

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.*

EA.

New York, Sept. 21st, 1897.*M.*

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

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 20th inst. requesting report on premises located at #291-93 Bowery, known as the Germania Assembly Rooms, application having been made for permission to give vocal and instrumental concerts.

The matter will be given immediate attention and report sent to you as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable.

Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

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Sept. 1st. 1897

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE
SUPERINTENDENT.*

BW

New York, Sept. 22nd, 189*4*

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

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of the 20th inst, requesting report as to the suitability of premises 291-93 Bowery to give vocal and instrumental concerts, would say it will be necessary before any action can be taken by this Department to definitely ascertain which portion of the said building they intend to use for this purpose, as if the third floor is to be used various changes would have to be made before it could be allowed.

This matter must therefore be delayed until the above information is received from the applicant for the license to whom a letter has been written by me.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

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ADINGS.

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Sept. 22nd,

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE
SUPERINTENDENT.*

EA.

*New York, Sept. 23rd, 1897**M*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 23rd inst. requesting report on premises #165-67 Bowery, and known as Miner's Bowery Theatre, application having been made to change the license from a concert to a theatrical license.

The matter will be given immediate attention and report sent you as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully,

(D.C.S.C.)

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,**S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

JGR

New York, Sept. 24th, 1897/89

J-

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,

Secretary to the Mayor of the
City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In confirmation of answer to your telephone this morning in re of granting license for the Harlem Music Hall, would say that report before me indicates that certain stairs, fire appliances and other details in said building are not at present completed. Therefore I cannot certify that license can be granted as the improvement on some of this work is such that if not done at the time of opening, in case of fire, a panic or serious accident might result.

Yours respectfully,

Dict.S.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stevenson Constable".
Sup't of B'ldgs.

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Sept. 24th, 1897

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NR 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

P.K.

New York, Sept. 25th, 1897.

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

Dear Sir:-

In confirmation of telephone message to Mr. B. L. Burroughs, Secretary, in re of Harlem Music Hall, would say, license for same can be granted, as their representative when here this morning, and report shows that: The curtain is now in place, exits properly marked and arranged, fire apparatus to be in the building complete on Monday, unfinished treads to stairs to be put in immediately, temporary treads to be placed wherever others are not in place; border and foot-light guards will be in place Monday, and fire-proofing of doors to dressing rooms will be completed at once. On these conditions license can be granted, and an inspector will visit the building on Monday morning.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of Buildings.

Dic. S.C.

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Sept. 28th, 1897.

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the City

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



EA.

New York, Sept. 27th, 1897

5

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

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your favor of Sept. 25th, in re Alt. #351/97, referring to property on the Northeast Cor. of Lexington Avenue and 72nd Street, complaint of Mr. James M. Macgregor, would say relative to same as follows: That the Board of Examiners of this Department have claimed for years that under the law they had power to grant any rights and privileges as conveyed by said application, and that said Board acted in this matter after careful consideration.

Unless Mr. Macgregor can prove that their action was illegal I cannot see how this Department, or the Superintendent of the Department has violated the law. Such permission has been granted in numerous other cases in the past, and as I have stated to Mr. Macgregor this Department will be pleased to answer any questions he may see fit to put to it, or respond to any legal steps that he may find necessary to take, and you may rest assured that as long as I hold the position of Superintendent of Buildings that I will carry out my duties honestly and fairly, giving reasonable and careful consideration to each and every case brought before me, before taking action in same.

Yours respectfully,

(Dic.S.C.)

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

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INDEXES

Sept. 27th, 1897

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**



S.A.U.

New York, Sept. 27th 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations
of this Department for the week ending September 25th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Sept. 27th, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPT. 25th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	35
Estimated Cost	\$988,000.00
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	47
Estimated Cost	\$330,550.00
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	18
Estimated Cost	\$42,150.00
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	14
Estimated Cost	\$8,365.00
Buildings reported as unsafe	74
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	41
Other violations of law reported	141
Unsafe Buildings notices issued	173
Fire escape " "	62
Violation " "	387
Unsafe Buildings Cases forwarded for prosecution	2
Violation " " "	98
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,941
Complaints lodged with the department	51

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.*

EA.

