

David M. Newburger,

162 Pearl Street.

New York, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1896.

How Mr. L. Strong

City

My dear Sir!

About a year ago a party leased a private house No. 208. E. 60<sup>th</sup> and since that time he has had mock sales of furniture, he has advertised most every day in our daily papers that he is giving up house-keeping and will sell his furniture cheaply, this is absolutely not so, there has been unloaded at this house since the party lives there about a half a dozen loads of furniture on the average daily, and there has been as many loads delivered a day to purchasers.

This has been and is still a nuisance to our neighbors, also ourselves, I reside at No 206. E. 60<sup>th</sup> and our bell is rung all day

by people inquiring about this party  
and all kinds of questions asked  
which is very annoying to me. This  
is a block of private residences and  
thinks it out of place to allow fake  
sales to ~~take~~ go on.

I would therefore kindly ask  
you for advice in the matter how  
to get rid of this nuisance,  
I remain

Respectfully yours  
David W. Newberry

Boston, March 21, 1896

The Mayor and Sinking Fund Commission -  
New York City.

Gentlemen.

Is there no possibility of appeal from the decision communicated to us by the Mayor's private secretary, under date of March 17, in the matter of the publication of the prize designs for the proposed City Hall?

The authors of some, at least, of these designs - that is Messrs. Thomas, Flagg, Casey, and Jordan, Brydson & Orchard - have already expressed to us their desire that their designs should be published in this, the leading architectural journal, and we cannot quite see why their wishes need be thwarted. Publication in no way can affect the proprietary interest of the City of New York in these designs, and if the drawings can be loaned to us by the City they can certainly be returned to you care unimpaired.

Moreover, as we shall publish many of the designs submitted in this com-

Mung...  
22

petition by architects who did not win a prize, it seems to us that the exclusion from the published series of the designs which did win the prizes is likely to do an injustice and be prejudicial to the reputations and interests of the successful designers.

In the hope that you will be willing to reconsider your decision and yield to the expressed wishes of the various competitors and of architects throughout the country, we are

Yours truly,  
The Editors.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Board of Estimates -  
Gentlemen -

As it has been  
conclusively demon-  
strated that ashes should  
be collected by themselves  
separately - from any  
other household refuse.  
Will you not insist  
upon their being screened  
at the dumping place -  
and the coal and cin-  
ders sold or given to  
the city poor?

The residue will then be available for filling in land or for other purposes.

From an old colored cook of mine I learned that cinders that are washed help to kindle a fire easily and are good to mix with good coal for the morning fire. The cinders and coal screened as I suggest could be sprayed with disinfecting fluid and

would be of great  
help to the needy  
and could be sold  
for enough to pay the  
cost of the little trouble.  
People would pay two or  
three cents per. pair, I  
think.

With all the uses now  
for paper in manufactures,  
cannot the thousands  
of tons of clean newspapers  
that can easily be collected  
bundled up from houses  
and stores, be sold in-  
stead of paying from  
the city treasury to

4  
have the mass  
cremated or otherwise  
disposed of.

These two parts  
of city refuse are  
among the least  
valuable according  
to past reasoning.  
excepting for filling in  
purposes. which was  
of course profitable.  
Housekeepers would often  
rather bundle up their  
papers for collectors than  
have them burned at home  
as is often done.

And M. Baxter  
Confidential 5-8 West 3-7th St. N.Y.

It seems to me that if newspaper is  
made from wood pulp. why can  
it not be reduced to the same pulp  
and be valuable again either for  
newspaper or for articles made  
from pulp. If this is so. the city  
should get profit from all this  
immense waste in paper alone.

If the city refuse is sold en masse  
to contractors. cheaply. they will have  
a mine of wealth. which should not  
be allowed to flow all in one channel.  
Different firms should get these profits.

I have been interested in this matter  
for years. so please excuse my  
suggestions.

CONSULADO GENERAL  
DE LA  
REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

New York March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1896

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

Sir:

The Municipality of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, have appointed Mr Juan Abella, Director General of Public Lighting, on a special mission to the United States in order to investigate the most improved system of electric lighting. As Mr Abella, who has just arrived, brings a personal letter of introduction for your Honor from the Mayor of Buenos Aires, I beg to ask for the honor of an interview with you and trust that you will appoint a day and hour when I can call with Mr

Abella.

I remain, Mr Mayor,

Yours respectfully

Carlos Köhl  
Consul General

177

CHARLES M. MILLER,

101 EAST 23d St.

New York, March 23, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall, New York.

My dear Sir:

In compliance with my call upon you about a week since, relative to your presence at the testimonial dinner to be given Professor S. S. Packard at Delmonico's, April 28, 1896, at which you are to make the presentation speech conveying to Mr. Packard a silver "Loving Cup" and a book of congratulatory letters from subscribers, I send you by this mail a manilla roll containing a circular descriptive of the enterprise as it now stands.

I know it would be a matter of great gratification to Mr. Packard to find among the other letters one from your pen, and if you will write such a letter, the manilla roll spoken of can be used to return it, and thus avoid creasing.

Hoping to receive this by early mail, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles Miller*  
*Chairman*

JOHN W. THOMAS, PRESIDENT.  
V. L. KIRKMAN, VICE PRESIDENT.  
W. A. HENDERSON, KNOXVILLE, SECOND V. PRESIDENT.  
JNO. OVERTON, JR., MEMPHIS, THIRD V. PRESIDENT.

E. C. LEWIS, DIRECTOR GENERAL.  
W. F. FOSTER, DIRECTOR OF WORKS.  
W. P. TANNER, TREASURER.  
S. A. CHAMPION, GEN. COUNSEL.

A. W. WILLS, COMMISSIONER GENERAL.  
J. W. S. FRIERSON, KNOXVILLE, ASS'T COMMISSIONER.  
ROBT. GATES, JACKSON, ASS'T COMMISSIONER.  
FRANK GOODMAN, AUDITOR.



## Tennessee Centennial Exposition Co.

Inaugural Ceremonies June 1, 1896.

OPENS MAY 1, 1897, AND  
CONTINUES SIX MONTHS.

Nashville, Tenn., March 23, 1896.

To His Honor The Mayor,

New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

The Tennessee Centennial Exposition Company respectfully begs to formally announce the fact that the Tennessee Centennial Exposition will be opened in the City of Nashville, State of Tennessee, U. S. A., on May 1, 1897, to be continued for a period of six months. The occasion for holding this Exposition is to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of the State into the Federal Union, and, this being the first event of the kind, it will be of marked interest, not only to the people of the United States, but to the people of all countries.

Since its first conception the enterprise has assumed that importance and dignity which must command the consideration and attention of the entire commercial world.

The City of Nashville is situated very near the geographical centre of the United States. The same is true as to the centre of population; hence the holding of an exposition at this particular point, makes attendance at the least expense possible to the entire population of the country.

Again, the rapid and substantial development of the resources, both industrial and agricultural, of that section of the United States known as "The South" warrants the assumption that this proposed Exposition will be of great profit to those making exhibits along commercial lines.

In view of these facts, the Exposition Company has the honor of extending to you a cordial invitation to be present with them in person, and also begs to extend through you, an invitation to the people of your city to participate in this Exposition. And, still further, would respectfully ask you to appoint five or more of your citizens as commissioners, whose duty it shall be to encourage and promote commercial, industrial, educational and artistic exhibits to be placed in the Exposition.

It is the desire of the management to make this an occasion through which closer commercial relations may be cultivated, not only between the people of the United States, but as well those of other countries; and the management is pleased to assure you that every possible arrangement will be made looking to that end.

In the matter of exhibits from foreign countries, arrangements will be made to enter the same free of duty, and no charge will be made for space in the Exposition buildings.

Enclosed you will find some printed matter pertaining to the Exposition, which will convey a better idea of the enterprise than is possible in a letter. May the management hope for a communication from you upon this subject at an early date, stating what is your pleasure, and suggesting the best course to pursue?

Very respectfully and truly,

*J. W. Thomas*  
President.

*E. C. Lewis*  
Director General.

*A. Mills*  
Commissioner General.

New York, Mar. 23, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayer.

S i r :

The attention of your Honor is respectfully asked to the following statement of facts:

On the 19th. inst. a communication was sent to the Warden of the Work House, Department of Correction, of which the following is a true copy:

New York, Mar. 19, 1896.

Laurence Dunphy, Esq.,  
Warden of Work House.

S i r :

R. H. Mergan is appointed Second Deputy Warden of the Work House, at a salary of \$1000. per annum, in place of Frank McCaffrey, Clerk, who is hereby dismissed. Action to date from April 1st. 1896.

By order, (Signed) Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

The above appointment is a direct violation and evasion of the Civil Service rules, as well as of Section 48 of the Consolidation Act, first, because the appointee passed a Civil Service examination for Deputy Warden, while the position to be filled is that of "Clerk", and the rules require the Commissioner to apply to the Civil Service Board for a person from the eligible list of clerks. Second, because Section 48 of Chapter 410, Laws of 1882 says "no regular clerk shall be removed, until he has been informed of the cause of the proposed removal and has been allowed an opportunity of making an explanation, and in every case of a removal, the true grounds thereof shall be forthwith entered upon the records of the Department or Board."

No attempt whatever has been made, to comply with the above section of the law in the present instance.

So much for the legal side of the case.

May I ask your Honor to permit me to briefly submit a few pertinent and undeniable facts, which can be substantiated by various members of the State Charities Aid Association, this Department's Chaplains, and the records of the Work House.

For thirteen years I have been employed in the one capacity, studiously devoted all my time and energies to my duties without forty-eight hours complete relaxation in all these years. My hours of duty have been from 6:30 A. M. to 8 P. M., and later if necessary, Sundays included. I began with a small salary, by promotion at intervals, I succeeded in reaching my present status, ~~about~~ \$900. per annum, and maintenance. My promotions were made because of merit, and I have never asked a member of any political party to assist me in my position.

The knowledge that is requisite for a successful administration of the duties I have been charged with, can be gained only by long experience, I care not what a man's natural abilities may be. Let me cite an instance where this special knowledge becomes necessary:-

In 1895 through the continued efforts of the State Charities Aid Association, a law was enacted requiring that all persons committed for intoxication, disorderly conduct, and vagrancy, be sent to the Work House, where after an inspection of their persons and records, sentences would be imposed in the ratio of five days, if it was their first offence within two years, twenty days for the second offence, forty days for the third offence, doubling up to six months for the sixth commitment, within the period above specified. The sole object of requiring their commitment to the Work House lay in the fact, that the Association knew that they would be recognized here and dealt with as the spirit and letter of the law directed, and that they could not be so dealt with in the City Prison, because the Officials did not have the necessary experience, as compared with the Warden at this institution and the writer with an experience of forty years and

thirteen years, respectively, and dealing with the criminals of the class just mentioned. The successful operation of the law, which is of course in the interest of the community, must necessarily be interfered with, when its administration is placed in new and entirely inexperienced hands. I say it in no boastful spirit, that my experience with this class of prisoners cannot be equalled by any man in the public service, except the present Warden, whose duties are so various and widespread that he cannot devote his time to the various details that the successful management of that particular class of work require.

