File No. 4725.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

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SUB-DEPARTMENT, CITY COMPTROLLER, CITY HALL.

Baltimore, May 9, 1906.

W. Cabell Bruce, Esq.,

City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:

At Layfayette Market there are a number of stalls which are City stalls, that is, they were not bid in by the occupiers at the time the market was completed and thrown open to the public use.

These stalls have been rented to parties who, in some cases use them, and in other cases sub-rent them. The result has been, in some cases, a monopoly of the stalls and parties who desire to get stalls in the market are excluded or must pay an exorbitant rent.

It has seemed desirable to the Mayor and to myself that this custom be done away with and that bona-fida occupants of the stalls be given the preference of the use of the same. To accomplish this, we have withheld the license or form we have been issuing, but the parties holding such license, under the provision of Ordinance 129, 1896, claim and demand a renewal. Of course, to parties who purchased or paid a bonus to the City for the stall, we concede this right as the license is their only title to the stall.

Will you kindly give me your opinion of our right in the matter under the ordinance named, to withhold a renewal and to rent

the stalls to others. Herewith enclosed form we have been using, omitting the words "City Stall" where parties own the same.

Respectfully,

(Signed) George R. Heffner, Comptroller.

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