

**BOX**

**009**

**FOLDER**

**071**

**Borough President  
[Richmond]**

**1911**

**The City of New York.****Office of the  
President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,  
January 10, 1911.**Robert Adamson, Esq.,****Secretary to The Mayor,****City Hall, New York City.****Dear Sir:**

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., enclosing communication from William O'Brien, West New Brighton, this Borough, relative to conditions in his vicinity. I will investigate the matter at once, so that suitable action may be taken in the premises.

Yours very truly,


**President of the Borough.**

Jan. 10, 1911.  
Acknowledging ours of  
Jan. 9, enclosing  
communication from  
Wm. O'Brien, West New  
Brighton.

Robert Anderson, Secy.

Secretary to the Board,

City Hall, New York City.

Borough Hall, New Brighton, N. Y.  
January 20, 1911.

RECEIVED

**The City of New York.**  
**Office of the**  
**President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

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BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,

February 17, 1911.

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

S i r :

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt today of the communication received by you from G. L. Hoppenstedt, of 44 Wall Street, with reference to the estate of Ann C. Meyer located on the Fingerboard Road, near Fort Wadsworth, referred by you to me. I will look into this matter at once and communicate with you shortly thereon.

Very truly yours,



President of the Borough.

Feb. 17, 1911.

Acknowledging ours in  
re communication from G. L.  
Hoppenstedt of 44 Wall St.  
with reference to the estate  
of Ann C. Meyer located on  
Fingerboard Road near Ft.  
Wadsworth.

BOROUGH HALL NEW BRITAIN NEW YORK CITY

February 17, 1911.

TELEPHONE 1000 TOWN SQUARE

**The City of New York.**  
Office of the  
President of the Borough of Richmond.

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

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BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY.

February 23rd, 1911.

Robert Adamson, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:

Under date of January 9th you referred to this office for investigation a letter from Mr. William O'Brien, of West New Brighton, this Borough, with reference to the condition of a certain building in that vicinity. I at once referred the matter to the Superintendent of Buildings, of my office, who, under date of February 16th, reports to me thereon as follows:

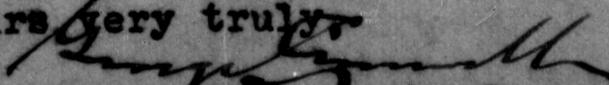
"Dear Sir:

I beg to advise you that we have investigated the complaint herewith enclosed and find said building to be in an unsafe condition. Steps are being taken by this Bureau to have said building removed.

For your further information I beg to advise that this building has been under the surveillance of this Bureau for some time past, and has only become unsafe recently by reason of residents of that locality removing portions of the building for firewood."

Mr. O'Brien is being notified accordingly.

Yours very truly,

  
President of the Borough.

Feb 23/1911

Re - to Law 9/1911

Upon Letter of  
Wm G. Perry

Mr. O'Brien is being notified accordingly.

President of the Board  
Yours very truly,  
*[Signature]*

the building for "Firewood."

and has only been removed by reason of  
advice that this building has been under the  
for your further information I refer to  
said building removed.

Steps are being taken by this Bureau to have  
said building to be in an unsafe condition.  
I refer to advise you that we have in-

Dear Sir:

**The City of New York.**  
**Office of the**  
**President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

x

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY.

February 24th 1911.

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

S i r :-

We would acknowledge the receipt from your office of communication from Mr. Hoppenstedt, under date of February 10th, and memorandum as to his interview with you or with some representative of your office.

We take pleasure in sending to you herewith a copy of our letter of even date to Mr. Hoppenstedt, which rehearses at some length the general situation and calls attention to the fact that the Mayer estate holds no mean piece of property in the district under assessment.

Yours respectfully,

George Cromwell,

President of the Borough,

By

*Cris P. Hibbs*

Commissioner.

377 08 8 8000  
The City of New York.



GEORGE CROMWELL,  
Mr. G. T. Hoppenstedt, <sup>PRESIDENT</sup>

44 Wall Street, New York.

Office of  
*The President*  
of the  
*Borough of Richmond,*  
*New Brighton, N.Y.*

190

Dear Sir:

Yours of February 10th to his Honor, Mayor Gaynor, referring to sewer assessments upon the property of the late Ann C. Meyer, was forwarded by him to this office for such attention as seem necessary.