New York, Sept. 29th, 1897

5

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

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 28th inst. requesting report on premises #3 Spring Street, application having been made for permission to give vocal and instrumental concerts and a Marionette exhibition.

The matter will be given immediate attention and report sent you as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

119

INGS.

Sept. 25th. 1897

Stroy

of

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



EA.

New York, Sept. 30, 1897

B.L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I herewith acknowledge receipt of yours of the 28th inst., enclosing communication from I. Mikkelson, 184th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and would state that I have received several complaints from him in regard to this matter, and have written him to the effect that these frame structures were fitted up for temporary use only, for the Speedway laborers, and in accordance with application #1525/97 filed in this Department,- a copy of which letter is herewith enclosed.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(R.O'B.)

(Enc)

COPY.

EA.

New York, Sept. 30th, 1897.

Mr. I. Mikkelson,
184th St. & Amsterdam Ave.,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 25th inst., to his Honor the Mayor, complaining of premises between Amsterdam Ave. and New Speedway, on 185th Street, would say these frame structures were fitted up for temporary use only, for the Speedway laborers, and in accordance with application #1525/97 filed in this Department.

Yours truly,

(SIGNED) STEVENSON CONSTABLE,

Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

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Sept. 30th, 1897.

H. J. ...
Honor ...

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.*

BW

New York, Oct. 1st, 1897
5

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

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your letter of the 20th inst, requesting report in re the granting of license to give vocal and instrumental concerts, at 291-3 Bowery, known as Germania Assembly Rooms, would say that examination now shows that said license could be granted, with the understanding that such matters as still remain unfinished be completed at once.

This in confirmation of telephone message of even date.

Yours respectfully,

(Dic. R. O' B.)

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs,

P. S.-

License should apply to first floor front only

S.C.

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DINGS.

Oct. 1st, 1910

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**

BW

New York, ~~October 2nd, 1897.~~
5

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your letter of the 29th ult., previously acknowledged, examination of 3 Spring Street would show that the work done in the said place is contrary to alterations approved by this Department. The aisles are entirely too narrow as means of exit, and the inflammable material arranged on and about the stage is all contrary to what was agreed upon with this Department.

Therefore, until the above is corrected, no license should be granted.

Yours respectfully,

(Dic. S.C.)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stevenson Constable".
Sup't of B'ldgs.

1921, Aug. 10

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

EA.

New York, October 4th, 1897.
5-

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

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed you will find letter addressed to you but enclosed in an envelope addressed to me, which was opened, and in answer thereto would say the matter will be immediately attended to.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic. R.O'B.)
(Enc)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S. A. U.

New York, Oct. 4th, 1897

R

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find synopsis of the operations of
this Department for the week ending October 2nd, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.U.

New York, Oct. 4th, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 2nd, 1897.

Plans filed for new buildings - Main Office	34
Estimated Cost	\$779,000.
Plans filed for new buildings - Branch Office	26
Estimated Cost	\$139450.
Plans filed for alterations - Main Office	16
Estimated Cost	\$43,725.
Plans filed for alterations - Branch Office	5
Estimated Cost	\$27,000.
Buildings reported as unsafe	81
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	37
Other violations of law reported	195
Unsafe Building notices issued	134
Fire escape " "	39
Violation " "	427
Fire escape cases forwarded for prosecution	5
Violation " " " "	89
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,907
Complaints lodged with the Department	59

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.*

EA.

New York, Oct. 8th, 1897.

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

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 6th inst. enclosing complaint of I. Mikkelson, and would state this matter is at present being investigated by me, and when reports are turned in I will further communicate with your office and with Mr. I. Mikkelson in regard to this matter.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

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Oct. 8th

long

Mayor of

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE
SUPERINTENDENT

EA.

New York, Oct. 11th, 1897

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayer of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Herewith please find an abstract of the operations of this
Department for the week ending Oct. 9th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic. W. H. C.)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



EA.

New York, October 11th, 1897.

OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 9th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings, Main Office,	30
Estimated cost \$646,300,	
" " " " " Branch Office,	36
Estimated cost \$346,680,	
" " " " " Alterations, Main Office,	15
Estimated cost \$227,092,	
" " " " " Branch Office,	13
Estimated cost \$16,000,	
Buildings reported as unsafe,	65
" " " " " for additional means of escape,	33
Other violations of law reported,	162
Unsafe Building notices issued,	128
Fire Escape notices issued,	52
Violation notices issued,	392
Violation cases forwarded for prosecution,	58
Iron and Steel inspections made,	6,977
Complaints lodged with the Department,	54

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**



S.A.U.

New York, Oct. 18th 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations
of this Department for the week ending October 16th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

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Oct. 18th

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Oct. 18th 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING Oct. 16th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	31
Estimated Cost	\$1,271,000.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	29
Estimated Cost	\$181,950.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	25
Estimated Cost	\$105,350.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	2
Estimated Cost	\$150.
Buildings reported as unsafe	73
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	36
Other violations of law reported	180
Unsafe Building Notices issued	138
Fire escape " "	45
Violation " "	488
Violation cases forwarded for prosecution	110
Fire escape " " " "	9
Unsafe Building " " " "	1
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,388
Complaints lodged with the Department	66

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**

EA.

New York, Oct. 23rd, 1918

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

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd inst. requesting report on premises located at #728-30 Broadway, to be known as the Waldorf Athletic Club, application having been made for permission to give athletic performances.

The matter will be given immediate attention and report sent you as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

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Oct. 25th, 1917

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**



BW

New York, Oct. 23rd, 189
5

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Finding that the roof of premises #207-9 West 42nd Street has developed weaknesses that render same dangerous, the enclosed orders have been issued, so as to prevent accident

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)
(Enc.2)

BW

Oct. 23rd,

7

Mr. J. G. Moore,

600 Seventh Ave., City.

Dear Sir:-

Upon examination made by this Department of the Arena Athletic Club Building, 207-9 West 42nd Street, I find that the roof of said building is in such unsafe condition, that it cannot be used for public assemblage of any kind.

Yours truly,

(D.C.S.C.)

Sup't of B'ldgs.

BW

Oct. 23rd,

7

John McCullagh, Esq.,

Chief of Police.

Dear Sir:-

In confirmation of telephone message of this date, I would respectfully call to your attention that the roof of the Arena Athletic Club, 207-9 West 42nd Street, is unsafe, and that therefore the use of this building should be prevented at once.

Kindly give the matter your prompt attention, and very greatly oblige

Yours respectfully,

(Dic. S.C.)

Sup't of Bldgs.

125

Oct. 23rd

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Oct. 25, 1897
5

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations of
this Department for the week ending October 23rd, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

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DRUGS

1897

Oct. 28

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,

STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.

S.A.U.

New York, Oct. 25, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 23rd, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	44
Estimated Cost	\$1,011,300.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	31
Estimated Cost	\$184,850.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	21
Estimated Cost	\$122,450.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	13
Estimated Cost	\$12,500.
Buildings reported as unsafe	45
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	34
Other violations of law reported	162
Unsafe Building notices issued	108
Fire escape " "	41
Violation " "	435
Fire escape cases forwarded for prosecution	6
Violation " " "	147
Iron & Steel inspections made	9,060
Complaints lodged with the Department	51

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 1, 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations of
this Department for the week ending October 30th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Die. W.H.C.

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

129

DINGS

1927

Nov. 1

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 1, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 30th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	23
Estimated Cost	\$652,700.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	30
Estimated Cost	\$168,990.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	14
Estimated Cost	\$40,242.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	9
Estimated Cost	\$13,600.
Buildings reported as unsafe	84
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	23
Other violations of law reported	209
Unsafe Building notices issued	144
Fire escape " "	33
Violation " "	462
Fire escape cases forwarded for prosecution	4
Unsafe Building " " "	3
Violation " " "	116
Iron & Steel inspections made	7,365
Complaints lodged with the Department	63

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE
SUPERINTENDENT.*BW *New York,* Nov. 8th, 1897

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

Dear Sir:-

Further replying to your communication of the 22nd ult. and referring to my letter of October 27th, in re the Waldorf Athletic Club, 728 and 730 Broadway, my inspector reports that the requirements of this Department have now been complied with; the exit in the southerly portion of the front (formerly boarded up) has been opened, and doors swinging outward, provided.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,**



S.A.U.

