File No. 1231.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BIECTRICAL COMMISSION OF BALTIMORE CITY,
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER.

Baltimore, June 10th, 1904.

Hon. W. Cabell Bruce, City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:-

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As you are already aware, there are leases in existence from the Electrical Commission to the Crown Cork & Seal Co., Hess. Bartlett, Hayward & Co., and Mess. Crook, Horner & Co. which are not legal leases. The Commission considered this matter at its last meeting and directed me to refer the matter to you as to your opinion of what action should be taken in order that these leases may be legalized.

The circumstances surrounding the making of these leases were practically that application had been made to the Board of Estimates for permission to string overhead wires, and the Electrical Commission objected on the ground that it could supply underground accommodations. Arrangements were consequently entered into as is explained by the following abstracts from the minutes of the meeting of the Electrical Commission:

"In reference to the matter of building conduits in Ramsay & McHenry Sts., for Mess. Bartlett, Hayward & Co., a letter from their Engineer, Mr. G. F. Perin was read, in which Mess. B. H. & Co., agreed to the stipulations of the Commission to build conduits for Mess. Bartlett, Hayward & Co., they to pay the cost of construction, with additional ducts for the City's use, Mess. Bartlett, Hayward & Co., to have the use of the ducts for a term of twenty years, when the amount paid, with interest, shall have equalled the duct rentals for a corresponding period, after which time they are to pay regular yearly rentals, ownership of the conduits to west in the City." Chief Engineer Phelps was instructed to enter into a lease for the Commission, embodying the above stipulations, and to construct the conduits desired." Same action in application of Crook-Horner Co." Minutes Nov. 3rd, 1902.

The use of these conduits by the Lessees is solely for their own uses. They do not sell electricity, as in the case of Purnell.

Will you kindly indicate what action you think proper for the Blectrical Commission to take, as they desire to clear up the uncertainties surrounding these leases?

Respectfully,

(Signed) Charles B. Phelps, Jr.

Chief Engineer.