

File No. 25711

Baltimore, December 31, 1919.

Mr. George F. Wiegardt,
Highways Engineer.

Dear Sir:

13477 I have your letter of the 22nd instant, advising that the President of the Park Board has withdrawn his approval of a bill which you sent to the Board, covering the charges of your inspector of explosives. Section 1 of Ordinance 332, approved July 3rd, 1912, says:

"Any corporation, contractor, individual, City Department or contractor for such department, engaged in blasting operations or the 'Use' of Explosives within the City of Baltimore, must hold a permit issued by the Highways Engineer in due form, and must provide a competent person to direct and handle such Explosives. Such persons must hold a certificate of fitness, if deemed necessary by the Highways Engineer. No blasting must be discharged or set off except in the presence of the Highways Engineer or his agents (agents mean the City Inspector of Blasting). Any inspection by the City Inspector of Blasting is at the expense and cost of the aforesaid corporation, contractor, individual, City Department or contractor for City Department. All Explosives required during the progress of any blasting operations must be handled as herein prescribed, under the heading of 'Transportation, Storage or Thawing,' as the case may be."

Under this section it is clearly your duty to inspect all blasting or operations requiring the use of explosives within the City of Baltimore, and that no corporation, contractor, individual, City Department or contractor for such City Department, shall engage in any blasting operations without first receiving a permit from your Department. It is just as much your duty to make a reasonable charge for the work of this inspection.

If, therefore, you have furnished an inspector to the Park Commissioners they must pay a reasonable charge for his services. I am not advised as to what the customary charge is, and that seems to me to be a matter which should be settled between you and the Park Board.

I believe that if you will call Mr. Boyd's attention to