We judge by the tenor of your letter that you are not fully familiar with the facts in the case presented. For many years a great nuisance existed in certain swamp lands at Arrochar, a nuisance contributed to by the storm waters flowing from some 365 acres, the Meyer estate covering about 14 acres, or a little less than four per cent. of the total area. The assessment levied for the Nautilus Street outlet and large sewer necessary to give sanitary and storm water drainage for the whole district, which will ultimately all be improved, was \$114,000, of which the Meyer estate paid a little less than four per cent in accordance with its proportionate area within the district. The second assessment was for another portion of the sewer system, called generally Lyman Avenue work, at a cost of \$54,000, which was spread over an area of 112 acres (not including streets), which for about 12 acres of the Meyer estate, which came into its drainage district, would, on a proportionate base, have required payment by said estate of \$5,900. The assessment levied, however, was a little less than \$3,800. We can see no injustice in such an

apportionment. While it is true that the Meyer estate gets little immediate benefit or use of these sewers, its lands contribute to the damages to property on lower levels, and so in all justice it should pay at least its pro rata share of the cost of giving relief to the conditions and nuisance obtaining in the lower levels.

When, at some time to come, as will inevitably be the case, the Meyer estate is out <sup>up</sup> and occupied by residences or business structures, it will then have direct benefit because of the large sewers already built, though it will have had, before such time, to pay, perhaps, on a lesser scale for further extensions of the main sewer system as shall be deemed to be a benefit to its lands.

In the sewer work carried out, there has been no replacement of the Fingerboard Road sewer except for the short portion from Sumner Street to New York Avenue and the portion running partly on private property and partly in Mantilus Street that was not in proper or serviceable condition.

In the memorandum which was either furnished to the Mayor in addition to your letter or made as the result of conference, the property of Mr. Lewis Nixon has been called into consideration. The property of Mr. Nixon was assessed in 1910 at \$56,000, and his portion of the sewer assessment was, as you have stated, \$13,000. If Mr. Nixon purchased his property for \$25,000, he can consider himself as exceedingly fortunate in holding at a great cost of \$38,000 property, which, judged by the value of the surrounding locality, is worth nearly \$20,000 more on an assessed basis.

Let us remind you that in every case of assessable public improvements, the improvement is requested by petition of property owners who will have to bear their share of the cost; that petition is publicly advertised for a hearing before the Local Board of Alders

Mr. G. L. Hoppenstedt, page 3.

given in most instances several public hearings at which all interested are welcomed to be heard. The Alderman of the district in question takes up the matter with his constituents and if the improvement is thought to be essential, it is then acted upon and the initiatory resolution is sent to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for review, full public hearing and final authorization. The local authorities thereafter are charged with the construction work, following public letting, and certify the costs to the Board of Assessors, who apportion them, according to their best judgment, as to benefit incurred. Opportunity is here again given for public hearing and objection, while the report of these Assessors is again subject to review by the Board of Revision of Assessments. Every step in the proceedings, from start to finish, is fully public.

It is scarcely conceivable that a large property owner, or agents therefor, should fail to learn of such improvements and their progress long before the confirmation of an assessment.

There is nothing in any of the public improvements completed, under construction or under consideration in the Borough of Richmond that is not in full and proper accord with its requirements as an integral part of the great city, provided its property owners desire to see it fittingly developed as such part of the city.

We regret to have anyone feel aggrieved, but cannot under all the circumstances at issue see that the Mayer estate has been discriminated against in any way.

Yours very truly,

George Cronwell,  
President of the Borough,

By

*Amos L. Hibbs*

Commissioner.

Feb 24/1911

re. to Feb 10/1911

Upon Letter  
of Mr Hoppestedt

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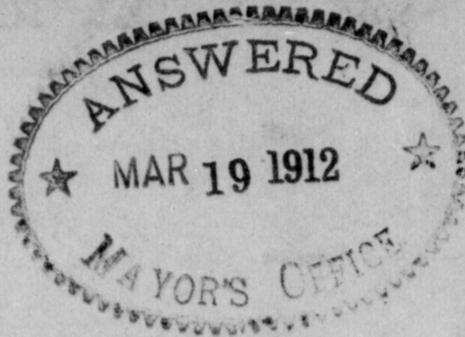
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## The City of New York

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL  
President of the Borough

TELEPHONE 1000 TOMPKINSVILLE

O-F

Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City,

March 16th, 1912.

