

Feb'y, 12th, 1895,

Hon. Wm. L. Strong.

City Hall, New York.

Dear Sir:-

I learn you are in favor of continuing dumping of garbage at Rikers Island, Am I rightly informed? if so accept my protest against any continued existence of that curse, and kindly reply and oblige.

Yours respectfully,

J. G. D. Burnett
Rider ave 139th & 139th Sts
N.Y.

Hon. Mayor Strong;

Dear Sir:

As the guardian of the rights of all citizens, I address you, and respectfully request that, as Mayor, you endeavor to prevent the dumping of garbage in any form within the city limits.

Last summer my family suffered very much from the stench known as the "Riker's Island smell," which, I believe, exceeded that smell of smells — the Chinese smell. This Riker's Island smell for many days last summer filled every nook and corner, out doors and in, throughout this section, when we had

easterly winds, but left us soon
after the wind came from the
west, so I am sure there is no
doubt as to its origin. The ashes
might readily be separated
from the offensive matter
and the filling in done with
that without inconvenience
to us.

Trusting that you will,
if possible save us from these
horrid summer stenches,
I am Sir,

Yours respectfully,

F. B. Morrison,

684 E. 143rd. St.

New York, Feb. 12, 1895.

2. 12. 95

Hon Wm L. Stringer

Dear Sir

I notice that the
bill for abating the
nuisance at Pikers
Island has passed the
Assembly. I wish
to add my name to
those who suffered
from this outrage
last summer. May

family were made
ill by the stench
arising from the
nuisance.

I hope you
will use your
influence to favor
this bill & abate
the nuisance

Yours very Respectfully
Sam R. Linn

23 Ward 350 Alex. Ave
N.Y. City



A.L. GOLDWATER
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
PHARMACIST

267 1/2-3rd Ave., near 142nd St. 230 Willis Ave., near 138th St.
and 615 Courtland Ave., Cor. 151st St.

New York, Feb. 12, 1895.

Hon. Mr. S. Strong -

Dear Sir, -

As a president of ^{the} numerous
Districts, I write to ask that you set
the seal of your approval upon Mr.
Bell's bill providing for the discontin-
uance of Riker's Island as a dumping
ground for garbage.

If you had had occasion during last
summer to visit this district & experience
for yourself the awful nuisance, & the
extreme menace to health, which we ~~Experienced~~
had to tolerate during the hot weather in
the form of disease-breeding miasma
from Rikers Island, it would be unnecessary
to urge you in the matter. No one
who has experienced it once need
ever be reminded of it again. And



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New York,

189

the so-called disinfecting process which was established to quell the protests of the suffering north-side inhabitants, seemed only to aggravate the stench.

I sincerely hope that we will not have to go through the same experience again.

Why cannot New York City enjoy the same advantages in the disposing of her sewage & garbage that the majority of European cities enjoy? To incinerate ^{the} garbage & to use the sewage for fertilizing seems to me to be natural, sensible, feasible (& I have studied the matter at some length) & economical when all things are considered.

I am sorry to thus presume upon your time, but I feel that the end in view justifies the means. With best wishes for the continuance of the able administration you have so well begun. I am, Yours &c., A.L. Goldwater

THE ROCHESTER SEWER PIPE CO.
OTIS & GORSLINE,
MANUFACTURERS OF VITRIFIED DRAIN & SEWER PIPE,
FLUE LININGS & WALL COPING,
EAST 138TH STREET, MOTT HAVEN,
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

TELEPHONE, HARLEM 760.

New York, N. Y. Feb. 12th. 1895. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

City Hall, New York,

Dear Sir:-

I hear that you are in favor of continued dumping of garbage at Rikers Island, My Wife and Daughter having been made sick by the horrible, stifling stench from that Island last year I sincerely protest against any farther contamination of the atmosphere of this Ward. The Citizens Committee of this District took ample means to ascertain the worthlessness of the so called "Deodorizing" machinery in use there, you may comprehend the effect those gases might have on the human throat and lungs when men threaten suits against the city for the discoloration of paint on their houses. Our Doctor gave it as his opinion that my wife was sick from the effects of those gases and I was obliged to close and abandon my home.

I trust you will not favor any scheme for continuation of that damnable curse. The People rallied to the support of Hon. Alonzo Bell and overcame Butts, large Democratic Majority and elected Mr. Bell by a very large majority because of the determined and manly stand he took in declaring he would use every

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TELEPHONE, HARLEM 765.

New York, N. Y. 189.....

(2)

effort to secure pure air for us to breathe.

Don't put faith in the "Ozone" machinery it is a "fake"
our detectives and our sense of smell proved that to our entire satisfaction last year. I hope I am misinformed in regard to your favoring continued dumping of garbage at Rikers Island. Kindly reply and oblige.

Yours respectfully,

Geo W Raymond
602 E 141st St
New York

JOHN W. DEUEL,
684 E. 143D ST.

New York, Feb 14 1895.

Hon W. L. Strong.
Mayor of N.Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

As I am a resident
of the annex-district and had the
misfortune of being compelled to endure
the vile stench arising from Rikers Island
during the summer of 1894. I feel it
my duty as a voter to ask you
personally to favor the law prohibiting
the dumping of any refuse on Rikers
Island or in any waters as near
the city of N.Y. I am

Yours Very Truly

J. W. Deuel

No. 677 EAST 141st ST.,
NEW YORK CITY,

February 14, 1895

Hon. Wm. L. Strong
Mayor N. Y. City.
Dear Sir:

As a resident of the 23^d Ward permit me to ask you to approve the bill passed recently by the Legislature to prevent the dumping of garbage and filth on Riker's Island. This is a matter that interests at least 200,000 people all of whom suffered from the most loathsome stenches, that it would seem possible to create, while the garbage was dumped on the island last summer.

The experiment of deodorizing the mass of filth was a complete failure and no relief resulted from the effort.

Trusting that you will approve the bill referred to I remain Yours truly Amos Hadley

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,
59 WALL STREET,

Perk
NEW YORK, February 14, 1895

To His Honor

William L. Strong,

Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir:

Finding that I am unable to be present at the hearing, which I understand is to be given by your Honor, in regard to the bill of Alonzo Bell, which has passed both houses of the Legislature, prohibiting the dumping of garbage and refuse on any of the islands belonging to the city of New York, I have requested the bearer, Mr. George F. Canfield, to represent me in this matter, and urge upon you the advisability of recommending that the bill become a law.

For the last thirty years I have owned, and occupied as a summer home and country residence, a plot of some sixty acres, directly north, and about a mile distant, from Riker's Island; but, last summer, owing to the stench from that island, it became impos-

His Honor Mayor Strong, February 14/95, page 2.

sible for me to continue to reside there. Notwithstanding the alleged use of various disinfectants, the odor was almost unbearable; not only to my family, but to the servants and workmen about my place; and I have no hesitation in assuring you that, in my opinion, it would be a serious injury, both to the health of the people and to the value of property in that neighborhood, if this nuisance is allowed to continue.

Yours respectfully,

Chas Dickey

P.S. As you may already be aware, Mr. Dickey, the writer of the above is our Senior Partner, & we ask for him & this communication your kind consideration.

Howe Brothers Co.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 14, 1895. *189*

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of February 11th, I have to ask, as required by Section 704a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, One thousand (1000) men and One thousand (1000) horses and carts, for the removal of snow. No man, horse or cart to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz.: February 14th, 15th and 16th, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. K. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, Feb. 15th, 1895 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor;

Sir:

I have to acknowledge your communication of the 14th inst., asking for speedy reports upon the complaints, respectively, of Edward Colgate, of 8 Gansevoort Street, and Frederick Eggersman, M.D., of 170 East 89th Street.

Both these complaints relate to unharnessed vehicles left in the street, and were promptly investigated and found in accordance with the facts. There will be no delay in seizing any incumbrances found at the places complained of as soon the pressure upon our force of men and horses, occasioned by the necessity of removing the snow from the streets is somewhat relaxed.

Respectfully,

Commissioner of Street Cleaning.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 15th, 1895. *189*

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed by Colonel Waring to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., enclosing complaint (herewith returned) from Edward Rafter, Esq., 414 East 13th Street, regarding snow, etc., blocking that street; and to inform you that the matter was immediately referred to the Superintendent of that District who, under date of the 14th inst., reports that opposite the number complained of, there is being built a large church and mission house; that there is a great deal of snow in that street, as in others in that vicinity; that as soon as the principal thoroughfares are cleared, 13th Street will have attention, as it is impossible to clear all the streets of snow at once.

Very respectfully,

(1 enclosure)

O. S. Carr

Private Secretary.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 15, 1895. *189*

Job. E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed by the Commissioner to inform you that
the following complaints:

January 22nd, Daniel McDonald, 420 W. 42nd St.;

January 25th, C. H. Pepper;

January 26th, B. H. Nicholls, 242 W. 50th St.,

were referred to a District Superintendent of this Department who
has since been dismissed. He failed to report upon the same, and
his successor has been instructed to obtain the papers if possible,
but so far has been unable to do so.

We will promptly notify you upon their receipt.

Yours respectfully,

O. S. Carré

Private Secretary.

PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2.

-----OXO-----

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

New York, Friday, Feb. 15th, 1895.

At 12 o'clock M. the Private Secretary and Chief Clerk of the Mayor announced that in pursuance of the notice given to the public the hearing upon the Assembly Bill respecting the depositing of ashes and garbage on Riker's Island was now opened and that those opposed to the Bill would state their objections first and that side of the question be concluded, and then those who desired to speak in favor of the Bill would be heard.

HON. GEORGE E. WARING (Street Cleaning Commissioner). I have been requested by certain petitioners, persons interested in this matter, to state their objections and my views concerning them. The objection relates entirely to the depositing of garbage and putrescible organic matter in such a way and at such a time as to result in possible offensiveness, repeating a condition which was found undoubtedly most offensive last year.

I have discussed the matter with these gentlemen and have assured them that we are now undertaking, in good faith, measures for the separation of ashes and garbage in the City; that we have a reliable proposition from a sound corporation to take all of the garbage and to pay the City something for it to destroy it, and that I will undertake

to say that by the 1st of June the conditions will be such that there will be no more deposit of garbage or putrescible organic matter at Riker's Island and that, in the meantime, should it become necessary to deposit there, we will use the necessary apparatus already prepared, in such a way as to prevent its offensiveness.

The only change necessary to make in the bill to accomplish all that they desire is, to change the last clause, so that instead of saying that this act shall take effect immediately, that this Act shall take effect on the 1st day of June, 1895.

MR. H. A. CASSEBEER. That is much too late, Mr. Mayor. By the 1st of June the sun will be shining on that debris and will make a terrible stench, and it cannot be obviated by the present mode of disinfecting.

COL. RODGERS. I desire, as a citizen of the City of New York and bearing the interest of the City in view, to make a few remarks to you upon the subject of this bill in opposition to its passage, based upon knowledge which has come to me from practical experience and observation of the matter for several years in connection with the Department, and I have at some little trouble, by the kindness of the Commissioner, who gave me the facilities of his books yesterday, ascertained the amount of the filling in of the ashes, rubbish and so forth that has been disinfected and disposed of for the last four years for filling in purposes at different points suburban to the City, also to

the City limits.

