

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 26th, 1895.

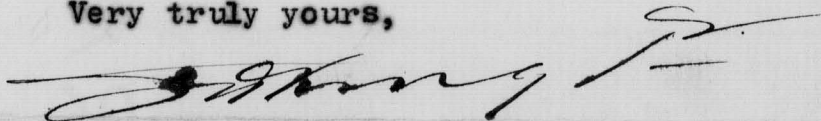
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of New York.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office enclosing communication from Charles H. Haswell, concerning the defoliation of trees on the Boulevard, and to inform you that the Boulevard is not under the jurisdiction of this Department, but maintained by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Haswell's letter is herewith returned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John H. Thompson", written in a cursive style.

President, D.P.P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

September 27th, 1895.

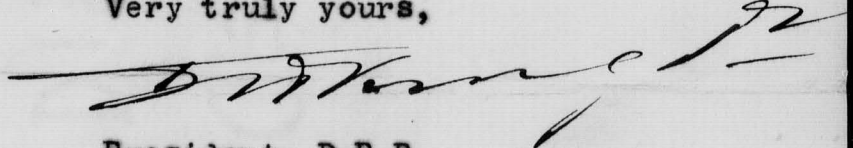
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

I have your communication of the 25th instant enclosing a letter from Frederick H. Lane in regard to the taking down of a stile at 103rd Street and Central Park West. This stile should never have been put up in the first place; in the second place the stile was taken down and a proper entrance made in the wall with a decent road connecting with the inside park roads. It strikes me that it ought to be impossible for any one to object to the way this work was done.

Very truly yours,



President, D.P.P.

P. S.

Enclosed please find Mr. Lane's letter.



Property Owners' Union of the City of New York,

No. 78 EAST 96th STREET,

New York,

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 1895

Hon Wm L. Strong

Mayor of New York City

Dear Sir

Our Association

has directed me to call your attention to the condition of Fifth Avenue from 90<sup>th</sup> to 110<sup>th</sup> Street, this Avenue and the side streets to the depth of 100 feet running East are all in charge, as we understand, of the Park Commissioners.

The Roadbed of Fifth Ave bet the streets above named is in a very bad condition and in wet weather unfit to be used by any except cabs and trucks.

The side walks on East side of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave bet above mentioned streets are sunken and broken, while the side streets to the depth of 100 feet are in most cases half flagged and in bad condition.

We call your attention especially from 90<sup>th</sup> to 96<sup>th</sup> Streets, North East corner of 92<sup>nd</sup> St and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave examine side walk on Rth and Ave bet 93<sup>rd</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> St side walks

sunken, 95' to 96' No large boulder huff  
sunken in earth in middle of sidewalk  
Complaints have been made by us  
several times to the present Park Com.  
and we have received letters informing  
us that our Complaints would be at-  
tended to. we are still waiting -  
Again we wish to make another Com-  
plaint in that the Park Commissioners  
allow the burning of rubbish in the  
Park on 98' Street, this has become  
of such a great nuisance that it has  
become unbearable by reason of smells  
and smoke during the warm weather, we  
over two months ago notified them that  
we would commence an action if they  
insisted upon maintaining this nuisance  
we have had no reply, nor have they  
discontinued but daily maintain same  
We ask at once for the apprehension of  
such Park Commissioners that have the  
interest of our Citizens at heart we ask  
this understanding that the present Com-  
missioners have resigned

Wm. R. R. R.  
Wm. R. R. R.



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

October 2nd, 1895.

Mr. Lambert S. Quackenbush,  
#163 Broadway.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication concerning condition of Fifth Avenue from 90th to 110th streets, has been referred to me, by the Mayor, for report. In reply thereto I have to say that owing to the construction of sewers in the roadway by the Department of Public Works, it has been impossible to proceed with the work of paving until that work was finished and the ground had properly settled. As soon thereafter as possible the work was advertised, and the contract for an asphalt pavement was executed yesterday and the work was at once commenced.

This Department has no jurisdiction in the matter of the care of sidewalks or roadways of the streets running east from Fifth Avenue, and your complaint should be made to the Department of Public Works- I beg to refer to letter of July 11th, in which this same information was given you.

As regards the sidewalk on Fifth Avenue I have to say that this Department has nearly completed an asphalt walk on the park side. In view of the fact that the Avenue on the easterly side is, with one exception not built upon, further improvement at



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

this time would not seem to be required. If, however, the property owners desire new flagging the passage of an ordinance by the Board of Aldermen will be necessary.

As regards the burning of rubbish the first intimation I had that there was objection to it, came to me on Monday - I instantly ordered that it be stopped.

As to the other matters you write about, I have no wish to discuss the merits of this Board.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) David H. King, Jr.  
President, D.P.P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

October 2nd, 1895.

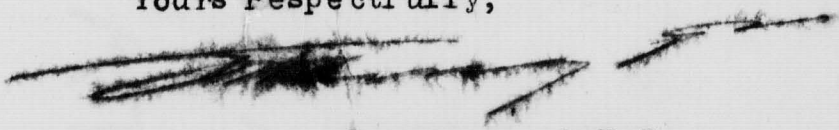
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

As requested in letter from your office I enclose  
copy of reply sent Mr. Quackenbush, whose letter is herewith  
returned.

Yours respectfully,



President, D.P.P.



Office of  
The Upper East Side Association,  
No. 170 E. 60th. Street.

EXTRACT of MINUTES of Meeting of the Committee on Local Improvements, held on Wednesday, Oct 16th. 1895.

Mr. W. Watts Sherman presided;

Mr. Sherman presented the following report, in regard to the matter of small Parks, for the upper East side.

" Your Committee respectfully recommends that measures be taken to urge the Authorities to acquire for small Parks, that parcel of ground bounded by the East River on the East, by 70th. Street on the North, by Avenue A. on the West, and by 64th. Street on the South, containing about 300 city lots. (more or less)"

" These lots could probably be purchased at the rate of \$5.000 per lot, or a total cost of \$1.500.000."

" Also the parcel of ground on the River-edge, opposite the East Side House at 76th. Street, bounded as follows; on the East by the East River, on the North by 78th. Street, on the West by Avenue A. and on the South by 76th. Street. value from \$4.000 to \$5.000 per lot."

" These properties are admirably situated for Public Parks and could be adapted to that use at small expense."

" A part of it is a high bluff over-looking the River and commands magnificent views in all directions."

" These pieces of land are adjacent to thickly populated districts whose denizens are greatly in need of the opportunities of open air recreation and enjoyment such Parks would afford."

" On sanitary and moral grounds alone their establishment should be insisted upon. They would give the very breath of life to the thousands of poor children, now cooped up in back-yards or running wild in the Streets. The proper care of their children is one of the hardest problems the wage-worker has to contend with and no measure that can be taken will give them greater relief than the establishment of such play-grounds, which by their very nature will shelter and protect their little ones."

On motion of Mr. Steers the above report was adopted, and referred to the Committee on Law & Legislation.

George A. Wells,

Secretary.



Office of  
The Upper East Side Association,  
No. 170 E. 80th. Street.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 16th. 1895.

Mr. W. Watts Sherman, presided.

Mr. Sherman presented the following report, in regard to the matter of small Parks for the upper East side.

" Your Committee respectfully recommends that measures be taken to urge the Authorities to acquire for Public Parks, that parcel of ground bounded by the East River on the East, by 70th. Street on the North, by Avenue "A" on the West and by 84th. Street on the South, containing about 300 city-lots (more or less)."

" These lots could probably be purchased at the rate of \$5.000 per lot, or a total cost of \$1.5000.000."

" Also the parcel of ground on the River-edge, opposite the East Side House at 78th. Street bounded as follows; on the East by the East River, on the North by 78th. Street, on the West by Avenue A and on the South by 78th. Street. Value from \$4.000 to \$5.000 per lot."

" These properties are admirably situated for public Parks, and could be adapted to that use at small expense."

" A part of it is on a high bluff over-looking the River and commands magnificent views in all directions."

" These pieces of land are adjacent to thickly populated districts whose denizens are greatly in need of the opportunities of open air recreation and enjoyment such Parks would afford. On sanitary and moral grounds alone their establishment should be insisted upon. They would give the very breath of life to the thousands of poor children, now cooped up in back yards or running wild in the Streets. The proper care of their children is one of the hardest problems the wage-worker has to contend with and no measure that can be taken will give them greater relief than the establishment of such play-grounds which by their very nature will shelter and protect their little ones."

On motion of Mr. Steers the above report was adopted, and referred to the Committee on Law & Legislation.

The above is a true Copy.

George A. Wells,

Secretary.

Boat of  
Sheet opening

58

Mr. Samuel McMillan  
and

Mr. Charles Hilton Brown.

as Park Commissioners



PARKS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

Manhattan Island.

	Acres .
Abington Sq.	0.202
Battery Park	21.190
Beach St.	0.038
Bowling Green	0.517
Bryant Park	4.775
Central Park	858.972
Canal street	0.318
Christopher Street	0.139
City Hall	8.234
Cooper Union	0.224
Duane	0.108
East River	12.546
Five Points or Paradise Park	0.114
Fourth Avenue	5.630
Grand Street	0.630
x High Bridge Park	23.380
Jackson	0.227
Jaquette	0.870
Manhattan Square	19.051
Madison Square	6.840
Morningside Park	31.238
Mount Morris	20.174
Park Ave. 34th to 40th St.	1.165
Riverside Park and Drive	177.800
Stuyvesant Square	4.229
Union Square	3.483
Washington Square	8.115
Van Corlears Hook	8.300
St. Johns	1.700

3973  
1235  
2740



Manhattan Island (continued)

Triangles

	Acres
Boulevard & 63rd St.	0.344
Boulevard & 66th St.	0.069
Manhattan Ave. & 114th St.	0.019
Sixth Ave. 32nd & 35th Sts.	0.168
St. Nicholas Ave. & 123rd St.	0.076
St. Nicholas Ave. & 137th St.	0.038
St. Nicholas Av. & 150th St.	0.240
Tompkins Square	10.508
Mulberry Bend Park	2.739
* Rutgers Park (approximate)	0.500

Total - - - - - 1234.928

Acres

1235.

*South of the  
Harlem*



# PARKS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

## 23rd and 24th Wards .

	Acres.
Boston Road and 164th Street	0.060
Boston Road and 169th Street	0.160
Cedar Park	17.470
Fulton Avenue and 167th Street	0.200
Fulton Avenue and 170th Street	0.950
Bronx Park	661.60
Bronx and Pelham Parkway	95.000
Claremont Park	38.050
Crotona Park	141.650
Pelham Bay Park	1756.000
Moshulu Parkway	80.000
Crotona Parkway	12.000
St. Mary's Park	28.700
Van Courtlandt Park	1142.350
3rd Avenue and E. 187th Street	0.08
Total - - - - -	3974.27

acres

3975.

*North of  
Harlem*

*25th to 28th Wards*

*Charles Hilton Brown*



Charles Milton Brown

List of Parks  
and Acres

Boston Road and 169th Street	0.160
Cedar Park	17.470
Park Avenue and 17th Street	39.580
Park Avenue and 17th Street	102
Totals	364.83
96:600	
1148:926	
138:466	
115:000	

City of New York  
Department of Public Parks,  
~~49 and 51 Chambers St.~~ 64 H. + 5<sup>th</sup> Ave

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

October 19 1895

Mr. H. J. Demarest,  
94 H. + 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. -

Sir:

Your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> instant, to the Mayor,  
has been forwarded to this Department, and I am  
directed to say in reply that all appointments  
on the park police force are made from  
eligible lists received from the Civil Service  
Board. If Mr. Meyer is on the list and  
his percentage is sufficiently high to reach  
the Department when a call for a list is  
made, his claims will receive consideration.  
at present there are no vacancies on the  
force.