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

My dear Mr. Mayor:

Will you not join me at luncheon at the Staten Island Club here at St. George on Saturday next, at one o'clock (March 23rd). We can then, all of us together, view the several sites which have been suggested for the proposed new Richmond County Court House and form our own conclusions as to the relative merits of each. I will meet you at the Municipal Ferry on the Manhattan side at a little before 12:30, in order that we may all come down on the half-past twelve boat together. The Staten Island Club is only a few minutes walk from the Staten Island terminus.

Hoping that this arrangement will meet your convenience, and that I may have the pleasure of your company on Saturday next, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Cromwell".

President of the Borough.

P.S.-

I am sending you no documents or arguments either for or against any of the sites under consideration for the Court House, as I wish you to form your own conclusions, uninfluenced other than

March 16/1912.

Re. viewing sites for new  
Richmond County Court House  
& invitation to Mayor for  
Luncheon.

Richmond County

President of the Borough

I am sending you no documents or arguments at this for as

Hon. William J. Gaynor.

-2-

by your own personal observation.

**The City of New York.**  
Office of the  
President of the Borough of Richmond.  
GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,  
March 29th, 1911.

Robert Adamson, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of January 9th, 1911, and my replies thereto dated January 10th and February 23rd, I beg to advise you further and to say that I am in receipt today of a final report from my Superintendent of Buildings to the effect that the building in question has now been demolished.

Yours very truly,



President of the Borough.

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1911  
CITY OF NEW YORK

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1911  
CITY OF NEW YORK

March 29th, 1911.

Referring to ours of January 9th, relative to demolishing a building.

Joseph Agnew, Esq.,

Borough Hall New Brighton New York City

March 29th, 1911.

RECEIVED 1911 12 11 11 11 11

**The City of New York.**  
**Office of the**  
**President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

O-F

*J*

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,  
June 9th, 1911.

Robert Adamson, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mayor,  
City Hall, N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt today of your letter of the 7th instant enclosing complaint of John H. Gliem concerning drainage conditions on Brighton Street, Tottenville. This matter will be investigated at once.

Yours very truly,

*m. Altman*  
Secretary.

June 9, 1911.

Acknowledging ours of June 7  
transmitting letter of John  
H. Gliem complaining of drain-  
age conditions on Brighton St.,  
Tottenville.

BROOKLYN HALL NEW BRIGHTON NEW YORK CITY  
JUN 9 1911

LETTER PHONE 1000 TOTTENVILLE

**The City of New York.**  
**Office of the**  
**President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

TELEPHONE: "1000 TOMPKINSVILLE."

Q-F

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,  
June 17, 1911.

Robert Adamson, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Sir :

With reference to your letter of June 7th enclosing a letter from John H. Gliem concerning the drainage conditions in the cellars of his property on Brighton Street, Tottenville, I beg to enclose to you herewith copy of a letter which was forwarded to Mr. Gliem on June 15th explaining the situation.

Yours very truly,

*George Cromwell*  
President of the Borough.

Encl.

June 17, 1911.

Enclosing copy of letter  
sent to John H. Gliem in reply  
to his complaint about flood-  
ing of his cellar at Totten-  
ville, S. I.

City of New York

Office of the

Commissioner of Health

Department of Health

Boston Hall New Brighton New York City

August 14, 1911.

RECEIVED 1000 1000 1000 1000

**The City of New York.**  
Office of the  
President of the Borough of Richmond.  
GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

(COPY)

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY,  
June 15, 1911.

Mr. John H. Gliem,  
512 East 83rd Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 7th instant to Mayor Gaynor finally reached this office. With reference to its subject matter, the flooding of cellars of the house in which you are interested in on Brighton Street, Tottenville, would say, that apparently your neighbors have acted within their full legal rights in filling their own lands, even though such action deprived you of cellar drainage. And so far as we can see, no city department has any jurisdiction either to force your neighbors to open a ditch or lay a drain on their lands to give relief to you, or even to permit you so to do. The only relief, therefore, would come from the construction of a public sewer.

To that end, therefore, we would suggest that you file a petition with the President of the Borough for consideration by the Local Board of Aldermen with view to instituting proceedings that shall look to the construction of a suitable sewer.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) Louis L. Tribus  
Commissioner.

The City of New York

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL

President of the Borough

Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City,

July 6, 1911.