This Bill, if it is passed as it stands at present, would make it almost absolutely impossible to use Riker's Island for filling in material, for the reason that it says that no portion of any vegetable or animal matter shall be deposited thereon. Now a portion consists of a single scrap, whether it be an orange, a banana, a cabbage, turnip, or anything else that is vegetable matter. If it is a single dead cat or dead dog, that is animal matter. And also any animal matter that may be in contact with the bones. The City has paid \$180,000 for Riker's Island. It is now asked for \$133,824 for the erection of a crib, making a total expenditure of \$313,824. Ashes and rubbish &c, as collected by the Street Cleaning Department to-day, consists of ashes and street sweepings, bones, tin pails, iron, leather, bottles &c., &c.,

Now then, of the house refuse as collected from the tenement houses and the resident portion of the City, not more than from three to five per cent at the present time contains an offensive matter which might be considered as garbage. That would not do any harm to anybody under any circumstances, and as for the matter of dead animals, the Board of Health have a rule in their sanitary code that prohibits any person---which covers the drivers of the ash carts---from touching or removing a dead dog or a dead cat.

Now then it is entirely within the province of the Commissioner of Street Cleaning to issue orders to his drivers that they must not deposit in their carts a dead cat,

a dead dog, or any other dead animal to go to Riker's Island. So I think ~~xx~~ by that provision he is entitled to and could entirely stop the depositing of any animals on Riker's Island.

Now the bones, the rags, &c., which are certainly the most offensive and most detrimental to health, are collected and stored under the various dumps, and for that privilege the City receives \$1,760 a week, besides the services of from 180 to 200 Italians, men, women and children, gratuitously.

Now the people who trim these scows at the various dumps are on the tops of those scows from morning till night. The ashes, garbage and refuse is almost literally deposited upon the backs and the heads of these people who stand there as fast as each cart load is dumped and spread these valuable materials for which the City is paid this vast amount. These people also live, eat, sleep and have their sole habitation under the dumps of the Street Cleaning Department on both sides of the North River---some sixteen different places / It has never yet been charged that those people who are employed in this business have become sick, that they have spread contagion, or that they have bred an epidemic; but, on the contrary, they have seemed to thrive in their habitations and upon the places in which they live. (Laughter).

Gentlemen, you may laugh, but that is a veritable fact; and it is susceptible of proof, Mr. Mayor. The Captains of the scows also live on these scows and they are

continually in contact with the odors that may arise from the scows. At the foot of 16th street there has been erected by the Health Department the Willard Parker Hospital. That is built upon made ground, and principally of the ashes and refuse deposited there by the City. When the foundation was dug to erect that building, I took particular pains to notice the condition of the materials deposited. There was nothing there that was, in my opinion, in the least detrimental to health, or that to my keen sense of smell had any unpleasant odor. (Great laughter).

Now, Mr. Mayor, this seems very strange language. These gentlemen who seem to smile reprovngly on me and make these demonstrations are, of course, privileged to do it and it is all fair and proper. But they have never yet visited, probably, these dumping places. They have never yet personally investigated these people that live there and, consequently, I do not think they are prepared from personal observation to speak knowingly upon that subject.

A VOICE. That's where you are mistaken.

COL. RODGERS: Years ago, before the Police Department took charge of this material, Yorkville Flats, from 89th to 113th street, was low, muddy and marshy land and creeks abounded there. Scows then were floated to the West side of Second Avenue and the material deposited there. To-day an area of territory has been created there which is very valuable to the City and upon which tenement houses,

markets, and other places of business have been erected, and yet there has been no known cause of sickness that I know of that has arisen from that deposit.

MR. ERNEST HALL: The death rate is larger there than anywhere else in the City.

COL. RODGERS: I am told it is not. The Police Department also filled large quantities of land on the East River to 23rd street. Sunken lots on Fifth Avenue from 130 to 140th street have been filled in with this material. From 68th to 73rd street, now occupied by the New York Central Railroad upon which a valuable warehouse and plant is erected, has also been made from this material. Other bulkheads on the East and North Rivers have also been filled in by this material. The Island of Black Tom in the Bay was created entirely from this same material, for the reason then that there were no self dumpers from which a selection could be made to deposit the decayed fruit and the market refuse of vegetable matter. That now, Mr. Mayor, as I understand it, is contracted for and it is placed entirely upon the self dumping scows, which go to sea, and is not put upon the deck scows which are used for filling in purposes at Riker's or any other Island. At Communipaw years ago, as you know, one mile of territory was created, and all land now occupied by the New Jersey Central Company, from material collected by the Street Cleaning Department, and yet I am informed by very good authority that no increased death rate or other evil occurred on that

account. Newtown Creek has been built up of this material. (Great laughter). Well, I know there are fat rendering establishments and swill and other things there that have created a decided nuisance.

Now as to the fact. In the last four years this material has been deposited in 26 suburban towns, and among them are Haverstraw, Weehawken, Fort Lee, Guttenburg, Jersey City, Newark and Newark Bay. Now all these places have their local boards of health and health officers. If this material was offensive these boards of health and health officers would not have permitted its use. But they not only got it one year but take it from year to year and are very anxious to get it, because it redeems land under water and makes valuable land.

In 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894 there were deposited at sea 11,954 boat loads of this material, 4,567,233 cart loads, or 6,579,208 cubic yards. During the same time there were deposited on land for filling in purposes 5,819 boat loads, 2,149,581 cart loads, which equal 3,080,793 cubic yards. Nearly one half of the material collected was used for filling in purposes. And these, mind you, Mr. Mayor, are official figures. They are from the records of the Department and will stand verification, and I only cite this to show you that a vast amount of this stuff has been used for the very purpose for which it is now proposed to stop using it, and as far as I am informed, and I have taken particular pains to ascertain, no particular damage has been done.

The increased value of this land has furnished work to hundreds of people. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in scows and the making of this land.

MR. ANGEL. I see the gentleman has a very elaborate memorandum here and I think from what I notice that it will take him a long time to go over it. We would like to have the time limited so the different ones can be heard.

MAYOR STRONG: We will continue this hearing until you all get through.

COL. ROGERS. Mr. Mayor, if I am not speaking germane to the question, I beg that you will call me down.

MAYOR STRONG: Go on, sir.

COL. ROGERS. I wish to say that in Mr. Coleman's administration of the Department of Street Cleaning, in 1887, he deposited 252,331 loads. Some of that material was sent to 135th street and Harlem River, some at 8th Avenue and Harlem River, others at New Brighton, Whitestone, Whale Creek and various other places. Mr. Coleman also deposited on sunken lots, without cost to the Department for towing, unloading &c., 101,453 loads. Of this 6,466 loads were placed at 137th street and Fifth Avenue, 6,398 loads were placed at 140th street and Fifth Avenue and 6,185 loads at 141st street and Southern Boulevard, and I imagine that is somewhere in the vicinity where these gentlemen live, and I have yet to hear that there is any objection to that.

The statement of the scows to-day of the Street Cleaning Department shows that there are 64 deck scows laden with this supposed to be offensive and injurious

material. There are lying at different wharves or dumping places, numbered sixteen, from three to thirteen scows that have been there two, four and six weeks, without the possibility of getting them unloaded, on account of the vast accumulation of stock.

Now then, if the Department is stayed by the iron hand of this law and they are not permitted to dump this at Riker's Island, it will deprive them of the means of unloading these scows and put them absolutely in the hands of the Barney Dumping Company monopoly, and one other boat company which at the present time have got the only automatic scows that have been built to go to sea and dump this material. And the whole cause of the delay to-day of the unloading of these scows, Mr. Mayor, in my opinion and that of others with whom I have consulted, lies in the fact that the Department was deprived by an injunction, which has been removed, of the use of Riker's Island. If they had had the unlimited use of Riker's Island there would not have been this accumulation of this surplus to-day and places on the Street and other places would not be piled up with this stuff which is said to be so very offensive and disagreeable.

I know that to-day there are existing laws which can be enforced under the Board of Health, section 112 of the Sanitary Code and section 187 of the Sanitary Code, which says that the Board of Health shall issue permits for the filling of any sunken lots or any other place within the

City limits. Now it is within the power of the Board of Health at any time to revoke that permit and to stop the filling in. If this Bill becomes a law it takes away from the Board of Health any right to issue a permit for the use of this material in any place within the City Limits, and it also makes it an offense punishable by a fine and imprisonment for any person, whether an individual or a corporation, to unload or deposit any of this material.

I will read to you from section 112 of the Sanitary Code and show you that by the adoption of this bill the City of New York will be deprived of what might be considered home rule and the right to manage its affairs in its own way.

(Col. Rogers here quoted from the section named.)

That is a portion of section 112 of the Sanitary Code, which by Legislative enactment has been made a statute law and is of the same force and effect as a law. There was a law passed sanctioning the rules and regulations of the Board of Health. Now what is to be gained by the adoption of this law? You have already got almost the identical substance in the rules of the Sanitary Code of the Board of Health.

In conclusion, I would ask, as a citizen interested in the distribution of this material and also for the benefit of the City, if this bill is adopted, first, it compels all material to go to sea at present and there are no other filling-in places and it will cause great neglect

to the Department and if Riker's Island is not used it will stand them up by law like the Barons of old; second it will cause the loss of \$313,824 invested; third the loss of valuable land. The value of this land would be very great, taking in to consideration that a million dollars was paid for Ward's Island by the City to the State, and if this bill is passed and this material is prohibited from being used in the City of New York, it gives it a bad name throughout all these different places in which it is used and from which no complaint of any sickness has been made. It also takes away from the Board of Health the power to issue these permits.

That is all I have got to say, Mr. Mayor, upon this subject in opposition to this bill as a citizen.

MR. T. P. TUWITT. Mr. Mayor, may I ask the gentleman if he is a resident of that section or a property owner in the City of New York ?

COL. ROGERS. I am not a resident, but I rent a flat . I am, unfortunately, not wealthy. I wish I was a property owner. But I do not think that a property owner, Mr. Mayor, has any more right to a hearing than a man who may be poor, who even don't live in a flat or pay a moderate rent and if he lives in the City, even if he sleeps in a lodging house at 25cts to 50cts a night.

MR. TUWITT. Mr. Mayor, the gentleman who has just spoken has given a list of places where refuse has been deposited by the City from the dumping scows. Among other

places he mentions Fort Lee, New Jersey. He says there is no complaint from there. The gentleman's authorities are off. The people of Fort Lee came down here with shot guns and drove them off. It has made a malarious, soggy ground where it was filled in behind bulkheads, and to-day it does not make a solid ground. You go up there to-day, and if the snow was removed I venture to say there are not two square feet of solid ground in that several acres that was filled in, or that went float, or it shakes and jumps away. I visited it last fall. It is not fit to build upon. The parties who put it in there started in the summer time. The people of the neighborhood came and drove them away. They then x came and compromised the matter and filled in in the winter time, thinking it would be all right. In the spring there was a black, mucky, watery compost between the piles which turned whichever way the tide went; and one man lost two children by black dyptheria and the doctors told him it was caused by this deposit. So much for Fort Lee.

Now as to the men who collect the garbage, or spread it on the dumps, being healthy and rugged and all that sort of thing. It may be that those men cannot be affected by the garbage, in the same sense that one scow load of garbage could not be affected by another. (Great laughter). That is just about the regulation. Those men are completely saturated, their whole system is permeated with garbage, and there is not a man in this party here who

values his own sense of decency or cleanliness, or his sense of what is just and right in the community, or who values the feelings of his family who would want his wife or his daughter, or allow himself to sit in the same street car with them. They are offensive in appearance, offensive in smell, offensive in everything that goes to make manhood, and if you want to build up such characters as that in the community it is a very sad condition of things.

