

BOX

16

FOLDER

171

Police, Dept. of-Graft

1910, 1912-1913; ud

Graft

New York, Feb. 8, 1910.

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

Honorable Sir:-

Reading In the various news papers, that your Honor Intends to find out who the guilty ones In the police Department are, I have studied the various offenders and their protectors, and I am now In a position to give Your Honor the necessary Information that will not only dismiss various Police Officials, but will also convict these said Officials.

I have found out through a general study of this situation that various gambling houses are permitted to flourish, throughout this entire City, with out being molested by the Police. I have made a note of some of these places which I enclosed to Your Honor. I have also found out that the various women who molest men on the street for Immoral purposes are permitted to flourish by the police of this City.

I do not write to your Honor on hear say but on personal facts, as I Investigated these things personally.

If any person wishes to open a gambling house In a district this man must communicate with the Inspectors man and the Captains man of the prec't where this gambling place is to be opened. The necessary revenue to the police for the opening of this gambling house is (\$50).

Fifty dollars. I am In a position to name several detectives In the various prec'ts under the Inspectors and police captains. As soon as your Honor is ready to see me In relative to this matter I shall be pleased to go ahead and procure the necessary evidence that will enable me to convict.

(2).

THE following addresses are some of the places that I have the necessary evidence against, and I am in a position to secure immediate evidence against certain police officials, as soon as your Honor says the word.

Imperial cafe, 251 Broome st,

cafe ~~269~~
301 Broome St.

cigar store 94 Forsythe st.

Hesper club Second ave & 6th st.

All under the supervision of police Inspector Hogan and the first three named are under police captain Day.

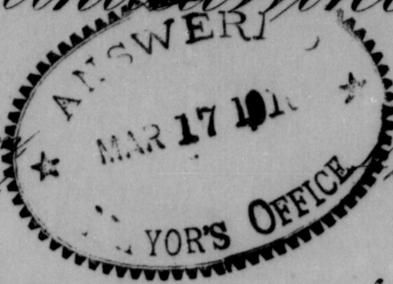
Respectfully Yours
Philip Lowenthal
55 W 112 St
NY



Graft

United Wireless Telegraph Company

Pacific Coast
and Western Division
Seattle, Washington.



General Offices,
2 Broadway
New York

Great Lakes
and Northern Division,
Chicago, Illinois.

March 12th, 1910.

Mr. Robert Adamson,
Secy. to the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

My dear Bob:-

Do you know that the police on duty in Chinatown have been and are milking that district in a way that surprises even me, familiar as I am with the question of police blackmail in this town.

My information comes to me from a Chinese, whom I have known for ten years and in whom I have the utmost confidence. Each gambling table in Chinatown, and there are upward of 100 of them throughout the district pays a toll of \$15. ^{a week} each, to the police. Whenever there is a spasm of reform on the part of the Eldridge Street bunch, the Chinese gambling houses open up on the East side of the Bowery and everything is all right. The Eldridge St. people then have recourse to other methods to keep up their average of income.

A poor chink is found with a set of dominos or a deck of Chinese playing cards in his room; he is threatened with arrest, and gives up meekly at least \$10., sometimes more. They know the consequences of being arrested, even when they are discharged later. There is the night in the station house, the cost of getting bail, paying the interpreter, and the lawyer's fee, all of which costs a great deal more than the \$10. which the Eldridge St. gent demands.

It is absolutely rotten, and my gorge rose last night when my Chinese friend went into details. Why don't you get after them? It's easy enough to locate the most active of ^{the} police grafters from a description I got from the chink. He is a plain clothes man from the Eldridge St. station; an apparently young man, with a round, smooth, boyish face, and I am told he is a regular wolf and goes through the district breaking indoors, as if he owned the whole neighborhood. My chink friend tells me that Chinatown is the most fruitful of any district in New York for police graft.

This is only a tip, but I should like to see it followed up.

Sincerely yours,

Willis Pratt.

From John Dolan, who says that
he was formerly in the liquor business
in the 18th Precinct. Saye he had ex-
perience with police plain clothes men
which shows you are right in the attitude
you have taken.

R.A.