In administering the duties of my position fourteen employees are required, nine of whom are prisoners and three of them working all night, the remainder receiving small salary, and none of them here any length of time. The clerical work they are called upon to do under my direction is work of a special nature, with which the ordinary clerk is entirely unacquainted, and which requires unceasing watchfulness and care.

For eighteen months, December 1st., 1893 to June 30th., 1895 I was Acting Warden of the Alms House, besides performing my duties here, without any additional compensation and my administration of the affairs of that Institution, was warmly commended by the State Charities Aid Association, as is evidenced by the enclosed extract from one of their reports to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction.

I have here personal charge of all money and valuables belonging to prisoners, and of all monies received for fines, without the loss of one cent, the Commissioners of Accounts having gone over the books several times.

The general knowledge of your sturdy honesty, fair-mindedness, and high character, as well as your consistency in upholding the Civil Service rules, as now administered, leads me to hope that you will give my appeal due consideration and thus insure the lasting gratitude of the writer, who has a wife and family to care for out of his salary. <sup>insider of the</sup> The State Charities Aid Association have very generously authorized me to use their name as a reference in my letter to you, as they have had a great deal of personal and official intercourse with me and are willing to testify to my ability, etc. etc.

Yours very faithfully,

*Frank D. Gaffney*  
*Ward of*  
*Alms House*  
*Blackwell Island*  
*NY City*

One enclosure, which I respectfully ask to be returned.

C

the

New York January 6 1896

Hon Mr. Strong  
Mayor of New York City  
Caption Matens mont Stop  
Jackson from using sidewalk and  
Street for his smogons at No 324  
East 38 Street he makes a Parayord  
out of sidewalk and Street and  
lives property good for nothing  
it is a burden to tax payers nor  
he mont stoppe they gang of thives  
that stopes in they block I hope  
your honor will be kind enough  
to remove him

yours Respectfully

J & P Mc Guire  
No 326 and 328 East 38 Street

New York February 5<sup>th</sup> - 1896

Mr. Strong

Mayor of New York City sir  
this man Jackson and Bushey still uses  
Sidwalk and Street for Panyard at  
No 322 and 324 East 38 Street and Captain  
Masters wont stop them nor any of his men  
there is a gang of loafers and thives that come  
from different parts of the City and harbor in  
this block the are here day and night and he  
wont stop them the are all none to the  
Police when we complain of these  
muggons this crowd breaks our windows  
they have broke them last night about  
eleven o'clock we ask your honor  
if you wont be kind enough to  
remove this Captain for there is  
hardly any police duty don here  
yours respectfully

J & P Mc Guire  
No 326 and 328 East  
38 Street

New York February <sup>the</sup> 24 = 1896

Hon Mr. Strong  
Mayor of New York City Sir  
Jackson and Bushey still uses sidewalk  
and street places them up to suite  
them selves and they police wont stop  
them cant lett our houses with this  
Prosecution a Gang of loafers Comes to  
they street and takes full charge of it  
yesterday they played Crap one crowd and  
another crowd played Ball and howling  
all kinds of vile language leaving  
our property good for nothing if this  
Continues we will be compelled to  
sue they City for damage there is  
Hardly any police duty don here Hoping  
your Hon will remove this  
Captor

yours Respectfully  
J & P Mc Guire  
No 326 and 328 East 38 Street

New York March 17<sup>th</sup> 1896

Hon Mayor Strong  
Mayor of New York City  
this Jackson and Bushy blocks up  
the sidewalks at No 322 and 324 East 38  
Street and dont allow the people to pass  
unto they please stores waggons and  
Hitches up teams on it you can  
stand to the gett through Grey morning  
from Six to seven o'clock and on the  
opposite side of the street a Junk shop  
stores their Push Carts on sidewalk  
on nights and Sundayes and some  
times all day there are a gang  
of loafers and thieves that harbers in  
the block doing as they please they  
language that they use is disgracefull  
to hear and they police wont stop  
them we ask your Honor  
if you want be kind enough  
to remove this Captain he  
leaves our Property good for  
nothing

yours Respectfully

J & P Mc Guire  
No 326 & 328 East 38 Street

○

New York March <sup>the</sup> 24 1896

Hon Mayor Strong

Mayor of New York City

it is a shame they way this Capton  
is running this block in 38 street  
between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue. these two  
men can do as they like that is  
Jackson and Bushey the can stop  
they sidewalk or street as they please  
they time we complain they gett  
more and they lofers Burns Bonfires  
and getts barrels and boxes from ash  
coats and they time we go out and  
in they call us vile names we  
hope your banner will remove  
this Capton he leaves our property  
Good for nothing

yours respectfully

J & P M<sup>rs</sup> Guise

no 326 and 328 East 38 street

OFFICE OF

R. PEARLSTINE &amp; SON,

—DEALERS IN—

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

LATEST STYLES A SPECIALTY.

83 MAIN STREET.

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods,  
Notions and Millinery,  
Boots, Shoes, Hats, Clothing,  
GROCERIES,  
Cigars and Tobacco,  
STOVES AND RANGES,  
Coffins, Caskets and Burial Outfits.

No business transacted on  
Saturdays.

Branchville, S. C. March 24<sup>th</sup> 1896

To Commence on streets of  
New York city  
from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave

Genl

I have seen in several papers  
that you intend rebuilding or  
relaying the streets of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
with some material which would not  
make any noise and besides  
be lasting. if my suggestion  
be of any value may I call to your  
attention cypress blocks of the  
yellow red and black species  
Gotten out 8 in long and put on  
ends as belgian blocks and you  
will have a good drive and one that  
will never rot as long as it can

OFFICE OF

R. PEARLSTINE & SON,  
—DEALERS IN—

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No business transacted on  
Saturdays.

Branchville, S. C.,

189

obtain moisture and another  
advantage to its life being length  
ened is the way you city use  
the water carts so freely as if you  
will properly inquire. You will  
find cypress as piling is known  
to have been in use over 40 years  
then cut to ground and the top used  
after decay from wear and again put  
in good service as house blocks  
and lumber &c the only place  
a fence post of rots is just above  
the ground and the part in the  
ground never rots nor decaying  
further information I can give  
you on cypress will be glad to  
do so anytime and testimonials

OFFICE OF

R. PEARLSTINE & SON,

—DEALERS IN—

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

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83 MAIN STREET.

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 Boots, Shoes, Hats, Clothing,  
 GROCERIES,  
 Cigars and Tobacco,  
 STOVES AND RANGES,  
 Coffins, Caskets and Burial Outfits.

No business transacted on Saturdays.

Branchville, S. C.

189

I can secure you from the  
 best of people and statesman  
 hoping the above may service  
 to you yours  
 Jacob. T. Pearlstone

Major-General Geo. S. Greene.

24 E 42 St

Over

Dear Col Strong.

I send this to you

have left it right.

Not read. You can find

f

Chy

24 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET.

New York

24 March 1896

Hon. William L. Strong

Mayor of the City of New York

Sir

Learning that the question of the continuance of the Reservoir at 40 to 42 Streets is under discussion; and having served the City for nearly twenty years; as Principal Assistant Engineer & of Chief Engineer & Commissioner of the Croton Aqueduct Co -

postment And always  
having a deep interest  
in the means for supplying  
the City with water. I take  
the liberty of stating the  
Reason why this Reservoir  
should not be destroyed  
It is a storage Reservoir  
of considerable & valuable  
capacity, it is well built  
& with proper care will last  
for ages.

The City is constantly build-  
ing Reservoirs, those on the  
Island are especially for  
keeping up a longer head

of water & for a supply  
in case of any injury to  
the pipe by which all water  
brought to the Island is  
conducted to the Island Reservoir  
should cut off the daily  
supply.

While the City is constantly  
building Reservoirs at  
a great cost - to increase  
the storage capacity, why  
begin to tear down one simply  
because it is 2 feet -

Respectfully yours  
Richard Sewall  
George Sumner Greene

To his Honor

the Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir: Still without answer to the reclamations, which I have made in January for the return of the plans and specifications, made by me in competition for the proposed N.Y. Municipal Bldg. and at the time being sent to the committee, as requested, I most respectfully beg to order, that such plans be returned to me at once, as I cannot afford to miss them.

Thanking you for your kindness I remain  
most respectfully

A. Shuman

Philadelphia, Pa

532 North Fourth Str.

March 25<sup>th</sup> 1896

The Savannah Bulletin,

DAVID ROBINSON, Editor and Publisher.

M. ROBINSON, Manager.

Savannah, Ga., March 25th 1896

*Mr. W. L. Strong*  
*New York*

Dear Sir:-

We are desirous of sending out regularly during the next few months a very large edition of our Paper to be circulated throughout this State, in an effort to kill out the free silver movement which now threatens to prove so disastrous to the financial affairs of this Country.

We will be glad to receive a contribution of any amount you see fit towards the expense of our effort.

Your early response will be appreciated.

Very Respectfully,

*David Robinson*  
Editor Savannah Bulletin.

New York

March 25

Myra Stony I appeal to you  
to know how I am to be let  
alone I wrote you a letter  
marked it personal. but  
I have since felt you would  
not see it as Mr Hedges was  
very unkind to me when I called  
some time since

I have been terribly treated  
and will repeat it for fear  
you did not receive it ~~the letter~~  
I have been black mailed and  
kept from my son successfully  
ever since the death of my  
husband. who started this  
affair before his death Now  
no matter what I do I am  
doing wrong. I have closed  
the Villa Home I founded  
for aged women I opened a  
annex. Now I must hire  
a Matron who was to board  
each old Lady I was to pay  
\$10 per month for them and

furnish these rooms.  
and he signed agreements  
I afterwards of my own free  
will signed on her agreement  
to pay half her rent until  
she had five old Ladies  
I also sent her \$5.50 for Coal  
\$.50 to Mosey her own traps  
I hold receipts for all. Now  
the first old Lady was here.  
3 day when she treated her  
so bad she could not stay  
she took possession of the  
house kept all the furniture  
and money and goes around  
denouncing me she have  
me brought before the Magistrate  
at 158 Main claiming I owed  
her and I proceed to his  
satisfactions that I did not  
and it was dismissed now  
I hired a Lawyer Paul Price  
\$16. to appear he never came  
and insulted me there.  
I went to his office P. & S.  
Can't get a Lawyer these  
men are too strong I  
am looked upon as a

was one Clark. This  
Conspiracy has gone on  
for a long time My son  
has been kept from me  
successfully by black mail  
he is innocent and does  
not know the truth he is  
held by a woman who has  
tried to believe she is in  
sympathy with him  
it is to hold him until  
I am put away as insane  
which they are trying  
hard to do. I receive a  
letter from my son but  
each time it is inside  
of a letter from this woman  
they are in Philadelphia  
but boy does not know that he  
will be there next victims as  
soon as I am out of the way  
Now this is done for bonds  
registered in my name  
that fall due in July of this  
year with the help of conspiracy  
whos heads are in the Charity  
organization as counsel.  
The Cheat Man working

for this to have seemed a term  
in prison for black mail and  
a man and wife he with the  
woman has black mailed me  
and had others do to for 2 years  
I am a pure good woman  
and perfectly sane and I  
want you to advise me.  
I have been told to see  
you in person which I  
have been able to do  
as Mr Edges has here permitted  
me and he does not seem  
fair to me kindly let  
me hear from you and  
oblige yours truly

Wm Mordant  
408 West 57 Street  
NY

No. 29 Broadway, N. Y.

