

File No. 11808.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.
SUB-DEPARTMENT OF COLLECTOR OF WATER RENTS AND LICENSES.
CITY HALL.

Baltimore, September 9, 1910.

Mr. Edgar Allan Poe,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:-

9460

A delegation headed by Mr. C. J. Kraft, Treasurer of the Baltimore Wholesale Grocery Co., with a membership of about six hundred retail grocers, called on me yesterday in reference to the City exacting a charge of about \$25.00 per annum in the nature of a license fee from all persons selling fruits, vegetables or other merchandise from wagons. They presented the case in a very intelligent way and I thoroughly agree with them, that it is not fair to the retail store-keepers to permit hawkers and peddlers traveling the streets of Baltimore to dispose of their goods and getting off without the payment of any license charge.

You will find in the City Code of 1906 Article 41 - Section 50 to 53 - Page 1215, that an ordinance was passed on April 15th., 1890. The City started up to enforce the payment of this charge and a test case was made of which I am not familiar with, but no doubt the court records will show, and it was decided against the city.

Therefore, under the ordinance which has never been repealed, we have been unable to enforce the same. I have a faint recollection that the Legislature granted the City an Enabling Act to adopt the ordinance referred to, and as it is, the present one is not effective and they appeal to you through this office to draft an ordinance that would cover the situation and give relief to the numerous retail dealers in the city.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. Spencer Clarke,

Collector of Water Rents and
Licenses.