Now I have visited those dumps, and I challenge the gentleman to go on that one dump with me at the foot of 17th street East and stay for one hour among those men. He cannot do it. He does not look like a man who could; he isn't built that way. I have seen the cart coming from Bellevue hospital carrying the plaster casts from ulcerated sores, the wrappings from cancered operations, with rank and filth of all kinds that you can possibly imagine and beyond the imagination of any man except one coming from a hospital. In the same cart there was kitchen garbage, legs of chickens, heads of fish, ends of sausage, all in one cart dumped over there, and those men scrambled for it and picked out the stuff and put it to one side and eat it and took it home.

Do you, Mr. Mayer, want to sit beside or have a member of your family sit beside that animal, with his pockets full of that stuff, taking whatever may come from the hospital and carrying it broadcast through this City? There is no knowing where those men live. They can live next to you and you cannot help yourself. You cannot keep

them out of the street cars/ This gentleman has not lived on the dumps, evidently. He wont go there and stay there an hour. He cannot do it. Those people collect old rags there, from these bandages, as I say. I have seen the bandages, the cloths from the hospital, thrown out to one side to be dried by the sun and afterwards to be taken to the paper mills throughout the country, not disinfected. If that is adding to the health of the community, well and good.

Now the gentleman says that the City will be held by the throat by some monopoly of dumping scows. The City can handle this entire garbage question and not hire own, or use the scows. There is one positive way of handling garbage and offensive matter. The Commission authorized by Mayor Gilroy, composed of very intelligent gentlemen, who understood the vastness of this question, did not recommend any particular system; but they did say in connection with that, that if all things else failed, the City would have to go back to burning it.

Now, why was it ? Because they, from their experience gained while going through this country, had decided that there was one certain cure for this trouble and that was to burn it. That is the language of the commission. I am not making it; this Commission made it. Now if you can burn it---and there is no trouble about that---you will find in this City twenty-five men who are prepared to submit plans and to burn it. There is not a thing that comes from your household, and everything offensive, as it were, comes from the household, everything that

is offensive in the City garbage is an organic thing, is vegetable or animal, and everything that is vegetable or animal will burn. The very ashes gathered by the ash carts have from 15 to 25 per cent good coals in them to burn up the rest. The refuse, too, of this City gathered by the street cleaning department can be burned by itself without the addition of one pound of coal or one foot of gas. There is in the refuse fuel enough to burn it. The garbage of the City of New York is probably the richest garbage in the world. We are a wasteful people. We waste more from the ~~par~~ table, we cast off our shoes and clothes sooner than people of other Cities. We cast from our tables what would keep other people. We even send it to the dumps, and this gentleman defends those people who eat that stuff. In that stuff there is so much of a combustible nature that we believe it is richer than the garbage of London. Now then it has been accepted that five tons of the City of London garbage is equal to one ton of coal. If that is so, and you gather here, I understand, about 800 tons of garbage a day, it is simply a matter of figures to find out how many tons of coal you are throwing on Riker's Island every day, and at a very great expense.

Burn it ! The resultant is what ? There are lime and other mineral qualities of different kinds which go to make a cement. Everything of a metallic nature will go to rust, and if you deposit it behind docks and in the low, waste places of this City, you will make a surface or body

very compact and indestructible that will be worth to the City of New York millions and millions of dollars. There is no knowing what it will be worth to the City of New York in a hundred years. So that you are not at the mercy of any monopoly. You can utilize it and get a greater profit in that way, and not affect the public health. You destroy everything in it that would breed disease. Everything upon which disease would grow is destroyed by fire. At proper places crematories could be put up that would burn it without offense, without smoke, without fire. There is, of course, fire from everything ~~■~~ you burn. There is some odor; but what I mean ^{as} there would not be an offensive odor. So that if it is burned you make money by burning it, you recover very important and valuable territory and you are not in the hands of any monopoly and you will do it at less expense, because it is simply a matter of the plan in getting there. It will almost burn itself, if no arrangements can be provided for it.

The gentleman said the health board would not allow anything of the kind on the dock. The health board have gone to sleep. You might give the Street Cleaning Department the right to deposit on the docks. The people are getting ready to use shot guns to drive them away. So that it is a matter for the City to say whether the Board of Health would not allow such an arrangement to be made by which it could be deposited and consumed on the docks, where it could be done without any expense, danger, or possible annoyance.

MR. ERNEST HALL: I desire to speak upon this practical question, and one in regard to which I claim to have as much personal knowledge as any gentleman living in the Annexed District. I have lived there all my life. I know every inch of Riker's Island, from top to bottom. I know that it is situated in the most magnificent harbor that there is in this country, and in the world. I know that I have from the docks dove down forty feet---from the dock at Fort Morris, and I know that within twenty feet of that is seventy feet of water, and that the Great Eastern came in there as the one harbor it could come into.

Riker's Island is situated from one-half to three-quarters of a mile off the shore. I want to say to you, Mr. Mayor, that on that shore are represented interests as ^{large} ~~much~~ as many districts in the city of New York. I can see here in this room General Viele, representing the East Bay Land and Improvement Company, as its Director, having I do not know how many acres of magnificent land which they are offering for sale and which cannot be sold while this awful stench exists. I see here Mr. William R. Browne, who owns all the rest of the land from the East Bay Company down to the Harlem Kills, all of which is directly affected by having the nearest land contiguous to Riker's Island. Here are the representatives of the old residents of that district; and when I speak of them I mean the men of large estates, the representatives of the Paul Spofford estate, the representatives of Mr. Dickey, of Browne Brothers, the representatives of the Dennisons and the Fields and all the

old merchants having magnificent residences there, and all of whom have taken deep interest in the subject of the dumping of the garbage of Riker's Island. Those gentlemen live in the City in the ~~XXXXXX~~ winter and they go out there in the summer and have been driven from their homes, as they tell me, by these fearful stenches.

There are in that district 120,000 people. Last summer we held meeting after meeting. There were present clergymen, doctors, lawyers, people who lived in palaces and people who lived in tenements. They begged us as we loved our section, they begged us as we loved the health of our children, that we would take some action that they might preserve the lives of themselves and their children. We bore it---and I live, Mr. Mayor, two miles from Riker's Island on the highest point of land in the 23rd ward, in the most healthful and magnificent location that there is, and I say to you as a fact, as I stated last year, my wife and family were driven from their homes absolutely; but there were thousands and tens of thousands of people that could not be driven from their homes because they had not the means of leaving them to go elsewhere. The physicians at the meetings which we held, at which hundreds of people attended, without a single dissenting voice, reported that the sickness, the malarial diseases, the dysenteric diseases and all diseases arising from that condition of things, existed to such an alarming extent that in some families they

were kept busy having the doctors attend their children and the undertakers take them to the graveyard.

It was under those circumstances that the men took up that question. We went to the Board of Health. The Board of Health said they could not do anything for us, and they did not. And I want to say to you, Mr. Mayor, that I have been close by this Island in a boat. I have been there in a yacht. I have passed it on the Sound boats. They are filling in an area of territory equal in extent to the upper end of the Island of New York---four miles---with rotten garbage, with the refuse of hospitals, with the refuse of privies, decayed meat and decayed vegetables, to such an extent that at a distance of two or three miles I went home one day last summer and found my people, with the thermometer at 90 degrees in the shade, with every window in the house closed and sitting there almost suffocating with this frightful stink.

I dislike to speak personally. There is not a man within the sound of my voice that has not suffered as we have, sir. I have been awakened in the night in my bedroom by this frightful stench, and found it impossible for me to sleep again. And the doctors, as I say, the congregations of the churches, all the people have joined with us, and it is easy to see the gentlemen here are representative men. There is our senator. Here is our Alderman. And I would like to find a single man who lives in that magnificent district that cannot say a word in favor of the passage of

this bill. We found it was our one relief. I have not read the bill but I know something about it, because I suggested it being drawn. When Mr. Bell introduced that Bill he did it at the unanimous request of the storekeepers, the real estate holders, the clergymen, the doctors, the lawyers and everyone else living there, but principally in the interest, Mr. Mayor, of a population of 50,000 people that are compelled to live there in what I say is North New York, which is the most magnificent soil on this Island, a soil that I have travelled over as a boy and know well, a sandy magnificent loam. Elegant residences have been built there, residences of the rich and of the poor, and the people have lived there and are compelled to live there, unless they are driven from their homes by this dreadful nuisance.

A single word as to a suggestion that has been made. It was suggested last year to Mayor Gilroy---and I want to say to your Honor that this is only a repetition of what we have been going through for the last six or eight months before Mayor Gilroy last summer, day after day---a suggestion was made to Mayor Gilroy that the ashes and garbage should be separated. It does seem to me that this late in this nineteenth century it is the most barbarous, uncivilized idea that we have to waste material which is worth just so many dollars a ton as ashes. Elevated railroad cinders I think are selling for \$2.20 a ton at the present time. Others cinders are just as valuable.

t They dump those cinders in with a lot of garbage and use that for making a floating island of filth under our noses.

It seems to me at this late day in the nineteenth century to be ridiculous.

In our district the tenement houses are not thick; there are a great number of private dwellings. I made the suggestion that the Board of Health and the Street Cleaning Department require that every house have two cans, one for ashes and one for garbage. The Board of Health make the rule that if the garbage is not carried away the person living in the house shall be fined. The Street Cleaning Department make the rule "If you don't separate the ashes from the grabage we wont remove them". They do not remove them and the householder is fined. If he is fined, the next day he will put his ashes in one can and his garbage in the other.

Why throw away at sea the immensely valuable garbage which under this bill can be used for the filling in of that Island ? I yield to no one in my admiration of the idea of securing for the City of New York a beautiful Island in that locality. But we do not want a beautiful Island of garbage, when we can have it made of cinders. I hope the Mayor will approve this Bill.

MAYOR STRONG: What do you think about the last clause, that the Street Cleaning Commissioner has suggested?

MR. HALL: I am much obliged to your Honor for suggesting it. That was precisely what we suffered from last year. The dumping has not been done this winter. Last winter they made the dumping all winter long and none

ofus knew about it. If we had known, we would have stopped it. But in April and May the stench commenced, and then some one started up and said they had an electro-ozone and they put it on it, and they forced the City into one of the most scandalous things ever done, to buy that electro-ozone plant at an enormous valuation, and then we compelled them to put wholesome earth over this filthy garbage. But, as I say, if they commence now and dump to the 1st of June, there is nothing more to be done.

Now in speaking of these matters, Mr. Rogers did not make a fair statement. These barges stand at docks up there, the ashes and garbage and everything dumped together. Remember, this winter the thermometer was way below zero. The barges have been covered with six inches of snow. It is not at such times that the stench arises; it is when the sun of summer comes and makes it a corruptible mass. As I said before, I do not think that the man can be found from that locality who will say this bill ought not to pass.

MR. W. T. McELVEEN. I hold in my hand the resolutions of our delegation. The delegation that we have before you is a big one. You have a delegation here from Whitestone, from College Point, from North Beach, from Long Island City, from Fort Lee, and I do not know but there may be a delegation from Jersey City. They could smell the stench there last summer. And you have here a large delegation from the annexed district. You have a dozen

physicians who could controvert every point made by Col. Rogers concerning this garbage not causing sickness. He forgets that on the records of the Board of Health there is the statement that the Italians who work on these docks live in our district and complaint after complaint has poured into the Board of Health asking that these rookeries be torn down and those filthy Italians be banished from our district.

Our section is thoroughly aroused on this question. We are growing enthusiastic. I am afraid if Col. Rogers was up there some of us would be prompted to take him by the nose and lead him over to Riker's Island and stick it into it. Then he would know what he was talking about. He says it does not cause sickness. I know some men if they could lay their hands on him after he made that statement, men who lost their children last summer, children that I buried, you would need your whole police force to keep them from him. Men of the Annexed District are growing indignant over the whole thing. Resolutions have been presented and adopted in churches and in political clubs. I have one in my hand. Last night I addressed the City Vigilance League. Other gentlemen are here representing large manufacturing interests to beseech you to approve this bill so that we may have a district where good health and good morals should prevail. I think you ought to hear from our physicians about the matter of sickness, that we ought to have our Health Board statistics right in front of

us, and then we could prove that what the gentleman says is false.