March 26th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, and Chairman of the

Board of Estimate & Apportionment of the  
City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Acting for certain clients I have examined the invitations for proposals for bids, to dispose of the ashes and garbage collected in this City, as the same have been advertised from time to time.

In behalf of such clients, who are financially, and otherwise, amply able to faithfully perform every contract that they may make, I beg leave respectfully to protest against the opening of bids for the final disposition of garbage alone as advertised to be opened and considered on March 26th 1896.

The reasons for my protesting, among others are the following:-

1: The proposals for the contract for the final disposition of garbage, should be opened simultaneously with the proposal or proposals for the final disposition of ashes, street sweeping and other refuse.

(A) This, because all bidders, (certainly my clients) will

contract to receive and dispose of 3,100,000 yards of material annually, at a very much lower rate relatively than if they are to dispose of only 400,000 yards annually. No argument is needed to persuade your Board of the truth of this proposition. But should any be considered necessary, the attention of the Board is called to the fact, that at the last meeting of the Board, where the form of the proposals was considered, one of the most experienced and successful merchants of the City called the attention of the Board to the matter here urged, and stated that the cost of transportation alone, would range from 12¢ and 15¢ under one method, to \$1.50 and \$2.00 under the other, per ton.

(B) Under the Proposals several kinds of refuse, garbage, ashes and sweeping are to be taken substantially to the same wharves, or dumping places, and a great deal of trouble and expense is avoided by a contractor when he can control all of the labourers who are assembled in any given space. As, for example, if a contractor finds that there are not eight hours work for one man working with the garbage, he can put the labourers to work on ashes, or other refuse, and effect a substantial saving.

(C) There are several clauses of the two proposals (one for ashes &c. and one for garbage) that are alike. These clauses should be construed alike in both contracts, but cases can easily

arise where the construction contended for by a contractor for disposing of the garbage, would not be right, as applied to the contractor under the other contract. For example, while the contractor taking the garbage may not find it profitable to trim or pick over the garbage, it is a well known fact that if the contractor for the other material is not given the privilege of what is popularly known as "scow trimming", or is deprived of the facilities heretofore and now accorded for such "trimming", the city will lose from \$75,000. to \$100,000. annually. The official reports of the Commissioner of Street Cleaning are my authority for these figures. Therefore the last clause of the ninetieth paragraph of the proposals for disposition of ashes and other refuse, is clearly harmful to the city, to an extent that the Board itself can best estimate.

2. The fact that the proposals are to be opened at different dates is extremely embarrassing to a bidder. He has to make bids in the alternative, and in bidding for the garbage contract he would be compelled to disclose expert and valuable information to his business competitors, who would, without fail, make use of such disclosures in bidding for the contract for ashes and other refuse material which is to be let subsequently. This statement also applies to <sup>the</sup> sum or sums bid for the work under the first proposals.

It is respectfully submitted that the above statements should

prevail with the "Board, since the facts stated are of the very essence of competitive bidding, and are taken into consideration, not only by my clients, but also by every other honest bidder, who desires to put in such a bid as will yield him a fair profit only.

Very truly yours,

*John Lindley*

OFFICE OF

EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS,

~~220 FOURTH AVENUE,~~

37 Chamber St

New York, Mar 26 1896

Job E. Dredges Esq

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your request to this Board, will say that our rules and regulations are as follows:-  
The applicant must fill out enclosed blank and must undergo the examination prescribed.

To obtain a certificate of competency he must obtain 75% on the following scale

Experience and practical	500
Written	350
Drawing	150

Should the applicant fail to pass, three months must elapse before he can obtain a re-examination.

Yours truly  
J. H. S. Cole  
Chairman.

# Plumber's Application for Certificate of Competency.

The Undersigned, a Citizen of the United States, of the lawful age of twenty-one years, and residing in the City of New York, herewith applies to the Examining Board of Plumbers for a Certificate of Competency.

New York, ..... 189 Signed, .....  
Shop ..... Residence, .....

City of New York, }  
County and State of New York, } ss:

..... being duly sworn,  
deposes and says: That he is the person named in the foregoing application for a Certificate of Competency as a Master or Employing Plumber; that the same is made in good faith, and that he desires and intends to engage in the business of Plumbing as a Master or Employing Plumber on account of .....; that no persons are interested with him in said business as partner or otherwise, except .....  
(Here state the name of partner, title of firm, company, etc.,

if one exists, or is to be formed.)

That his experience in the trade of Plumbing is as follows:

Helper ..... years.  
Journeyman ..... years.  
Master Plumber ..... years.

(Signed) .....

Subscribed and sworn to this ..... }  
day of ..... 189

## CERTIFICATE.

We, the undersigned, Certified Master Plumbers of the City of New York, being duly sworn, depose and say: That we are acquainted with the above-named .....

and know him to be a competent Plumber, regularly educated to the business, and qualified to receive a Certificate of Competency, having served an apprenticeship with .....

Signed, ..... Place of Business, .....  
Signed, ..... Place of Business, .....

Subscribed and sworn to this ..... }  
day of ..... 189



558 Fifth Avenue.

OFFICE

March 26<sup>th</sup>,

1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

New York City.

My dear Sir,

I am personally interested in securing as many new members for the Lotos Club as may be possible before the limit is reached and I would be delighted if you would allow me to propose you for membership.

I recently proposed Cornelius N. Bliss, and he was elected about two weeks ago; I hope to be able to present the names of George F. Seward, Col. Trenholm, William Nelson Cromwell, Benjamin Wright, Elihu Root and yourself. You will find yourself in good company and our people would be delighted to have you with us.

The initiation fee is \$100., to be raised to \$250. ultimately, and the dues are \$60. per annum payable quarterly.

Very truly yours, 1

David A. Peck

THE BOARD FOR THE  
PARK AVENUE IMPROVEMENT ABOVE 106TH STREET  
OFFICES

501 Fifth Avenue, Corner Forty-second Street

COMMISSIONERS

FRANK BULKLEY, PRESIDENT  
HENRY L. STODDARD, SECRETARY  
WALTER KATTE, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
ALMERIN H. LIDTHALL  
ERNEST HARVIER

NEW YORK, March 27, 1896. 189

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

I trust you will withdraw your acquiescence in the proposition that the names of the several Concourse Commissioners should be placed in the bill. It is an affront to you personally and officially, and by delegating to the Legislature power and privilege that belong to you by right, you surrender one of the duties which you are sworn to discharge. The City of New York must pay for this improvement, and the Mayor of the city is the proper appointing authority. To give it to another would be to evade the law and, in addition, would mean your acquiescence in a move that can only end in humiliating you before the public - not on this matter alone but on others far more important. If you resign your prerogative of office to the Legislature on this, where is it to lead on every other proposition that involves the exercise of power in this city? Is it not an entering wedge so that in one bill after another the same concession will be forced from you? And if you concede it on this, how can you justly refuse it on any other matter?

I regard it as a most dangerous precedent for you to

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ALMERIN H. LIGHTHALL  
ERNEST HARVIER

NEW YORK, .....189

permit to be established, and I earnestly hope you will not allow it to be carried out. Moreover, once you are irrevocably committed to the proposition, you will find that one name after another will be stricken out, and three men substituted with whose political or other affiliations you will not be in harmony. Then when it comes to you, the only ground of objection you can stand upon will be the personality of the men, and, in case of your veto, the cry will at once be raised that "organization" men have no chance with you - - that you are factional and are wrecking the party, etc., thus a breach already too wide will be widened and deepened more than ever.

I know well that my name would never be sanctioned by the Platt crowd. I don't expect it to be, and don't want it to be. I ask no favors of them. It was kind of you to include me among those to be made Commissioners, but I doubt whether I want the place at all, and if I do, I do not want it by the grace of John Raines, "Ham" Fish and men of that ilk. I am honored by their unflinching opposition to me, and prefer to have that distinction rather than their favor.

Without regard to my individual affairs, I am convinced that to allow this concession to be dragged from you would be a

THE BOARD FOR THE  
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ERNEST HARVIER

NEW YORK, .....189

fatal mistake on your part. I recall frequent declarations by you that you would do your duty in the Mayor's office, accepting your responsibilities and expecting the Legislature at Albany to do the same. This process of tying your hands, once begun, will never end. If the Legislature prefers to ignore this great public improvement rather than permit you to exercise your proper functions in the matter, the blame for it rests upon that body and not upon you.

Trusting, therefore, that you will insist upon a bill giving you the appointing power according to right and usage, and that you will oppose any invasion of your prerogative, I am,

Very truly yours,

Henry L. Stoddard

To

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
New York City.

The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

February 14th, 1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir: The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce extends to you a very cordial invitation to become its guest on the occasion of its 48th anniversary on Thursday evening April 30th, and make a brief address on the subject of American civic advancement. As an appropriate title "The business management of a great city" is suggested. The Secretary of the Navy has already accepted our invitation to be present and we are promised an acceptance from Mayor Swift.

The toasts suggested are,

Civil Service in National Government.

H. A. Herbert, Secretary of the Navy.

The business management of a great city.

W. L. Strong, Mayor of the city of New York.

The American city of the twentieth century.

George B. Swift, Mayor of the city of Chicago.

Our country; our state; our city.

James H. Hoyt, of Cleveland.

These topics all treat of good government and as that subject is uppermost in the public mind, public interest will be sustained and stimulated by addresses from men who have done great service in fixing attention upon the responsibility of popular government. Your participation on such an occasion would be indicative of your well known desire to bring the public mind up to a right appreciation of the need and value of better government in our great cities.

It is sincerely hoped that your engagements may not prevent an acceptance of this invitation.

By order of the board of directors.

Respectfully,

*William M. Day*  
President.

*Ryerson Ritchie*  
Secretary.

P  
Law Offices of  
*Hoyt, Dustin & Kelley.*  
*Western Reserve Building.*

*James H. Hoyt.*  
*Alton C. Dustin.*  
*Hermon A. Kelley.*

Rooms 701-706.

Cleveland, O. Feb. 14, 1896.

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

my dear sir:-

The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, which is a representative organization, composed of more than a thousand members, - all leading business men, - holds its annual dinner on the evening of April 30, next. They are very anxious to have you come on here on that occasion and respond to a toast. The sentiment they would suggest would be something in this line, - "The Government of a Great City."

You have so many admiring friends in Ohio, and especially in this section, that it would be a very great favor to our citizens if you would see your way clear to come.

I will be in New York next week and will take pleasure in calling on you as the representative of the Chamber and make a formal request. I write this letter at the unanimous request of the Board of Directors of the Chamber.

Very truly yours,

*James H. Hoyt*

JHH

Law Offices of  
Hoyt, Dustin & Kelley.  
Western Reserve Building.