Yours respectfully  
Charles D. Burns  
Scrib

New York - Oct 21. 1895.  
To His  
Hon Mayor Strong

Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor  
of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst was  
duly received.

Please accept my  
sincere thanks for the  
interest you are willing  
to take to forward the  
application of my  
friend Mr John Meyer.  
The enclosed endorsement  
is but a few of the  
members of the Club -  
among whom I have  
worked for the cause  
I as an Inspector for many  
years - With few exceptions

all of the names herein  
Enclosed are Inspectors -  
I also enclose a letter  
rec'd from the  
Commissioners Office  
which is not very  
encouraging - By your  
personal attention I  
am confident the  
position as Park  
Keeper can and  
will be obtained  
for Mr John Meyer -  
Trusting I have  
not trespassed too  
long on your valued  
time I remain

Yours Very Respectfully

Harry W. Emmons  
Care of Meyer  
97<sup>th</sup> St & 3<sup>d</sup> Ave  
City -



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

November 2nd. 1895.

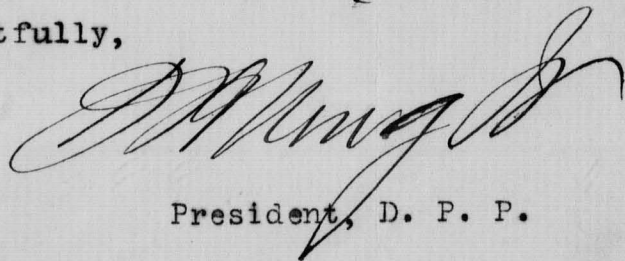
To his Honor the Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

The Board of Park Commissioners propose to hold their meeting next week, on Thursday morning, instead of the usual day, Wednesday.

If entirely agreeable to your Honor the Board would be pleased to have you withhold the appointments of the new Commissioners until twelve o'clock on Thursday the 7th. inst., by which time the present Board will have acted upon all unfinished business

Respectfully,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to J. M. W. McKim, the President of the Department of Public Parks.

President, D. P. P.

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

November 20, 1895.

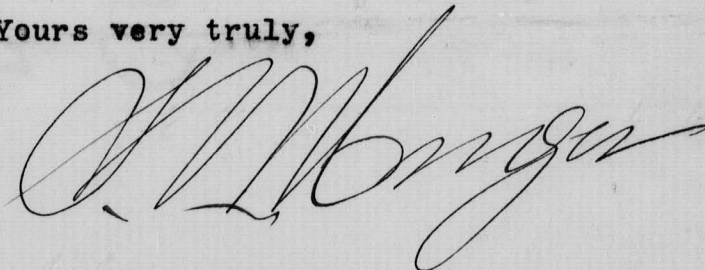
Hon. William L. Strong,  
City Hall.

My Dear Mr. Mayor:--

I regret exceedingly that it is impossible for me to attend the meeting of the Commissioners of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, which is to be held at your office this afternoon. I promised a long time ago to attend the wedding of a cousin of mine in New Jersey and in order to keep my promise I must leave here at one o'clock.

I all the more regret my inability to attend the meeting today as I feel a great interest in the subject of this Memorial Arch but I suppose that no final action will be taken in the matter today so that I may have an opportunity of familiarizing myself with the present condition of the question and will be able to take part in the discussion at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. L. Morgan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours very truly,".

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

December 4th, 1895.


Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Mayor's office.

Dear sir:-

I have the pleasure of acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, stating that the Mayor directs you to call my attention to Section 103 of the Consolidation Act, and to request that I furnish him with such information regarding this Department as will enable him to refer to it in his annual message. I will get the necessary information together for his Honor at an early date.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. McKim", written in a cursive style.

President, D. P. P.



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

December 19th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of a letter from your Secretary, asking me to furnish you with such information concerning this Department as will enable you to refer to its general condition in your annual message to the Common Council.

The present Board of Commissioners having only been in office since the 13th of last month, it is impossible for me to give, from personal knowledge, an intelligent summary of the work of the Department during the past year, I have therefore asked the Assistant Secretary to prepare a statement, which I have the honor to enclose herewith. This seems to give the information which your Honor desires, referring as it does to the principal work done during the year.

The most important unfinished work which the present Board found awaiting consideration was the dispute as to defective work on the Harlem River Driveway, and the unfinished work at the Aquarium. We made a personal investigation of the Driveway, and concluded that the responsibility for the defective work could

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

2.

Hon. W.L.S.

not be placed without expert testimony - we have therefore appointed a Committee of three engineers, Messrs. Theodore Cooper, J. J. R. Croes, and William H. Burr, and have requested them to make a prompt examination of the defective work on the Driveway and report to this Board their conclusions on or before the 20th day of January. It is our hope that after having this report in our hands we shall be able to fix the responsibility and push the work to early completion.

About \$200,000 has been spent in fixing up the Aquarium at the Battery. Many of the tanks in position were found to be of insufficient strength when filled with water, and new ones will have to be ordered. It will cost about \$40,000 to complete the work, and we hope to be able to open it about the 1st of July.

From personal observation of Central and other parks, I find that the former is generally in very good condition but I am not at all satisfied with the condition of the small parks below the Harlem River, and shall endeavor to have them kept in much better condition during the coming year. The city is now spending so much money on small parks, and they are used so largely,

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

3.

Hon. W.L.S.

especially in the summer by people in the crowded districts, it should be our aim to keep them in as an attractive condition as Central Park. The Foremen in charge of the various small parks complain that the frequenters are very lawless in reference to observing the rules - but my judgment is it is owing to a great extent to the poor looking<sup>condition</sup> of these squares; if kept in first rate order the people would appreciate the desirability of strictly observing the rules.

I am very glad that the Board of Apportionment granted our request for an increased appropriation for the maintenance of the parks north of the Harlem River. I have been very greatly impressed by careful examination of this extensive park system. It is our intention to have a topographical survey made as soon as possible, and prepare a general scheme for the improvement of these parks, and in the meantime not commence any extensive system of roadways for fear that they might not harmonize with the general scheme when completed. The large number of people visiting these parks, especially Van Cortlandt and Bronx Parks, show that their beauties are fully appreciated and that the Department



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

4.

Hon. W.L.S.

ought to provide for the increasing use of these parks.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. L. Menger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

President.

*City of New York*  
*Department of Public Parks*  
*42 and 51 Chambers St.*  
THE ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

December 23rd, 1895.

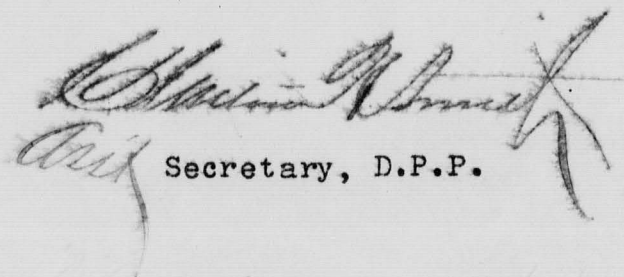
Job.E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, et c.

Dear Sir:-

By direction of Commissioner McMillan, I enclose  
you herewith a list of the parks of this city with location and  
area. Those opposite which the word "closed" is written, are small  
triangles enclosed by an iron railing and not large enough to  
warrant their being thrown open to the public.

Yours respectfully,

  
Secretary, D.P.P.



The general condition of the parks is satisfactory.

Aside from the usual work of maintaining the park system which with the recently added parks has now a total area of 5185 1/4 acres, and the care and operation of the bridges crossing the Harlem River, much has been accomplished during the past year in the way of permanent improvements. A number of works of this character are still in progress, and others have been planned for the completion of unfinished portions of Central, Riverside, and several of the smaller city parks.

The new park in the 7th ward (Corlear's Hook) 18 acres in area has been improved, opening up to the people of that crowded section a spacious and healthful breathing place. A public overlook is now building which will give an extended view of the East River, upon which this park has a frontage of 600 feet.

Preparations have been made for improving the new park in the 6th Ward (Mulberry Bend) and the work is about to be put under contract.

In Central Park many improvements have been and are being made. A new entrance has been constructed at West 90th Street for vehicles and pedestrians, and another is in course of construction at 110th Street and 8th Avenue in connection with the improvement of that corner of the park, including a bridge carrying the driveway over the ravine. A broad asphalt walk has been laid on all the sidewalks adjoining the park for the entire distance and much other work of this character has been done, including the roadway of 5th Avenue from 90th to 110th Street Plaza, and also between 59th and 60th Streets, with crosswalks



of the same material at 59th Street Plaza and at other points and many walks inside of the park.

On Riverside Park retaining walls are being built from 96th to 129th Streets, and the improvement of the unfinished portions between 79th and 129th Streets has been planned and is now being put under contract. The improvement of Cathedral Parkway connecting Central and Riverside Parks is progressing rapidly.

Tompkins and Washington Squares, and other lower City Parks have been much improved by new pavements.

The new Macomb's Dam Bridge over the Harlem River has been completed and opened to the public. This improvement approximating \$1,400,000. affords immense relief to the ever increasing traffic at this point, for which the old bridge was almost totally inadequate.

The work of constructing the public driveway known as the Harlem River Driveway from 155th Street to Dyckmann Streets, along the Harlem River, which ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> commenced in 1894, has been progressed and the lower section from 155th street to High Bridge is nearing completion. For several months past delays arising from failure of some of the crib work and other causes have been met with. Steps are now being taken to adjust the questions existing as to the controlling causes of the defects, with a view to pushing this work (which is estimated to cost about \$2,000,000.) to early completion.

In the new parks north of the Harlem River several improvements have been made and a number are in progress. Mosholu Avenue in Van Cortlandt Park is being laid with



Telford pavement. Gun Hill Road has been similarly treated and a new roadway has been constructed and paved in like manner leading from Broadway to the Van Cortlandt Railroad Station.

At Pelham Bay Park, telford pavement is being laid on City Island Road from Bartow Station to the City Island Bridge, and also on the Eastern Boulevard from the southerly line of the park to East Chester Bay.

Another extension of the American Museum of Natural History building on the Manhattan Square, has been commenced and the work is making favorable progress. This additional wing was provided for by Chapter 235, Laws of 1895, and will cost \$345,000.

The fitting up of an Aquarium in the old Castle Garden building is still in progress. It having been found necessary to make a number of changes in the plans, its completion has been delayed, but it is probable that the work will be completed and the Aquarium sufficiently well stocked to be opened to the public about June 1st next.



