

We Have the Honor to Subscribe

Yours Very Truly,

*Fleming & Koehler*



104

and we con  
We fa  
Examiners  
on April 5  
to an appo  
Your Honor  
We ha  
Dear Sir:-

Mayor

CHICAGO.  
LONDON.  
ANTWERP.  
BERLIN.  
PARIS.

CABLE ADDRESS  
MICROPHONE.  
NEW YORK.

Western Electric Company,  
*Greenwich and Thames Sts.*  
*New York.*

Senate Bill No.1442, 1575.

May 5, 1897.

To

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR,

City Hall, New York.

Sir:-

Our attention has been directed to Senate Bill G. O. 671, No.1442, 1575, Int.1096, an act to amend section five hundred and four of chapter four hundred and ten of the laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-two, entitled "An act to consolidate into one act and to declare the special and local laws affecting the public interests in the city of New York," as amended by section forty of chapter two hundred and seventy-five of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-two, in regard to superintendent of buildings, - which, in effect, abolishes the Board of Examiners in the Building Department as now constituted and provides for the creation of a Board of Appeal in its stead. The measure ap-



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-2-

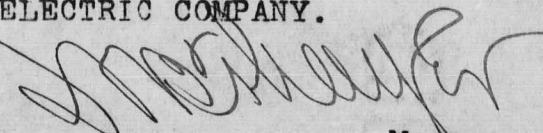
pears to be an important one, bearing upon the interests of all manufacturers and dealers in material which goes into the construction of buildings in New York City and, therefore, is of interest to this Company. The proposed Board of Appeal seems to be in many ways an improvement over the present Board of Examiners. As I understand it, the Board of Examiners consists of members of certain societies and associations, appointed by those societies. The societies mentioned are not in all cases representative, as, for instance, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has enrolled among its members only a small percentage of the architects of the city.

In a matter of such importance to a large number of the business men and property owners of the city, the power of appointment and the power of removal seem more properly to be with the Mayor than with societies not responsible to the citizens.

I would respectfully urge upon YOUR HONOR the importance of this Bill and ask your approval of it.

V e r y   r e s p e c t f u l l y ,

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY.



Manager.



-2-


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WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY.



Manager.

SEWERAGE,  
MACADAM ROADS,  
BRICK PAVEMENTS.

JACOB LOUIS BAUER,  
CIVIL ENGINEER,  
ASSOC. M. AM. SOC. C. E.  
68 BIBLE HOUSE, 9TH ST. AND 4TH AVE.

TELEPHONE:  
1622 18TH STREET.

New York, May 5.....1897

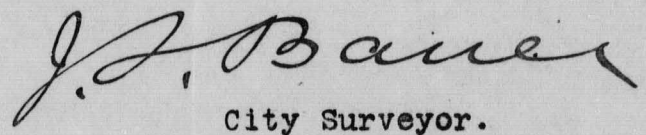
Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor of New York City,

Dear Sir:-

I desire to endorse the measure recently passed by the  
Legislature, creating a Board of Appeals in the Building Department,  
the Board to include two Architects, a Builder and a Civil Engineer  
as four of its members.

As one of the Civil Engineers doing business in New York City  
and a City Surveyor in the same, I would respectfully request you to  
give this bill your approval.

Yours truly,

  
City Surveyor.



SEWERAGE,  
MACADAM ROADS,  
BRICK PAVEMENTS.

JACOB LOUIS BAUER,  
CIVIL ENGINEER,  
ASSOC. M. AM. SOC. C. E.  
68 BIBLE HOUSE, 9TH ST. AND 4TH AVE.

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New York, May 5 ..... 1897

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give this bill your approval.

Yours truly,

*J. L. Bauer*  
City Surveyor.