James H. Hoyt,  
Alton C. Dustin,  
Hermon A. Kelley.

Rooms 704-706.

Cleveland, O. March 2, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor,

New York City.

My dear sir:-

I am just in receipt of your very satisfactory favor of Feb. 28, notifying me of your acceptance of the invitation of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce for April 30.

Kindly wire me on April 29 <sup>or before</sup> the train you take from New York City, so that I can meet you and your son at the depot. Mrs. Hoyt joins with me in extending a cordial invitation to come to our house, as we arranged in New York.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Hoyt.

CCC

*Law Offices of  
Hoyt, Dustin & Kelley.  
Western Reserve Building.*

*Rooms 701-706.*

*Cleveland, O.* March 28, 1896.

*James H. Hoyt  
Alton C. Dustin  
Herman A. Kelley.*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor,

New York City.

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

I write to call your attention to your engagement to speak at the banquet of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, in Cleveland, on April 30. The Secretary of the Chamber writes me that he sent you the toast-

"The Business management of a Great City,"  
for your approval.

Before printing the program, the Secretary of the Chamber is desirous of knowing whether the wording of the toast is satisfactory to you or whether you wish to make any change in it. If the toast meets your approval, will you kindly drop me a line to that effect, and oblige,

Very truly yours,

*James H. Hoyt*

GERMAN SOCIETY OF DEAF MUTES,  
Headquarter, 46 Avenue A.

New York, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1896.

Hon. Mayor W. L. Strong Cityhall  
Dear Sir!

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, on account of the Eglau murder, the German Society of Deaf Mutes held an extra-meeting to move a resolution of protest in regard to the incapability of the police.

Resolved: To blame the police for their unable proceedings as to the finding of the right traces and real murderer; also to express the public's indignation about it by requesting Mayor W. L. Strong to use all his power and influence for reforming the present police system.

Resolved: To incorporate the above resolution into the minutebook and to hand Mayor W. L. Strong the protest above mentioned in a proper way.

S. Kibler President.

Very Respectfully,  
Geo. Lindemann Sec'y.

CONSULADO GENERAL  
DE LA  
REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

New York March 28<sup>th</sup> 1896

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

Dear Sir,

I take great pleasure in  
acknowledging the receipt of your  
letter of even date + thank you  
very much for the letters of  
introduction for Mr Juan Abella.

Assuring you that your  
courtesy is very much appreciated,  
I remain, Mr Mayor,

Yours very respectfully  
Carlos Rühl  
Consul General

No. 29 Broadway, N.Y.

March 30th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor, and President of the  
Board of Estimate and Apportionment,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg leave to submit the following protest in addition to one filed with you March 26th, 1896, referring to the opening of the bids and the awarding of the contracts for the final disposition of the ashes, street-sweepings and garbage collected by the City.

I desire, in behalf of the clients for whom I was then acting to now protest against the opening of the bids, or awarding of the contract, or contracts, under the proposals as advertised to be opened and considered on March 30th, 1896, for the following among other reasons:

In a copy now said to be the only official form of the specification of estimate and contract for the final disposition of ashes, street-sweepings, and other refuse and rubbish, the last sentence of paragraph "A" of the fifth specification is stricken out. This sentence declared it to be the intention of the City to supply storage-pockets at the several dumping places for the temporary storage of the collections.

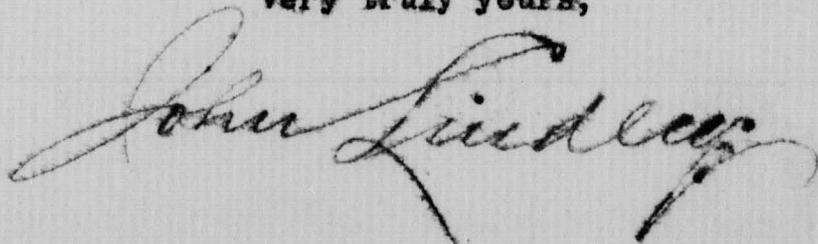
The copy of the said specifications for said contracts upon which my said clients were making up their bids, was received from the

Street Cleaning Department; but the sentence referred to was not stricken out; and inasmuch as the similar provision in the form of estimate for the final disposition of garbage only, this sentence was retained, my clients were led to conclude that it was the purpose of the City to provide the aforesaid pockets for the temporary reception of both classes of material.

It is immaterial to them whether they are to provide the aforesaid storage-pockets for both classes of material, or whether the City assumes such obligation; but if they were to bid on the condition that the storage-pockets were to be provided for all kinds of collections or material, their bid would be considerably less than it would be were storage-pockets to be provided for garbage only.

On behalf of my clients I respectfully renew the substance of the protest of March 26th, 1896, so far as the said protest is applicable to the provisions of the specifications of the contract for the final disposal of the ashes, street-sweepings, etc. And especially that part of the former protest <sup>which is</sup> comprised under sub-division "C" of paragraph one. I enclose a copy of my former protest.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Lindsey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Very truly yours,".

HOTEL SAVOY,  
59th Street & 5th Avenue,

New York, Mch. 12th, 1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York.

Dear Sir:-

On Feb. 27th ult. there was a conference had at the Mayor's office, wherein besides yourself Mayor Wurster of Brooklyn, Mr. Orr President of the Rapid Transit Commission, Mr. George J. Gould and I participated, and it was then understood that within a few days thereafter I was to write to you and to the Mayor of Brooklyn respecting one of the subjects discussed, to-wit, the crossing of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge by elevated railroad trains. Mr. Gould was to communicate with Mr. Orr respecting a conference with the Rapid Transit Commissioners.

I write now to explain why I have not addressed the communication above referred to. You will remember that the New York Central Railroad interests were to be consulted, but it has so happened that either Mr. Depew or Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt have been out of town ever since. I am informed by Mr. Depew that Mr. Vanderbilt will be in New York on Monday or Tuesday next, and at Mr. Gould's request I have withheld the communication I had intended to send. You will hear from me without fail next week.

W.L.S. #2.

I have addressed a communication of like tenor to the  
Mayor of Brooklyn.

Yours truly,

*Wm. L. Garrison*

W. L. GARRISON LIBRARY

T. H. ROBERTS,  
Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law,  
(WITH E. B. ESTES & SONS),  
43-47 JOHN STREET,

*7 U*  
New York, Mar. 30, 1896. 189

Hon. Mayor Strong,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

The proposition made to you by the Elevated Railroad Companies, to connect with the Bridge, and run cars through Brooklyn, over the Bridge, and through New York, is received with great favor in our office, where there are twenty men using the Bridge and Railways every morning.

We would be exceedingly glad if the scheme could be consummated at once, so that such fearful jams and delays, as we were subject to this morning, might in a measure be done away with. We do pray that you will consummate this scheme at the earliest practical date.

It means to each one in our office, and we are only a few of the many hundred thousands, who use the Bridge daily, a saving of 30 minutes each day and five cents. This means for a year a saving of \$15.00 to \$20.00, and of 20 days time, for each person.

You can see the immense advantage it will be to the development of Brooklyn. We have used the Bridge for ten years daily, and we know something of the fearful inconvenience to which thousands of Brooklyn people are subject, to get to the City every morning, and get home again at night.

Anything you can do to relieve the people will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

T. H. ROBERTS.  
in behalf of himself  
and 20 others in the  
office.

T. H. ROBERTS,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,

212 TULIP STREET, 29TH WARD,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

SAUQUOIT □, 150, F. & A. M.

TEFFT POST, 355, G. A. R.

TUSCARORA LODGE, K. OF H.

HOLTON COUNCIL, JR. O. U. A. M.

OFFICE, 45 JOHN ST., N. Y.

E. B. ESTES & SONS.

New York, March 30, 1896.  
His Honor, Mayor Strong,  
Dear Sir—

At a meeting of the Robt.  
J. Wright Rep. Club of the 33d  
District, held Thursday evening,  
at their rooms, 2269 Second  
Avenue, you were proposed  
as an Honorary member.

The Club unanimously  
so elected you, and directed  
that you be duly notified by  
letter, and you further be made  
acquainted with the fact that  
Thursday of each week will  
henceforth be the meeting nights.

Wishing you good health

and Happiness, I am for  
the Club.

<sup>my</sup>  
Truly Yours,

Chas. E. Shields,  
Cor. Secy.

Chas. H. Bate,  
Chair.



·HOTEL LAFAYETTE·  
LOUIS H. SMITH  
PHILADELPHIA

March 30<sup>th</sup> - 96

Dear Mr. Mayor

In looking over  
the names of those Friends  
who are to represent New York,  
as an Englishman I was very  
much surprised to notice the  
strong Irish complexion of it.  
Could it not be possible as the  
Canadians are doing that is  
sending pure natives of the  
Country. I am sure it will be  
a surprise to my Countrymen when  
they are introduced to Mr. Mc Dermott  
Murphy &c. &c. Knowing as I do



•HOTEL LAFAYETTE•  
LOUIS H. SMITH  
PHILADELPHIA

that thorough bred American  
Foremen are the ones who are  
expected. we will have plenty  
of Irishmen on the team from  
Dublin without sending to  
America for the exiled ones

Respectfully yours  
John Morrow

FREDERIC H. BETTS,  
J. E. HINDON HYDE,  
SAMUEL R. BETTS,  
JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,  
L. F. H. BETTS.

LAW OFFICES  
OF  
BETTS, HYDE & BETTS,  
EQUITABLE BUILDING, 120 BROADWAY,  
NEW YORK CITY.

TELEPHONE, 1324 CORTLANDT.  
CABLE ADDRESS, "MIRAGE, NEW YORK."

NEW YORK, March 31st, 1896. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,  
City Hall,  
City.

My dear Colonel Strong:

I am in receipt of a letter, enclosed to me by Mr. Hedges, which was sent to you by Mr. John Claflin, relative to the promotion of Thomas Lally, now Chief of the Fifth Battalion of the Fire Department.

I know Chief Lally and his work very well, and he has often proved himself a brave and efficient officer. But, I cherish the hope that, before you commit yourself in any way to his interest, you will give me an opportunity of seeing you and explaining what the situation is in our Department in regard to the promotion he seeks.

The endorsement of such a man as Mr. Claflin is entitled to very great weight, but I should like to go over with you, somewhat in detail, the eligibility of several candidates, and to get your opinion as to their fitness.

I thank you for showing me the letter.

With great respect, I remain-

Very sincerely yours,

*James R. Sheffield*

# FIRE AND WATER.

Fire Protection, Water Supply, Hydraulic, Sanitary and Municipal Engineering.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

HEAD OFFICE, 93-97 WILLIAM STREET

P. O. BOX 128.

NEW YORK, 3--31--96 , 189

<b>Fire and Water.</b>
Weekly, \$3 per Year.
<b>Contract News.</b>
Weekly, \$6 per Year.
<b>Fire Service Review.</b>
Monthly, \$1.50 per Year,
Handbook of Water Works Statistics
and Fire Department Equipment.
Yearly, \$2.00.
<b>F. W. SHEPPERD, Prop.</b>

Personal.

THE HONORABLE MAYOR STRONG,

City Hall,

New York City.