Graft

New York March 16th, 1910

Hon W. J. Gaynor
Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Reading in the papers that you are getting after the "plain clothes" men in the Police Department. I would respectfully call your attention to a few of those men. I was in the liquor business a few years ago in the 18th Precinct (West 20th St Station) and in the Precinct in which the 22nd St Station (East Side) is situated and I had an experience with those "plain clothes" men, and you are on the right trail when you say they are used for collecting from saloon keepers, gambling houses and unfortunate women of the street.

As far back as 1894 I had an experience with detective Bernard Mc Corville now in the Central Office. He was the late Captain Donohue's word man then in West 20th St Station. It was then the 16th Precinct. Mc Corville done his work faithfully for his Captain in collecting from

saloon keepers. After Capt. Donohoe, come Capt. Thomas in that precinct, his workies were William Gray, Jacob Feis and Jas Howe.

While Capt. Walsh (now Inspector) was in that precinct. Thomas Devine, and plain cloth. man Postens done the grafting.

The present Capt. of the above precinct had two plain cloth. men when he came to the precinct their names were McLoughlin and McCauley they done the grafting but got sent out of the precinct about 2 years ago McLoughlin is now doing plain cloths duty in the Mercer St Station and I heard recently that McCauley is in the Central office.

Under Capt. Hussey (now Inspector) in the East 22nd St Station was four plain cloths men notorious for their methods of grafting from saloon keepers and women of the street their names were Kuhne, Kenny, Smaker and the other name I cannot recall but was a footing of Smaker's. When Hussey was made Inspector he brought those men

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done with him. In the West 20th St
Station was a policeman in uniform
named Beatty who was notorious for
collecting from Saloonkeepers and any
others he could collect ^{from} under the pretense
of borrowing.

I thought this little information may be
of some use to you in your good work.
And I sincerely wish you every success
in your administration and I hope you
will keep up the good work.

I remain,

Yours Very Respectfully,
John Talan.

Graft

From H. FAIRCHILD, saying that he hopes you will give policemen Keenan and Cunningham a fair trial and if they are guilty that you will rid the department of them.

He says Inspector Flood has made it a practice to find out the names of policemen who have purchased homes in the Bronx and to have them transferred. Then in a week or so some one would go to the policemen and say that for \$25 or \$50 they could be transferred back. Says that many policemen have been transferred and within a week's time retransferred to their old posts.

R.A.

New York.

Mar 22. 10

From W. E. Gagnon.

My dear Sir

It is a admiration
that makes me write you for
God only knows you are doing
what no one had the courage
to do that is to go after the police
dept. It is laughable to hear
about them going after the
Hack Land societies which
never was a mark to the
police dept. now let me tell
you about one inspector
Mr. Flood a man with an
unsavoury record as you
know it is through him
that Keenan & Cunningham
has caused a disturbance in plain
words if there was ever a

(5)

was attached to any dept
he is one under Mr. Barker's
commissionship it was Mr.
Flood that done all the shakin
down. For instance he would
go to the front I find some
officer that missed a few
dollars in a home and he
would be transferred to some
remote precinct after a few
days some one would be
sent to him to see him if
can be fixed to go back for
25.00 or ^{\$}15.00 there is no
doubt they have stepped on Mr.
Flood too. it was a common
thing for a man to be transferred
and brought back in a week
time. Now probably I can

enlighten you some on the
 excise question now these
 three gentlemen that are
 preferring charges against
 Keenan and Cunningham are
 closely indented with the
 liquor dealers. Now it is a
 common practice for policemen
 to borrow money for saloon keepers
 it has been done for years
 for saloon keepers has no fear
 of uniformed policemen
 join the liquor dealers you
 are protected by paying \$5⁰⁰
 per month and other assessments
 and you have no fear now there
 are three arrests every Sunday
 the precinct men makes (2) and
 the Inspecter men makes (1)

it is the ones that are in arrears
for there are those that are the
victims if their should be
no one in arrears the arrears to
are made and the charge
is exposure. These names are
sent by the Inquirers dealers
every Saturday.