26

Dear Sir:-  
I have the honor to  
acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter of the 10th inst.  
and in reply to inform you  
that the same has been  
forwarded to the  
Legislature, for their  
consideration.  
Very respectfully,  
J. M. Smith



JULIEN T. DAVIES,  
CH. FRANCIS STONE,  
JOSEPH S. AUERBACH,  
EDWARD LYMAN SHORT,  
RICHARD W. STEVENSON,  
CHARLES A. GARDINER,  
HERBERT BARRY,  
EDWARD CORNELL,  
JULIEN T. DAVIES JR.

DAVIES, STONE & AUERBACH,  
MUTUAL LIFE BUILDING, 32 NASSAU STREET.

NEW YORK, May 5th, 1897

My dear Sir:

Will you permit me to join in what I conceive to be the general consensus of view, that the bill of Senator Page to amend Section 504 of Chapter 410 of the Laws of 1882, etc., in regard to Superintendent of Buildings, should receive your approval.

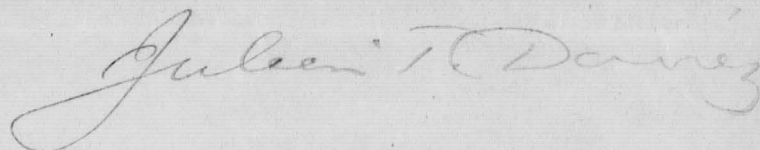
The abolition of the Board of Examiners of the Building Department and the institution of the Board of Appeal, provided for by this act, is essential in the interests not only of those who are desirous of improving real estate in the City of New York, but also in the interests of the laboring classes, whose employment in this direction of activity is seriously impeded by the obstacles thrown in the way by the present Board of Examiners. Their action, in place of being directed to the economical construction and therefore assisting in the rapid development of real estate, tends to largely increase the cost of building, and most unnecessarily, and to favor monopolies that are condemned generally by the architects and practical builders.

I will not dwell upon the arbitrary abuses of power of which this Board has been guilty, which doubtless will be brought to your attention in detail; but in common with many of your friends and

earnest supporters of your administration, I have entire confidence that if the facts in the case really come to your attention this bill will receive your approval.

I remain,

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julius T. Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor, etc.



55

I have entire confidence  
in your attention this

Very sincerely yours,  
[Signature]

JAS. B. SMITH,  
BUILDER,

Telephone Call, 588 Broad.

WELLES BUILDING,  
18 BROADWAY,  
9th Floor, Room 906.

*New York*, May 6th, 1897.

Hon. W. L. Strong, Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I desire to put myself on record as being in favor of the act to amend the law relating to the Board of Appeal for the Department of Buildings.

I have examined the new law carefully and am familiar with the workings of the old board of examiners and I am sure the amendment will result in giving a higher standard of efficiency than now exists in our Board of Examiners.

There ought to be an individual responsibility of these examiners to a head of Department or to the Mayor and this the new law provides.

I hope your Honor will see your way clear to approve the act.

Very respectfully yours,

*Jas B. Smith*



*Sinclair & Babson,*  
*43 Liberty St. New York.*

ALSEN'S PORTLAND CEMENT

*New York,* May 6, 1897. *189*

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

We hope you will favorably consider the act of the Legislature, now awaiting your approval, which abolishes the present Board of Examiners in the Department of Building. In fact, we feel assured you will approve it, when you come to know in what way they have used the arbitrary power with which they are clothed, of which, you will no doubt have ample testimony.

We write from a standpoint of self interest, inasmuch, as the material we handle, (portland cement) has been most unfairly discriminated against in the matter of concrete floor construction, notwithstanding that severe tests of the Building Department demonstrated it to be an exceptionally safe material, and it has the further merit of being economical.

Whatever may have been the motive for this discrimination in favor of another material of a particular kind, it can hardly be said to be in harmony with the best interests of this community.

Yours truly,

*Sinclair & Babson*

CHARLES H. DETWILLER,  
GEORGE E. MELENDY,  
ARCHITECTS,  
BENNETT BUILDING, 97 NASSAU ST.,  
NEW YORK.

Hon. Wm L. Strong.

Mayor of the City of New York  
Dear Sir:-

Referring to the bill now  
before you abolishing a "Board of Examiners"  
and substituting therefore a "Board of  
Appeal" in connection with the  
building interests of the city.