Sir,

We notice that it is your intention to nominate a committee to accompany the delegation of the New York Fire Department to the London Fire Congress. In doing so we would respectfully ask you to take into consideration the claims of this journal to be included in your list.

For twenty years, FIRE AND WATER has been the leading exponent of fire matters in the United States, and it is the only journal that has a national reputation in this line. During the last London Congress we sent a special correspondent to London, and published on that occasion a souvenir edition of the paper, which proved a great surprise to our brothers on the other side, on account of the enterprise displayed by the publisher, in producing such an elaborate journal, devoted exclusively to the subject of fire protection.

In mentioning these facts, we would say that we are prepared to issue such another publication for the coming Congress, and feel that we are in a position to uphold the dignity and importance of the mission of our firemen to London.

We take the liberty of sending you under separate cover, copy of the special edition for the London Fire Congress, and also a recent issue of our regular edition, in which you will find portraits of the New York Fire Department officials.

Trusting that you will be able to give this matter your serious consideration, we remain,

Respectfully Yours,

*F. W. Shepperd.*



STATE OF NEW YORK,  
**Senate Chamber,**

*Albany* January 20, 1896.

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am requested to inform you that a hearing will be given by the Senate Cities Committee upon Senate bills, Nos. 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 103, on Thursday, January 28, at 2:30 P. M.

Anything you desire to bring before the Committee will be gladly heard at that time.

Enclosed find copy of the bill,

Respectfully yours,

*W. A. Robbins* Clerk.



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

*Albany* January 20. 1896.

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

Dear Sir:-

I am requested to inform you that a hearing will be given by the Senate Cities Committee upon Senate bill No. 72 on Thursday, February 4, at 2:30 P. M.

Anything you desire to bring before the Committee will be gladly heard at that time.

Enclosed find copy of the bill.

Respectfully yours,

*W. A. Robbins* Clerk.

State of New York.  
Office of the  
Clerk of the Senate,  
Albany.

Jan. 24. 96

Mr. J. B. Hedges  
Secy., New York,  
Dear Sir,

Your requests for  
duplicate copies of bills for-  
warded to Mayor, and for  
additional blanks will be  
duly complied with.

Name and address of  
Club made Com. Cities, last  
year as follows

Ernest U. Smith  
Rochester, N.Y.

Yours truly  
J. B. Hedges



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
Assembly Chamber.

Albany, Jan'y 24 1896.

Hon Job. E. Hedger,

Secretary to Mayor of N.Y.

My Dear Sir.

Herewith, in answer  
to your request of the 13<sup>th</sup> I  
send you blanks. also  
copies of bills No<sup>o</sup> 1 & 2.

I will send you <sup>extra</sup> copies  
of all bills in the future.

Yours Respty.

John R. Thorne



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
Senate Chamber,

Albany, Feb. 15 1896

Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor.

New York, City.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed are copies of Senate Bill No. 512 and 575, also Assembly Bill No. 691 which I have been instructed to forward you in order that you may if desirable communicate thereon.

Very respectfully,

N. C. Smith

Clerk, Senate Judiciary Committee



NEVADA N. STRANAHAN.  
THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.

STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

*Albany, Feb'y 26 1896*

*Hon Wm L Strong Mayor  
New York  
N.Y.*

Sir;--

I am directed to inform you that you will be granted a hearing on <sup>assembly</sup> Senate Bill # *340*

before the Senate Committee on Cities on

*Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>*

at *2:30 P.M.*

I enclose copy of the bill.

Respectfully yours,

*W.A. Robbins* Clerk,

Senate Committee on Cities.



NEVADA N. STRANAHAN.  
THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.

STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

*Albany, March 5 1896*

*Hon Wm. L. Strong Mayor  
New York*

Sir;--

I am directed to inform you that you will be granted a hearing on Senate Bills # ~~523~~ <sup>745, 746</sup> ~~748, 749, 758~~ before the Senate Committee on Cities on

*Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>*  
at *7:30 PM*

I ~~enclose~~ <sup>send</sup> copy of the bills ~~under separate cover~~

Respectfully yours,

*W. A. Robbins* Clerk,

Senate Committee on Cities.



NEVADA N. STRANAHAN.  
THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.



Albany, March 16 1896

Howell L. Strong Mayor  
New York

Sir;--

I am directed to inform you that you will be  
granted a hearing on Senate Bills \$ ~~433-8384-844~~  
before the Senate Committee on Cities on  
*Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>*  
at *7:30 PM*.

I enclose copy of the bill,

Respectfully yours,

*W. A. Robbins* Clerk,

Senate Committee on Cities.

ALBANY, N. Y., *March 20* 189*6*

Notice is hereby given that a hearing on Assembly Bill, <sup>*formerly*</sup> printed No. *153*

*which will contain amendments to meet Mayor's objections*  
1 (A copy of ~~which~~ *old bill* is herewith enclosed) will be had before the Committee on Affairs of

Cities, in the Assembly Parlor, Capitol Building, on the *26th* day of

*March*, 1896, at *3* o'clock, P. M.

Yours, etc.,

GEORGE C. AUSTIN,

Chairman.



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
Senate Chamber

Albany, Mar 20 1896

Now Mr L Strong  
New York City

Dear Sir

Enclosed please

find Copy of Senate Bill No  
920 which I have been instruct-  
ed by the Judiciary Committee to  
send you that you may commu-  
nicate thereon if desired

Yours very respy  
Norman C. Smith  
Chk of Judiciary Com



NEVADA N. STRANAHAN.  
THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.

STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

*Albany, March 21 1896*

*Hon W. R. Strong Mayor  
New York  
my*

Sir;--

I am directed to inform you that you will be  
granted a hearing on Senate Bill # *953*

before the Senate Committee on Cities on

*Thursday March 20*

at *2:30 PM*

I enclose copy of the bill.

Respectfully yours,

*W. A. Robbins* Clerk,

Senate Committee on Cities.



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

Albany, March 26 1896

Mr Wm L Strong  
New York City

Sir Enclosed please find Senate  
bill No 1080 which I have been  
instructed by the Judiciary Com-  
mittee to forward you for com-  
munication should you so desire

Yours very respectfully  
Norman C. Smith  
Clerk Judiciary Com

New York, March 31st, 1896.

Dear Sir:

I hear from the Chairman of the Committee on Cities that in making his announcement of adjournments he meant Thursday April 2nd, instead of Tuesday March 31st.

You will please attend, as it is very important that we should meet the opposition.

Yours truly,

FORDHAM MORRIS,

Chairman.



STATE OF NEW YORK.  
**Senate Chamber,**

Albany, March 31 1896

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

Dear Sir:

Inclosed are copies of  
several bills now before  
the Senate Judiciary Committee  
and which I have been  
instructed to mail you in  
order that you may if  
desirable communicate thereon.

Very respectfully  
N. B. Smith  
Clerk, Judiciary Committee

Kingsbridge, New York, March , 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayer of the City of New York.

The undersigned, residents and property owners of the North Side, respectfully request your favorable consideration of Senate Bill #475, introduced by Senator Guy, and entitled, "An act to lay out, establish, build and maintain a Causeway or Viaduct for use as a Public Street Across Jerome Park Reservoir, from Jerome Avenue to Sedgwick Avenue, in the City of New York."

W.C. Hanna Jr. Sedgwick Ave, Kingsbridge, N.Y.

N.F. Vought, " " " "

Chas H McManus 45 ~~Wingfield~~ Ave

Wm H. Tracy

Wm Keilly

J. A. Greenbaum  
Fred Smith

Lehas. Reed

John F. Lucke

Patrick H. Tobey

James Millbotin

A Duettmann

a Larkin

M Martin

John Wilson

Fred Scrimgeour

George Stultz

Joseph D Berry Suburban St + Perry Ave

1

Chas H McQuinn

Wm W. Tracy

Wm Kelly

J. A. Greenham  
Fred Smith

Le. Mas. Reed

John F. Lucke

Patrick H. Tobey

James Millbotin

A. Duetmann

a Larkin

M. Martin

John Wilson

Fred Scrimgeour

George Stultz

Joseph D. Berry Suburban St + Perry Ave.

Geo W. C. Connor Windsor Bridge

Daniel Gowan

James Flynn

Chas. von Munster Bedford Park Suburban St.

Joseph D'Amico " Patter place

F. D. Miller, Rockfield St

David Hermann Bedford Park

Simon Toffler " "

Emil Weil Bedford Park

William T. Hawke, Villa Ave. Bedford Park

Thomas Thompson Villa Ave Bedford park

A. J. Fournier Summit St

Joseph Guembla Suburban St.

E. Schroder Suburban St.

Olef Bergmark St George Crescent

William Gully, Jerome Ave near Potter Place

J. J. O'Brien Jerome Ave " So. Boulevard

2

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C., ~~January 21st,~~ 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

12 West 57th Street, N. Y.

My Dear Sir:-

I visited New York on Saturday in order to consult with you regarding bills affecting the new annexed district. I was disappointed in finding you out of town ~~to~~ to be obliged to return without seeing you. I had tried to see you once before, before the bills referred to were introduced, in order to receive any suggestions you might have to make, prior to their introduction. And now I should like to consult with you before the bills are passed, so that any suggestions you might want to make could be incorporated by way of amendment to the bills, before their final passage. I now write to learn whether, in case I could not soon get away again during the day time, it would be agreeable to you to have me call for a few moments at your house in the evening. In such case, I could leave here on the four o'clock Congressional Limited, after the House has adjourned for the day, and after seeing you, could return on the night train, arriving here again in the morning.

I beg to remain,

Yours, with respect,

*Ben L. Fairchild*

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C. April 7th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor &c.,  
City Hall, New York.

My Dear Mayor:-

The Bill creating a separate magistrates district for the newly annexed district has passed the Legislature, and is now before you. You will remember that this is the bill about which I have conferred with you a number of times in New York. I imagine that there will be no opposition to the measure. But, if there is any opposition, of a nature that would qualify your favorable consideration of the Bill, I should like to know it in time to have an opportunity to explain or answer any objections, and I would leave here for New York for the express purpose, if it should become necessary.

I beg to remain,

Yours, with respect,

*Ben J. Fairchild*

# House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C. April 13th, 1896.

The Honorable

William L. Strong,

Mayor &c.,

My Dear Mayor:-

It occurs to me to add to the suggestions made verbally by me to you, a criticism of one of the points emphasized in one of the briefs filed with you against the Magistrates Bill. I refer to the brief that pretends that the Magistrates Bill changes the law regarding the right of the Clerks of the Court to transact business. The Bill does no such thing. The section of the Magistrates law relating to clerks and employes of the Court is Section four. That section is not amended, or referred to, in any respect by the bill in your hands. On the contrary, Section eight of the Bill provides that the provisions of the Magistrates law shall apply to the said Magistrates Court, created by the Bill. The only sections of the Magistrates law that are amended by the Bill, are sections eight and twenty-five. I cannot conceive why anyone should file a brief with you pretending otherwise.

I beg to remain,

Yours, with respect,

*Ben J. Fancher*

ALFRED BENJAMIN & CO.

49-51-53 LAFAYETTE PLACE.