Hoping you will give these
men Keenan and Cushing a
fair trial if they are guilty
you will get the best of them
but in the name of justice
don't convict on Inspector Flood
trumped up evidence you may
as well believe Sudders or Schmitt
berger. I have gone through it
all. Hoping you will give
this case a fair trial
J. Keenan Resp. H. Sanchez

STATE OF NEW YORK,)
County of New York,) ss.:

JOHN T. REITH, being duly sworn, deposes and says: that during the years 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910 he was a Lieutenant of the Police Department of the City of New York; that as the result of a Civil Service Examination his name appeared on the list of those eligible for promotion to the rank of Captain of the Police Department; that during the autumn of the year 1907 his name was certified to the then Police Commissioner Theodore A. Bingham for promotion to the rank of Captain; that a short time prior to the certification of his name to the Police Commissioner he received word that one Alfred J. Johnson, then under Sheriff of the County of New York, desired to see him; that he did therefore visit the said Alfred J. Johnson at the office of the Sheriff; that the said Johnson discussed with him the question of his promotion; that the said Johnson did inform him that his name was about to be certified to the Police Commissioner, and that he would take him to see the man "who could do the business," or words to that effect; that he then accompanied the said Johnson to the office of one Thomas J. Hassett, a former secretary to a Mayor of the City of New York, and then secretary to the Board of Water Supply; that the said Hassett asked him a number of questions as to his record in the Police Department, his age, previous occupation, &c., and did finally state that he would interest himself in his behalf; that shortly thereafter he was again informed that the said Alfred J. Johnson desired to see him again; that he did therefore call on said Johnson at his house; that Johnson then informed him that "We have done the best we could for you. It will cost you \$10,000. or you won't be promoted." or words to that effect; that he at no time complied with the suggestion to pay the \$10,000; that he was not promoted; that his name was passed over and men under him on

the eligible list were promoted over his head, and that his name was finally dropped from the list. That he made two applications, through official channels, for permission to visit the Police Commissioner. That he received no reply to either of these applications. That he then addressed a letter to him personally at his residence, in reply to which he was authorized to call upon the Police Commissioner. That on or about May, 1908, he called upon the Commissioner. That upon entering the room the Commissioner placed to him the following question: "How the Hell am I discriminating against you?" That he did then reply courteously to the Commissioner. That the Commissioner then made comment on the fact that he was not standing in the position of a soldier, and inna gruff voice commended him to assume that position. That the Commissioner did then remark: "You think you are a semi-military body? Eh! Semi-Military my ass. You sons of bitches are all alike." The Commissioner did then with his cane knock his cap off the desk on which he had placed it when he entered the room. That the Commissioner did then inform him that he was the Police Commissioner and that the law gave him the right "to promote who he damned please," and that when he was ready to promote him he would. That he at no time was promoted during the encumnabcy of the said Commissioner Bingham.

Sworn to before me this
 25th *March*
 16th day of February, 1912.)

W. H. [unclear]
 Secretary Public
[unclear]

John G. Keith

App. of Capt
Reith about
Bingham

The Station House is in Clinton
& Delancy.

Craft

New York, Apr. 27, 1912

Hon. Mayor Gaynor,

As we passed
Grand Street Saturday, April
27, I noticed officer no 8353
taking two dollars from
a pushcart peddler near
Richard Street to chase the
peddlars between Allen
and Eldridge Street. I think
this officer gets enough salary
and doesn't need to be supported
by the peddlars

Hoping that you will cor-
rect this error I remain

Yours Respectfully
Henry Lee
Jack Howe.

New York il 18 Maggio 1912.
© Illmo Signor Sindaco
della Città di
New York.

© Preco le S. V. P. Minie far cessare quello
scandalo che esiste in Minette Lane che fa vera-
mente vergogna. Questo addetto si trovava in uno
di quei locali una giovanetta che era un vero peccato
e propriamente le dove si gestisce una piccola bottega
di un italiano che più che italiano è uno di que-
gli esseri di cui si ributta parlare. Non so se questa
giovanetta ancora si trova in un altro cantone
e sarebbe quella che il capitano sotto del quale dipende
quel porto riceve danaro giornalmente per chiudere
un occhio sulle volte buie.

Con profonda stima e riconoscenza
© Francesco Leo Francesco

POLICE DEPT.
203756
1912
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE



Great

Police
7/17/12

Translation by Rudolph Koldy

New York May 18th 1912.

To His Honor the Mayor
of the City of New York.

I beg Your Honor to cause the
scandal, that exists in Minetta Lane and that is truly
a shame, to be stopped.