We would respectfully  
ask for your approval of this bill  
as we consider it a needed improve-  
ment, in this Department, and a proper  
step for any city to take toward  
good modern municipal government.

Yours truly,

Detwiler & Melendy  
Architects

New York May 6/97



BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
in the  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Created in <sup>1874</sup> (Chap. 547, Laws of 1874) 23 years ago.

Superintendent of Buildings,

One member from the New York Chapter of  
the American Institute of Architects,

One member from the New York Board of Fire  
Underwriters,

Two members from the Mechanics & Traders'  
Exchange,

5 Members in all.

Prior to 1874 (See Chap. 625, Laws of 1871) Certificates for deviations allowed from the requirements of law were issued only by the Supreme Court, said Court being authorized to grant such applications in its discretion, upon sworn petitions.

In 1885 (Chap. 456, Laws of 1885) Two additional members were added to the Board, viz.--One member from the Society of Architectural Iron Manufacturers, and one from the Real Estate Owners and Builders' Association. Thus the total membership of the Board of Examiners became seven.

In 1892 (Chap. 275, Laws of 1892) A farther addition of two members was made to the Board, viz.-- One from the Real Estate Exchange, and the Chief of the Fire Department. Thus the total membership became nine, as at present.

The Board of Examiners holds one meeting each week, and the members receive \$10. for each attendance.

RESPONSIBILITY.

It may be said that the present Board of Examiners is not responsible to any public or elective power. That is the very object of the Board construction---to have a



Board independent of politics, coming from representative bodies concerned in building matters.

POLITICS.

Probably since the creation of the Board of Examiners two-thirds of the members have been Republicans, and this too during the many years when Democrats were in control of the Municipal Departments. In the last National election of the seven members as representatives of Societies, with only a single exception, all voted the Mc Kinley ticket.

Mr. Edwin Dobbs from the Mechanics and Traders' Exchange has served continuously on the Board since its organization, 23 years in all. Mr. Le Brun from the American Institute of Architects has served continuously on the Board for 15 years. Messrs. Fryer and O'Reilly have served continuously on the Board for twelve years. Mr. Mc Millan and Chief Bonner have served continuously on the Board for five years. Mr. Conover has served continuously on the Board for four years. Mr. Moore has served on the Board about three years.



28

Memorandum  
relating to the  
Board of Examiners  
the  
Building Dept.

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

(JOHN M. CARRERE, PRESIDENT.)

NAPOLEAN LE BRUN-----DELEGATE.

The American Institute of Architects is to the United States what the British Institute of Architects is to Great Britian. In each prominent city in the United States is a branch of the American Institute, termed a Chapter. The New York Chapter includes amongst its members Mr. R. M. Upjohn, whose father was the architect of Trinity Church and who himself has been the architect of a great number of churches and other important buildings including the State Capitol building at Hartford, Conn.; Mr. Edward H. Kendall, who is the architect of many leading buildings in this city, including the Cyrus W. Field Washington building, the original Equitable Life Insurance Co. building, etc.; Mr. Leopold Eidlitz, who is also the architect of many prominent buildings in this city, and one of the architects of the New York State Capitol at Albany; Mr. William H. Hume the architect of many prominent buildings, including the Astors New Netherland Hotel at 5th Ave. and 59th St.; Mr. Robert W. Gibson, the architect of many prominent buildings, including the United States Trust Co. building on Wall St.; Mr. George B. Post, who is the architect of perhaps a greater number of exchange buildings and other prominent buildings than any other architect in this city; Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, Harding & Gooch Clinton & Russel, Mc Kim, Mead & White, Bruce Price, H. J. Hardenbergh, and many others equally noted.



THE NEW YORK BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

(EDWARD F. BEDDALL, PRESIDENT)

F. C. Moore-----Delegate.

Mr. Moore is the President of the Continental Fire Insurance Co. which is the largest Fire Company in the United States. He is an Ex-President of the New York Board of Underwriters. The Board of Fire Underwriters is an Association of every Fire Insurance Company in the City of New York.