New York, April 1st, 1896.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

My dear Sir:

I visited the Hebrew Institute last evening, and was very glad to have the opportunity of being present at the meeting over which you presided. I had never given the push cart question any thought, but was much impressed by the earnest views expressed by yourself, Col. Waring and Mr. Roosevelt, especially with what they said of their desire to help these people in their struggle. I am very sure that the appeal made to the audience to respect the laws and carry on their vocation with a due regard to the law, will have its influence.

I must, however, say to you that the solution suggested seems to me to be entirely inadequate. I do not believe that one or two market houses will be a satisfactory solution of the question. These

people are push cart peddlers because of the necessity of carrying their wares into the very midst of those to whom they sell, and the location of a market house would only destroy their business as peddlers. Some of their number with an established following might find it possible to do their trading at a specified locality in some particular market house, but a number of them would lose every opportunity of selling their wares unless they were permitted to continue their vocation on the same lines that they do now. It seems to me that the most practicable suggestion that was made was the one made by Col. Waring, when he asked that the men should assist the Street Cleaning Department by hanging a basket, or bag or something else on their carts into which the refuse should be thrown, instead of throwing it upon the Streets, and if in addition to this time limit now allowed by the ordinance was extended to say 20 minutes, would probably be all that was necessary in the case.

I attach no value to the statement made that the Streets are well-nigh impassable, because that is

no hardship. The Streets referred to are inhabited by a class of people who are perfectly willing to have their Streets crowded, and are accustomed to it. I admit that if these push cart peddlers should fill up the uptown Streets, say 57th St., between 5th and 6th Ave., that they would create a nuisance by their crowding which should be abated at once, but in their own locality the case is entirely different.

I take the liberty of writing you my views on this question, and ask that you take them into consideration.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,  
*Albert F. Hochstetler*

WILLIAM ISELIN & CO.,

P. O. BOX 987.

NEW YORK.

CABLES: GREENCANAL. N. Y.

*New York,* April 1st, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York,

Dear Sir:-

Permit me as a resident and property holder of Brooklyn to express to you my hearty approval of and sincere thanks for the stand you have taken in regard to doing away with the nuisance of changing cars at the Brooklyn Bridge terminals, especially on the Brooklyn side. I have often spoken to neighbors about the colossal want of judgment on the part of those in authority, in maintaining such a discomfort -nowhere <sup>in</sup> the world would a state of affairs like this be tolerated so long.- If the rolling stock, either on the Elevated Roads, or on the Bridge, is not adapted to the requirements, it can be, and should be changed forthwith. Suppose in traveling from here to Chicago, or to any other point, a passenger should have to change cars - without even counting the climbing and descending- at every Bridge in the land, what would he say ?

Therefore I am very glad indeed to see the initiative you have taken, and trust you will not stop before this affront to common sense is remedied; you will merit and receive the gratitude of the entire community.

Yours very respectfully,

*Julius C. Schlachter*  
309 Jefferson Ave. Brooklyn.

New York, April 1st, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York,

City Hall, New York City.

There are either in the possession of either yourself or Colonel George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner of Street Cleaning, Official Certificates signed by the Mayor, Comptroller, Chamberlain, City Engineer and the City Superintendent, of the City of Troy, stating and setting forth that the Contract between the City of Troy and myself for the disposition or cremation of the City refuse of that City is being faithfully and promptly performed by me and has been so faithfully and promptly performed for the last past two years and one-half, and that no complaints against the manner of my performance of such contract has ever been made by them or of any of the Citizens of Troy.

I beg to state to you that the statements contained in such certificates can be fully and satisfactorily verified by you or Colonel Waring, and I ask and court a most rigorous official investigation by you or the Colonel of the truthfulness and exactness of such statements. I take the liberty of requesting that such inquiry be instituted as a simple act of justice to me as one of the bidders for the proposed contract now pending and under consideration for the final disposition of the garbage &c. of this City.

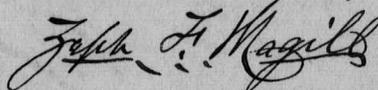
As to my financial responsibility I respectfully refer you to the National Bank of Troy, of which I am a Director, as well as to any reputable citizen of that City.

I have been the disbursing agent for the past four years in the City of Troy for the Government of the United States, having full charge and control of the expenditure of the Government at Troy in relation to said Government's Building there, and during said period of four years I have paid and disbursed for the Government over Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.)

In addition to the above I beg to state that I am worth over Eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.) above all liabilities and consider myself fully able to carry on and consummate the present proposed contract with this City if it shall be awarded to me.

I remain, sir, with great respect,

Your Obedient Servant,



2001 Fifth Avenue,  
Troy, N. Y.

P. S. The American Surety Company of this City after thorough investigation of my responsibility willingly became surety on my bond for One hundred thousand (\$100,000.) dollars.

New York, April 1st, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

At the Annual Meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, held in New York City, March 25th, 1896, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted;

"RESOLVED: That public officials, departments and boards be and are requested to adopt such rules and regulations as will provide for the appointment of physicians to public hospitals and institutions upon civil service examination only, and for the admission of all physicians holding the license or endorsement of the Board of Regents to competition on such examination for all places to be filled without regard to their particular schools of medicine."

We indulge the hope and expectation that your official action and influence will be to further this measure of justice, meting out equally and impartially to all worthy members of the medical profession.

Yours respectfully,

*J. H. Lawrence*  
President

*Attached:*

*Samuel A. Hardy*  
Secretary



*W. L. Strong & Co.*  
Commission Merchants  
75 & 77 W. 21<sup>ST</sup> ST.  
(New York)  
PHILADELPHIA, 322 CHESTNUT ST.  
BOSTON, 78 CHAUNCEY ST.

New York, April 2, 1896.

Dear Colonel,

The road way that the Driving Club and bicycle people are very anxious to have improved, is the Kingsbridge road, commencing at the foot of the hill. I should think this would be in the neighborhood of 200th St. running from there up to the new bridge, across the canal, and from there on to what I think is called The King's Bridge, over the Spuyten Duyvel Creek.

This is the main thoroughfare for everybody going to Yonkers, either on bicycles or driving, and the Driving Club is situated at the old Seaman Marble House, at 217th St., and anyone going to that club has to go over this road.

As it is now, it is worse than any country road could possibly be, as it has side walks and curbing, while the road way itself, is a dead level. The result is that any time there is a rain, it is a sea of mud, and when it dries up, it is very rough. In very dry weather the dust is a foot deep, making the road absolutely impassable for bicycles at any time, and as the city ordinance prevents them from riding on the side walks, it makes a stretch of over a mile of the worst road that there is in the neighborhood.

The Driving Club are particularly anxious to have this road improved; in fact, everybody who has occasion to go out of town at the north end of the island, is. If it is impossible to fix it up permanently, if they could only round it up in the middle and turnpike it, and put a little gravel on, it would make a road way

*W. L. Strong & Co.*  
Commission Merchants  
75 & 77 W. WALL ST.  
(New York)

PHILADELPHIA, 322 CHESTNUT ST.  
BOSTON, 78 CHAUNCEY ST. -2-

New York, April 2, 1896.

that would be fairly passable, which is not the case now.

When Mr. Brookfield was in office, he promised to have this fixed last Fall, and my impression is that they did do something towards fixing up the lower part of the hill, but they did not go beyond the foot of the hill, if they completed it as far as that even.

It is an improvement that is needed as much as anything in the way of paving, in the city, and one that would be appreciated by a very large number of the people.

Yours truly,

*F. L. Scott*

PURE LINEN STOCK

New York April 29 1896.

Hon. Wm. Strong  
Mayor  
Sic.

You can do a great service to residents on the West Side of the City by having the Car on the Boulevard and on Amsterdam Ave. Change from horse to Electricity

The Traction Company owe it to the public to make the change, at once, from 125th St down Amsterdam Ave. for the improvements on Morning Side Streets will very soon draw there a great many persons. This Company has been given very valuable privileges & it ought to go to work on the Amsterdam Line before it gets any other. As to the Boulevard Line up Amsterdam Ave, the cars are in such a disgraceful condition that it is the duty of some person to call the attention of the Board of Health to them. They are now controlled by the 3<sup>d</sup> Ave Co.

Respectfully your obedient  
J. M. Bryan

# MR. HOWELL'S DEFENSE

To the Stinging Report of the  
Bridge Investigating Committee.

## THE SANDS STREET PROPERTY.

The Bridge President Claims that the  
Property Bought from the Railroad  
Company Was a Bargain—Won't An-  
swer Any of the Other Charges—  
Trustee Keeney Not at His Headquar-  
ters in the Eagle Building.

Bridge President Howell was asked this morning by a "Citizen" reporter what he had to say in regard to the report of the Assembly Cities Investigating Committee, in which it was recommended that both he and Seth L. Keeney be legislated out of office.

"There is one point of the report that I wish to speak about," said the Bridge president, "and that is in reference to the purchase of the Plaza property from the Brooklyn City Railroad.

"The Commission appointed for the purchase of the property for the Bridge paid more money for adjoining property than the property of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company. The property at No. 10 Sands streets, adjoining that of the Brooklyn City's, was purchased by the Commission for \$51,000, or at the rate of \$2,000 per front foot. The property at No. 17 High street was bought at \$22,500, or at the rate of \$900 per front foot.

"The property purchased from the Brooklyn City Railroad Company, which now comprises the Plaza, was 72 feet on High street and 72 feet on Sands street. This piece of land was purchased by the trustees for \$150,000. Now, if we had paid the same rate as the Commission did for adjoining property the purchase of the Brooklyn City Railroad's property would have cost the Bridge trustees \$216,000, instead of \$150,000.

"Our counsel accepted the terms of the railroad, and we bought the land at a less figure than was paid for adjoining property.

"I don't find any fault with the report. In fact, considering the conditions and the motives which prompted the report, it is a fair one. As regards anything else in the report I have absolutely nothing to say."

To all other questions put to Mr. Howell by the reporter, Mr. Howell answered with "I have nothing to say."

Mr. Henriques, one of the trustees, in answer to a question, said: "Any criticism that these gentlemen may make of my conduct as trustee I regard with indifference. My position on the Plaza question is well known."

Mr. Henriques was the only member of the regular trustees who opposed the plan to give the Plaza to the Brooklyn Heights Railroad.

Seth L. Keeney, the trustee most hit by the report, was sought after in vain. He was not at the Bridge office this morning. A reporter called at his headquarters, in the "Eagle" Building, and was told that, though it was usual for him to be there, he did not put in an appearance there to-day. At his Clermont avenue home it was said that Mr. Keeney was not in.

Bridge Treasurer Edward W. Barr, in reference to the recommendation in the report to do away with the position of treasurer, and have a trustee do the work, gave the following statement to a "Citizen" reporter:

"Mayors Schieren and Strong, reposing confidence and trust in me, nominated me for treasurer. I came here as a business man, regarding public office as a public trust. I have faithfully performed the duties of my office, and I shall continue to do so as long as I remain the incumbent."

ARTHUR W. SOPER,  
160 BROADWAY, N.Y.