Colonel Rogers makes an argument here about money. What do we care about money when life is at stake ? What balm can you give to a father who has lost his girl or boy because of this stench ? Suppose you, sir, had lost your boy last summer by reason of this stench. Do you think anything could reimburse you for such loss ? What is the use of talking about money ? If we are going to ruin a whole section of our City, it is time to call a halt when men talk about saving money. And so, your Honor, I have a long petition here in my hands. I will not read it to you, but it is signed by two or three hundred gentlemen. This petition was only framed last evening. If we had time we could present you with a petition three or four miles long. If our Commissioner had stayed here, he could have told you something about this thing himself. If you had looked at the map he had behind the desk two or three moments ago, you might see where the evil lies. I was over at Riker's Island last summer. Mr. Macy, of the refrigerator company, was taken sick on the Island and remained sick almost two weeks. Judge Ernest Hall was sick also because of that thing. Several members of the Committee were unable to attend to their duties because of that matter. Some of our own physicians were down on their backs after attending cases of this Riker's Island nuisance. So, I beseech you, sir, in the name of 120,000 people on the North side, and these Long Island people can

take care of themselves, they represent a vast constituency- I beseech you, in the name of that 120,000 people, that this Bill be approved by your Honor.

SENATOR CHARLES F. GUY. I do not wish to weary you with long talk on this subject, but as I am somewhat the author of this trouble you have on your hands, having passed the Bill through the Senate by my own efforts, I felt it my duty to come and offer some explanation of it. I want to say in advance that in urging the legislation in this Bill upon the Senate and upon your Honor that I have not the least desire in the world to offer any impediment to the work which your Street Cleaning Commissioners has in hand. In common with other good citizens of this City, I commend what he has done already and am anxious to help him in carrying forward effective measures for cleaning our streets and preserving the good health of the City.

But I come here in behalf of the people who have honored me in making me their Senator, to urge some measure of justice and fair play upon the City. The fact that we have urged it before should be no argument for your denying us this justice now. Many years ago we were annexed to this City. From the day of annexation until the present time we have borne all the burdens of municipal life; we have submitted to heavy taxation, to increased assessments; to taxation to build your armories, your school houses, to uphold and develop all the departments of the City Government, with comparatively little benefit to ourselves. When we joined the City, our taxation per head in that

section was almost insignificant. We joined the City with an average taxation of \$58 per head against \$6 per head. Still we have borne it, and still everything that has been asked by the Annexed District for the last dozen years, when granted, has been given grudgingly, reluctantly, and, generally, everything asked has been denied.

We have reached a point where in importance, in wealth, in spite of all these obstacles, we are entitled, as a mere matter of justice, to demand the same treatment from this administration or any other administration that the people of any other district have. We stand upon it simply as a matter of justice. I put it to your Honor, if the Board of Health should so far forget its duties as to select vacant lots in the City in which your Honor lives to make them dumping grounds, whether you would be satisfied with any of the trivial arguments that have been made against this bill to-day. Would you be satisfied if the health, the comfort of your family were assailed in the name of law, to have some one come and tell you that no stench could arise from offal and that benefit would come by having it placed at your door ?

Colonel Rogers talks about the Harlem Flats. The worst sickness I ever had in my life came from standing one night in the vicinity of the Harlem Flats. He talks about Newtown. Why, that has become so noisome that from one end of the country to the other it has grown to be familiar as a household word. We are simply asking your Honor to be fair to us, to treat us as fellow citizens. If it

costs money to give us relief, spend the money like a man; have the courage to do it. Sensible and intelligent people have not complained because you spend money in the Street Cleaning Department, for good results have been accomplished. The people in the Annexed District will give their approval to every measure that is just, even if it is expensive.

You will have many demands made upon your Honor to reform so called abuses in the various departments. Some of them you will find to be real; many of them, doubtless, you will find to be imaginary. But here is one genuine abuse, one flagrant outrage against a population of one hundred and twenty thousand reputable citizens. We ask you to correct that abuse, and we feel sufficient confidence in your integrity of purpose and sense of fair play to believe you will do it by approving this measure.

MR. J. H. HILDRETH. Mr. Mayor, it is hardly necessary to say much more on this subject, it having been so thoroughly spoken about and so thoroughly gone over and your Honor having listened so kindly and so interestedly to get at the points that have been so carefully and fully presented. But I would like to make as a context for my few remarks a letter that I had occasion to send last year as a private citizen and tax payer of the 23rd ward to the then Mayor, Hon. Thomas F. Gilroy. It is dated New York, June 30th, 1894, this being a copy from my letter book:

HON. THOMAS F. GILROY.

My dear Sir:

The Riker's Island dumping grounds have con-

taminated the air of my neighborhood and vicinity past endurance. It is a menace to life, and whoever is responsible for this public nuisance deserves indictment. Please give the matter prompt and proper attention and thereby oblige," &c.

Now I felt in duty bound to my individual family, as a private citizen, to write that letter; and as an outcome of the same feeling in that section and throughout the section, there were citizens meetings followed at or about that time and later on during the season that were held enthusiastically and largely throughout that section, and a practical result of that was finally an injunction which was obtained against the continuance of the nuisance and gave us temporary relief. I understand, through some technicality or lack of evidence in the papers on which that was procured, that the superior skill of the counsel for the City of New York, backed by the superior wisdom of the courts sitting in judgment, secured the vacation of that injunction and we are now at the mercy again of those who are disposed to repeat the offense and to continue the nuisance beyond limit.

Now, if your Honor please, there has not been a word said here to-day by the gentlemen that I have listened to with interest and attention that I believe has been exaggerated, although the language has been as strong as English could make it; because, from personal experience and personal observation living in that district for nineteen years

and more, I know that the words spoken here to-day have been spoken in truth and soberness, and especially as to the condition of affairs last summer.

Living on 138th street, which is the 125th street of the Annexed District, running direct from Madison Avenue across to Long Island Sound, and being about midway in that street, I had the full benefit, exceedingly full, of the nuisance and the smell which arose to the nostrils of the community from that nuisance. It is a fact, as Judge Hall has borne witness here, that we had to get up in the night time, aroused from our sleep by the stench that filled our nostrils beyond endurance and close our windows in the summer season, and if I had not had the good fortune to be able to send my family out of the City and to go myself to recuperate, I doubt not we would have suffered by sickness and death as others in that district have. The silver on the door knobs, and other metallic substances in and about the houses in that section were turned and spotted with some black substance that would not respond to the polishing of servants or anybody else.

Now if such things, such microbes, are floating in the air to be breathed into the lungs of humanity, must there not be some permanent injurious result? If metal can be so affected, what must the effect be upon a healthy lung?

Now, Mr. Mayor, there is no occasion for saying anything more except this one word. I would like to say in conclusion, as emphasizing the importance of this Bill

and as perhaps an answer to one suggested made by the gentleman who was so earnest here in favor of maintaining this nuisance and opposing the Bill, the quickest way to get rid of the nuisance and also the quickest way to get the least benefit to this City by new and improved methods and get in a position where we can practically dispose of the garbage by cremation is to approve of and aid the passage of this Bill. If you prevent the dumping there, something will be done by the proper authorities and by those who are interested to create some new method of disposition of the garbage. As long as you allow the dumping so near the City, just so long will interested parties who are growing fat at the expense of the lives of the people and the deterioration of valuable property rights continue to advocate just such a nuisance.

MR. ANGEL. Your Honor, I come by invitation to represent the public sentiment in the approval of this Bill, but I am here principally in behalf of my own household. I do not wish to make any speech. I only want to say to your Honor that my family suffered severely from this nuisance last summer, and it continued up to late last fall. I believe the remedy sought to be applied is inefficient, because when the scows are brought up the odors that arise from the unloading of the scows exist and the moment that this electrozone application is discontinued the odors again commence. I do not think there is any permanent or reliable remedy from that application; and I think that that is the only excuse or the only ground upon which the

parties who wish to deposit this matter there stand now for depositing it there any further. If you leave it there it is going to stay there for all time, and as has already been said, when the summer weather opens these odors get afloat on the air. Whether they get out through the ozone application, or how they get afloat, there they are, and it is a sad experience occasioned in one's family and I ask you in behalf of those that I hold most dear that you will regard this bill with the greatest consideration, and give it your approval. We look upon it as our only hope. Theory, statistics and science and all that kind of thing don't enter into our consideration---or expense either, when the lives and the health of our children are in jeopardy. The people became very much excited there last summer, excited almost to insurrection. I do not want to see another such occurrence. I hope your Honor will approve the Bill.

DR. JAMES P. DALY: I had the honor, Mr. Mayor, of being Chairman of the Medical Committee that acted with the citizens mass meetings through the last season. I can state positively that there was more sickness created by the miasmatic poisons emanating from this nuisance than was ever known in the District before. We physicians North of the Harlem River always had the privilege of sending our sick babies to the point known as Oak Point, where they could breathe the refreshing breezes of the Sound. Unfortunately, last season we found them in worse condition when they came back than before they went. We found that

gastro-enteritis was the main cause in nearly every case. We found that scarlet fever and dyptheria were becoming almost epidemic. We were kept busy morning, noon and night, and as a result we had to suffer to a great extent. I went out in a yacht sailing through the Sound, circumnavigating the Island, and the breezes died out and the stench, even with the electrozone, from the Island was so fearful that it drove our yacht right straight back to Oak Point. The microbes, through the electrozone plant, have become fat. They are as fat as the ~~maxx~~ proverbial alderman, and placed under the microscope you can see them thrive every day. Take culture, place them, and from time to time from the same culture place some under the microscope and you see that the last ones are even stouter than the others. Mr. Wolf and his electrozone claim to kill ^{them}. The more electrozones they place there, the more stench we get. We had to close the windows of the schools in the hottest of weather in order to try to prevent that stench from permeating the atmosphere. Our children suffered. In fact, it looked for awhile as if we might have to close the schools. And I speak with authority when I speak of children and of schools to adults. If Colonel Rogers lived in that territory he would have to have his nostrils plugged up, because his keen olfactory nerves would be torn to the winds by the stench.

Some people may say the doctors can make plenty of money out of it. I do not look at it that way. I

speaking in behalf of the District, that their welfare, their health should be protected. A hundred and eighty thousand dollars amounts to nothing when we take into consideration the value of lives, and as has been suggested to you if you lost a child or member of your family most dear to you, money could not compensate you for that loss. I hope that you will approve of this Bill, and give us the justice to which we are entitled.

MR. J. OPPENHEIMER. I am one of the Trustees of the village of College Point and as such was instrumental in obtaining the injunction against Commissioner Andrews last summer restraining him from continuing the dumping on Riker's Island. The citizens of College Point were the only ones who secured any practical result. Contrary to the statement of Col. Rogers, permit me to read to you the opinion of Judge Andrews that was rendered recently when the injunction was vacated, but in which he says:

"The evidence before me shows that such use of street refuse and garbage created a public nuisance, the foul and disgusting odors cause great discomfort and annoyance to the inhabitants of College Point, and endangered their health."

The Judge goes on to say that were it not for the fact that the City of New York is now by law prepared to cremate that garbage and that the authorities appear to show a disposition to do so he would continue the injunction.