THE MECHANICS and TRADERS' EXCHANGE.

( JOHN L. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT )

WARREN A. CONOVER, MASON-----DELEGATE.

EDWIN DOBBS, CARPENTER-----DELEGATE.

This Exchange is the oldest Exchange in the City of New York. It dates back from the year 1800. Its membership includes every prominent Mason and Carpenter Builder in this city together with general contractors and supply men. It has practically the same membership as the Mason Builders' Association, Mr. John J. Tucker, President, and the Building Trades' Club, Mr. Peter Tostevin, President.

Mr. Conover as its representative on the Board of Examiners is the builder of such buildings as the Postal Telegraph, the Cable building, the Queen Insurance building and others of a similar character. His father before him, Mr. John T. Conover, was one of the leading builders of the city, having built a large number of the prominent buildings of his day, including the Park Bank building.

Mr. Dobbs has been the senior member of the firm of Messrs. E. & W. H. Dobbs, which firm has carried on business in this city for the past forty years as prominent Carpenter contractors.



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL IRON MANUFACTURERS.

(JOHN COOPER, PRESIDENT)

WILLIAM J. FRYER,-----DELEGATE.

The membership of this Society includes every prominent manufacturer of architectural iron work in this city and Brooklyn, including Mr. J. M. Cornell, of the Cornell Iron Works, Mr. Wm. H. McCord of Post & McCord, Mr. Wm. H. Jackson of the Jackson Iron Works, Messrs. Poulson & Eger of the Hecla Iron Works, Mr. J. I. Healey of the Healey Iron Works, Mr. Thomas Dimond, Mr. John J. Radley, Mr. Valentine Cook, Mr. Jacob Mark, Mr. Charles O. Brown and many others. For many years the Secretary of this Association was the late Mr. Andrew J. Campbell, who had just before his death been elected a member of Congress.

The Iron League of this city is a branch of this Society, and has a membership of about 250 employers of labor.

The representative of this Iron Society on the Board of Examiners, Mr. William J. Fryer, may be said to be the father of the New York Building laws. Mr. Fryer served on a Commission to draft the Building Law of Brooklyn, by appointment of Mayor Boody. Mr. Fryer was Chairman of the Commission appointed by Governor Flower, under an Act of the Legislature, to draft building laws for all the cities in the State, excepting New York and Brooklyn. Mr. Fryer has edited the Record & Guide publication of the New York Building Law since the time when the first modern building law was enacted. He is recognized as an expert in the construction of buildings, and is conceded to be the highest authority in the United States on building law matters:



THE REAL ESTATE OWNERS and BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

(CHARLES BUEK, PRESIDENT)

CORNELIUS O'REILLY-----DELEGATE.

This Association has a membership numbering between 400 and 500, every one of whom are men directly connected with building operations and every one of whom are tax-payers. The President of the Association is a prominent architect and builder, who for many years past has erected each year numbers of choice residence buildings on his own account for the market.

Mr. Cornelius O'Reilly the representative of this Society on the Board of Examiners has been a builder for the past 40 years in this city. He was the Chairman of the Building Committee of the Grant Monument Association from the commencement to the finish. He served as a member of the State Building Law Commission, and has taken an active part in every revision of the New York City building law for the past fifteen years.



THE NEW YORK REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE.

(ALFRED E. MARLING, PRESIDENT)

SAMUEL MC MILLAN-----DELEGATE.

This Exchange may be said to represent directly and indirectly all the real estate of New York City.

It has a deeper interest in laws relating to buildings, and to the proper administration of such laws than any other Society or all other trade associations put together.

Its representative on the Board of Examiners is Mr. Samuel Mc Millan, the present President of the Park Department. Mr. Mc Millan is a builder, the senior member of the firm of S. Mc Millan & Co., holds several important corporate positions, is a large owner of real estate and a man of large wealth.

Memorandum  
relating to the  
Board of Examiners  
of the  
Building Dept.