

File No. 5358

CORRESPONDENCE.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
WATER DEPARTMENT.

Baltimore, September 28, 1906.

Hon. W. Cabell Bruce,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:-

3856

In December last the Board of Awards awarded the contract for furnishing the Water Department with such cast-iron water pipe as it should require during the year 1906 to the United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry Company, and a copy of the contract entered into between this company and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is sent with this letter. Your attention is specially called to the clause of the contract beginning with "WITNESSETH" and the clause on the third page of the specifications entitled "DELIVERIES".

In making up the approximated quantities wanted, four hundred tons were stated as the amount of pipe wanted of sizes of 8-inch and under. This estimate was based on the quantities of that size of pipe used in 1905 with a percentage added to allow for a normal increase in the demand for extensions of mains in new streets due to the development in suburban districts. The demand for extensions of mains this year has, however, been unprecedented and so much so that the estimated tonnage was exceeded early in the year. The result of this has been that we have had the greatest difficulty to obtain deliveries of pipe, (especially six-inch pipe) on orders sent after the estimated tonnage had been exceeded. ~~The foundry claiming that it had provided for filling department orders up to 20% more than the estimated tonnage, and when we ordered in excess of that quantity the department had to take its turn in accordance with the promises made by the foundry to other customers.~~ The foundry also claims to have had troubles in its shop which have further delayed the filling of orders. No six-inch pipe has been received from the contractor since June last, although there are unfilled orders placed as far back as April. Shipments of this size of pipe have been repeatedly promised; pipe of other sizes has been shipped; and it was not until today that we received any definite assurance of shipment of pipe of this size. I have repeatedly written to the United States Cast Iron Pipe & Foundry Company, threatening to bid for pipe