Some time ago there was in one of these places
a young girl, a place which was apparently con-
ducted as a small grocery store and was kept
by an Italian who more than an Italian is one of the
kind of whom to speak causes one to shudder.

I do not know whether this girl is still there
but I have one other certainty and that is this, that
the Captain, who is in charge of that Station, receives
money daily to close one eye and sometimes both

With profound respect and thanks,

Yours devotedly
Francesco La Francesca.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

203756

1912

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PUBLIC DEPT.

Graetz

New York July 9. 1912.

To the Honorable Mayor of
the City of New York
Dear Sir! People speak
openly about graft to politicians
& I can add one item, which
shows plainly the veracity of
such opinion.

About few months ago
all stands were removed from
Broadway 14th St. etc. Some of
the men were ruined, but it
was a necessity. Still today

opens daily after 6 o'clock
in the ^{clear} evening, & every Sunday
a large stand with Postboards
etc. in front of the store of
Brill St., East 14th St. near Broadway
& sells there his goods. As all
his competitors were driven out
east & west, he does very well.
As plenty of policemen pass
this part of 14th St. day & night,
is it possible that they all are
blind? Or can we come to the
conclusion, that this standman
pays well for giving him the

sell goods, where all others
were prohibited to do so?

Yours very respectfully
C. Smith

New York Evening Sun, Tuesday, July 23, 1912.

THE WAY TO STOP POLICE GRAFT.

Repeal the Hypocritical Gambling Laws.

To the Editor of the Evening Sun:

SIR:—There is only one way to stop police gambling graft and police gambler murders, and that is to repeal all laws against gambling. I have been reading about gambling raids for over forty years, and I should like some one to tell me what real good they have ever accomplished. I believe that all laws against gambling are very unwise and lead to greater evils than the one they are intended to eradicate. Gambling can never be stopped by law. No one is compelled to gamble, and if some men are so obsessed by the gambling passion that they will barricade themselves behind heavy doors of oak or steel in order to indulge their passion, for Heaven's sake let them gamble.

I have never been a gambler, except in the smallest possible kind of a way. If I were to sit down to a game of chance and lose two dollars, I should immediately get "cold feet." But, for the life of me, I cannot see why the vices of men, which always bring their own punishment, should be magnified into crimes.

Another thing: Why select a few particular forms of gambling for suppression, letting all other forms go scot free? It is not only unfair, but hypocritical.

The simple fact is that we cannot live without gambling. Life is a gamble; business is a gamble. Life is so much of a gamble that in this city it is said that of all the people who die one in ten is buried in Potter's Field! And business? Why business is so much of a gamble that of all who embark in it at least one half eventually fail. Take that very worst form of gambling—speculation in vacant land—the form that is in so great a degree responsible for the poverty and misery of the world, that is so largely responsible for the gamble of life and of business being such losing games for the many. Even land gambling, notwithstanding the fact that fortunes are made in it, is on the whole a losing game, as it ought to be. That is the one form of gambling that ought to be suppressed, and will be suppressed. And the * single tax will do it!

WILLIAM BESOMWOOD. X

* For further information about the single tax read "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, or send for literature to Manhattan Single Tax Club, 47 West 42nd Street, New York.

W.B.D. X

Thoughts of a Single Taxer

Editor of the Globe:

SIR:—In his article on "Equality" in yesterday's *Globe* Graham Hood says that "the great field of opportunity lies open to every human being." Is that a true statement? I and my fellow single taxers think not.

What is the field of opportunity? Is it not the earth—the land? Is the land open to all? On the contrary, there is hardly a foot of it that can be used without paying some landlord for the privilege.

Last month I was able to indulge in the luxury of two week-end trips to the south side of Long Island. On both occasions the sight that impressed me most—not only impressed me, but aroused my ire—was that of the miles upon miles of vacant land stretching along on either side of the track. The field of opportunity? Yes; but closed to all until the price, or, in other and plainer words, the blackmail, is paid.

Land speculation schemes by the dozen. Streets and avenues laid out through these Lonesomehursts. Scrub oak, scrub pine and bushes, but houses and farms few and far between. It was laughable; really laughable, if it had not been so stupid and so tragic. And this is the idiotic system of land tenure we maintain and then call ourselves clever and civilized and prate about the great field of opportunity being open to every human being! Bosh!