Board of Estimate and Apportionment,

277 Broadway, N.Y. City.

Gentlemen:

I beg to submit the following proposed resolution for consideration at the next meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, to be held July 13th, 1911:

RESOLVED,- That the Comptroller be authorized during the months of July, August and September, 1911, to pass finally upon contract plans for work to be carried out with the proceeds of Corporate Stock issues, rather than wait for final authorization by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on report from the Comptroller.

Yours very truly,

*George Cromwell*

President of the Borough.

*Howe*  
*for G. G. Gagnon*  
*Comptroller*

Vertical stamp text: ... July 6, 1911 ... Board of Estimate and Apportionment ...

July 6, 1911.

Submitting proposed resolution  
for consideration of the Bd. of Est.  
on July 13.

Resolved: Comptroller during July,  
Aug., and Sept. be authorized to  
pass upon contracts and plans for  
work with the proceeds of corpor-  
ate stock issues.

## The City of New York

TELEPHONE 1000 TOMPKINSVILLE

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL  
President of the Borough

Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City,

September 1, 1911

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

M a y o r,

City Hall, New York

S i r:

We would acknowledge receipt of your courteous note of August 30th enclosing copy of report to you, dated August 25th, made by Mr. Joseph Johnson, Commissioner of the Fire Department, said report calling specific attention to various cases of the pavement being in bad condition, according to special examinations made at recent date.

You will be pleased, as we are, to note that not a single complaint was made as to the condition of pavements in the Borough of Richmond. I think we can say that for many years past no justifiable complaint has been made concerning the poor condition of pavements in this borough, where the President of the Borough has had responsibility; and under the special ordinance for the Borough of Richmond carrying out the main charter provisions, the President of the Borough has full control over all street pavement except as same is partially interfered with through operations of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity. With that department, however, we are securing a fair degree of co-operation and hope to have less trouble in future than we have had in the past.

Yours respectfully,



Acting President of the Borough



The City of New York

TELEPHONE 1000 TOMPKINSVILLE

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL

President of the Borough

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Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City,

September 5, 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor, Mayor,

City Hall,

New York City.

Sir:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt this morning of letter dated September 1st from your office, transmitting a letter received by you from Katheryn Mertes, 148 Westervelt Ave., New Brighton, concerning the condition of that avenue. I will have this matter looked into at once.

Very truly yours,

*George Cromwell*

President of the Borough.

September 2, 1911.  
New Brighton, N.Y.  
Katheryn Mertes  
148 Westervelt Ave.  
New Brighton, N.Y.

September 5, 1911.

Ack.ours of Sept.1st, re  
complaint of Katheryn Mertes  
concerning condition of  
Westervelt Ave. New Brighton.

21..

President of the Board.

Very truly yours,



This matter looked into at once.

New Brighton, concerning the condition of Westervelt Ave. I will

received by you from Katheryn Mertes, Westervelt Ave.

dated September 1st from your office, transmitting a

Receipt for to acknowledge the receipt this morning of.

New York City.

## The City of New York

TELEPHONE 1000 TOMPKINSVILLE

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL  
President of the Borough

Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City,

September 6, 1911

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

M a y o r,

City Hall, New York City.

S i r:

On date September 5th we acknowledged receipt of yours of the 1st inst. transmitting letter from Katheryn Mertes, 148 Westervelt Avenue, New Brighton, in which complaint is made of certain drainage conditions. The conditions of which the letter makes complaint are as stated. Any contributory causes and the lack of relief given are not in the least the fault of the President of the Borough or any of his bureaus.

For a number of years a culvert at the low point of Westervelt Avenue was maintained by the city, having outlet through private property and ultimately reaching an old watercourse. The owners of this property took advantage of the surplus materials from excavations during the construction of a new street in the vicinity and caused the low lying property to be filled in, closing up the culvert. The matter was at once taken up with Corporation Counsel, who examined into the circumstances of the case, and advised us that the city had no authority to enforce the maintaining of the culvert or to conduct the water across this private land.

The owner of this particular property in question, who first caused the damage, agreed to grant a revocable consent for a temporary culvert pipe, but the owners of the next adjoining property absolutely refused to give any consent.

Hon. William J. Gaynor

-2-

Various storms occurred during these negotiations, creating local nuisance and some damage. We took unusual pains on each occasion, sending men and pump to Westervelt Avenue so as to relieve conditions at the first moment possible. We also caused studies to be prepared, and presented to the Local Board of the Staten Island District our report and recommendation that a sewer be laid in Westervelt Avenue and neighboring streets which would give relief to the district.