# Parks of New York City

Name	Location	Area in acres	
Abingdon	12 St & Greenwich Ave	.202	Closed
Battery	South of State St & Battery Pl.	21.190	
Beach Street	Beach St & W. River	.038	Closed
Bowling Green	River & Whitehall St	.517	Closed
Bryant	6 Ave 40 & 42 Sts	4.775	
Boston Road & 164 St		.06	Closed
" " & 169 St		.16	
Central	5 & 8 Ave 59 & 110 St	839.921	
Canal Street	Canal & West Sts	.318	Closed
Christopher St.	Christopher, Green & 4 <sup>th</sup>	.139	Closed
City Hall	River, Chambers, Centre, Park Sts	8.239	
Cooper Union	7 St 3 & 4 Aves	.229	Closed
Cedar	Mott Ave & 158 St	17.47	
Duane St	Duane & Hudson Sts	.108	Closed
East River	Ave B. 84 St & East River	17.546	
Paradise	North & Park Sts	.114	
Fourth Ave	56 to 99 Sts	5.63	Closed
Park Avenue	34 to 40 St	1.168	Closed
Fulton Ave & 167 St		.20	
" " & 170 St		.95	
Grand St	Grand & E. River	.63	Closed
High Bridge	Amsterdam Ave & Harlem R.	23.38	
Jackson Sq.	8 Ave & 13 St	.227	Closed
Jeannette Park	Caenities Slip	.87	Closed
Manhattan Sq.	8 & 9 Ave 77 to 81 Sts	19.051	
Madison Sq.	5 <sup>th</sup> Madison Ave 73 to 76 Sts	6.84	



Morningside	Manhattan & Morningside Ave 110 to 173 St	\$1,738	
Mt Morris	Madison & Mt Morris Ave 120 to 174 St	20,174	
Riverside <sup>Park &amp; Drive</sup>	Along Hudson River 72 to 129 St	177.8	
Stuyvesant	Both sides 2 Ave 15 <sup>th</sup> to 17 St	14,229	
Tompkins	Aves A & B 7 to 10 St	10,508	
Union Sq.	Pway, 4 Ave 14 to 17 St	\$,483	
Washington Sq	Marble, pl. 4 St. University pl & Madison pl	8,115	
Corleau's Hook	South, Cherry, Jackson & Corleau's St	8.3	
Mulberry Bend	Mulberry, Baiter, Bayard	.552	Not improved
Rutgers	Rutgers' Slip	.45	Closed
Seich Ave 325 & 355 St		.186	Closed
Boulvard & 63 St		.344	
" & 66 St		.069	
" & 72 St		.095	
Manhattan Ave & 114 St		.018	
St Nicholas Ave & 175 St		.072	
" " & 137 St		.038	
" " & 150 St		.240	

## New Parks north of Harlem River

Van Cortlandt	1134.35
Brook	661.60
Pelham Bay	1756.
Coitona	141.65
Charmont	38.05

St. Marys	28.70
Orontou Parkway	12.
Marsholu "	80.
Prout & Pelham "	95.

Paul Dept

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63



# OFFICERS.

CYRUS CLARK, PRESIDENT,  
Residence, 327 W. 76th St.

JAS. VAN DYCK CARD,  
WILLIAM C. STUART,  
JOHN C. COLEMAN, } VICE-PRESIDENTS.

J. EDGAR LEAYCRAFT, TREASURER.

G. B. SHEPPARD, SECRETARY,  
Room 119, 10 Wall Street.

## THE

# WEST END ASSOCIATION,

426 Columbus Avenue.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE  
SECRETARY, AT HIS OFFICE.

## CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS :

JAMES VAN DYCK CARD, 248 West 73rd St.

### SANITARY AFFAIRS AND NUISANCES :

EMERSON COLEMAN, 167 West 73rd St.

### MEMBERSHIP :

GEORGE C. BATCHELLER, 129 West 73rd St.

### GRIEVANCES :

FRANK R. HOUGHTON, 32 West 83rd St.

### FINANCE :

GEORGE C. BATCHELLER, 129 West 73rd St.

### LEGISLATION, LAW AND SCHOOLS :

JOHN C. COLEMAN, 167 West 73rd St.

### TAXATION :

Hon. GEORGE F. LANGBEIN, 315 West 89th St.

### HOUSE COMMITTEE :

JAS. V. D. CARD, 248 West 73rd St.

## ARGUMENT.

In order to protect the water front of Riverside Park from the encroachments of business and private enterprises that would certainly, if unchecked, become most injurious to the beauty, and to the free use and enjoyment by the people, of the Riverside Park, which should be the grandest breathing-spot for the people in God's universe, an act was passed in 1894 known as Chapter 152 of the Laws of 1894 which provides that the whole water front (not already possessed by the city) from 72d to 129th Street, North River, shall be condemned for and taken by the city in order to protect the said Riverside Park from nuisances or injury.

It being suggested by Mayor Gilroy, a meeting was held by representatives of the Park Department, the Dock Department, and the West End Association, to consider and arrange a bill that should protect the best interests of all the people. At that meeting Mr. Phelan, representing the Dock Board, requested that 800 feet at and near 79th Street and the same number of feet at and near 96th Street should be placed under the control of the Dock Department for the comfort and convenience of the uptown residents, in order that steamboat landings might be made at those points so that the said uptown residents might not be compelled to go down town in order to reach the steamboats that should take them to the nearby watering resorts. Under this sensible plea and understanding, our West End Association gladly gave our consent. After this understanding Mr. Phelan then suggested that we allow still 300 feet more at about 79th Street, in order to reserve the privilege of a ferry, if it should be required in the future, and the West End Association, ever mindful of the ever growing wants of this great city, willingly acceded to this further request of the Dock Board. Our warmest and constant efforts were then being made to have removed the disgraceful ash and garbage dump then existing on Riverside Park water front at 79th Street. Last spring we had the satisfaction of seeing this foul stain removed from the fair brow of our beautiful Riverside Park.

And now, what do we see? The Dock Department, last spring, sold at auction the right to collect wharfage and orange at 79th Street and under this privilege the lessees have used the docks (set apart by Chapter 152 for only dock or commercial purposes) for the dumping of rock, dirt and other refuse material, and this wharf property is now turned into storage yards for coal, sand, brick, &c. It is estimated



OFFICERS.

CYRUS CLARK, PRESIDENT,  
Residence, 327 W. 76th St.  
JAS. VAN DYCK CARD,  
WILLIAM C. STUART, } VICE-PRESIDENTS.  
JOHN C. COLEMAN,  
J. EDGAR LEAYCRAFT, TREASURER.  
G. B. SHEPPARD, SECRETARY,  
Room 119, 10 Wall Street.

THE

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HOUSE COMMITTEE :  
JAS. V. D. CARD, 248 West 73rd St.

ARG.-2.

that more than two million brick <sup>were, on</sup> ~~are now~~ (Dec. 31, 1895) standing upon this city property near 79th Street, while immense hills of building sand are stored upon this city property, and we do not know of one cent being paid to the city for this storage privilege assumed by a few dealers for their private gain and to the injury of the city in the loss of taxable values.

The traffic on 79th Street passing through Riverside Park (caused by storage yards on Riverside Park water front) produces over 3,000 trips of dirty vehicles through Riverside Park daily, constantly obstructing the free use of Riverside Drive and paralyzing all improvement of the adjacent property, and destroying the comfort and happiness of all visitors to said Riverside Park, and is entirely unwarranted by law and in direct opposition to our understanding of the matter with the representative of the Dock Department. And now in the name of the whole people we ask that ~~the Dock Department~~ <sup>the City</sup> will properly preserve all the benefits of the park to all the people. The docks now being of use and benefit only to a few contractors, as builders inform me that these docks (now a monopoly) are of no benefit to them. One firm of builders erecting houses on the West Side stated to me that all their material was delivered to them from the Harlem River and East River, as they could be supplied cheaper from those more distant points.

And most certainly the buying of the privilege of collecting wharfage and granaage on these docks does not carry with it the right to make storage yards of city property.

And most important, this obstruction of Riverside Drive has led to the serious consideration of asking for tunneling 79th Street at a possible cost of \$200,000. or \$300,000., change of grade and other serious losses which the city can be saved from by simply passing the Public Park Protection Bill, No. 272100 and thus protecting Riverside Park from the greed of and defilement by a few dealers in sand, brick and coal; from the hauling of loads and loads of rock, dirt and other refuse material through our Riverside Park and over Riverside Drive. It is an outrage upon our people that a few interested parties can make storage yards of our park front and then defile and pollute our park in delivering all this dirty material through our park. If these docks must be used, let them be used for passenger traffic for the benefit and pleasure of the people, for the park and its steep grades from the river forbid any business neighborhood.

Yours respectfully,



To Hon. William L. Strong, Mayor of the City of New York, on behalf of many property owners in the 19th Ward, I respectfully submit to your Honor the favorable consideration of the Assembly, Bill hereinafter referred to.

ARGUMENT OF ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1159, RATIFYING THE LAYING OUT OF EAST RIVER PARK AND AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF THE MONEY ASSESSED THEREFOR.

Every Small Park except EAST RIVER PARK has been made a public charge, or, if originally assessed for, the Assessment has been refunded, to wit:

Parks.	Act.	Act.	Chapter.
Van Cortland.	1884	1884	522.
Bronx			
Pelham Bay			
Crotona			
Claremont.			
St. Mary's.			
All the Parkways.			
Corlears Hook Park on the East River.	1884	1884.	529..
Washington Bridge Park on the Harlem River.	1890.		249.
Colonial Park.		1894.	56.
Riverside Park Extension on Hudson River.		"	152.
St. Nicholas ' Park.		"	366
Fort Washington Park.		"	581
Little Italy Park on the East River.		"	746
Fort George or Speedway Park.		"	749
Hester Street Park.		1895	293
Pitt Street Park.		"	293
27th & 28th Street Park.		"	911
194th Street and Kingsbridge Road Park.		"	537



Of the three Small Parks that were originally assessed for locally, to wit, Mulberry Bend Park, St. John's Park, and East River Park, a refund of the Assessments has been directed in the cases of the first two. The Bill in question authorizes the refund of the only remaining assessment, and removes the discrimination now existing between East River Park and every other Small Park in the City of New York.

The Park in question is on the elevated plateau overlooking the East River, Hell Gate and the Sound; Blackwell's, Ward's, and Randall's Islands; and the Queens County Shore.

Besides being the most sanitary and salubrious of all the Small Parks, the views from it are unsurpassed, and attract visitors from all parts of the City and country.

The property owners of the 19th Ward have since the last 7 years been severely assessed for alleged improvements, and there is now several assessments due or will soon become due, for matters which are beneficial to the City,; but not the property owners.

Assessments and Taxes are very high on property in the neighborhood of the East River Park, but rents have decreased and property has depreciated in value, on account of the hard times;

~~To~~The Park has not increased the value of property, as improvements in the Park have been made at a very low degree of speed, compared with parks situated in aristocratic neighborhood.

Respectfully Submitted.

Frederick A. Botley  
320 Broadway



-----X  
In the Matter of  
ST. JOHN'S PARK.  
-----X

Points for argument before the Mayor.

I.

Call attention to the Piers at the ends of the Streets, on Memorandum 1.

II.

The laying out of the Park and the direction that the Commissioners should assess one-half or \$260,000. on the property within a certain area.

The problem which was presented to the Commissioners was one of great ~~importance~~ difficulty. They did not hesitate to express that in their opinion none of the property would be benefited by this park. That the peculiar circumstances surrounding it, the abutting property having all the light and air that it was possible to obtain by reason of the land ~~lying~~ being occupied as a Cemetery, made it clear to them that no benefit whatever was derived by the property. But they had no power in the premises, and had to lay out \$260,000. upon the property within the area.

III.

Refer to some of the inequalities of the assessment, and this will be found on Memorandum No. 2.

IV.

This is the only park where people owning property in the locality have been taxed for benefit, with almost a single exception.



Riverside Drive, Morningside Park, Colonial Park, Fort Washington Park; the parks in the Annexed District, the cost of which was \$11,000,000; the Corlears Hook Park; - all these parks have been paid for by bonds, and these people have been called upon to pay their share.

Now the question is, shall the people in this locality be called upon to bear this burden in addition to their share in the expense of all the other parks.

Also as to the public improvements going on in different parts of the City, - the 9th Ward, while it will not receive much if any of this sum, bears its share in the raising of it.

#### V.

The effect of making it a general charge, see Memorandum No. 3.