WILLIAM BRADFORD DU BOIS.

Bayonne, N. J., Sept. 17, 1912.

The iniquitous, dog-in-manger system of land monopoly that prevails on Long Island is the same system that prevails all over the United States. The vacant land trust is the worst trust in the world. If you want to know how the single tax will break up this trust, open up unbounded opportunities for labor and capital and abolish involuntary poverty, read "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, or send for literature to Manhattan Single Tax Club, 47 West 42nd Street, New York.

Graft

WALTER CLUXTON

% Gerard

25 West 65th St.

New York City

Sept 28 '912

Board of Aldermen
N. Y. City

Gentlemen:-

Can you inform me how the graft money, which is paid to policemen by vaudeville managers in this city, in order that illegal vaudeville performances may be carried on on Sundays, is divided up?

Your early attention will greatly oblige
Yours very truly

Walter Cluxton

Graft

N. Y. Feby 7/13

Hon W^m J Gaynor

Mayor N. Y. City

N. Y.

Recent exposures & confessions
show you the collection of graft by
superior Police officers

To correct the evil reduce your
present inspectors and promote men
in their place against whom the finger
of suspicion has never pointed
you have many honest Captains some
who have served as inspectors and who
have made good but for some minor
reason were reduced and some Captains
who have never held the rank and would
also make good

Show the citizens that you are not
in league with the graft the collectors and
give the honest man a show

Yours respectfully

Geo King

Groff

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Hon. William J. Gaynor.

Dear Sir,

My attention has been called to that
In July or August 1910 there were
an charges one Captain & Lieutenants
and some Patrolmen from the East
51st Street Station, for taking money
from a Manufacturer in east 53rd St.

This money what was collected then
being nothing but a bribe, and to
my knowing the charges at that
time have been faked. There is
also a sum of money, which was
deposited, missing and before
taken legal steps would like to
ask you if said charges could be
reopened, as to my knowing there
being no complainant at that time.

The whole trouble comes from
this manufacturer and his gang.
They have made it a practice to

get a Mechanic, if there was the least
spot on ones reputation, to work
for one of these kind, and soon
he would be accused of stealing
tools. This is what happened in this
case, after the Superintendent had ad-
mitted that he had done and
caused all trouble, the firm send
out to different (outside) Places, from
where the rumor came from, and
as the police where called in there,
they simply named their price,
and followed the trail left off by
the firm. Now the Money which was
deposited has been juggled, and since
I have also had on several oc-
casions extra Pay against my Will
in my envelope, probably to make
it a civil case, as I am not certain
as to what they had to cover up.
The Captains name in command ^{them} of
the East 51st Street Police Station being
J. J. Lantry and as far as I am able to learn
in command of Traffic Squad B. Manhattan
Respectfully C. Bucking 132 West End Ave. N.Y. now.

Graft

I M P O R T A N T.

Your Honor.

2

Last Sunday Jan. 30th. two mounted patrolmen made some Excise arrests in Westchester. They were simply doing their duty. The law had been violated -- they made the arrests and their prisoners were held in the police court. Yesterday these two mounted patrolmen were dismounted and transferred to precincts down near City Hall more than twelve miles from their homes. Why were these men transferred for doing their duty -- because they were interfering with the Inspectors GRAFT. One of the prisoners was the President of the local Liquor Dealers Association.

You are a Brooklyn man and ofcourse you know how much GRAFT was collected by Inspector Flood in Coney Island in the summer of 1908. Flood was at that time Borough Inspector of Brooklyn and Baker was the Deputy Commissioner in Brooklyn. Every person knows that Baker and Flood were dividing the money. Flood is now Borough Inspector in The Bronx and no matter how much he wanted to have these men transferred he could NOT have had it done if there was an Honest Police Commissioner at the head of the Department.

You will never get the patrolmen to do their duty under these conditions. Please Your Honor investigate this case for it is only one of many. Do not ask Baker why these transfers were made because he will give you another good and plausible reason. Just send to the 69th. precinct for the record of Excise arrests made there last Sunday. Be sure to get the names of the patrolmen who made the arrests -- then ask why they were transferred.

You are on the right track. Investigate slowly but carefully and you will trace the GRAFT right to The Police Commissioner.