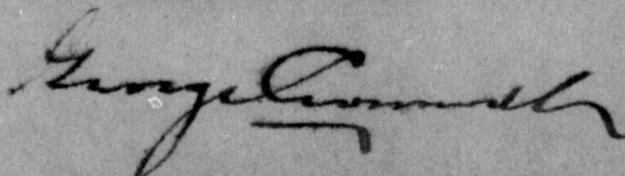
The Alderman of the district took the matter under advisement, but has not to date presented any petition for the sewer or any suggestion for substitute relief.

Immediately following the last severe storm the then Acting President decided to try and force the issue, and directed the calling of a Local Board meeting for the first date when action could be legally taken, - September 19th, making the report from this office practically a petition for the work.

We have the utmost sympathy for the parties at interest in this matter, and long before the receipt of your letter had taken every step possible under the law to give the necessary relief.

We are sending copy of this letter to Katheryn Mertes, and will present all the correspondence to the Local Board at its meeting on September 19th.

Yours respectfully,



President of the Borough



**The City of New York.****Office of the  
President of the Borough of Richmond.**

GEORGE CROMWELL, President of the Borough.

BOROUGH HALL, NEW BRIGHTON, NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 28, 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

Mayor,

City Hall, N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your communication of the 12th inst., enclosing a letter of Frank M. Sherman, topographical draftsman, in this office, complaining of the delay in making up the pay-rolls, I would say that the pay-roll of the Topographical Bureau for the month of July was transmitted to the Finance Department for payment on the 15th of August, the resolution authorizing the moneys from which the roll was to be paid having been approved by your Honor on the 14th of August. There were several days' delay in the Finance Department due to the formalities required in providing the necessary cash to pay the roll, and the roll was received from the City Paymaster on the 23rd of August and the checks were ready for distribution on that day. It will, therefore, be seen that there was no delay on the part of this office in paying this roll.

The pay-roll of the Topographical Bureau for the month of August was transmitted from this office on the 1st of September, it having been held a few days longer than usual in order to adjust some civil service matters, and the checks were received from the City Paymaster on the 9th of September and were ready for distribution at this office on that day.

Where it is possible in the nature of the work in which

RECEIVED  
 DEPT. OF TREASURY  
 DIVISION OF FINANCE  
 JAN 10 1917

employees are engaged monthly pay-rolls are transmitted in advance, so that in those cases the employees are paid on the last day of the month. In other cases, due to the formalities such as the modifications of salaries schedules, financial matters, civil service questions, etc., over which we have no control pay-rolls may be delayed, but not by reason of any lack of attention at this office.

Yours respectfully,

President of the Borough.



## The City of New York

OFFICE OF THE

President of the Borough of Richmond

GEORGE CROMWELL  
President of the Borough

TELEPHONE 1000 TOMPKINSVILLE

Borough Hall, New Brighton, New York City, November 22, 191

Dear Sir:

The following articles belonging to the City of New York are of no further use to the Office of the President of the Borough of Richmond and are in accordance with law hereby offered to any other Department or Departments that may have use for them.

Upon the expiration of ten days from this date, arrangements will be made for public sale to the highest bidder of all such articles as have not been requested by other Departments.

The articles mentioned are as follows:

Class of Goods.	Location.
<b>Bicycles:</b>	
4 Bicycles	Stable "B"
<b>Harness:</b>	
2 Saddles and breechings	"
2 Bridles	"
1 Dutch Collar	"
1 English Collar	"
1 Martingale	"
1 Pair Harness and Traces	"
<b>Automobiles:</b>	
1 Queen Runabout	"
1 Autocar "	"
<b>Automobile Goods:</b>	
About 900 pounds old rubber tire shoes	"
4 Radiators	"
1 Gasolene Tank, (22 gallons)	"
<b>Wagons:</b>	
1 Buggy #13	"
1 Top Surrey #22	"
2 Three Seat Wagon #9 and #10	"
1 Top Buggy #26	"
1 Studebaker Farm Wagon #28	"
1 Runabout #18	"
<b>Machinery:</b>	
1 Two horse power Electric Motor	"
<b>Junk:</b>	
About ten tons old castings and forging	"
1 old Road Scarifier, about 3 tons	"
4 Steam Roller Wheels, about 67" diam. 16" face	"
2 Pieces of iron frame	Borough Hall



Nov 22/11

List of Goods  
that the Board  
President has  
no further use for