#### VI.

Conclude by calling attention to ~~the~~ precedent being in our favor, all other parks being a general charge. About the responsibility of the Mayor; and how disinterested men in Albany on the Committee on Cities, unanimously voted in favor of the Bill.



*Mem No 1-*

RE St. JOHN'S PARK.

The Park is bounded by St. Luke's Place on the North, On the West by Hudson Street, on the South by Clarkson Street, and on the East by a block of tenement houses extending to Bedford Street.

Between the Park and the River are Hudson, Greenwich, Washington and West Streets.

The Piers between Spring and Clarkson Streets are occupied as follows:

Spring Street	Savannah S. S. Line
	Stonington Line to Boston
Charlton Street	Morgan Line by So. Pacific Co.
King Street	White Star Line
West Houston Street	National Line
Clarkson Street	Cunard Line
Leroy Street	Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R. R. Co.
Morton Street	Transatlantic Line to Harve
Barrow Street	American Line
Christopher Street	Christopher Street Ferry & White Star Line
West 10th. Street	White Star Line
Charles Street	Troy Line

The revenue from these piers is something enormous; some pay as high as \$30,000. and \$40,000. a year.

Re St. John's Park.

-----

Copy

Statemnt as to Piers &c.

in above matter.



Mem. No. 2

In order that your Honor may clearly see the difference in the rates of assessment, we beg leave to submit some examples of the assessment laid on the property in St. Luke's Place as compared with the assessment laid on other portions of the assessed area.

No. 4 St. Luke's Place, the valuation of which on the tax maps of New York City is Eighty-five hundred dollars has been assessed Nine hundred and ninety-seven and 12/100 dollars in this proceeding. This property is No. 1757 on the assessment Map in this proceeding, whereas No. Washington Street, which is also valued at Eighty-five hundred dollars is assessed only Two and 25/100 dollars. This lot is No. 3110 on the Assessment Map of the Commissioners.

These two lots are both within the assessed area, and yet one is assessed almost five hundred times as much as the other without a single line of evidence to sustain this terrible discrimination. There is no evidence to show that St. Luke's Place has been benefited by the improvement, but on the contrary all the evidence which was taken tended to show that St. Luke's Place was not benefited in any way, because it already enjoyed all the light and air which it might get from the establishment of the Park. There are no buildings to be removed, and the effect that the change from the cemetery to the Park will have on that is that it will make it a resort for throngs of people and destroy the quiet of the place for residences, and result rather in harm than benefit to the property.

That this case is not an isolated instance will also appear from the assessments levied on other places in St. Luke's Place.

No. 3 St. Luke's Place, which is valued on the Tax Map of New York City at Sixty-five hundred Dollars has been assessed Eight hundred and fifty-nine dollars in this proceeding.

No. 16 St. Luke's Place, whose assessed valuation is Eighty-five hundred dollars has been assessed Nine hundred and fifty-six and 50/100 dollars.



No. 12 St. Luke's Place whose assessed valuation is. (2)  
Eight thousand dollars has been assessed Nine hundred and  
seventy-eight and 31/100 dollars in this proceeding.

No. 11 St. Luke's Place whose assessed valuation is  
Eight thousand dollars has been assessed Nine hundred and  
seventy-eight and 31/100 dollars, whereas ten lots on  
Greenwich Avenue and West Eleventh Street, known as Ward  
Nos. 3208 to 3217 in the Ninth Ward, and known by the  
assessment Nos. 10 to 19 on the Map of the Commissioners in  
this proceeding, have been assessed as follows:

Ward No.	Assessment No.	Amount.	Assessed Value.
3208	10	\$2.55	
3209	11	2.55	
3210	12	2.55	
3211	13	5.58	
3212	14	1.91	
3213	15	1.81	\$90,000.00
3214	16	4.87	
3215	17	4.39	
3216	18	4.97	
3217	19	5.75	

These lots are occupied by one large building, the  
assessed valuation of which is Ninety thousand dollars and  
which is only assessed at Thirty-six and 33/100 dollars.  
These ten lots have an average valuation of Nine thousand  
dollars, and their average tax is Three and 63/100 dollars,

whereas lots on St. Luke's Place, which are valued only at  
Eight thousand dollars are assessed as we have seen above  
over nine hundred dollars, on nearly three hundred times as  
much.

These are not isolated instances. The great bulk  
of the assessments are less than Six and 50/100 dollars.  
Three houses on Washington and Spring Streets, Ward Nos.  
2590, 2591 and 2592, known as Assessment Nos. 311, 312 and  
313, are valued in all at Forty-five thousand dollars on  
the tax maps of the City, whereas in this proceeding they  
are only assessed \$2.48 and \$2.96 and \$3.95 respectively,  
or making in the total an assessment of Ten and 39/100 dol-  
lars on Forty-five thousand dollars worth of property, which  
is at the ratio of less than Two dollars on Eight thousand  
dollars worth of property, as compared with the assessments  
on St. Luke's place which are almost four hundred and fifty  
times as great.



Mem. No. 3

Taxable valuations for 1895:-

Real Estate, .....	\$1,646,028,655.
Personal, .....	288,575,587.
Shareholders of Banks, .....	<u>82,343,420.</u>
Total, .....	\$2,016,947,662.

For the present year, at the normal increase, the assessed valuation should at least be \$2,050,000,000.

If it were necessary to raise the amount of this assessment, \$260,000., in one year, it could be done by adding a tax of 1/8th of one mill on every hundred Dollars worth of property. This would amount to a tax of 12 1/2 cents on \$1,000, or the owner of a house worth \$8,000. would have to pay One Dollar of this sum. Compare this trifling tax with the assessment of \$1050., which it is proposed to place on a \$8,000. house in this vicinity.

But even this slight tax is unnecessary. The City will pay its proportion of the cost by an issue of bonds payable in 30 years. If 3% bonds running 30 years be issued to raise the amount of this assessment, ~~and xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ the interest charged would be only \$7800. a year, and if provision be made for the payment of the bond at the end of 30 years, it can be done by raising less than \$15,000. a year.

This means a tax of a little more than one-half cent on every thousand Dollars worth of property in the City of New York, and the owner of a house worth \$8,000. will have to contribute five cents a year to the payment of this tax.



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CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

January 11, 1896.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary to the Mayor.

Sir :

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 10th inst., enclosing a communication from a Committee of Citizens of the Annexed District in relation to the removal of snow from the skating pond at West Farms, Bronx Park, and , in reply, beg to inform you that the Superintendent of Parks has been instructed to clear that particular pond of snow, as requested in the communication.

Very respectfully,

*William Cary*  
Secretary.

**NORTH SIDE BOARD OF TRADE,**  
**OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.**  
**278 ALEXANDER AVENUE.**

**OTHO G. ANGLE, Sec'y,**  
278 Alexander Avenue.

**John C. De La Vergne, Pres.,**  
Foot of East 138th Street.

**CHARLES W. BOGART, Treas.,**  
23d Ward Bldg.

**JAMES L. WELLS, 1st Vice Pres.,**  
267 Alexander Avenue.

New York, January 17th. 1896. 189

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Side Board of Trade held at the rooms 278 Alexander Avenue on Friday January 17th. 1896, the following resolution was adopted.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee recommend to the Board at its next meeting the bill entitled "An act to lay out and establish a public park in the twenty-third ward of the City of New York and for the improvement thereof." and that the same be adopted.

Very Respectfully Yours,

*O. G. Angle*  
Secretary.



# OFFICERS

## PRESIDENT:

John C. De La Vergne.

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James L. Wells, First Vice.

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Chas. W. Bogart.

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Otho G. Angle.

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Henry Lewis Morris

John Claflin

Fordham Morris

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Henry P. De Graaf

Hugh N. Camp

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Isaac G. Johnson

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

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Henry L. School  
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Thos. B. Clark

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A. L. Lowenstein  
Myron C. Burton  
John W. Hotaling  
Chas. H. Zeltner  
Wm. D. Peck  
Matthew Anderson

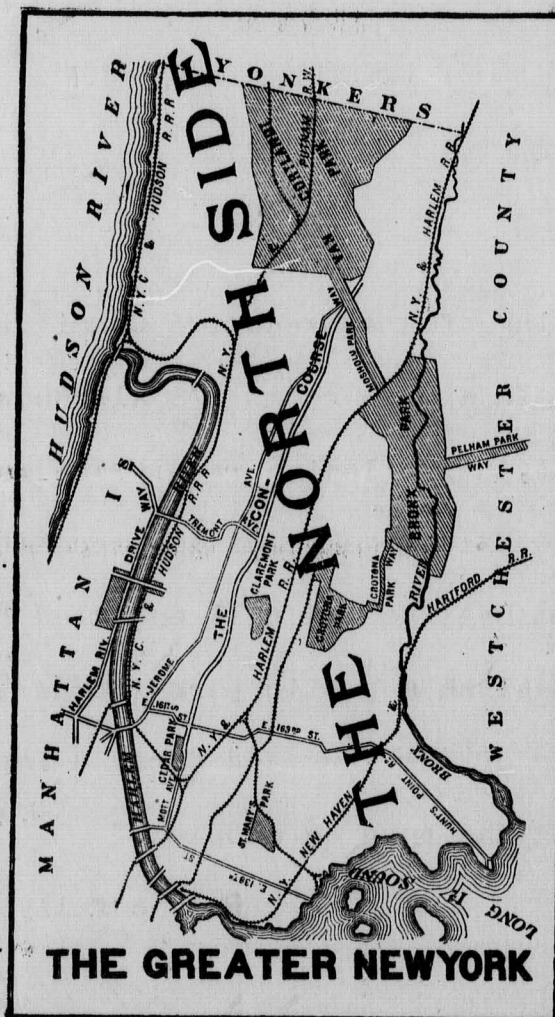
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Adam P. Deinst  
Martin Walter  
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Hugh N. Camp  
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John J. Bell  
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Olin J. Stephens  
E. M. Pritchard  
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Albert E. Davis



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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DeWitt C. Overbaugh  
Arthur C. Butts  
Sam'l W. MacMillan  
Chas. W. Bogart  
John A. Amundson

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John A. Amundson  
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Wm. Cauldwell  
Wm. Stebbins Smith  
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Ernest Hall  
John J. Brady

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John S. Hanson  
Albert E. Lickman  
Louis A. Risse  
Josiah A. Briggs

### On Finance.

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Charles W. Bogart  
Arthur C. Butts  
William H. Zeltner  
Geo. W. Stephens

John DeHart  
Ernest Hall  
Frederick Folz  
Henry L. School  
Matthew Anderson  
Adolph G. Hupfel  
Myron C. Burton



AN ACT to lay out and establish a public park in the  
Twenty-third Ward of the City of New York, and for  
the improvement thereof.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, represented in Senate  
and Assembly, DO ENACT as follows:

Land appropri-  
ated for park.

Section 1. All those pieces or parcels of land situate in the Twenty-third Ward of the City of New York, bounded and described as follows: On the north, by the southerly line of 162nd Street; on the east, by the westerly line of Cromwell's Avenue as far south as the southerly line of 161st Street and south of that point by the northwesterly line of the channel of Cromwell's Creek; on the south by said northwesterly line of the channel of Cromwell's Creek, and the easterly bulkhead line of the Harlem River, and on the west, by the easterly line of Jerome Avenue, excepting and reserving therefrom all public streets, avenues or places now laid out across or over any part of said land, and shown on the official filed maps of the Commissioner of Street Improvements of the 23rd and 24th Wards of the City of New York, are hereby laid out, appropriated and set apart as and for a public park. The department of public parks of said city, in respect to said park, shall have and possess the same powers of control, maintenance, construction and jurisdiction which the said department has and now possesses under existing laws in respect to the other public parks of said city.