He goes on:

"In view of the restrictions imposed by law upon the Commissioner as to the localities where he can dump street refuse and garbage, disposition of the same by dumping them into the ocean is beset with difficulties especially in the winter time. It is also true that the failure of the Commissioner to remove the same from the City would cause great discomfort to and would endanger the health and even the lives of its inhabitants. Nevertheless, the creation of such a nuisance was an invasion of the legal rights of the inhabitants of College Point, of whom the plaintiff is one; and, although it may at times be difficult or even impossible to cause such refuse and garbage to be dumped in the ocean, yet, inasmuch as the City authorities under existing laws have full authority to provide for cremating the same, I think that this Court has the power to prevent a continuance of such nuisance, and that it ought to exercise such power. And I also think that the plaintiff, who is one of the injured parties, is entitled to maintain and prosecute this action. Entertaining these views, I should feel constrained to continue the injunction until the trial, but for the fact that the evidence convinces me that it is

practical to deoderize street refuse and garbage so effectually as to prevent the emission of the foul and disgusting smells which are complained of."

The evidence which convinced Judge Andrews was that of Mr. Wolf, the inventor of electro-ozone, and that of Commissioner Andrews.

"And but for the further fact, that I believe that the Commissioner of Street Cleaning will act in good faith in the matter, and by the use of the best system of deodorization will see to it that the nuisance is not continued or renewed, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and that neither the inhabitants of College Point nor any other persons will hereafter have any just cause of complaint by reason thereof.

Under these circumstances, in view of the expense and embarrassment which I have no doubt the continuance would cause to the Street Cleaning Department, I have concluded to vacate it, but if the nuisance is renewed before the trial of the action the plaintiff will have leave to apply for the reinstatement of it."

Now permit me to say, Mr. Mayor, that the argument made by Mr. Rogers was a negative one and a negative one only. He comes here before your Honor and says, "I have not heard that anyone has become sick by reason of this nuisance, or alleged nuisance," as he calls it; "I have not

heard that anyone has died". That is a negative argument and goes for nothing.

We are prepared to show you, Mr. Mayor, a positive argument to the contrary. We are prepared to show that of the six or seven thousand inhabitants of the village of College Point there is not a man, woman or child who will not be ready to go on the stand and swear that there lives were made burdens to them all during last summer. There is not a house in the village of College Point, along which stretches a beautiful shore opposite Riker's Island, that was not compelled to keep its windows closed every day last summer, day and night when the wind was coming from that direction.

I, as one of the Committee, of the village of College Point, visited Riker's Island one day and I assure you that one of our members was taken sick on the Island and that I suffered from a terrific headache for four weeks after I came back, having spent one hour on the Island. I know of a case where one family has lost as many as three children from dyptheria caused by this nuisance, as stated by the attending physician. I can show you statistics to prove that whereas our healthy village has never had such a thing as an epidemic of contagious diseases before, we suffered one last year and the death rate increased to seventy per thousand.

With reference to the expense that it might cause this City, I want to say that the expense is nothing in comparison to the loss of one single life by it. One single

life sacrificed because of fear of expense would be a weight upon the conscience of the authorities who are responsible for the continuance of this nuisance, and I am sure you would not feel like ^{shouldering} ~~shielding~~ it. We ask you, we beseech you, we pray to you to approve this bill and give us relief, and do not let us have another summer such as we had last year. This injunction was continued for six months. There was no dumping last winter, but I fear if the dumping is begun again next summer it will be worst than the last, because of the millions of tons dumped there.

MAYOR STRONG: You think there ought not to be any dumping there now ?

MR. OPPENHEIMER: I want to say this. I mean to be fair, and I fully appreciate the difficulties under which you and the street cleaning department might be compelled to labor if this act goes into effect at once, unless you have already provided other means for disposing of this garbage. But I fear if it is continued until the 1st of June, while we may not suffer from now until then, we would suffer after the sun commences to shine on it. We might in order to relieve the City of New York be willing to agree to it if you were to dump only what is absolutely necessary and cover that with a good cover of earth between now and the 1st of May, so as to give you time to prepare for some other method of disposing of it.

MR. MITCHELL: Your Honor, I live in Flushing, have lived there all my life and am one of the Trustees of the village. Flushing lies a little to the eastward

of Riker's Island, and a little to the Southward. We do not, consequently, get as bad odors, because most of the winds that prevail during the summer time are from the South and the West. But whenever we get a wind a little north of west, in spite of the fact that my property is a mile and a quarter as the crow flies from Riker's Island, just exactly what happened to my neighbors here who live at College Point within a quarter of a mile of it has happened with us. We have had to get up in the middle of the night and close our windows, too. I am interested in a pretty large piece of property there. We suppose it to be rather a valuable one, and there is no question about it that it will affect personally not only the health, but the pocket of every man---

MAYOR STRONG. (Interposing) What we are most interested in is the health. We do not care so much about property.

MR. MITCHELL: I know that.

MAYOR STRONG: We would rather save one child than several hundred thousand dollars for anybody.

MR. MITCHELL: That is right.

MAYOR STRONG: We will confine ourselves to the difficulty in reference to life. That is of more importance to me and I guess to all of you people than anything else.

MR. MITCHELL: I simply came here as one of the Trustees of the village to protest in the strongest possible manner against the outrage, and to ask that that Bill might be signed.

MR. ANGEL. I would be willing to have my taxes doubled to get rid of it.

MR. FRANK OLIVER: As a member of the Committee of the North side that caused the agitation of this subject, I want to say now in answer to your Honor's question that we are opposed to the dumping of this garbage now. We do not want it at all. It seems that last December a year ago a contract was made--- I want to put it to a certain extent in a legal aspect, and at the same time in a sanitary aspect---with a person named Daly to build crib work and fill in this Island. The contract was afterwards made with a man named Herbert and it was to be carried out with the Board of Health that the garbage should be disinfected before dumping, and that it should be dumped also in deep water. Neither of the conditions of the contract was carried out, as was conclusively proved before Mayor Gilroy by Captain Delahunty, who had charge of this Harbor in behalf of the Navy Department. Neither of those conditions was carried out, but the undisinfected garbage was dumped there by tons and dumped in what they call deep water, at low tide; so that when low tide came this stuff all floated out in the harbor and blackened the sides of all the vessels within miles of the place. Every man who has sailed a vessel there can tell you that boats were all blackened on the sides, the sails, the utensils used on board, everything was blackened, those conditions not being complied with and the Board of Health not enforcing the contract,

they being unwilling one department to act against another department of the City Government, in cases where they would have acted against individuals very strongly and harshly; but they went on until the summer time, until we all were woke up by the nuisance and we organized ourselves into citizens' meetings and protested to the Mayor. We finally got it that they gave out at last that an electrozone should be used, and they bought an electrozone plant and afterwards under compulsion of public opinion, as aroused in that neighborhood, they buried the garbage to a certain extent, under two or three feet of earth. They refused to take the cellar diggings of our City and fill it in without any expense to them, dilly dallied until the election took place and, by reason of the election, Senator Guy and Assemblyman Bell urged by the sentiment of the people up there had this Bill passed.

Now there is one reason why they had this Bill passed, and it is to a certain extent a legal reason. It will prevent the Board of Health and the Street Cleaning Department making any contract whatever for the filling in of sunken Islands or sunken lots by which sanitary rules and regulations may be set aside in the last contract. It will make the duty incumbent on them that nothing shall be allowed to be filled in. It is neither here nor there to us whether people who live on the Island, who live on the dumps, who work on the carts, are healthy or not. We do not care about that. That is their personal lookout. We know we have suffered from it.

I am afraid I did not incur the pleasure of the late Mayor or the late Street Cleaning Commissioner, nor that of others by my efforts. We were not persona grata at that time, but we believe now that we can get not only a respectful but considerate hearing and careful consideration of the subject. We are opposed to the dumping of any garbage undisinfected on Riker's Island or on any sunken lot in the 23rd or 24th wards. If the citizens of this City below the bridge desire to fill in with garbage any of the Parks, we have no objection; but up there we are unanimously of the opinion that this Bill ought to have your approval, so that hereafter we may never be subjected to the nuisance of the past and the people coming in on Sound steamers and pleasure seekers may not be obliged, men, women and children, excursionists and passengers, to be subjected to the smells of the past.

MAYOR STRONG: You are opposed, then, to giving any limit of time ?

MR. OLIVER: No time at all, sir. We have suffered from that before. We want it stopped at once, because the best way to stop it is to stop it.

MR. BUSH: I appear in behalf of the Street Railroad system which runs out into Newtown and through Flushing. We carry a great many of the inhabitants of New York City to a place called North Beach, which is supposed to be a place for recreation and where health and fresh air can be had. That was so until this dumping began and con-

tinued. It is no place to let the people of New York ^{go} for health and recreation. I want very briefly to add our appeal to you and ask you to approve of this Bill on that ground.

MAYOR STRONG: You are from Long Beach ?

MR. BUSH: Yes, sir. Your Honor sometimes, I know, goes to Boston. If you travelled last summer on the boats you must have recognized and remember now the very unpleasant ten or fifteen minutes that you passed while the boat was going through that vicinity. That, sir, was increased. It so happened that I used the East River boats a good deal last summer and fall and the fifteen minutes spent in that vicinity took the edge off all the pleasure that the scenery of Long Island Sound could give one.

I beg your Honor will give very careful consideration to this Bill and give it your approval. I do say, however, that the necessities of the City of New York must be regarded, and I am not one who stands here to say that the thing must be cut off this minute. The City of New York must have an opportunity to dispose of its garbage, and while I think the date of June 1st is far too long, I do think April 1st would give ample time to make all the arrangements.

MAYOR STRONG. Do you think that April 1st, which is only six weeks from now, would give time enough for the City to make arrangements to dispose of the garbage ?

MR. BUSH: I am not the judge of that. If your Honor thinks that a week or two more is necessary, I am not

going to be nice about a few days; but I do think your Honor ought to see it stopped before the warm weather comes. I will state a fact that has not been stated here. I had occasion to examine the question last summer. There are on file in the Health Department of this City reports made very long before the subject became one of public notoriety, against the use of Riker's Island for that purpose and I beg that your Honor will consult with the health Department of the City and ascertain what these reports show on that subject.

COMMISSIONER HAFFEN. Mr. Mayor, the question is now thoroughly understood by you and I simply desire to voice the sentiments of those who have preceded me. I have been one of those who have suffered from the smell from Riker's Island. I am opposed ~~xxxxx~~ not only as a private individual, but as an official representing the district North of the bridge, to further dumping on Riker's Island. There isn't any doubt that the stench there have caused sickness. I do not wish to take up your valuable time, as I think you thoroughly understand the question and I know that you will give due attention to the wishes of the public there. I voice the sentiments of those who preceded me.

MAYOR STRONG: What do you think, Commissioner, about the time; are you opposed to any dumping there at all now ?

COMMISSIONER HAFFEN: I am, if it can be prevented.

MAYOR STRONG: How can it be prevented ?

COMMISSIONER HAFFEN: This question, of course, must be taken under consideration.

MAYOR STRONG: Personally, I have not given this subject much attention until within a week. But previously the authorities did not seem to be able to overcome this difficulty, and if you gentlemen could agree on some little time in the future, which is the only thing I am going to consult with Senator Guy about, it would be---

COMMISSIONER HAFFEN: (Interposing) April 1st would be about two months and a half. After consultation with the heads of the Health and Street Cleaning Departments we would probably be able to determine upon the length of time.

