

The photograph was taken after a recent heavy rain. When the water disappears nearly a foot of mud remains, through which the teachers and pupils of Public School No. 51, opposite the mudpond, have to wade. It covers an area of about 400 feet.

"Lake Johnson" after a rain.

THE BROOKLYN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1904.

It certainly would be an excellent time to visit Lake Johnson. It is actually disgusting to walk along the shore, and it would be nauseating to those who remain along its borders. Water craft and green-coated islands have rotted and become grass grown in the lake and as no natural current disturbs the stagnant filth therein resident, a pregnant condition susceptible to typhoid germs and other diseases awaits the unfortunate mortal who passes by. Now in the days of Noah the protection to health was the care of Divine providence, but now the protection to health is but visionary—a Board of Health lives by virtue of its salary and sleeps by virtue of its cinch! Of course, nothin' will be doin' about this state of as-if-no-importance until several families in the immediate vicinity suffer the loss of their little ones; then it will be too late to save life gone!

WEEKLY CHAT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1904.

315 - Oak St., Richmond Hill.

Sept. 12/04.

As a resident and practicing physician
for nine years in Richmond Hill
I have seen the recurring floodings
of Johnson Ave. between Johnson Ave. &
Stewart Ave., with each heavy rain. There
are a number of other spots where the
flooding after a rain takes place; but
on Johnson Ave. the water stagnates,
does not disappear by absorption

into the soil or evaporation into the atmosphere as it does in ~~the~~ varying degrees in the other places mentioned.

Such a condition of affairs I cannot but regard as very seriously detrimental to the health of the residents in the vicinity, particularly those whose resisting power are below the standard, - such as children. Stagnant water is always disease breeding, and a number of my patients have suffered from complaints whose etiology could ^{be} traced almost directly

to the minas of such swamps, - for
swamps they really are.

William Clarence Fiske, M.D.

Richmond Hill, N.Y., Sept. 13, 1904.

To Whom it May Concern:-

The undersigned members of Morris Park Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, located on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, in a wing of the Police Station and adjacent to Public School No. 51, consider the condition of Johnson Avenue fronting our location not only a menace to public health and a nuisance generally, but dangerous to public safety by reason of the extent to which it interferes with getting our fire apparatus in or out quickly in the event of a fire. The street is low at this point, and in time of rain a large quantity of water gathers there which has no outlet. This water overflows the approaches by which our apparatus must pass, making it difficult for the horses to see where they are going; and in winter, when the stagnant water freezes, ingress and exit are alike nearly impossible. On two occasions last winter we were unable to get our apparatus out into the street at all on account of the ice.

We regard this as a very serious matter, and hope that an effectual remedy for it may be found before cold weather sets in.

Signed:

Chas. B. Reilly
Edmond McCarthy
Chas. Scheer
Lawrence B. Reilly
M. S. Bergstrom
Edward Foster
Patrick J. Brennan
George Bateman
Joe Garrahan

Emil Fendly
John Mulligan
Joe Warner

W. T. Scovill, M. D.,

Church St.,

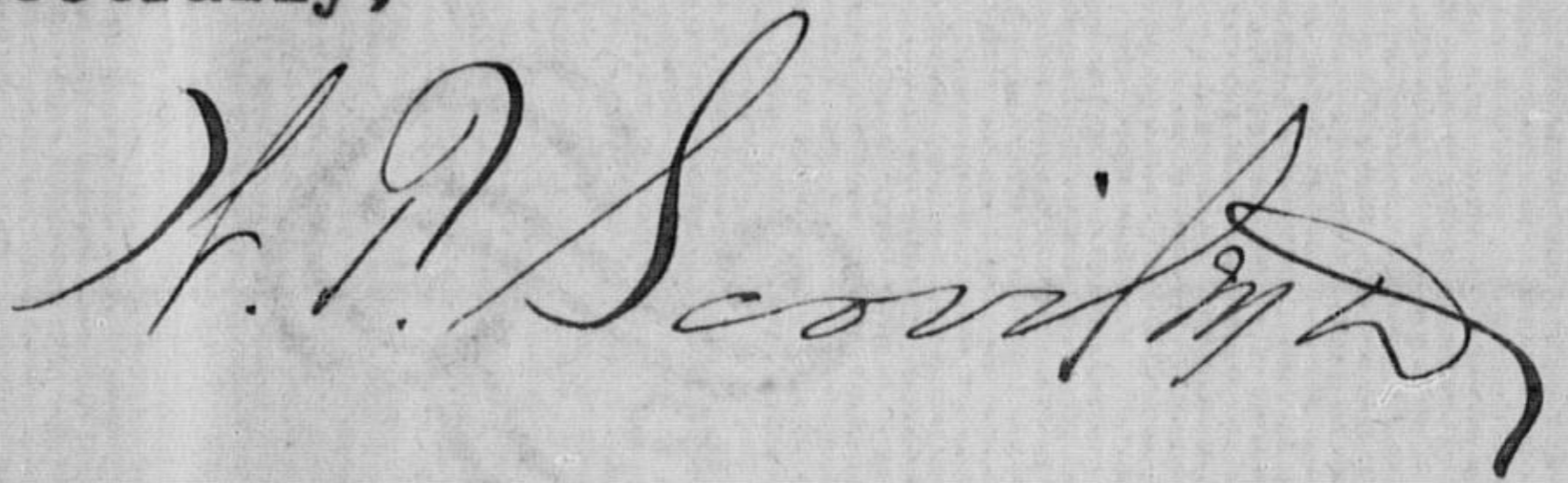
Richmond Hill, N. Y.

October 17th, 1904.