Acquisition  
of land.

Application  
for commis-  
sioners of  
appraisal.

Section 2. The mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the City of New York, by and through the counsel to the corporation, are hereby authorized and directed to acquire title to all the lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises laid out and appropriated by the first section of this act not now owned, or the title to which is not vested in the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the City of New York, and are hereby authorized and directed to make application, within six months after the passage of this act, to the supreme court in the first department, at any appellate or special term thereof, for the



appointment of commissioners of appraisal. Upon such application the counsel to the corporation shall present to the court a petition, signed and verified by the mayor of the said city, or by himself, praying for the appointment of such commissioners of appraisal. Such petition shall contain a general description, as aforesaid, of all the real estate within the limits of or boundaries of the said parcel described in the first section of this act, title to which is to be acquired by the said city for the purposes of this act. The said counsel to the corporation shall give notice in the City Record, and in two public newspapers published in the city of New York, of his intention to make application to the said court for the appointment of such commissioners of appraisal, which notice shall specify the time and place of such application, and shall briefly state the object of the application. Such notice shall be published continuously in the City Record for at least ten days, excepting Sundays and legal holidays, immediately previous to the presentation of such petition. At the time and place mentioned in said notice, unless the said court shall adjourn said application to a subsequent day, and in that event at the time to which the same may be adjourned, the court, upon due proof of the publication of said notice, and upon filing the said petition, shall make an order for the appointment of three disinterested and competent freeholders, residents of said city, as commissioners of appraisal, to ascertain and appraise the compensation to be made to the owners and all persons interested in the real estate described in said petition and laid out or designated as aforesaid and proposed to be taken or affected for the purposes named in this act, and to perform such other duties as are prescribed hereby. Such order shall fix the time and place for the first meeting of the commissioners.

Notice of  
Application.

Appointment  
of Commis-  
sioners.

Oath of  
Commissioners.

Section 3. The said commissioners of appraisal shall take and subscribe the oath required by the twelfth article of the constitution of the State of New York, and shall forthwith file the same in the office of the clerk of the city and county of New York. When



DutiesNotice to  
present claims.Hearing of  
claimants.

said oath has been filed, the said commissioners shall view the real estate laid out as aforesaid and required to be taken as aforesaid, or affected by any action taken, or authorized to be taken under this act, and shall give notice in the City Record of their appointment, and a brief statement of the purposes for which they have been appointed, and requiring all parties and persons, owners, lessees or other persons interested in the real estate to be taken for the purposes of this act, or any part thereof or affected by the proceedings had under or authorized by this act, and having any claim or demand on account thereof, to present the same to them duly verified with such affidavits or other proof in support thereof as the said owner or claimant may desire, within sixty days after the date of such notice, and stating a time and place after the expiration of the sixty days named in said notice, when said parties and persons shall be heard in relation thereto by said commissioners, and that in case any such person or claimant shall desire at the time and place fixed for such hearing to offer further and additional proofs or testimony that such person or claimant will be heard or said proofs or testimony received by them. At the time and place fixed by said notice, or at such further or other time and place as the said commissioners may appoint, the said commissioners shall hear the proofs and allegations of any owner, lessee, or other person in any way entitled to or interested in said real estate, or any part or parcel thereof, and also such proofs and allegations as may be then offered on behalf of the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York. They shall reduce the testimony, if any, taken before them to writing, and they, or a majority of them, all having considered the same, and having had an opportunity to be present, shall, without unnecessary delay, ascertain and determine the compensation which ought justly be made by the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York to the owners or the persons interested in the real estate sought to be acquired or affected by said proceedings. The said commissioners shall thereupon prepare a report of their proceedings to the supreme court, and a true copy or copies thereof, as may be required. The



Report of  
Commissioners.

said report shall contain a brief description of the several parcels of real estate so taken or affected or reported upon, or a reference to the map, if any, accompanying their report showing the location and boundaries of each parcel and a statement of the amount estimated and determined upon by them as a just and equitable compensation to be made by the city to the owners or persons entitled to or interested in each parcel so taken or affected, and a statement of the respective owners or persons entitled thereto or interested therein.

Employes.

They may employ such surveyors or clerical assistance as may be necessary to enable them to fully and satisfactorily discharge the duties

Report as to  
unknown owners.

imposed upon them by this section. But in each and every case where the owners and parties interested or their respective estates or interests are unknown or not fully proven to the commissioners of appraisal, it shall be sufficient for them to set forth and state in general terms the respective sums to be allowed and paid to the owners of and parties interested therein generally, without specifying the names or estates or interests of such owners or parties interested or any or either of

May issue  
subpoenas etc.

them. In the said proceedings any of the said commissioners of appraisal may issue subpoenas and administer oaths to witnesses, and they or any of them, in the absence of others, may adjourn the proceedings from time to time in their discretion, but they shall continue to

Meetings.

meet from time to time as long as may be necessary to hear, consider and determine all the matters required herein to be determined by

Vacancies  
how filled.

them. In case of death, resignation, refusal or neglect to serve of any commissioner of appraisal, the counsel to the corporation shall, upon notice of ten days published in the City Record, and the newspapers in which the original notice of the application for the appointment of commissioners of appraisal was published, apply to the supreme court, at a special term thereof, to be held in the first judicial department, for the appointment of one or more commissioners to fill the vacancy or vacancies so occasioned.

Filing of  
report.

Section 4. The report of the commissioners of appraisal, signed by said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the city and county of New York. The



Notice of  
presentation  
of report to  
court.

said commissioners shall notify the counsel to the corporation as soon as the said report shall have been filed. The counsel to the corporation, or, in case of his neglect to do so within ten days after receiving notice of such filing, any person interested in the premises affected thereby or to which the same relates, shall give notice that the said report will be presented for confirmation to the supreme court at a special term thereof, to be held in the first judicial department, at a time and place to be specified in said notice. The said notice shall contain a statement of the time and place of the filing of the report, and when given by the counsel to the corporation shall be published in the City Record for at least twenty days immediately prior to the presentation of said report for confirmation. Said notice, if given by any one of the parties interested therein as aforesaid, shall be given and served, at least ten days prior to the day named therein for the presentation of said report for confirmation, upon the counsel to the corporation and all other persons named in the report of commissioners or who have appeared and made any claim in respect to the lands embraced therein before said commissioners. The application for the confirmation of the report shall be made to the supreme court at a special term thereof, held in the first judicial department. Upon the coming in of the said report the court shall, by rule or order, after hearing any matter which may be alleged against the same, either confirm the said report or refer the same to the same commissioners for revisal and correction, or to new commissioners to be appointed by the said court to reconsider the subject matter thereof. But the said court may, if the said report embraces several separate or distinct parcels of land, confirm the said report as to one or more of said parcels and refer the same back for revisal and correction as to others. The said commissioners to whom the said report shall be so referred shall return the same report corrected and revised, or a new report to be made by them in the premises, to the said court within such time as the said court shall, in said order, direct; and the same, on being so returned shall be confirmed or again referred by the said court in manner

Confirmation  
of report or  
reference back  
for revisal.



Confirmed  
report final.

City, when  
seized in fee  
of lands etc.

Possession,  
when may be  
taken.

Payment of  
awards by  
city.

aforesaid, as right and justice shall require, and so, from time to time, until a report shall be made or returned in the premises which the said court shall confirm. And such report, when so confirmed by the said court, shall be final and conclusive, as well upon the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York, as upon the owners, lessees, persons and parties interested in and entitled to the lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises mentioned in the said report; and also upon all other persons whomsoever. And, on such confirmation of such report by the said court, the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the City of New York shall become and be seized in fee of all the said lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises in the said report mentioned that shall or may be so required for the purposes mentioned in the first section of this act; the same to be appropriated and converted and used to and for such purposes accordingly. And thereupon the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty, or any person or persons acting under their authority, may, immediately or at any time or times thereafter, take possession of the same, or any part or parts thereof, without any suit or proceeding at law for that purpose. In trust, nevertheless, that the same be appropriated for the purposes and uses aforesaid, as in this act provided.

Section 5. All damages awarded by the commissioners of appraisal and confirmed by the court, with interest thereon from the date when the title to the lands and premises, for which the said awards have been made, shall have vested in the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York as provided by this act, and all costs or expenses which may be taxed, shall, upon the confirmation of the said report, become due and payable by the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of New York, to the respective persons and parties politic or corporate mentioned or referred to in the said report, or in whose favor such costs or expenses shall be taxed, and shall be paid accordingly. All such damages, costs and expenses shall be paid from the fund for street and park openings in said city provided for by existing laws. The person or persons to whom



How enforced.

awards shall be made in such proceedings and the person or persons in whose favor costs and expenses may be taxed, in case of the failure of the comptroller of said city to pay the same within thirty days after a demand therefor, may apply to the court by which said report was confirmed, and the said court, upon such application, shall require and direct the comptroller to pay said awards, costs and expenses from the fund hereinbefore provided for and applicable to the payment thereof, and enforce said order or mandate in the same manner as other orders and mandates of said court are enforced.

Issue of bonds.

Provided, however, that whenever the amount of damages or expenses to be paid shall exceed the balance remaining in said fund or funds after deducting all outstanding claims against the same, the comptroller shall, and he is hereby authorized to raise, by the issue of bonds for and on account of the said fund or account, such amounts as shall be necessary to pay such damages, costs and expenses. And

Comptroller  
may be  
required to  
raise money.

the said court may, upon the application of any person or persons in whose favor or to whom awards shall have been made in such proceeding, require and direct the comptroller to raise the money necessary to enable him to pay the same and from such fund to pay the same. But

Deposit of  
awards in  
trust company  
in certain  
cases.

whenever the owner or owners, person or persons interested in any real estate taken or affected in such proceedings, or in whose favor any such sum or sums or compensation shall be so reported, shall be under the age of twenty-one years, of unsound mind, or absent from the state of New York, and also in all cases where the name or names of the owner or owners, person or persons, interested in any such real estate shall not be set forth or mentioned in the said report, or where the said owner or owners, person or persons, being named therein can not, upon diligent inquiry, be found, it shall be lawful for the said mayor, aldermen and commonalty to pay the sum or sums mentioned in the said report, payable or that would be coming to such owner or owners, person or persons, respectively, with interest aforesaid, into such trust company as the court may direct, to the credit of such owner or owners, person or persons; and such payment shall be valid and effectual, in all respects, as if made to the said owner



Recovery of  
awards paid  
wrong party.

or owners, person or persons, interested therein, respectively, according to their just rights; and provided, also, that in all and each and every such case and cases when any such sum or sums or compensation reported by the commissioners in favor of any person or persons, or party or parties whatsoever, whether named or not named in the said report, shall be paid to any person or persons, or party or parties whomsoever, when the same shall of right belong and ought to have been paid to some other person or persons, the party or parties to whom the same ought to have been paid may sue for and recover the same, with lawful interest and costs of suit, as so much money had and received to his, her or their use, by the person or persons, party or parties, respectively, to whom the same shall have been paid.

Appeals from  
appraisal  
and report.