C *New York,* Nov. 8th, *1897*
5-

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find synopsis of the operations of
this Department for the week ending Nov. 6th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

130

Nov. 8th, 1897

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 8th, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 6th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	28
Estimated Cost	\$603,000.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	30
Estimated Cost	\$325,500.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	16
Estimated Cost	\$51,750.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	9
Estimated Cost	\$4,950.
Buildings reported as unsafe	51
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	25
Other violations of law reported	171
Unsafe Buildings notices issued	106
Fire escape " "	30
Violation " "	348
Unsafe Building Cases forwarded for prosecution	3
Fire escape " " "	6
Violation " " "	104
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,780

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BW

COPY

I beg to inform you that the next meeting of the Commission should be held on Monday, Nov. 15th, at 2.30 P. M. Should you be NEW YORK CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, please to bear from you.

Hon. Stevenson Constable, (Signed) S.W.P.
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dear Sir:-

We are informed that the eight employees who appear on the pay-roll as "Confidential Examiners" in your Department, are employed as Clerks, Stenographers, Inspectors, Door-men and Drivers. As this employment is not in accordance with the Civil Service regulations a resolution will be offered at the next meeting of this Commission, to classify the positions as follows:-

One Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent of Buildings; in Schedule "A" exempt from examination.

One Confidential Stenographer to the Superintendent of Buildings; in Schedule "A" subject to non-competitive examination.

One Confidential Building Inspector of Masonry to be classified in Schedule "A" as subject to non-competitive examination.

One Confidential Building Inspector of Masonry to be classified in Schedule "A" as subject to non-competitive examination.

One Confidential Building Inspector of Iron and Steel to be classified in Schedule "A" as subject to non-competitive examination.

One Confidential Building Inspector of Plumbing, Light and Ventilation, to be classified in Schedule "A" as subject to non-competitive examination.

The "Confidential Examiners" now employed as Door-man and Drivers are illegally holding their positions, and cannot be certified for payment in future.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) S. WILLIAM BRISCOE
Secretary.

BW

#2

N.B . I beg to inform you that the next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, Nov. 15th, at 8.30 P. M.

Should you have any matter to place before the Commission relative to this classification, or any change to suggest, we should be pleased to hear from you.

(Signed) S.W.B.

November 11/97.

Copy of Letter
from
Civil Service Commr.
to
Dept. of Buildings.

in re
Change in Classifica-
tion.

132

November 11/97.

Copy of Letter
from
Civil Service Commr.

to
Dept. of Buildings.

in re
Change in Classifica
tion.

132

EA.

Nov. 13th '97.

S. William Briscoe, Esq.,

Secretary, N.Y. City Civil Service Boards.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to yours of November 11th in re Confidential Examiners of this Department, would say I wish to have put on record before your Honorable Board the following protest against any change in the classification, etc. referring to this Department at present.

Almost all of this corps in my Department have been operating from the time of my assuming charge; have been legally appointed; are composed of thoroughly reliable and competent employes performing duties of a strictly confidential nature, and keeping daily longer hours than other employes; are entitled to be sustained in their positions from their faithful service; have for two and one-half years received their salaries regularly; have been certified by me to your Honorable Board as fulfilling the duties which their appointment allowed them to do, and have, as I will again state over my signature, complied with every requirement either of your Honorable Board or of myself, the head of this Department.

I would further add that I think I can truthfully say that the cleanest and most thorough Civil Service Department in this City is this Department. Any complaints or information to the contrary that you may have or hear, it is only just and right that you should advise me of, and give me the names of the parties making or giving the above, as I can very quickly give you their reasons for so doing, and give you the facts of the case. I am positively entitled to this information.

EA.

#2 - S.W.B.

If it is intended that dissatisfied, discharged or inefficient and careless employes, or outside influence, is to be allowed by your Board against a Department without giving the head of the same the reasons, I most certainly and emphatically protest, as it is just such action as makes Civil Service a detriment to the proper administration of a department; prevents the proper control and management by its head; increases the means and ways of thwarting systematic and business methods and makes the enforcement of rules and regulations and proper methods almost impossible; and again, by your Honorable Board listening to complaints, unless the same are verified, when said complaints are directly contrary to facts as so certified by the head of the Department, places him in a position which I do not consider is just and right that any head of a Department should be placed in.