April 2d, 1896

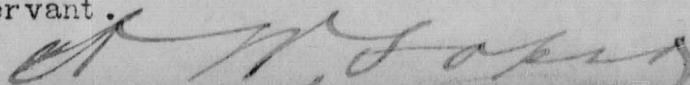
Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
City Hall, New York.

My dear Mayor:

I notice your decision about granting rights to the Manhattan Railroad, and congratulate you. I believe you have accomplished more for the City of New York and its people than any other mayor.

I have seen the suffering of the elevated railroad passengers trying to get to their homes in the crowded, platform-ridden trains, and of late have more particularly noticed it from seeing the women forced, from the crowded condition of the cars, to ride out on the platforms, even in storms. This is certainly a great outrage which could be remedied by the Manhattan road having accommodations for more tracks and trains, which would relieve this pressure and which is the only possible way that we can expect relief for many years to come, and it would not injure a single individual or citizen of New York. When we take into consideration the freedom from accident on the elevated roads, the absolute safety and comfort to the passengers in the open air, it is unquestionably the only satisfactory means of transporting our people to the north of the Harlem, and additional privileges should have been granted to the road many years ago.

Your obedient servant.



NICHOLSON & CO.,  
150 BROADWAY,  
BUSINESS PROPERTY EXCLUSIVELY.  
FIRE-PROOF BUILDINGS  
A SPECIALTY.

NEW YORK, April 2, 1896.

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

Dear Sir:--

Referring to the presentment just made by the grand jury in regard to the condition of the Register's office and their earnest recommendation that temporary fire-proof quarters should immediately be procured, we beg to say that we have ready for immediate occupancy the most desirable property in this City for the purpose, viz:-- the New Rhinelander Building, cor. William and Chambers St. only about 600 feet from the present Register's office.

The building is 80 x 100 and is the strongest, most fire-proof and best lighted of any of which we are acquainted.

We can give you two floors and arrange a number of brick vaults for additional security of the valuable records, which will be fire, bomb and burglar proof.

We will call on you at once with diagram of premises and go with you to inspect the same if desired.

We may here say that the rent will be made entirely satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

*Nicholson & Co.*

B.

Philadelphia

April 2nd. 1896.

Hon. Mayor

of New York.

Dear Sir

My husband  
Robert W. Ward, a private  
in Co. K. 106th Regt.  
(National Guards) Penna  
Volunteers, after a three  
months service in the  
C. A. P. recruited served  
three years - wounded  
at Antietam Sept 3rd.  
I think it was, and  
was honorably discharged  
at the close of the Rebellion.

It is said he  
died of disease contracted  
while in the Army - some

where in Brooklyn or  
New York early in May  
or June 1870 1871 1872 or 1873  
I cannot be certain which.

I obtained the  
Military data from Bates'  
History of Penna. Volunteers.

I never received my  
husbands papers which he  
promised to send me if any  
thing should happen to  
him.

All is in good shape how  
ever. If I can only prove the  
death of my husband I am  
entitled to a pension as you  
know.

This missing link is  
an important one it being  
the hinge on which my  
claim turns.

I gave my

husband for the honor of  
the dear old red-white and  
blue my "Country's Flag" and  
now that age is creeping upon  
me and I have no strong arm  
on which to lean Is it too much  
to ask Uncle Sam to give me  
a pension if I can prove my  
claim?

Is there anything you  
can do to assist me to find  
a clue?

Will you not kindly  
do for me as you would like  
some gallant kind hearted  
person do for your widow if  
she were in a similar position

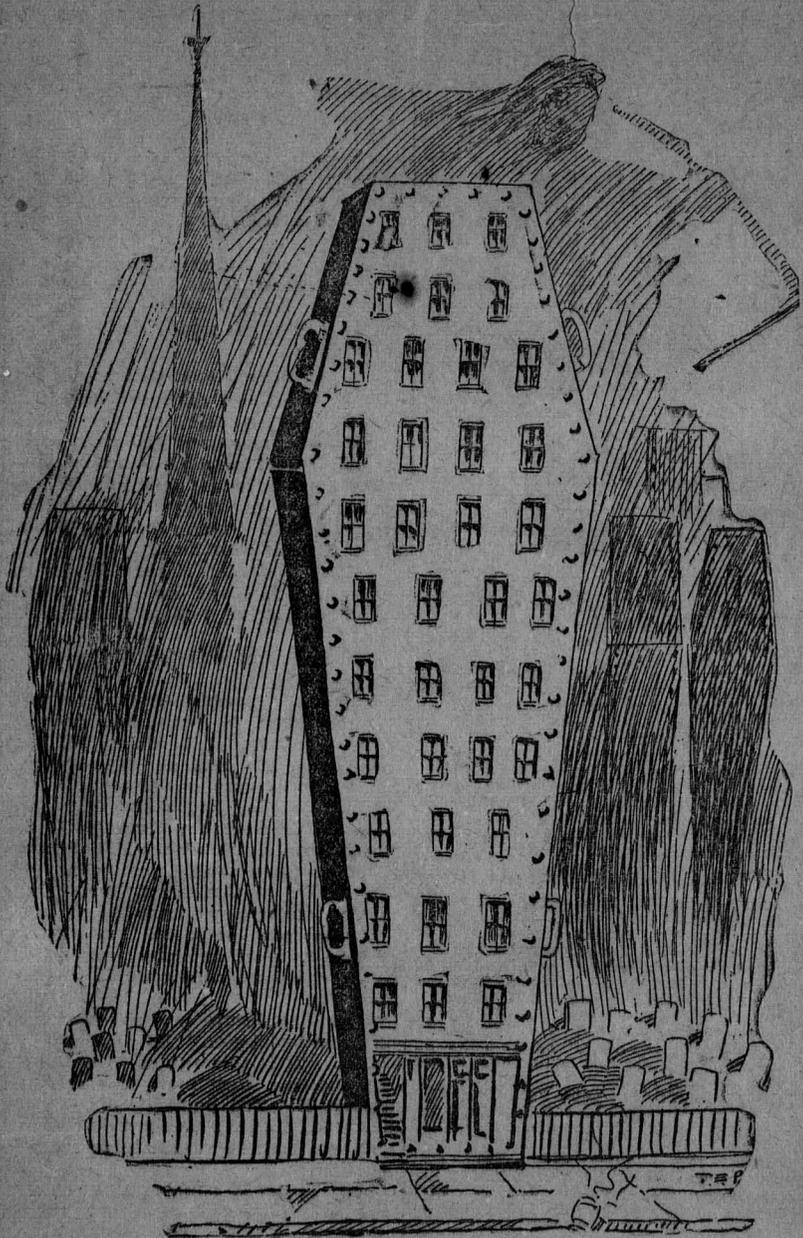
Yours very respectfully

Carrie C. Hard

1109 Shackamaxon St

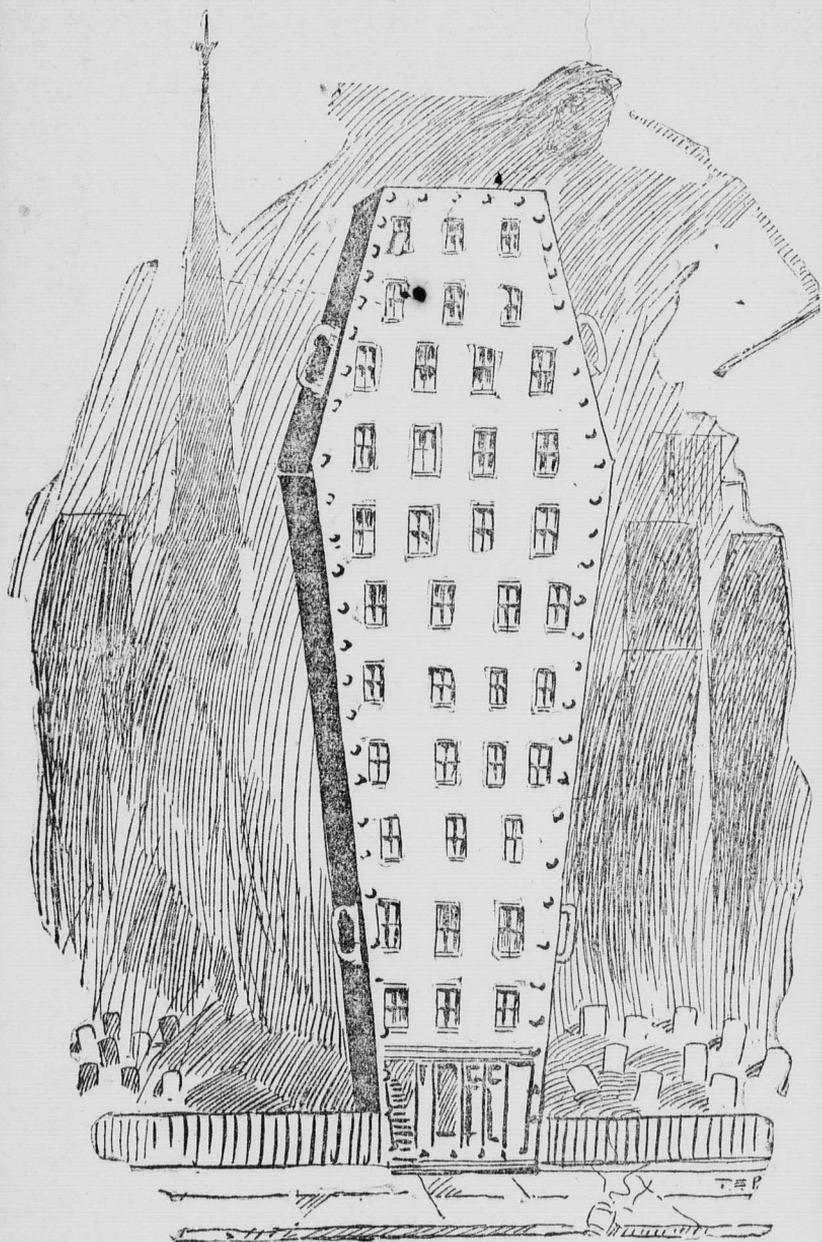
Phila.  
Pa.

THE HOMES OF THE' POOR.



Fifteen Persons Have Been Killed Within a Week in Tenement-House Fires for Lack of the Safeguards Required by Law.

# THE HOMES OF THE POOR.



Fifteen Persons Have Been Killed Within a Week in Tenement-House Fires for Lack of the Safeguards Required by Law.

AN OPEN LETTER.

New York, April 2nd, 1896.

If the Legislature will amend the Building Laws, eliminating wooden lath from the construction of buildings of every description and compelling the lining of ceilings and side walls of all rooms, compartments and halls with fire proof blocks, one inch thick as a foundation upon which to do the plastering, it would make it an impossibility to set a house on fire, much less to burn it down. Five per cent would cover the additional cost. It is criminal to endanger life when an expenditure of so small a sum would insure the same.

In 1870 the Commune set Paris on fire in 20 different places. If Paris buildings had been constructed like the New York dwellings they would have laid Paris in ashes.