Section 6. Within twenty days after notice of the confirmation of the report of the commissioners, as provided for in the fourth section of this act, any party interested and deeming himself or themselves aggrieved, may appeal, by notice in writing to the other party, to the Supreme Court, at appellate term, from the appraisal and report of the commissioners. Such appeal shall be heard on due notice thereof being given according to the rules and practice of said court. On

New appraisal.

hearing of such appeal, the court may direct a new appraisal and determination of any question passed upon by the same or new commissioners, in its discretion; but from any determination of the special term an appeal may be taken to the appellate term, and from any determination of the appellate term any party, if aggrieved, may take an appeal to the Court of Appeals, which shall be heard and determined by the Court of Appeals, and in said courts such appeal shall be heard upon the merits, both as to questions of law and fact. In the case of a new appraisal the second report shall be filed and notice thereof given, and such review, upon appeal or otherwise, be had as in the case of an original report, and so, from time to time, until a report shall be presented, which the said court shall finally confirm, and shall be affirmed upon appeal, should any appeal be taken. But the taking of an appeal by any person or persons shall not operate



Stay of  
Proceedings.

Hearing upon  
evidence.

Power of  
court to  
amend defect  
etc.

Removal of  
Commissioners.

Amendment of  
pleadings etc.

Appearance  
by corporation  
counsel.

Taxation  
thereof by  
court.

to stay the proceedings under this act except as to the particular parcel of real estate with which the said appeal is concerned. Such appeal shall be heard upon the evidence taken before such commissioners, and any affidavits as to irregularities.

Section 7. The supreme court of the first judicial department shall have power at any time to amend any defect or informality in any of the special proceedings authorized by this act that may be necessary, or to permit any person having an interest therein to be made a party thereto, or to relieve from any default, mistake or irregularity, or to direct such further notices to be given to any party in interest as it deems proper, and also to appoint other commissioners of appraisal in place of any who shall die or refuse or neglect to serve, or be incapable of serving, or be removed. And the said court may, at any time, remove any of said commissioners of appraisal, who, in its judgment, shall be incapable of serving, or who shall, for any reason in its judgment, be an unfit person to serve as commissioner. The cause of such removal shall be specified in the order making the same. If in any particular it shall, at any time, be found necessary to amend any pleading, proceeding, or to supply any defect therein arising in the course of any special proceeding authorized by this act, the same may be amended or supplied in such manner as shall be directed by the supreme court, which is hereby authorized to make such amendment or correction.

Section 8. The counsel to the corporation shall, either in person or by such counsel as he shall designate for the purpose, appear for and protect the interests of the city in all such proceedings in court and before the commissioners of appraisal. The fees of the commissioners of appraisal and the compensation of such necessary clerks or assistants as they may employ, and all other necessary expenses in and about the special proceedings provided by this act to be had for acquiring title, shall be paid by the comptroller out of the fund hereinbefore provided. Such fees and expenses shall not be paid until they have been taxed before a justice of the supreme



court in the first judicial district upon ten days' notice to the counsel to the corporation of the city of New York. Upon such taxation due proof of the nature and extent of the services rendered and disbursements charged shall be furnished and no unnecessary cost or charges shall be allowed. Each of the commissioners of appraisal shall receive the like fees or compensation as by law or the rules and practice of the court are allowed to a referee in other actions or proceedings in such court, or as the court shall deem to be fair and reasonable. All such costs, fees and expenses or disbursements to be taxed as aforesaid shall be stated in detail in the bill of costs and charges and expenses and shall be accompanied by such proof of the reasonableness and necessity thereof as is now required by law and the practice of the said court upon taxation of costs and disbursements in other special proceedings or actions in said court.

Fees of  
Commissioners

Costs etc.  
to be stated  
in detail.

Section 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

A N A C T

to lay out and establish a public  
park in the Twenty-third Ward of  
the City of New York, and for the  
improvement thereof.

66



A N A C T

to lay out and establish a public  
park in the Twenty-third Ward of  
the City of New York, and for the  
improvement thereof.

66

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

January 24, 1896.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall.

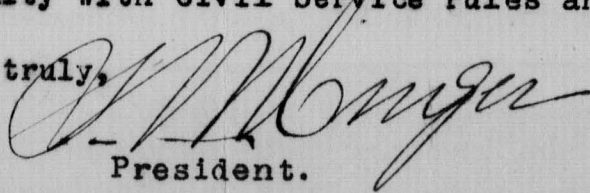
Dear Sir :

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., enclosing by direction of his honor, The Mayor, a letter from Mr. Herman Cook of 77 East 115th St., formerly stenographer in this Department, who charges this Board with violation of Civil Service rules.

In reply, I beg to ask you to assure his honor that this Board has not violated the Civil Service rules.

Soon after entering upon my duties here, I found that it was absolutely essential that I should have a confidential stenographer, to act as my private secretary, and in a formal communication to the Board of Civil Service Commissioners asked that they place this position outside of Civil Service rules or else make it a non-competitive position. The Commissioners considered the application a reasonable one and passed the necessary resolution, which was approved by his honor, The Mayor, and under this resolution Mr. F.W. Craig was appointed as Private Secretary to the President. All other appointments made since this Board came into office have been in strict conformity with Civil Service rules and regulations.

Yours truly,

  
President.



Telephone Call: Cortlandt 26.

Established 1850.

# LYDECKER'S EXPRESS,

TRUCK and EXPRESSMAN and GENERAL FORWARDING  
AGENT,

Law Books and Office Furniture a Specialty,

OFFICE: 40 ANN ST., NEW YORK.

---

ALL CONSIGNMENTS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

John E. Hedges

Please give bearer  
Drawing of approach  
to Grant Tomb

And oblige  
yours truly

Howard Chandler Christy

Mayon Office  
at 2. O'clock



CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

February 5, 1896.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.

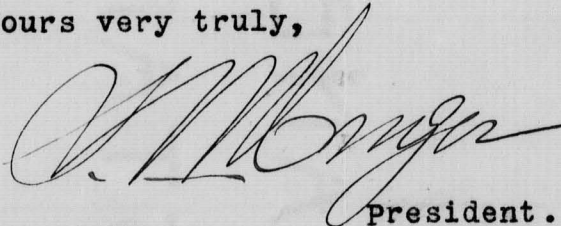
Mayor's Office, City Hall.

Dear Sir:--

Messrs. Howard & Carroll desire to place on exhibition the drawing for the proposed approach to Grant's Tomb which is now in the Mayor's office.

Will you kindly deliver it to their representative and if the Mayor desires it returned to his office, they will do so when the exhibition closes.

Yours very truly,

  
President.

*Received drawing above referred to  
and ordered delivered to Messrs Howard  
& Carroll*

*My. Sub 7.6  
Lydecker's Express  
Per M Nolan*

69

99 Nassau Street

New York February 24 1896

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

Dear Sir!

Having noticed, in some of the daily papers, that a proposition, had been suggested, to have a Park, on the East side, of the City, to be located on Norfolk, Rivington, Clinton and Stanton Streets or at Sheriff, Pitt, Stanton & Houston Streets. I consider it my duty, as a Citizen, to bring to your attention, the fact, that it would be a great misfortune & poor judgment, to locate a Park, in either, of the aforesaid localities, for the reason, that there is at present, a large Park, known as "Jompkins Square", within 7 blocks, from one of the above mentioned thoroughfares & 9 blocks, from the other. Jompkins Square is bounded, on the South by 7<sup>th</sup> Street, on the North by 10<sup>th</sup> Street East by Avenue B, & West by Avenue A. It



certainly would be more practical and beneficial,  
to the citizens, living, on the East side, to locate such  
a Park, somewhere, in the more thickly populated  
tenement neighborhood, of Ludlow, Essex, Riv-  
ington or Delancey Streets, or further South, of  
the City, thereby benefiting, the poor people,  
of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Wards. If agreeable, to you and  
~~not~~ intruding, upon your valuable time, should  
be pleased, to have a personal interview, in  
reference, to this important question, as I have  
other plans to suggest. Trusting to hear, from  
you, soon. I am

Respectfully Yours  
Max Moses

To his Honor

Mayor Wm L. Strong

Dear Sir

At the risk of being deemed  
mudlhome, I must make one more plea for  
the "West Side Park" - as being between 9<sup>th</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup>  
Avenues + 27<sup>th</sup> + 28<sup>th</sup> Streets - it being an ideal  
site -

It is a proper centre - West 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> +  
23<sup>rd</sup> streets not being inhabited by the class of  
people who would be apt to make much  
use of the park - hence you will see that  
this site, for the class we wish to benefit is  
beyond question

The park being designed for children  
what more substantial benefit could be con-  
ferred on the 2000 children in the 28<sup>th</sup> St  
School than light + air on all sides  
thereof -



So many complaints of dark school rooms,  
 bad light - cross lights, & no day-light at all, &  
 so many children of tender years wearing eye-  
 -glasses - ought to make us feel that in  
 future school-buildings, the two essentials of  
 health & happiness - light & air, must be  
 the first consideration

As there are \$9,000,000 for new  
 schools - this one in a park would be  
 an object lesson, & suggest the idea  
 & necessity of so placing the new ones -

Very sincerely  
 Eliza A. Blano Swan  
 Townsend

Mrs John D. Townsend  
 343 West 34<sup>th</sup> St  
 March 10<sup>th</sup> - 1896

From a letter to Col. Cruger, Secretary, Department of Health, dated Feb. 27th, 1896.

"Suggestion as to a park to be located under chapter 293 of the laws of 1895 in the district east of the Bowery and Catharine Street, New York. The report of the Tenement house Commission presented to the Legislature, which resulted in the passage of the Act illustrates the condition of the thickly populated neighborhoods by taking as a type the block bounded by Essex Hester, Norfolk and Division Streets, which has an estimated population of 2302 and an area of one and one-quarter acres.

,Having had an opportunity for many years, by reason of association in education and mission work in the vicinity, to observe the conditions of the City in the neighborhood mentioned, I am convinced that a great service can be rendered to the people of the City of New York by laying out one of the small parks at the junction of East Broadway and Canal Street, nearly opposite the block cited by the Tenement House Commission. There has already been taken from the block bounded by Division, Canal, East Broadway and Jefferson Streets a plot called a plaza or Rutger's square, upon which stands a public fountain recently donated to the City by Mr. Schiff.



The space bounded by Canal, East Broadway, Jefferson and Division Streets is covered by old buildings of comparatively little value and the cost of acquisition would be practically a trifle beyond the price of vacant lots. Including the plaza this would furnish a park, 400 by 116 feet; over an acre. A locality cannot readily be found more desirable for compactness, comparative cheapness and close proximity to a closely populated section.

It would be a play ground for children in the tenement houses from Allen to Clinton Streets south of Grand Street, and such a step seems to be absolutely demanded."

Paris 28, Avenue de l'Opera.  
Limoges, France.  
Rudolstadt, Thuringia.  
Steinschönau, Bohemia.  
Carlsbad, Bohemia.

*L. Straus & Sons,*  
*Importers & Manufacturers of*  
*China, Pottery and Glassware.*  
*Art Goods, Clocks and Marble Statuary.*

Isidor Straus,  
Isidor Straus,  
Isidor Straus,  
Nathan Straus,  
Escar L. Straus,  
Lee Hahn.

Address Letters, P.O. Box 1000.

42, 44, 46 & 48 Warren St.  
& 116 Chambers St.

New York, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1896. 189

Col. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York .

My Dear Mr. Mayor :

Several gentlemen interested in the lower East side of the City have asked me to bring to your attention the need of locating a park under Chapter 293 of the Laws of 1895 in the district east of the Bowery and Catharine Street. It is believed by these gentlemen, among others the President of the Hebrew Free Schools, Hon. M. S. Isaacs, and the President of the Hebrew Educational Alliance, Mr. Isidor Straus, that a great service could be rendered to the people by the laying out of one of the small parks at the junction of East Broadway and Canal Street. This section of the City is most thickly populated by the poorest class of people who are in most need of this fresh air space.