MAYOR STRONG: The Commissioner of the Street Cleaning Department is just as anxious to preserve the health of every human being on this Island and in the Annexed District as every one of you gentlemen belonging to the Annexed District, just exactly; and the only dilemma he is in is what in the world to do with it. There is no feeling at all in favor of putting this garbage on Riker's Island by anybody connected with this administration. It is a matter of life and health that we are discussing here, and we are all interested in that; not as directly interested as you people up there, but for the sake of humanity, as much as any of you people that suffer from this terribly noisome odor. I confess that when on one of the Sound boats in August I had to go below. (Laughter). I positively did not know what it was, (laughter) that is, I did not

know the real reason of it.

COMMISSIONER HAFFEN: You have had a touch of it ?

MAYOR STRONG: Yes, I had one touch of it and that is all I needed. I do not think I am in favor of the 1st of June. How would the 1st of May do ? I want the general expression of all you people about it, so that if you want to change this Act to take effect the 1st of May, instead of immediately, if that would be satisfactory to you gentlemen, you could so express yourselves; because you are in the house of your friends in one respect. We do not want to put the whole City of New York to a great inconvenience, and yet we do not want to be the cause of one little child suffering from sickness or dying there.

MR. OLIVER. Could it be disinfected if it was dumped on Riker's Island between this and the 1st of May ?

COL. WARING. I do not know any way in which the garbage could be disinfected before it is dumped, because it can only be reached by this disinfecting process when it is in the water. I ought to explain that I had no idea of sending anything to Riker's Island until we have separated the garbage entirely. Except during such very severe storms as we have had lately, when we have been prevented sending the scows to sea, although it would cost more to send them to sea, I am in favor of sending them there, except where it is possible----

MAYOR STRONG. (Interposing) You do not allow any animal matter, dead cats or dead dogs or anything of that kind, to be dumped there ?

COL. WARING: We have no right to touch them; that comes under different control.

MAYOR STRONG: It is positively your duty not to touch them ?

COL. WARING. Positively our duty not to touch them.

MR. OLIVER: Isn't it possible, Mr. Mayor, that this garbage may be disinfected on the dump by some process known now to the Street Cleaning Commissioner and the Board of Health, before it reaches Riker's Island at all ? That is what we want to get at ?

COL. WARING: I do not think that can be done.

A DELEGATE: I do not think you can disinfect any matter of that kind by any known means, except by burning it. It is chemically impossible to disinfect a thing of that kind.

MR. W. C. FOSTER: Our Company carries during the summer season 500,000 people to North Beach and College Point, and if this bill fixes the limit beyond the 1st of April it will inconvenience every person that uses that ferry, and that ferry, your Honor, is used by the mothers with their small children for an airing. It is only ten cents there and ten cents back. Also representing North Beach and all that shore, from Lawrence Point to Sandfords Point, we are all inconvenienced by this, and not only that but dead dogs and dead cats, and there is a scum that

floats out from this by reason of the action of the tide. This crib work don't conform to a good contract job, and the result at North Beach last year was that the bathing was absolutely ruined, and on one Sunday in particular the people were driven from that Beach on account of the stench. I think that any time beyond the 1st of April would be detrimental to public health.

MR. C. T. BELL: I notice that the point turns on whether this garbage can be disinfected or not, whether it can be put there in such form that it will or will not smell. And I notice that there is quite an argument as to the time when this bill should go into effect. I wish to call your attention to the fact, and I believe I am right, that if the time clause is put in there it practically kills this bill. It has to go back to the Legislature; it has to be reenacted; it has to be repassed, with the chance of being killed by very large interests that we did not know about until it went through. And then it would come down here to your Honor for another hearing. The season is now so far advanced that it is doubtful whether a bill introduced in the Legislature now could be passed between now and the end of the session, and if the time limit is put in there it necessitates the changing of the bill and kills the bill effectually.

Now I have heard some of the gentlemen on this question of disinfecting; whether it could be disinfected before it was put on the Island; whether it could be disinfected

after it was put on the Island. I have given this question a little examination. I went over on that Island last year one night with my brother. We went in such state that it would be difficult for anyone to find out who we were or why we were there---went there as fishermen. I examined the disinfecting plant. I looked over that disinfecting plant and I got some information from the engineers there as to just how it worked and I believe from looking at the thing very carefully that disinfecting plant is of no use at all. The process used there simply consists in passing electricity through salt water, decomposing the salt and generating in one vat chlorine gas which passes off, and on the other side caustic soda. Now this soda ~~is~~ in very weak form is what is pumped on this garbage. I also saw some of the men squirting this stuff on it. I found three fellows towards dusk on the Island who probably did not expect us to come along. I found them with hose in their hands and stepped up and talked to one of them. He was then squirting a stream about as large as my little finger, by actual measurement five paces long, on this mass of garbage, just a little splash, and on the mud around it. I looked over this huge mass, acres in extent, and was astonished that they would attempt to disinfect so huge a mass in that manner. I talked with the men there. Their general opinion seemed to be that it was a pretty good thing for somebody, but wasn't any good for them.

I looked into this thing further. One of the gentlemen who is directly interested in this electrozone company, I am told, stated to me the other day that this question of disinfecting the garbage when it was put on the scows was brought to his attention, and they were about to enter into a contract to disinfect this stuff as it was put from the carts on the scows. Now we know what that one plant costs over there, and we believe that you could get better results if you would pump plain salt water on this stuff than by using this disinfectant.

Then comes in the time limit. If the time limit comes up at all it kills the Bill. The moment we admit that it is February or April or some other month, it means a new bill, and I am pretty well satisfied that a new bill would be difficult to get through now.

The difficulties are thoroughly understood, and for that reason I would beg your Honor, having heard the way we have suffered from this thing, to approve the Bill as it is, with no alterations at all; and if you wish to go further into this disinfecting plant, I wish you would go up there yourself and look at it (laughter). That is a good deal to ask, I know. But just see what it is, and I will leave the rest to you. I beg to urge on you the approval of the Bill just as it is, because the moment you fix on April, May, or any other time the Bill is dead.

MR. EDWARD REGAN: I have a resolution to offer to your Honor. This was passed by a political organization, but passed more as citizens of the Annexed District.

I read to you the resolution adopted by the Anti-Tammany Democracy of the 29th Assembly District of New York City.

"RESOLVED, That it is the earnest conviction of the members of this Association that due regard to the health and welfare of the residents of this locality demands that the Bill above mentioned should have the approval of the Mayor of this City; and that the withholding of such approval will involve the further use of garbage for filling-in purposes on the shores of said Riker's Island, to the great peril and annoyance of the community and an increased death rate."

I would further add, Mr. Mayor, that outside of the citizens who passed this resolution I have had a long experience in regard to Riker's Island. I lived in 137th street near Brook Avenue last summer and my children took sick and the doctor who attended them advised me that he did not think he could do much for the children unless I moved them from that neighborhood. He said that it was the odors from Riker's Island that caused the sickness of my children. I moved from there to 164th Street and Morris Avenue, where I live now, and even at the latter part of the summer you could smell the odors at that great distance when the wind was in our direction, almost as bad. At one time the doctor came in, the latter part of the summer, to attend my wife and he requested that the windows be closed, he could not stand the smell.

We hope you will give this Bill your favorable consideration and approval.

MAYOR STRONG: Gentlemen, I think I have heard from you all pretty fully. Is there anybody here who wishes to be heard in favor of this bill? (No response) If not, we will close the discussion now. I think I understand the feelings of you gentlemen now. I think you have been given a very full discussion all around. The hearing is closed.

At this point (1.55 P.M.) the hearing closed.

-----OXO-----

Public Hearing
No. 2

Garbage Dumping
on
Riker's Island.

23

Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.



George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 16th, 1895. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of the 14th inst., I have to ask, as required by Section 704a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, One thousand (1,000) men and One thousand (1,000) horses and carts, for the removal of snow. No man, horse or cart to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz.:

February 17th, 18th and 19th, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. K. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.

{ 862 Third Ave -
New York Feb. 17th 1895

Hon. W^m. L. Strong.

Dear Sir: In regard to the question now before you viz. dumping ashes and garbage at Riker's Island, I take the liberty to give you an opinion on the subject.

As to myself I will simply say I have been connected with the Street Cleaning Dept. of this City, off and on, for about eighteen years and have given the subject of the final disposal of the refuse of this City careful thought and study; and have arrived at the following conclusions, which I trust you will do me the favor to look over.

1st. There is no way to get rid of the material without more or less inconveniencing some one, and it simply resolves itself into the old question of "The greatest good to the greatest number."

2nd. - The proposition to burn the garbage &c. is simply impracticable and an admitted failure, by all disinterested Engineers who have closely examined the workings of the different plants so far presented to the public.

3rd. The present system of taking the refuse to sea is cumbersome, expensive & unsatisfactory - Its unpleasant influences

extend over much territory. (The shores of Staten and Long Island and New Jersey) reaches many inhabitants and is the means of driving away untold volumes of profitable business from this city. Much more than is effected by dumping at Rikers Island.

For the above and other reasons, I long since came to the conclusion that the only sensible ~~way~~ and proper way to dispose of this material is to fill in low & swampy ground that is now practically useless and worthless, every acre of which, made by so dumping ^{would be} ~~is~~ worth from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Garbage and other refuse has and is now being dumped on low lands in Brooklyn, Phila. Jersey City and other large cities, without bad effects, to health or to the value of other property in the immediate vicinity. Harlem Flats was almost entirely filled in with City refuse without a word of complaint or objection being offered by the residents living near.

I do not believe there would be any or but little objection to dumping on Rikers Island if some such plan as I present for your consideration was adopted, and I trust you will have the whole question thoroughly investigated.

I herewith venture to present some ideas, plans or system, I have on this subject.

I consider Riker's Island as the very best place all things considered that now presents itself to dispose of the refuse of this City, and its final deposit there will discommode as few or less than any other available spot in this vicinity.

I enclose a rough Pen & Ink Sketch (sectional view) which shows a load of garbage — an Elevator also on a scow, Dumped ashes and garbage street dirt. Dumped garbage, represented by red ink Ground — Water &c.