Yours truly,

Geo. W. Da Cunha,

Architect,

105 West 84th street

*R. Lindsay Coleman, President.  
R. Philip Gormully, First Vice Pres.  
George H. Day, Second Vice Pres.*

*William A. Redding, Treasurer.  
Joseph M. Kee, Secretary.  
Ernest R. Franks, Asst. Secy.*

# National Board of Trade of Cycle Manufacturers.

*Telephone W 7 Cortlandt.*

*Abbreviated Address:  
Cycle Board of Trade.*

*271 Broadway, New York City.*

April 4th, 1896.

## DIRECTORS.

R. LINDSAY COLEMAN,  
Chairman.  
R. PHILIP GORMULLY.  
GEORGE H. DAY.  
W. J. BRUFF.  
C. W. DICKERSON.  
A. L. GARFORD.  
JOSEPH MCKEE.  
WM. A. REDDING.  
C. F. SMITH.  
A. G. SPALDING.  
E. C. STEARNS.  
WILLIAM F. WILSON.  
JOSEPH L. YOST.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R. LINDSAY COLEMAN,  
Chairman.  
R. PHILIP GORMULLY.  
GEORGE H. DAY.  
A. G. SPALDING.  
WILLIAM F. WILSON.  
JOSEPH MCKEE.  
WM. A. REDDING.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

### Legislation.

F. J. STIMSON,  
Chairman.  
GEORGE R. BIDWELL.  
A. L. GARFORD.

### PRESS.

R. PHILIP GORMULLY,  
Chairman.  
GEORGE POPE.  
WILLIAM F. WILSON.

### MEMBERSHIP.

C. F. SMITH,  
Chairman.  
C. W. DICKERSON.  
JOSEPH L. YOST.

### TRANSPORTATION.

W. J. BRUFF, Chairman.  
E. C. STEARNS.  
JOSEPH L. YOST.  
C. F. SMITH.  
C. W. DICKERSON.

### RACING.

E. C. STEARNS,  
Chairman.  
H. E. RAYMOND.  
A. G. SPALDING.

### COUNSEL.

F. J. STIMSON.  
WM. A. REDDING.

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

Dear Mr. Mayor:

You will remember that I called upon you last week, to give you the benefit of my knowledge of the administration of the Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Fund, the Directors of which are now seeking, by legislation, an extension of its enjoyment of the two per cent. tax levied on foreign Insurance Companies doing business in this City, and, at that time, you indicated acceptance of my suggestion to write you what I had stated, so that you might have the matter before you, - which I am now pleased to do.

The Trustees of the Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association were active in agitating the extension referred to in last year's Legislature. The Bill was considered by the Committee on Cities, of which I was a member. The information, as gleaned at the hearings, was so contradictory and inconclusive that, upon the introduction of a resolution to have a sub-committee hold sessions in this City, for the purpose of giving the subject fuller attention, a Committee (of which I was Chairman,) was appointed.

We held several sessions in the rooms of the Association in Canal Street, and I will say at once that anything but a satisfactory administration of the money in charge of the Trustees was everywhere evident. The system of payment, up to that time, was extremely loose, and, while it was set forth to be their practice that the recommendations of the Trustee in each district were con-

W. L. S., 1.

sidered by the full Board of Trustees, it was admitted that the recommendations of no Trustee had been refused favorable action by the Board, permitting the assumption that each Trustee arbitrarily determined the treatment accorded all the beneficiaries resident in his district.

Further, as all payments were made in cash, the only voucher which could be audited was the receipt of the beneficiary of the money, which was paid frequently through third parties. The workings of such a method, affording as it would a most complete opportunity for the misappropriation of the fund by a dishonest trustee, was extremely reprehensible, particularly in view of the fact that the inadequacy of it had been frequently called to the attention of the trustees by good friends of the fund, and was received in contemptuous silence. This aspect of the matter seemed to more than bear out the charges of these same good friends that the fund was being diverted to personal and political uses.

It was impossible for the Committee to examine into these charges as completely as they would have wished, but I can say to you, confidentially, that I believe they could have been well and truly substantiated, for, during the course of our investigation several items tended to show the accuracy of the charges which were made, and such items I am pleased to review to you.

It was the good fortune of the Committee, on the day of one of its sessions, to witness the payment of pensions to over one hundred of the beneficiaries, each one of whom was questioned closely by myself, to determine how far necessary the pension was to the individual. From these examinations, while the abuse of the Trustee's sole power was evident, the majority of cases presented pitiable conditions, which must have been but poorly relieved by any benefits they received from this fund. Poor old men and women, seventy or eighty years of age, blind, maimed and infirm, came there for their money, and the instant concern which they inspired was as to how their condition permitted their presence.

An examination of five vouchers, all purporting to be signed by the same third party, on behalf of the beneficiary, were in distinctly different handwritings. A woman beneficiary, at the time that quarterly payment

was made her, put her money away in a fancy leather reticule, and quite evidenced a condition which would preclude the benefits of the fund being necessary to her. A child, between thirteen and fourteen years of age, who, with her brother or sister together enjoyed a regular allowance, - as orphans, - wore small diamond earrings, and, while cases of like character were noted, these are sufficient to show that some regulation is necessary.

Aside from any claims that may be made by the Fire Department that the two per cent. tax is regularly paid Fire Departments throughout the State, and aside from any claim of right which the Volunteers put forth for an extension of its enjoyment of this tax, we may conclude that there are numerous beneficiaries either wholly or partly in need of the pensions as have been paid them, and I would say, as regards all of these proper beneficiaries, that their condition of life at present, taken in connection with the service which either they or theirs have rendered the City in years gone by, makes it our duty to see that while they live, they should be in receipt of at least as much as they receive now, and I am free to add that any other treatment would be little short of barbarous.

To relieve the disposition of the fund from the evils which are charged to the Trustees will require that sole administration by the trustees shall be terminated, and, as I have given the matter considerable thought, I have formulated a plan which I believe would properly fit the situation, and which I am pleased to give herewith in detail.

The Trustees of this fund should be comprised of the Commissioners of the Fire Department, acting together with three of the Trustees of the Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association who should consider for action the recommendations of three paid inspectors, two of whom would be appointed by the Exempt Firemen's Association and the other by the Fire Commissioners. The fund, as now invested, should be transferred to the name and administration of such trustees, and a portion of the two per cent. tax, for the next five or ten years, should be added to the amount of the fund. At such time, when all the beneficiaries

W. L. S., 3.

have died or the demands on the fund cease, then whatever balance remains should be transferred to the Pension Fund of the Fire Department.

I believe this system, affording as it will an opportunity to revise the list of beneficiaries, - reducing their number to those properly entitled to its benefits, - effecting by some well considered rules on the part of the Trustees the impossibility of diverting the fund and preventing its use as a political factor, will be found a satisfactory solution, and must be considered favorably by all good friends of these poor old people, whom they will then know will be well cared for while they live.

Permit me to suggest that you have at your command, in effecting this reformation, Commissioner Monks, of the Dock Department; Mr. Stephenson, President of the Home Bank in West Forty-second Street, and many other reputable citizens, whom I know, if called upon, will give you such aid in the Volunteer Association to put this plan into effect as will be necessary.

Permit me to add, Mr. Mayor, that the only desire I have in this matter comes from a full sympathy for these poor old people, and every human impulse demands that they be cared for, which I know you are in sympathy with, and hope you can effect.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

*William Halpin*

THE MANUFACTURERS' SYNDICATE.

# GEORGE DRAKE SMITH,

Wholesale and  
Retail.

SELLING AGENT,

Steam Carpet  
Cleaning.

151 EAST 125TH STREET.

Carpets, Oil Cloths, Rugs, Lace Curtains, Fixtures, Shades, Etc.

DIRECT FROM THE LOOM, NO MIDDLE PROFITS.

Hon W. L. Stroop New York, 5<sup>th</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> 1896  
Mayor -

Sir =  
After trying in vain to have an opportunity to bid for <sup>furnishing</sup> carpets for the Dept of Public Works - I wrote Mr Brookfield & Mr Collins who both stated they had "placed me on the list" much to my surprise last week on meeting Mr Graham the purchasing Agent he informed me that Croft & Co were getting the work, the orders simply being sent to them - being said in the papers about this carpet business, to give others a chance to bid on bonds that the market changes in is to say the least favorable to Croft & Co - I'm glad a good Republican gets so much, I'm sorry other just as good men & Republicans get nothing & I'm sorry the City does not have the benefit of competition

Yours  
Geo Drake Smith

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C., April 5, 1896.

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

Sir:

I have in Congress a Bill providing for a New Custom House on the 'Bowling Green Site' where there is ample room and of easy access wide streets broad parks. In this I am opposed by Mr. Suggs who has a Bill favoring rebuilding on the old site, surrounded by tall buildings & narrow streets; he claims that the Importers favor the old location. If you can say anything in behalf of the Bowling Green Site fit a splendid structure like a Custom House kindly address me on the subject.

old site 32000 sq. feet  
Bowling Green 64000 " }

I am sincerely yours

Philip B. Don

New York City. April 6<sup>th</sup> 1896.

His Honor, W. L. Strong,  
Mayor New York City  
Sir:

If you would give a little more of your attention to the affairs of this city and to the men you have appointed to office you would discover that Geo. E. Waring Jr. your Street Cleaning Commissioner is a thoroughly corrupt man. Under the cover of one Herbert Tait, a man he imported into this city to help him in his swindling operations, he has defrauded the city out of thousands of dollars on the contract ~~of~~ removal of snow from the streets last winter. Waring awarded this contract to Tait; (Tait is only his dummy) at so much a cubic yard <sup>and</sup> had the men of the Dept. do a large part of the work, using both men horses, wagons, &c. in the work; thus causing the city to pay twice for the same work.

I understand that he has everything prepared to work the same game in the contract about to be given out for the disposition of Ashes & Garbage; if he is allowed to do this the city will loose tens of thousands of dollars.

yours respitly  
Felix Twiss

Colonel Geo. E. Waring Jr. is a thief of high degree <sup>and</sup> you are <sup>innocently</sup> leading him to swindle the city wholesale, by contract

Washington Heights Progressive Association,

S. W. COR. 168th St. & AMSTERDAM AVE.



New York, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1896

Hon William L. Strong  
Dear Sir

I am requested by the Governing Committee of this Association to extend to you, the thanks of our Members, for your earnest support of the proposed extension of the Elevated Railroad to and upon Washington Heights to Fort George,

Washington Heights is to day, the only section of our Great City, which is practically without any direct railroad communication with the lower section of the city, and I can assure you, that any effort on the part of our City Authorities, to secure for us a direct railroad accommodation through the West Side will be highly appreciated by every Man Woman and Child residing upon the upper West Side, Our Association, composed of

Washington Heights Progressive Association,

S. W. Cor. 168th St. & AMSTERDAM AVE.

11



New York, ..... 189

over our hundred. Property Owners and  
Business men from Washington Heights. Stand  
ready, to assist you, in your grand  
endeavor, to obtain for our section of  
the City the earliest possible relief

Hoping that your efforts  
to secure the extension, of the  
Elevated Railroad System, to Washington  
Heights, will meet with success, and  
tendering you my personal well wishes  
I am

Yours truly  
Christian Trinks  
President