It is due in a great measure to the establishment of the corps of Confidential Examiners in this Department that the excellent results of the last two and one-half years have been accomplished, and if any of you will kindly take the trouble to come up to this Department I can prove by absolute records in the Department every word herein stated.

If you choose on the first of the year to abolish the position of Confidential Examiner you can most certainly do so, but you must take the consequences, as I will unquestionably publicly illustrate not only to whoever may have charge of this Department but to the public generally, the advantage of the present methods, system and arrangement of the Department.

EV
EA.

#3 - S.W.B.

If you should desire to know what has been accomplished during my term of office you have simply to write to such architects as Mr. Geo. B. Post, Mr. Hume, Mr. Hardenbergh, Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, Messrs. Brunner & Tryon, Messrs. Kimball & Thompson, or to any other of the prominent architects, builders, contractors, real estate men, etc. of this City, and if you choose to reverse the good work and retard it, and start the Greater New York on the old systems and methods which were in vogue when I took charge of this Department, you can do so. However I would advise against it, and I would most certainly advise the sustaining of a head of a department who courts examination in the conduct of his department, the records of which stand as its own proof.

This Department being one under the law to ensure permanent and proper construction, to prevent accident and loss of life, to prevent the construction of unsanitary and ill ventilated buildings, etc. deserves your most careful consideration, and as a good citizen of the City of New York and head of this Department, I would advise before making the slightest change in any of the classifications that now exist for this Department, that you visit the Department and examine into its methods and workings.

In a few words, the head of a department should be entitled to a Secretary. The Secretary must unquestionably be in a confidential position. Experience has developed that a stenographer and type-writer is very seldom good at clerical classification, filing, recording and such work, as a secretary, who would be of the greatest use to a department

EA.

#4 - S.W.B.

head, should be. Therefore my experience of over twenty-three years has proved that the head of any great industry, factory or department, - and I have been in charge of several before taking this Department - requires a secretary and a stenographer, both in strictly confidential positions. The necessity for this has been amply proven in this Department.

1. Secretary.
2. Stenographer, - see above.

As the head of the Department is held directly responsible for its workings and must therefore be familiar therewith, he must have those under him he can trust; therefore, this Department is divided into separate and distinct divisions under the head and control of selected men, and in each division the work is portioned out to those in said division, and as in nearly every division it relates to matters pertaining to safety in which great elements of danger and risk are involved, it is absolutely necessary that the head of each division should have associated with him and under his direct control a perfectly reliable, experienced and trustworthy man to see that all instructions and details are properly and thoroughly carried out.

3. This pertains especially to the district or building inspector's division.
4. Inspectors of iron and steel division,
5. Inspectors of plumbing, light and ventilation, &c. division.

As when entering this office it was found that the politician and

#5 - S.W.B.

the man with personal acquaintance with employes in this Department had entree in and about and all through the building; that the employes went out at any time with friends, leaving their desks, work, papers, &c. just as they were, without regard to the orders and regulations of the Department, which were very few and but partially carried out when I came here, it was absolutely necessary, especially since it was impossible owing to the general unsystematic condition of the Department in the past, for me to even transact work, in my private office, of the utmost importance involving the handling paper referring to millions of dollars of investment, and the employment of hundreds of mechanics, owing to the entrance and intrusion of any and everybody, without regard to my instructions, regulations or orders; therefore it was necessary that I should have at once a confidential Door-keeper or representative, who acted directly under my instructions and saw that my orders were enforced; that parties intoxicated and not in condition to transact business with the Department or with its employes were not allowed to roam around, and to prevent the removal of papers and documents that were not intended to be removed by the public; in other words, to prevent the previous conditions from being continued, and to enable me to substitute order and business methods and carry out the work as it should properly be done.

6. - Door-keeper.