The ashes and garbage should be kept separate (by City ordinance)

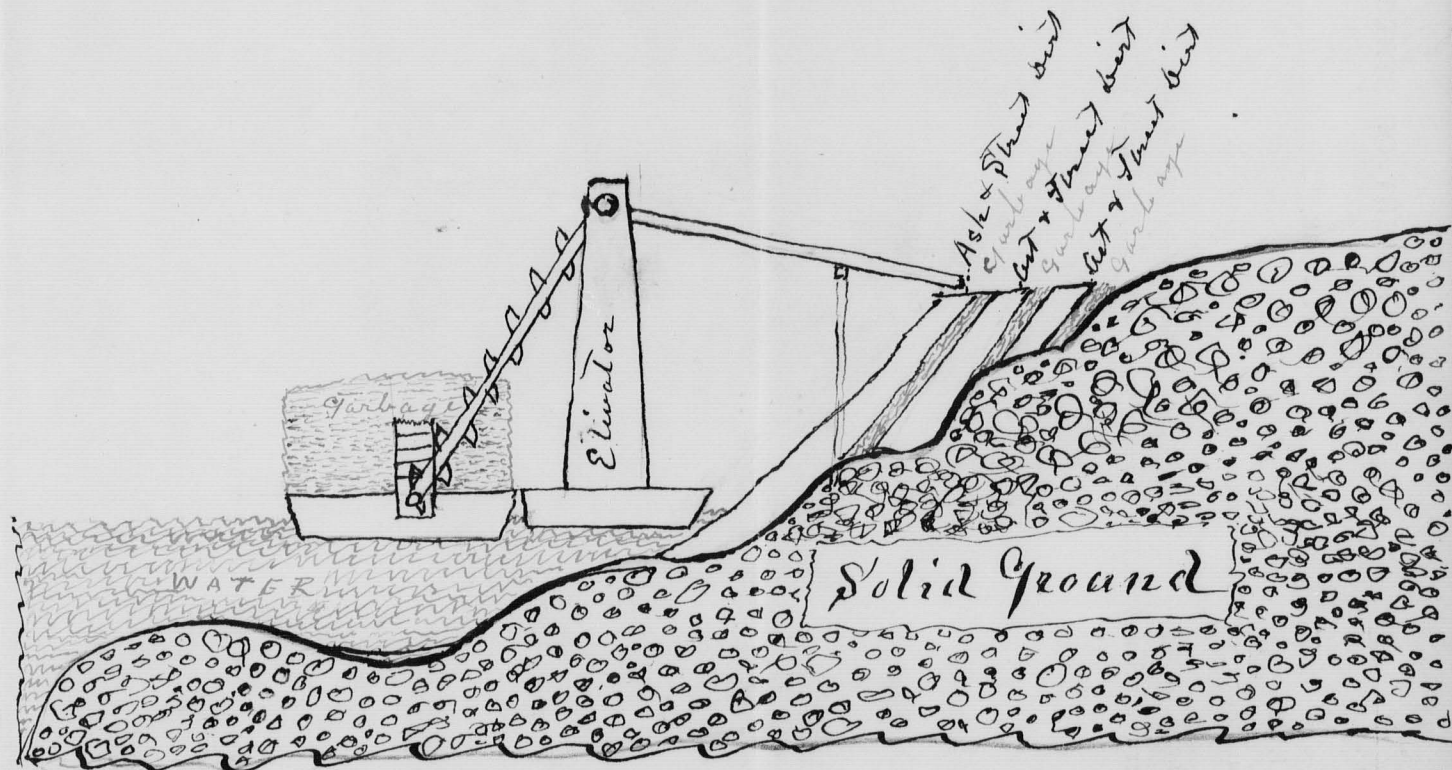
As soon as a scow load of garbage is gathered it should be deposited or distributed as evenly as possible along the face of a straight bank of which this sketch represents a sectional view —

The Elevator, scow and trough that carries it to the bank, could be moved along the face of the bank slowly, by tug or other means — This should then be covered in the same manner with ashes and St. dirt, and there being so much more of that material than there is of garbage proper, it would effectually dispose of

all smells.

In addition to this I would further propose to organize a Live Stock Co. that, without any connection with the City Government would place on the Island a drove of Razor Backed Hogs, Ducks, Geese & other Scavengers. — This is a feature of this question which I have thoroughly discussed with many of the leading Butchers and Stockmen of this City and have been assured by them, that they were ready to put money in some such enterprise. — I am

Yours very truly
Geo. H. Williams.
862 Third Ave.



SECTION No......

DEPARTMENT OF STREET CLEANING.

NEW YORK,.....**189**

WILLIAM S. ANDREWS,

COMMISSIONER OF STREET CLEANING.

SIR:—I have to report that during the twenty-four hours ending at 6 P. M. this day, the requirements of the service relative to this Section were not complied with in the following particulars:

The cause of the failure to do the work required, as above stated, was that :

Respectfully,

FOREMAN OF SECTION.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 19, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed by the Commissioner to return herewith the enclosed communication from Henry M. Woolf, Esq., No. 104 East 60th Street, concerning the alleged non-removal of garbage from that street, and to inform you that the District Superintendent, to whom the matter was referred for investigation, reports that owing to inclement weather the scows could not be taken to sea, in consequence of which much ashes and garbage accumulated. The street has been cleaned and is now in good condition.

Respectfully,

O. L. Carr

(1 enclosure)

Private Secretary.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(New Criminal Court Building.)
Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

MORGE F. WARING, Jr.
William J. Andrews, Commissioner.

New York, February 20th, 1895.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of February 19th, enclosing:

The communication of the Americus Labor Club, of February 13th, demanding my dismissal;

A clipping from the New York "Tribune", containing my letter to the Drivers' and Hostlers' Union;

And two clippings from the New York "Daily News", of February 13th and 18th; all of which are herewith returned.

You say that his Honor, the Mayor, sends them to me for my consideration. I have given them due consideration, and I beg to say that I have no modification to make of the opinions I expressed in my letter to the Drivers' and Hostlers' Union and in a communication concerning the delay in the payment of snow shovellers. Both of these expressed the exact truth, as I understand it. I have nothing to retract from either.

Yours truly,

Commissioner.

(4 enclosures)

Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Buildings)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.



George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

(Copy)

New York, February 20th, 1895. 189

Mr. Chandler Robbins,

116 West 21st St., City.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter to Mayor Strong of the 17th inst. was to-day received by this Department from the Mayor's office.

The incumbrances of which you complain will be attended to forthwith.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) CHARLES K. MOORE,

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 20th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of February 18th, with inclosure from Mr. Chandler Robbins, 116 West 21st St., will say that in accordance with your request I herewith enclose carbon copy of letter to-day written to Mr. Robbins.

Very truly yours,

Chas. K. Mooy

{1 enclosure}

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 20th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of the 16th inst., I have to ask, as required by Section 704a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, Three hundred (300) men and Two hundred and fifty (250) horses and carts, for the removal of snow. No man, horse or cart to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz.: February 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. B. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 23rd, 1895, 189

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,

Confidential Clerk,

Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

Resolution of the Board of Aldermen No. 984, referred by you to Commissioner Waring under date of February 21st, has been examined. The resolution is exactly in accord with the views of the Commissioner.

Yours respectfully,

Chas. B. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1895.

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of February 23rd, with enclosures, to hand and proper action taken in each case. I herewith enclose copies of the letters written to each of the complainants.

Yours truly,

Chas. B. Moore

(3 enclosures)

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1895. 189

(COPY)

Charles Coleman, Esq.,

78 Henry St., City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of February 21st, addressed to the Mayor, was referred to this Department. You have not given any data upon which your case can be investigated. If you will send to the Chief Clerk, Mr. Thomas A. Doe, the number of your gang, name of your foreman and the days upon which you worked, we will look it up immediately and report to you.

Your notice is herewith returned.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHARLES K. MOORE,

(1 enclosure)

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1895. 189
(COPY)

Messrs. H. Cary & Sons,

130 East 129th St., City.

Gentlemen:

Your complaint of February 21st, addressed to the Mayor, has been referred to this Department for investigation. If you had addressed the communication here, instead of to whom you did, it would have been attended to more promptly than it can be under the present circumstances.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHARLES K. MOORE,

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1895/89

(COPY)

Messrs. W. E. Duryea's Sons,

119 Warren St., City.

Gentlemen:

Yours of February 22nd, addressed to the Mayor, was referred to this Department for investigation. The Superintendent informs me that the matter of which you complain has been remedied.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHARLES K. MOORE,

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1895.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the letter of Stephen Vail, Esq., Reform Club, dated January 11th, 1895, transmitted for my consideration; I beg to say that I have carefully gone over Mr. Vail's suggestions, some of which I find very important, and that I shall endeavor to incorporate some of the items into the methods to be adopted here.

Respectfully yours,

Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, February 26th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

Concerning the communication of Lawrence Veiller, of 125 East 57th St., dated January 2nd, 1896, transmitted for my consideration; I beg to say that I have carefully gone over Mr. Veiller's suggestions, - some of which I find very important, - and that I shall endeavor to incorporate some of the items into the methods to be adopted here.

Respectfully yours,

Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

New York, February 26, 1895. 189

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of the 20th inst., I have to ask, as required by Section 704a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, three hundred and fifty (350) horses and carts, for the removal of snow. No horse or cart to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz.: February 27th and 28th, and March 1st, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. K. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 1st, 1895. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of the 26th ult., I have to ask, as required by Section 704a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, three hundred and fifty (350) horses and carts, for the removal of snow. No horse or cart to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz: March 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. B. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.

Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,



(New Criminal Court Building)
Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

WILLIAM A. MARRING, Jr.
GEORGE A. Andrews, Commissioner.

New York, February 21, 1895. 189

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3,

TO DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, SECTION FOREMEN, DUMP AND ASSISTANT
DUMP INSPECTORS AND BOARDMEN.

Nothing is to be received, or permitted to be dumped, at the
dumps of this Department, except ashes, garbage, street, house and
store sweepings.

Broken paper boxes, card-board, straw, excelsior, wood chips,
and the like, shall not be considered sweepings and must not be re-
ceived, or permitted to be dumped by either Department or private
carts.

All persons desiring to dump any material other than as above
specified must be directed to the nearest private dump.

A list of private dumps must be kept in the office of every
Inspector of Dumps, whose duty it is to enforce the terms of this
Order.

Every Inspector of Dumps will be held responsible for every
violation of this Order occurring while he is on duty.

Respectfully,

W. A. Marring, Jr.
Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

*(New Criminal Court Buildings)
Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.*

*William L. Waring, Jr.
GEORGE Andrews, Commissioner.*

New York, 189

The following will answer many enquiries made at the Department of Street Cleaning:

The order excluding from the Department carts and scows "Broken paper boxes, card-board, straw, excelsior, and wood chips, and the like", (and "the like" includes newspapers) is rendered necessary by the fact that the Department service is badly hampered by the volume of this refuse.

These things are not "Sweepings", nor are they the necessary "rubbish of domestic life."

There are other ways in which they can be disposed of. As a whole, they can be sold for enough money to pay for the trouble of selling them.

It is to be hoped that the people will appreciate the importance of assisting the Department in carrying out this regulation. Negotiations are now on foot looking to the establishment of a regular service for the removal of these excluded matters. In the meantime it is greatly regretted that the exigencies of the public service will not permit us to continue their removal.

GEO. E. WARING, Jr.,

Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 1st, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed by the Commissioner to inform you that since the issuing of "General Order No. 3", a copy of which is herewith enclosed, many inquiries similar to that of N. A. Millhauser, Esq., forwarded by you, has been received at this office. In response to these inquiries the enclosed statement made by the Commissioner has been sent.

A copy of the statement and a letter of which the following is a copy was sent to Mr. Millhauser:

"New York, February 28, 1895.

"N. A. Millhauser, Esq., Manager,
"1074 Third Avenue, City.

"Dear Sir:-

"Your communication of the 23rd inst., addressed to the Mayor, was forwarded to this Department for attention. In response thereto the Commissioner directs me to enclose herewith a statement in relation to the general subject.

"Yours truly,

"O. S. Carre,

"Private Secretary."

"(Enclosure)

Respectfully,

O. S. Carre

Private Secretary.

(3 enclosures)

(C o p y)

DISTRICT No. 10.....

DEPARTMENT OF STREET CLEANING.

NEW YORK CITY, March 1st, 189 5

GEORGE E. WARING, JR.,

COMMISSIONER OF STREET CLEANING.

William Robbins, Esq.,

SIR:—I have to report that

Superintendent.

Your memorandum is to hand, accompanying the letter before me, addressed to his Honor, Mayor Strong, and signed by Carey & Sons, of East 129th Street.

I find said letter charges that the seizure of a wagon belonging to this firm, on last Tuesday week, was an "outrage", inasmuch as that the said wagon was never left unhitched for more than a few minutes.

This statement is false. On the day the seizure was made I passed this point at 10.30 A. M. and this same wagon stood there at that time; it was still there when I left Incumbrance Yard at 11 A. M., and it was upon my return trip with another train of seizures that I ordered my men to take it along.

I can also truthfully state that it has stood there unharnessed on more than a dozen occasions when I was not prepared to seize it.

129th Street from 3rd avenue to Park avenue must be kept clear of incumbrances. Respectfully submitted,

.....
SUPERINTENDENT OF DISTRICT No.