I enclose for further particulars a memorandum drawn up in this regard which was forwarded by Judge Isaacs to Col. Cruger.

I feel almost confident that an inspection by you



of the locality designated will convince you that the suggestion is one that will meet your approval.


I write, instead of placing the matter before you in person, because I know the subject of these parks has received much of your consideration, and I do not wish to unnecessarily occupy your time.

I shall be glad, however, to appear before you, together with Judge Isaacs, should you deem it well, or require further information.

I have the honor to be

Very sincerely yours,

Oscar S. Straus





(Copy)

NEW YORK, March 28, 1896.

To the  
Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks,  
New York City. Hon. S.V.R. Cruger, President.

Gentlemen :

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith the amended estimates for the completion of the entire work on Section 2 of the Harlem River Driveway under the plans as now contemplated.

These estimates, together with those transmitted for the work on Section 1, enabled the closely approximate cost of the entire work of the Driveway to be ascertained. All plans to which these estimates apply are also either completed or in such a state of progress as to be available <sup>at</sup> any time for the execution of either modifications of existing contracts, or such new contracts as may be requisite for the prosecution of the remaining work of reconstruction and completion. All data are thus completed and all plans and procedures are formulated for the remaining work to be done, and hence any negotiations with either the present contractors or with other parties, or efforts requisite for the obtaining of such further municipal authority as may be necessary for the completion of the Driveway work, can be undertaken.

Permit me also to remind you that the season for the advantageous and rapid prosecution of such work as that involved in the contracts for the Harlem River Driveway is about opening, and if no time is to be unnecessarily lost all requisite steps for setting such work in motion should be taken without delay. It is only through as prompt action as possible in these matters that the work can be completed this year.

I shall be glad if I can meet with the members of the Board on Monday, 30th inst., for the purpose of aiding such efforts as are immediately necessary for the accomplishment of the results outlined above.

Very respectfully,

(Signed)

Wm H. Burr

Consulting Engineer.



*City of New York*  
*Department of Public Parks*  
*49 and 51 Chambers St.*

*The Arsenal, Central Park* March 28 , 1896.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Sir :

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the statement that I was not a party to the request of the Board asking that the sum of \$150,000. be expended by this department without public letting. At our interview, I did not understand that you referred to the Speedway, but to some other work, and for that reason I said I was not a party to the request.

The fact is, however, that I voted for the resolution (which was adopted unanimously), asking for \$150,000., to be expended without public letting upon the Speedway. It was estimated that this sum was necessary to make good and rebuild the faulty construction reported by the expert engineers under date of January 27th.

The Board, after careful consideration, concluded that it was best to have this rebuilding done by the present contractors, if it could be done by them at a fair price. We did not wish to bring in new contractors upon the work unless forced to do so, and further we thought that possibly some legal complications might ensue. For these reasons we applied to the Board of Aldermen for permission to expend not more than \$150,000. to make these repairs, the contracts

*City of New York*  
*Department of Public Parks*  
*~~49 and 51 Chambers St.~~*  
*The Arsenal, Central Park*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

to be made without public letting.

It is a question whether we have the right to bring in new contractors on this work before it is completed without the consent of the present contractors. I am of the opinion that if we did so it would have to be with their consent, as the report of the expert engineers exonerates them from any blame, except as to an error in filling, which can easily be remedied, and for which there is 20% of the payment held back.

I will have the facts of the case prepared and more fully presented to you at a later date so that you will understand this matter in all its bearings.

I trust you may see your way clear to approving this expenditure of \$150,000. without public letting, as by doing so I believe we can save money to the city, and push the work on the Speedway to completion much faster.

Very respectfully,

*Samuel H. Miller*  
Commissioner.



*Commissioners of Accounts,*

ROOMS 114 AND 115,

*Stewart Building,*  
280 Broadway.

*New York,* April 18, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

The Commissioners of Public Parks have referred to us the bids received by them from Owen Laughlin and William Young for the "furnishing and delivering where required on the Central Park and City Parks 200,000 square feet of grass sod", in order that we might ascertain, if possible, whether each of said persons was bidding on his own responsibility or was merely a "dummy" for another or others.

After an examination of both parties we are of the opinion that William Young bid entirely on his own responsibility, and that Owen Laughlin is merely a "dummy" for someone else, although he says that such is not the case.

The facts from which we derive the conclusion as to the said Laughlin are as follows:

He is now and always has been a day laborer, being at the present time employed as a hod carrier at thirty cents an hour. He bid for 100,000 square feet in Corlears Hook Park and 40,000 square feet in City Hall Park one and one-half cents a square foot, and for 4,000 square feet in Bryant Park, 8,000 square feet in Madison Square Park, 1,000 square feet in Union Square Park, 4,000 square feet in Stuyvesant Park, 2,500 square feet in Washington Square, 500 feet in Tompkins Square and 40,000 square feet in Central Park one and three-quarters cents a square foot.

He testified that he does not know why he bid for 500 feet at Tompkins Square and 2500 feet at Washington Square or why he bid for 100,000 square feet in Corlears Hook Park and for only 40,000 square feet in City Hall Park; that he did not know where Corlears Hook Park was, for which the bid for 100,000 square feet was made, but thought it was in Brooklyn. He did not know whether



the City Hall Park for which the bid was made was the New York or Brooklyn City Hall; that he did not know where Bryant Park was, whether it was in New York or Brooklyn; that he knew there was a Madison Square Park in New York, but did not know whether it was Madison Square Park in this City or Brooklyn for which the bid was made. He testified that he never bought any sod and did not know what it would cost. He further said that he thought a man named Bart Dunn was the only bondsman upon his bond, whereas it is a fact that a man named Reilly was also a bondsman. At one time he testified that he never spoke to the said Dunn and afterwards contradicted himself.

The entire testimony and the bearing of the witness indicated that his statements were not to be believed, and his ignorance of the whole subject convinced us that he merely represented some other person.

Respectfully submitted,

*Seth Sprague Terry*  
*Reilly A. Dennis*  
Commissioners.



In re The Matter of Strong Park

LUIGI GALVANI DOANE, M. D.

No. 352 WEST 28TH STREET,

NEW YORK.

HOURS :  
10 A. M. to 12 M.

Feb'y 19/  
96

Dear Sir:

The plot of ground situated<sup>th</sup> between 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Streets 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue containing 84 building lots is owned by the City of New York and is now occupied by the N.Y.C. & N.R.R. Co. This ground contains but few buildings of any value and is just the site for our new West Side Park called Strong Park Will you please call the attention of the Board of Street Openings to

this site

It would be money  
to spend \$1,000,000 for  
a park when this ground  
can be had for nothing  
The buildings on 9th Avenue  
and 29th & 30th Sts  
cost little to put up are  
old and poorly constructed.  
The RR officials if approached  
by your Secretary Mr  
Hedges will beyond doubt  
be glad to vacate if he  
tells them that the City needs



the grounds for park purposes

Trusting you will aid us  
in this matter I

am

Very truly Yours

L. J. Boone M.D.

I have lived here since 1852  
and know this portion of the  
City quite well. So I can  
speak with truth.

LUIGI GALVANI DOANE, M. D.

No. 352 WEST 28TH STREET,

NEW YORK.

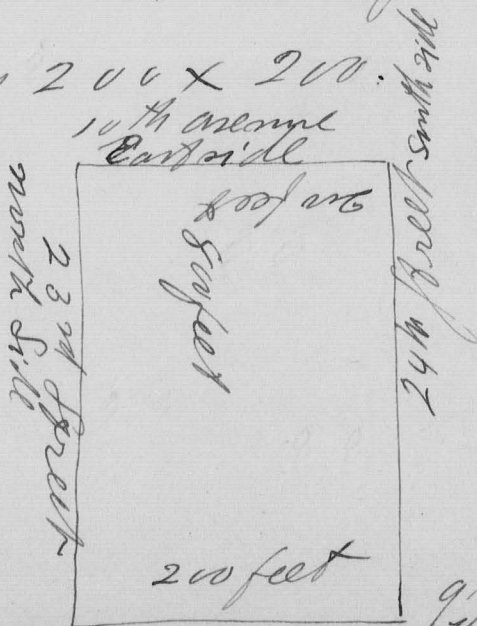
HOURS :  
10 A. M. to 12 M.

5.6.96

Dear Sir:

As there seems to be considerable  
argument about the new Irving Park  
I submit a plot of ground which I  
think would prove proper. The law  
makes it mandatory to erect such  
a park on the west side.

I suggest the enclosed plot  
800 feet by 200 x 200.



(over)



This land is held as a lease hold  
from the Moore and other estates  
and has many fine trees and  
not many valuable houses on it  
It would cost about  $\$600,000$   
to condemn and the cost could  
be covered by issue of City bonds  
at 2 percent a year

It is on a line with the  
surface car rail roads and  
is especially adapted to the  
purpose set forth

Won't you as a special favor  
come up and look over the  
plot before settling the matter  
finally

Yours Truly  
Luigi G. Deane Esq

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK.

May 8th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor's Office.

My Dear Sir:--

I am in receipt of a notice that there will be a public hearing before you this afternoon at 3.30 o'clock on Assembly Bill No. 2239, being An Act to provide for the Improvement of Ryan Park in the City of New York. As I have an important engagement at the same hour, I send this letter simply to say that the bill referred to was presented without the knowledge of the Park Department and at the same time we never made any objection to it.

The park in question is a small strip of land in 42nd. Street between 1st. and 2nd. Avenue and was under the charge of the Department of Public Works until last year, when it was transferred by law to the Park Department. Soon after entering upon my duties as Park Commissioner some of the residents of the neighborhood called my attention to the bad condition of the park and I directed the Superintendent to examine the same and report. Since then we have been cleaning it up, repairing and painting the railings and doing some sodding. I don't know exactly what the residents of the neighborhood want in the way of improvements but do not consider that \$5,000. could be expended upon the park in any event judiciously. However, I do not wish to oppose your signing the bill as any expenditure under the Bill is discretionary both with the Park Board

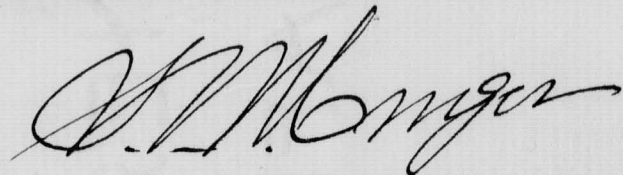


CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
ARSENAL CENTRAL PARK.

(Hon. W.L.S.2.)

and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. I do not feel that out of the Maintenance Fund we can expend a very large sum upon this little park. If this Bill should become a law, probably a portion of the money might be judiciously expended.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Meyer".

President.

*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

May 6, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Sir :

I have the honor to advise you that the Annual Parade and Review of the Park Police force will take place on the Mall, in Central Park, on the morning of Thursday, 14th inst., at 10 o'clock, and, on behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, to invite you to review the Parade on that occasion, which it is hoped you may find it convenient to do.

If agreeable to your Honor, I will call at your house at a quarter to ten o'clock and drive you to the Mall.

Respectfully,

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger*  
President.



*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

May 7, 1896

Hon. William M. Strong,  
Mayor.

Dear Sir :

In reply to the letter of Mr. J. Victor Orchard, addressed to you, complaining of the bad condition of the inside walks of Tompkins Square, I have the honor to state that the re-asphalting of the walks of this square, as well as many of the others, is now receiving the attention of this department. We are having specifications prepared for doing a large amount of asphalting work, and shall be prepared to advertise for the work within a very short time.