Then, as the Chief Clerk, who has been here for thirty-four years, and is more familiar with this Department than any man in it, and whom it

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#6 - S.W.B.

might be of great advantage for you to see if you desire further information on any of these subjects - had more than it was possible for him to do in correcting the many errors, careless clerical work, book-keeping, recording, statistical work, etc., and as he was frequently called from his desk to attend to matters that he should not have been bothered with, and yet which delayed the action of the Department unless attended to, and as it was necessary that he should have under and about him a man whom he could thoroughly trust and rely on; who could take from him, and allow him to carry on his work rightly, all the annoyances and interruptions, and act as a bureau of information to instruct the public who had dealings with the Department, a Confidential Clerk was placed under his direction.

7. - Confidential Clerk.

Again as my experience with any one who had been driving the Superintendent's wagon, and drove for me, was of a very unsatisfactory nature, and as the Superintendent or his representative's inspections involve the condemnation of thousands of dollars worth of property, the most serious questions as to safety and danger, and the vacation of buildings in case of necessity, and as it is frequently necessary that he proceed immediately on week day or Sunday, night or day, on many of such examinations, and as it has been found so important to prevent public-excitement and newspaper discussion and black-eyeing of property belonging to reputable citizens, that even I myself frequently have been forced to go

EA.

#7 - S.W.B.

without uniform and get out two or three blocks away from the building in question to prevent attracting attention; and as bad materials, photographic apparatus, etc., had to be taken to and from buildings, and important messages and directions sent all over the City to the different inspectors and different heads, from out the office on different work, by the driver and through the driver; therefore it is absolutely necessary that the driver shall be a man to be thoroughly trusted and relied upon, and must be absolutely in a confidential relation.

6. - Driver.

Such methods as I have adopted here have enabled the Department to do three times the work that has ever been done before; to cover one-third more territory, to handle nearly twice as many employes, to discover and prevent accidents in between 5,000 and 6,000 cases; to collect and save to the City many thousands of dollars in expenses, - and with all this on positive record in this Department, every few months this matter is brought up and agitated, the Superintendent of the Department's word doubted, and no thorough examination made into the matter to verify the truth of his statements.

I trust before any action is taken in this matter that this letter is given very careful consideration as the subject is of too great importance to the public to be dealt with hastily. I always have understood that Civil Service was intended to aid in the honest and business-like conduct of a Department and to alienate politics and influence from

EA.

#6 - S.W.B.

the same, and here is a Department in which this has been done and the Superintendent unhesitatingly states that the proof exists clear and distinct right in the Department, and not only requests but would like to insist on your coming here to investigate it yourselves.

You will remember that under the Building Department law I had the authority and right to appoint both the First and Second Deputy to this Department, both men, who during my absence or sickness have all the authority vested in me. You refused to allow me the appointment of the Second Deputy. This has been a most serious mistake, as far as my administration has been concerned, forcing me to do the best I could under the circumstances; as such a position is of so extremely a confidential nature and is so closely connected with the Superintendent and his work, that your action has greatly increased the expense of operating the Department and prevented my establishing certain divisions and methods of operation that are absolutely necessary, and has greatly retarded the operation of the Department.

Enclosed please find copy of my report to the Mayor of May 4th, 1895, which will prove the condition of the Department at that time.

Again, if you desire to abolish methods that have been after two years of practical operation proved as efficient, thorough, and have produced results even better than anticipated in the limited space of time and this without examination into the facts of the case, you can do it. I challenge any one to send me over their own signature any charge against

EA.

#9 - S.W.B.

any of the Confidential Examiners, which they can substantiate.
This is written entirely in the interests of the honest administration
of City Departments, and with the desire to prevent your Honorable Board
placing themselves in a position which they cannot help but regret
as the facts are too easily proved to remain dormant.

Yours very respectfully,

Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Dic.S.C.)

(Enc)

November 13/97.
Copy of Letter to
Civil Service Comre.

in re
Proposed Change in
Classifications, etc.
Bldg. Dept.

November 13/97.

Copy of Letter to
Civil Service Comre.

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Proposed Changes in
Classifications, etc.
Bldg. Dept.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



BW

New York, Nov. 15th, 1897. *89*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of letter from the New York City Civil Service Commission and my letter to them in regard to confidential positions in this Department. As these confidential positions have been filled and salaries paid for same for over two and a half years to employees whose records prove the necessity and efficiency of their work, I have written the enclosed to try and prevent the constant agitation of this subject by said Board, through the spite, political and outside haggling and complaint to them from discharged, incompetent and dissatisfied employees and their political friends.