(2)

It is the first street that runs through from Harlem Bridge; it is a 30 ft. street, and should be "restricted". All traffic which crosses to west side must pass this way and lastly it is too near the Incumbrance Yard, to permit our being lenient with the owners of trucks, wagons or other vehicles, having business on this street.

This letter also charges that it was on account of his efforts towards refore last November that this seizure was made.

I regret that these gentlemen should have seen fit to make any such foolish charge. Personally, I knew nothing whatever about the political opinions on Carey Bros., but even if I did, it would not influence me in the least nor deter me from doing my duty.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM S. CLARKE,

Superintendent of District No. 10.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 2nd; 1895. 189

Job. E. Hedges, Esq., Secretary,
Mayor's Office, City.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your communication of February 27th, I beg to return herein the letters of Mess. E. A. Peisker and Chas. Dorn & Smister

Both of these correspondents have been visited.

Mr. Peisker is satisfied with our explanation that we cannot remove the bye-products of industry and he will make other arrangements.

Messrs Dorn & Smister's complaint is a proper one; my order concerning butchers saw-dust has been mis-interpreted by many of our cartmen; orders will be given immediately preventing further refusal of such material.

Yours very truly,

Commissioner.

(2 Enclosures)

23



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 6th, 1895. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

Supplementary to my letter of the 1st inst., I have to ask, as required by Section 704 a, Chapter 368, Laws of 1894, your written approval and consent to hire and employ temporarily, forty (40) carts and horses, for the removal of snow. No cart or horse to be employed under such approval and consent for a longer period than three days, viz.: March 7th, 8th and 9th, 1895.

Very respectfully,

Chas. K. Mooy

Deputy Commissioner.

Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,



(New Criminal Court Building)
Centre White, Elm, and Franklin Streets

Copy

W. W. WARING, Jr.
GEO. E. W. Andrews, Commissioner

Messrs. Sealand & Whiting
Temple Court, City

New York, March 6th, 1892

Gentlemen: The following will answer many enquiries made at the Department of Street Cleaning:

The order excluding from the Department carts and scows "Broken paper boxes, card-board, straw, excelsior, and wood chips, and the like," (and "the like" includes news-papers) is rendered necessary by the fact that the Department service is badly hampered by the volume of this refuse.

These things are not "Sweepings," nor are they the necessary "rubbish of domestic life".

There are other ways in which they can be disposed of. As a whole, they can be sold for enough money to pay for the trouble of selling them.

It is to be hoped that the people will appreciate the importance of assisting the Department in carrying out this regulation. Negotiations are now on foot looking to the establishment of a regular service for the removal of these excluded matters. In the mean time it is greatly regretted that the exigencies of the public service will not permit us to continue their removal.

(Signed)

GEO. E. WARING, Jr.,

Commissioner.



23
Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Buildings)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 6th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

Your communications of February 28th, with the several complaints inclosed, were duly received and given immediate attention. I am pleased to report for your information that in every instance the matters complained of were promptly attended to and the nuisance abated.

In reply to yours of March 1st, inclosing a letter from Mr. Johnson in relation to driver Benjamin Brown, will say that I have referred Mr. Johnson's request to Assistant Superintendent Gibson, who has charge of those matters and will act as his judgment deems best.

As to your recommendations of March 2nd of William Desmond and Daniel Isola, will state that at present matters are in such shape in this Department that early appointment of either one is out of the question, but being recommended by you they will receive attention as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Chas. K. Mooy

Deputy Commissioner.

23



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 6th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of March 5th, with inclosures, to hand and noted.

I herewith inclose to you a carbon copy of the answers to the complainants.

Yours truly,

Chas. B. Mooy

Deputy Commissioner.

(2 inclosures)



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building.)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 6th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of February 26th will say that the nuisance complained of by petition of Lothrop & Marsh has been abated, and I have this day written Messrs. Brown & Co. to the same effect in accordance with your request.

Very respectfully,

Commissioner.

March 4

Complains

very respectfully,

[Signature]

Christopherson



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Buildings)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 11th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's office.

Dear Mr. Hedges:

I have had the case of Benjamin Brown investigated and beg to say that there seems no way to get him back into his place.

Yours very truly,

Commissioner.

(2 enclosures)

Copy

New York,

March 11th, 1895.

Messrs. L. S. Firetag & Co.,

115 Spring St., City.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 7th inst. to the Mayor has been referred to this Department. In reply thereto, I enclose herein a statement in relation to the general subject.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Chas. K. Moore

(1 enclosure)

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 11th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th inst. in relation to complaint of L. S. Firetag & Co., has been received. In accordance with your request I send you herein carbon copy of letter sent this day to the firm referred to.

The enclosure referred to therein is the same as that sent you in several previous similar communications, setting forth our inability to remove rags, papers, etc.

Yours truly,

Charles B. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.

(1 enclosure)



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 11th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of March 7th, with inclosures from

1. Dr. Branch Clark,
2. Miss A. M. N. Rees,
3. Thos. J. McCarthy, and
4. Chandler Robbins,

has been received. In reply will say that the only letter requiring an answer, in the judgment of the writer, is that of Mr. Robbins; the others being merely suggestions as to the proper conduct of this Department. By same mail a communication has been sent to Mr. Robbins, advising him as to the proper Departments to which to refer his complaints.

Yours truly,

Chas. E. Mooy

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 11th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq., Secretary,

Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 7th, in relation to the matter of R. Gibson's ~~complaint~~, concerning the dumping of garbage in vacant lots, is at hand. The Gibson matter has been referred to the Superintendent for report and as soon as I receive such report, I will immediately forward a copy of it to you.

Yours truly,

Chas. B. Moore

Deputy Commissioner.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 12th, 1895. 189

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:

I beg to return to you the letter of Messrs. H. Cary & Sons, complaining of the action of this Department with reference to one of their vehicles. I append thereto copy of the report of the Superintendent of the District, which I believe to state the exact facts of the case.

Very respectfully yours,

(2 enclosures)

Commissioner.

①

Downtown Office 303 Bullitt Building,
Wm. R. ELLIOTT, Agt.

Mar 6th 1895.

Che. Waring
Comm. Street Cleaning
New York City

My dear Sir:

I'm reading the New York letter in our "Public Ledger" this morning I observe that you are greatly hampered in the performance of your duties through disloyalty of trusted district superintendents and the employees under them.

I'm may think it strange that a Philadelphia should address you on this subject but I am induced to do so in the belief that you would be willing to trust the performance of such work to the hands of proper persons and those who could come recommended by years of experience, supplemented by testimonials of persons who stand high in financial and social positions.

Your city is now emerging from a condition of affairs bordering upon almost complete paralysis, owing to political complications that has made it impossible heretofore, for the heads of your various Bureaus to pursue their work unhampered. Things are now changing. You have the best people at your back, who will sustain you in every effort you may make to conduct the affairs of your city upon business principles.

The newspaper article referred to states that some

of your most trusted employees have, by their apathy, and double-dealing methods brought your work to that condition that nothing is left for you to do but to make wholesale discharges - and in this way further cripple the operations of your department. This certainly is an abominable state of affairs, as much to be deplored by yourself as it is detrimental to the interests of your city.

However, you are face to face with a difficult problem and one with which it is hard to grapple, for the reason that any new appointment you may make is liable to be tampered with from the same source, and in six months from now you are no better off than before.

You have, no doubt, ere this come to the conclusion that your correspondent has an axe to grind. I will admit that I have, but my position in the case will be the reverse of the usual application in this: I propose that you shall hold the axe, while I turn the crank.

My proposition is this: First, - to tender you my services in any capacity where I can be of the most value to you in the Street Cleaning department. Second: To volunteer my services for the period of six months, conditioned upon the extension of my time of service to include the period for which you were appointed, provided the service rendered is of sufficient value to justify you in retaining me for that time, otherwise to revoke my appointment at your pleasure. Third: - to let you fix the compensation after the expiration

term of the probationary period, provided my services have proven satisfactory and you desire to continue me in your department. Fourth:- To provide for my maintenance for the first six months I would be willing to accept enough to cover the expense of board, laundry, and renewal of wearing apparel for the time specified, or, should you feel at liberty to do better than that it would, of course, be agreeable to me.

Now, you may ask "Why do I make this proposition?" My reason is this.- I have just had the misfortune to have financial reverses by which the savings of twenty years have been wiped out, and the business I am now engaged in is not remunerative and it is possible it may never be. I desire to leave Philadelphia for a new field believing that I can make a success elsewhere better than here. My inclinations are prefeably out-door work.

It may be of value to me to say that I spent four years and nine months in the volunteer U.S. service; Entered it as a private and was promoted from time to time purely on merit, and held successively the positions of master of transportation at Hilton Head S.C. under Gen. Gilmore; organized and operated the Government Bakery, Co. number, at Charleston S.C., after its capitulation; Quartermaster at Jacksonville, Fla., had charge of the Freedman's Bureau for Eastern South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, under Gen. Osborne; and when I left the service, which I did by resignation, I received a most excellent commendatory letter from Gen. C. L. Kellum, Asst Com. Genl of Subsistence.

Returning to Philadelphia I entered a public
penal institution in a very subordinate capacity,
and in three months I was promoted to the Post-
Superintendency of the Institution; there I remained
for ten years and resigned to accept the position
of Superintendent ^{of one} of the largest suburban Cemeteries,
~~assisted there by the~~ Management of the Institution
refused to. This position I also held for ten years,
and two years ago resigned, of my own volition,
leaving my accounts and books in excellent condition,
to go into mercantile business, which, owing to the
depressed condition of business throughout the country
coupled with domestic difficulties of a private
nature I failed of success, and after making an
honorable surrender of all my estate and personalty,
I stepped down and out

I hope you will pardon me for this intrusion on
your time and patience, but if you see in this letter
anything that would be to your advantage to favorably
consider, it will be a gratification to me and a
glimmer of daylight to myself, and may possibly inure
to the benefit of your department.

Should you be favorably inclined I can promise
unswerving loyalty to you, a discreet and enthusiastic
performance of every detail of duty to which I might
be intrusted, to keep aloof from every form of political
or personal entanglement that would be calculated to
bring odium to yourself or discredit to your department,
to be governed by the rules of your department, or as guide
me by yourself personally or through your office, and in

every way to so conduct myself that it will be a pleasure to you and a lasting credit to your department and myself.

As for testimonials I can give you good names in New York City, two at least, and in Philadelphia names of financiers and business men whose fortunes float up in the millions, and who occupy the highest social position in this city.

In taking into consideration the contents of this letter please do not be led into the belief that I am applying for an exalted position at high wages, the contrary is the case. I am willing to accept anything in your gift ~~and~~ believing that time will develop my capabilities, and that I will advance according to merit. I might say in connection with the work that I am familiar with the handling of men, and have always succeeded in obtaining willing compliance and good service even during the disturbed conditions existing among the laboring classes in the late labor troubles.

Most Respectfully Yours &c

W R Elliott

Room 306

Gullitt Building

Philadelphia

P.S. If you find it out of your power to respond favorably to this communication will you kindly refer it to Mayor Strong.

Res. W.R.E.



Department of Street Cleaning,

City of New York,

(Criminal Court Building)

Centre, White, Elm, and Franklin Streets.

George E. Waring, Jr., Commissioner.

New York, March 13, 1895.

22
189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

I am directed by Colonel Waring to forward to you the enclosed communication from Wm. R. Elliott, Esq., Bullitt Building, Philadelphia, in compliance with his request.

Yours respectfully,

O. S. Carr

(Enclosure)

Private Secretary.