Dear Sir:-

Two much stress cannot be put upon the importance (from a medical standpoint) of having the nuisance and health menace on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill N.Y. removed; and I join most sincerely with those interested, in urging You to assist Us in abating such a serious menace to the public well-fare,

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. T. Scovill". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "W. T. Scovill, M. D.".

TO

The Honorable Mr McClellan.

Mayor of N.Y. City N.Y.

Richard Heise, Oct. 25-1904.
To His Honor

The Mayor of The City of New York.

I beg to advise your Honor, in regard to a complaint as to a nuisance on Johnson Str. in front of Public School #51. That, in my opinion, the conditions are such as to menace the health of our entire community, and be directly responsible, under the favorable conditions, which are sure to be present during the coming winter, for an epidemic of infectious & contagious diseases.

L. Leonard Moss, P.D.

Copy..

Oct. 26, 1904..

Hon.. George Maure,,

Member, Local School Board, District 44,

Morris Park, L.I.

My dear sir:-

Replying to your inquiry concerning the disposal of the accumulation of water in Johnson Avenue in front of Public School 51 Richmond Hill, I beg to inform you that the Board of Education will offer no objection to the sinking of a cesspool for such disposal in the Northeast corner of the premises..

On the other hand we will indeed be glad to see this street cleared of water, and I hope that this cesspool will effectually do the work..

Very respectfully yours,

Frank A. Collins.

Deputy Sup't. of School Buildings,

Borough of Queens.

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Frank A. Collins.

Deputy Sup't. of School Buildings,

Borough of Queens.

October 29, 1904.

Hon. Joseph Cassidy,
President of the Borough of Queens,
Hackett Building, Long Island City.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with the conversation of Mr. George
Maure of the local School Board here; Mr. ^{Fred} Frank Naber, and myself,
with Mr. Jervis yesterday morning, I beg to enclose a copy of the
plan which we then suggested to prevent the collection of stagnant
water on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, opposite ^{Public School} ~~Police Station~~ 51.
This plan has the approval of all the residents in interest, and the
sanction also of civil engineers to whom it has been shown. It is
our understanding that this will be transmitted by you to his Honor,
the Mayor, presumably in the shape of a resolution passed by the
local Board, in accordance with the Mayor's suggestion of early in
October, that more specific action be taken in the matter than was
done in the resolution passed September 1 by the local Board of
Jamaica.

As the abatement of the nuisance does not seem to come under
the ordinary channels of expenditure, it is our hope that the Mayor
can find special funds for the matter, under Section 429 of the
Greater New York charter. We ^{estimate} ~~assume~~ that the total expense will
not exceed \$600.

Yours respectfully,

Hubert L. Towle
272 Johnson Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y.

Enc.

Suggested Plan to prevent the Collection of Stagnant Water
on Johnson Avenue, Richmond Hill, in front of Public
School #51 and Police Station of Precinct 83.

1. Prevent the surface water on Stewart Avenue from turning north into Johnson Avenue by means of a properly constructed water course of crushed stone or brick at the crossing. The water will then flow east on Stewart Avenue one block to Lefferts Avenue, where a drain pipe already laid provides an outlet.

2. Prevent the surface water flowing west on Jamaica Avenue from turning south into Johnson Avenue, by taking up the brick pavement at the intersection, on the south side of Jamaica Avenue, and relaying same to form a water-course carrying the water straight west on Jamaica Avenue. Apply similar treatment at the intersection of Briggs and Jefferson Avenues with Jamaica Avenue, to prevent the water from turning south from Jamaica Avenue into those streets. The water so led will escape by existing outlets ^{via} from a catch basin already sunk at the corner of Jamaica Avenue and Elm Street.

3. Dig a large cesspool in the yard of School 51 at or near the hollow in Johnson Avenue, and sink drains a little north and south of the lowest place in the street, whereby the water falling on Johnson Avenue, between Jamaica Avenue and Stewart Avenue, may be caught before it reaches the lowest place in the street. Connect the drains with the existing catch basins and cesspool, and connect the existing cesspool with the new cesspool, so that the water

will settle as much as possible before entering the new cesspool. It is believed that the much less serious and more temporary wet condition of Briggs Avenue after a rain, which condition is largely due to water turning into Briggs Avenue from Jamaica Avenue, will be so far ameliorated by keeping the Jamaica Avenue water out of Briggs Avenue as to make special treatment there unnecessary. Even under the present conditions, the water stands there only two, three, or four days before passing away.

^{THE}
AUTOMOBILE

THE CLASS JOURNAL COMPANY

PUBLISHERS

FLATIRON BUILDING, NEW YORK

October 29, 1904.

Hon. George B. McClellan,

Mayor of New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to the letter of Mr. Hassett, dated Oct. 19,
I beg to enclose a copy of a letter sent by me today to Borough President Cassidy. I enclose also copy of our proposed plan for remedying the existing conditions on Johnson Avenue, a duplicate copy of which I have sent to President Cassidy. I enclose also a few letters from local physicians, written at the request of myself and others, from which the serious character of the nuisance may be inferred. This portion of the street fronts not only on School 51, but on the station house of Police Precinct No. 83, and on the quarters of the Morris Park Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, and I enclose a letter from the members of the latter Company.

The remedy proposed in our communication to President Cassidy is the best temporary remedy that has suggested itself to us, and it will serve till a sewer system can be installed. We are willing however, to see any other plan adopted which will accomplish the results sought.

Very respectfully yours,

Herbert L. Towle

272 Johnson Avenue,

Richmond Hill, New York.

copy 7a
I add also a letter from Deputy Supt. of School Bldgs Collins to Mr. Maure.
N.L.J.