Very truly yours,

*J. M. Cruger*  
President.

*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*L. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice President.  
William L. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

May 19, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

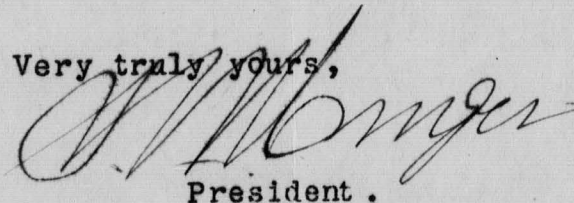
Mayor's Office, City.

Dear Sir :

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., enclosing a letter from Charles Whiting Plyer of 32 West 60th St., complaining of the condition of the Circle at 8th Ave. and 59th St.

In reply, I beg you to inform His Honor, the Mayor, that the Department has now under consideration the paving of this Circle with either asphalt or stone.

Very truly yours,



President.



New York

June 14/96

We the undersigned citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> wards, do hereby protest against the city depriving us of Music in "Rutgers Square Park" one night in the week, which we have enjoyed for the past 2 Summers; and, which we greatly appreciate; we sincerely hope the Hon. Wm L. Strong, "Mayor" New York City will use his good office in restoring same for us this Summer.

Signed,

Chas. S. Adler 19 Orchard St.

Hyman Cohen 28 Canal St

Philip Waterman 41 Canal St

Henry J. Jacob 38 Canal

Harris Cotton 139 Division St.

J. Oppenheimer 182 E. 6 Ave

Arnold Edelheit 143 Division Street

Henri Cohen 143 Division St.

Abel Jacob 143 Division St

Thomas Levy 41 Canal St.

Joseph Harris 133 Division

Isaac Sherman 41 Canal St

Isaac Kemp 28 Ludlow St

Samuel Waterman 41 Canal St

Jacob Waterman 20 Ludlow St

Ed Stegman 142 Suffolk St.

Dr. George Cohen	135. 137 Division St.
Moritz Falk	39 Canal St
Henry J. Jackson	200 Henry St.
Frank E. Keren	74 Hester St
M. Greenfel	143 Division St.
Frederick	
Henry Weiss	97 Ludlow St.
Samuel Spier	1113 Division St.
Benny Isaac	40 Orchard St
Julius Levy	100 Henry St
Samuel J. Waterman	100 Henry St
Proe Chusky	143 Division St.
Joe Rosenfeld	217 E Broadway
Lawrence Bunker	No 141 Clinton St
Louis Rabiner	140 E Broadway
Thomas J. Walsh	133 Division
Proe Meyer	140 E Broadway
Chas. Goldmann	80 E Broadway
Thomas Taylor	140 E Broadway
Henry Hangerman	20 Ludlow St
Jacob Cohen	169 Henry St
Hyman Rabiner	12 Pike St
H. J. Rabiner	133 E Broadway
Gus R. Rabiner	140 E Broadway
James Kennedy	23 Ludlow St
Hugh Ferris	133 Division St
Phil Solomon	26 Jefferson



of  
 Thomas Campbell 133 Madison  
 Wm. Solomon 178 Henry  
 John J. McCall 339 Cherry St  
 Thomas Mallory 269 Madison  
 Mrs Taylor 140 E. Bay  
 Jacob Kunkler 181 Ludlow St  
 Jacob Fein 101 Ludlow St  
 Albert Goffman 39 Essex  
 Philip Wischower 39 Essex  
 Sol. Smith 19 Jefferson St  
 M. Digan 28 Canal St  
 J. Oberstein 141 Henry  
 All Cohen 32 Pike  
 J. M. Geary 31 Pike St  
 Aaron Solomon 26 Jefferson  
 Jk. Kemp 262 Broome  
 Chas Brodsky 79 Henry  
 Charles Bernstein 367 Henry  
 Michael Wald 3 Ludlow  
 Jack Burns 39 Canal  
 A. R. Rieger 26 Orchard  
 Chas Seelig 76 Orchard  
 Morris Sack 136 Orchard  
 N. Simon 51 Canal St  
 John Borsetto 139 Madison St  
 Jack Levy 214 Broome  
 Jacob Spruch 43 Broome

David Spence 52 Hester St  
Morris Kemp 28 Ludlow St  
Max Davis 12 1/2 Ludlow St  
Harry Mount 41 Canal St  
M. B. dykes 142 E Broadway  
Tommy 41 Canal  
Wm. Hume 41 Canal  
Will Whitman 31 Canal St

John Coleman 31 Canal St  
J. Wallis 31 Canal St  
Mons. Cohen 29 Canal St  
Thomas Mack 260 Cherry St  
Joseph Ince 181 Clinton St  
John Brumby 164 Division St  
Thomas McManis 48 Decatur St

Thomas Burns 11 Suffolk St  
Matt Burns 34 Suffolk St  
August Stern 145 1st City  
O. Whitman 31 Canal St

Joe Kemp 247 Broomfield  
Emmet Sapalsky 173 E Bay

Harry Sapalsky 11 " "

William Sapalsky 11 " "

Amos Sapalsky 11 " "

Morris Dembursky 11 " "

Sam Dembursky 11 " "

Harry Dembursky 11 " "



J. Howe 143 E Boral  
 A. Bame 143 E Boral  
 Myer Rabner 140 E Broadway  
 H Isaacs 142 E Bway  
 Morris Miller 142 E Bway  
 Harris Finsod 25 Ludlow  
 Harry Feldman 214 Madison  
 Dick Oberstein 122 Henry St  
 Patrick H. Sullivan  
 Dennis H. " 206 Bway  
 Charles Smith 66 Essex  
 Martin Engel 65 Essex  
 Simon Engel 65 Essex  
 Edward Engel 85 Essex  
 Oscar Whitman 31 Canal St  
 Abe Davis 144 Henry St  
 Jake First 40 Ludlow St  
 Ben Bloom 44 Ave. B.  
 Morris Bloom 44 Ave. B.  
 Harry Grossman 88 Canal  
 Wolf Gomer & Protger Co  
 Morris Kallsher 167 E Broadway  
 J. M. Freyman 167 E. Broadway  
 Max Karlovich 162 E B.  
 D. Sundel 162 E Broadway  
 Q. B. Rose 162 E Broadway  
 W. Feltenschein 175 Henry St  
 Luis Rose 173 Henry St

Ald.

Sauon Laffa 250 Henry St

Hugh Ferris 48 Henry St  
Thomas Campbell 48 Henry St  
Mike Kirdes 48 Henry St  
Phil Chen 101 Norfolk  
Henry Evans 48 Henry St  
John Duffy 41 Henry St  
Wart Ylbers 100 Norfolk St  
Henry Hughes 48 Henry St  
John Morrison 48 Henry St  
James Shields 48 Henry St  
Tom Rorckson 48 Henry St  
David Baker 39 Canal St  
Mike Goldstein 144 East Broad St  
A Donner 43 Canal St  
Thomas Sullivan 66 Henry St  
Jake Cannon 74 Blinton St  
Dore Falk 39 Canal St  
John Connors 226 Division St  
John Davison 22 Suffolk St  
Mike Saloman 66 Sudlow St  
James Sullivan 72 Allen St  
Martin Higgins 105 Allen St  
Samuel Lany 20 Pike St  
Harry Rodman 41 Canal St  
John Whitman 31 Canal St



Beckie Gordon 83 East Broad st  
Jacob Bana 16 0 Essex  
Jacob Lowenstein 12 Ludlow st  
Max Honeyman 20 Ludlow  
Gustave Blunt 3 Essex  
William Blunt 3 Essex  
David Thoren 44 Ludlow  
Sep Dahman 33 Suffolk st

Very yours

Respectfully  
Citizen

*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer,  
Smith Ely.*

June 11, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Mayor's Office, City Hall, City.

My dear Hedges:-

I am in receipt of yours of the 8th inst to Col. Cruger, in relation to the complaint of W. J. Bogert that the urinals in the park west of the City Hall create such a stench that it is offensive to office occupants. I have turned the matter over to the Superintendent of Parks for his immediate attention.

Faithfully yours,

*William Cary*

My dear Hedges:-

Job E. Hedges, Esq.

JUN 11 1896



*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Milham, Vice President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

June 22nd, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq., Secty.,

Mayor's office City.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the complaint of Mr. W. J. Bogart, as to the condition of urinals in City Hall Park, which you referred to this Department, I beg to state that the Superintendent reports that upon investigating the matter, it was ascertained that the complaint was not well founded.

The overflow of the urinal which finds its way to the Broadway curb, was caused by the watering of the sod near that point. The muddy water flowed over on the walk and reached the Broadway gutter. The urinals in City Hall Park are kept as clean as it is possible, considering their use.

Respectfully,

*William Ely*

Secretary.

*A. M. Wenger*  
President.



*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

COMMISSIONERS.

*L. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice-President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

*L*

July 29th, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary to the Mayor.

Sir:-

At a meeting of the Board of Parks, held on the 27th inst., I was directed to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 15th inst., enclosing a communication from Governor Morton, transmitting letter from the Secretary of State at Washington, with an enclosure from the Legation of the United States at Caracas, Venezuela, respecting statue of Bolivar in Central Park, and to advise you that the matter has been referred to the National Sculpture Society, to whom the Department refers all matters of this character, for report as to the artistic merits of statues intended for the parks.

Respectfully,

*William Cary*

Secretary.

*City of New York,  
Department of Public Parks,  
The Arsenal, Central Park.*

July 31st, 1896.

COMMISSIONERS.

*S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President.  
Samuel M. Millan, Vice President.  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer.  
Smith Ely.*

Mr. Job B. Hedges,

Secretary to the Mayor, City.

Dear Sir,-

President Cruger directs me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of July 28th, enclosing, at the direction of the Mayor, letter from the City Island R. R. Co., regarding the dangerous condition of the abutment on which the north end of the draw on the City Island Bridge rests.

This matter has already been brought to the attention of this Department by a similar communication, and has been referred to the Engineer of Construction for immediate attention.

Very respectfully,

*Wm. A. Stiles*  
Private Secretary to the President.



POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT

United States of America



THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Waver Street  
City Hall  
N.Y.

Dear Sir

8.6.96

What has become of the Police  
in City Hall Park, I have passed  
through there at least 10 times  
A day, for the last 8 weeks and  
have never seen one yet, the actions &  
language of the occupants, needs some  
one in authority, to day a regular Ring  
fight was in progress for full 30 minutes  
until I stepped in and stopped them, no Police  
in sight I spent 20 m trying to find one but could  
not so went back & stopped the fight. It, Tare Pay etc.



*Department of Public Parks*  
*Office of Police,*  
*64<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue,*

*New York,* August 6th, 189 6.

Hon William L. Strong,

Mayor.

S I R:-

In reply to the communication of "A Taxpayer" which was referred to me, I would beg leave to state that there <sup>are</sup> two officers posted continually in City Hall Park, and I believe that the officers in that park are faithful in the discharge of their duties.

They make numerous arrests, and perhaps the gentleman might have passed through the park looking for an officer while one or both of the officers were on their way to court with prisoners, but I do not think that many other citizens have shared the experience of this gentleman in his failure to find officers in this park.

In his postal, he does not say at what particular time the 'ring fight' occurred, for which I must express sincere regret, as if such an affair did take place, some officer was negligent, and under the present circumstances, I am unable to do anything toward bringing him to a proper accounting for his negligence.

very respectfully,

*Hugh Fitzpatrick.*

Acting-Captain, Park Police.