The work, records and condition of this Department speak for themselves, and your kind co-operation with me in preventing further changes in the classification of this Department by Civil Service until the first of the year will be thoroughly appreciated, as I desire that every possible measure, which will enable the continuation and development and maintenance of this Department for the Greater New York, as it should be, under good business methods, will be carried out until such time as those in power see fit to change same.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic. S. C.)
(Enc. 2)

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,**NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,***STEVENSON CONSTABLE,
SUPERINTENDENT.*

EA.

New York, Nov. 16th 97, 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th inst. requesting report on premises located at No. 207 - 211 West 42nd Street, to be known as the Doris Winter Circus, application having been made for permission to give circus performance.

The matter will be given immediate attention and report sent to you as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't. of B'ldgs.

(Vic. R.O'B.)

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NOV 1931

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 16th 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations
of this Department for the week ending November 13th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

133

INGS

Nov. 16th 1897

9-

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 16th 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 13th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	56
Estimated Cost	\$1,320,350.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	23
Estimated Cost	\$792,000.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	9
Estimated Cost	\$17,200.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	7
Estimated Cost	\$11,950.
Buildings reported as unsafe	51
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	14
Other violations of law reported	185
Unsafe Building notices issued	136
Fire escape " "	23
Violation " "	441
Unsafe building cases forwarded for prosecution	2
Fire escape " " "	8
Violation " " "	178
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,426
Complaints lodged with the Department	89

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

38

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



SB

New York, Nov. 17th, 1897.

Mayor, Aldermen & Commonwealth,
City Hall, New York.

Gentlemen :-

Violation #5539 against premises W.S.
E. Boulevard, 100' South of Elliott Avenue, was dis-
missed on November 16th, 1897.

Yours truly,

Stevenson Constable R

Dict. W.H.C.

Sup't of Buildings.

135

RECEIVED

1917

NOV 15

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY

PHYSICS

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



BW

New York, Nov. 22nd, 1897

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

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your letter of the 15th inst, desiring report in re the granting of license for a circus performance, at the Doris Winter Circus, Nos. 207-211 West 42nd Street, would say that examination shows that the requirements of this Department have been complied with, and said license can therefore be granted.

This in confirmation of telephone message of even date.

Yours respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Sup't of B'ldgs.

(Dic.R.O'B.)

137

1891

1891

Nov. 22nd

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 22, 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations
of this Department for the week ending Nov. 20th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

136

NOV

NOV 22 1952

NOV 22 1952

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 22, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 20th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	29
Estimated Cost	\$1,456,500.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	17
Estimated Cost	\$172,800.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	11
Estimated Cost	\$34,700.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	10
Estimated Cost	\$20, 150.
Buildings reported as unsafe	117
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	9
Other violations of law reported	125
Unsafe Building notices issued	153
Fire escape " "	12
Violation " "	344
Fire escape cases forwarded for prosecution	9
Violation " " " "	104
Iron & Steel inspections made	7,094
Complaints lodged with the Department	78

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 29, 1897

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

Dear Sir:--

Herewith please find a synopsis of the operations of
this Department for the week ending November 27th, 1897.

Respectfully,

Stevenson Constable
Superintendent of Buildings.

Dic. W.H.C.

138

INGS

1921

Nov. 29

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,

NO. 220 FOURTH AVENUE,
S.W. CORNER 18TH ST.,



S.A.U.

New York, Nov. 29th, 1897

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 27th, 1897.

Plans filed for New Buildings - Main Office	22
Estimated Cost	\$641,000.
Plans filed for New Buildings - Branch Office	15
Estimated Cost	\$104,075.
Plans filed for Alterations - Main Office	19
Estimated Cost	\$47,110.
Plans filed for Alterations - Branch Office	7
Estimated Cost	\$3,860.
Buildings reported as unsafe	83
Buildings reported for additional means of escape	12
Other violations of law reported	126
Unsafe Building notices issued	149
Fire escape " "	12
Violation " "	314
Unsafe Building cases forwarded for prosecution	3
Fire escape " " "	8
Violation " " "	80
Iron & Steel inspections made	6,228
Complaints lodged with the Department	54

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