

File No. 7986.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS,
SUB-DEPARTMENT OF CITY ENGINEER.

Baltimore, May 6, 1908.

Hon. W. Cabell Bruce,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:-

6141

I hand you herewith a letter this day received from McLaughlin Bros. McLaughlin Bros. have had a survey made by S. J. Martenet & Company, and which, I am inclined to believe is entirely correct, but which I have no means of knowing positively is correct. I could have the survey checked by the City Surveyor, but, of course, if I do this it will be necessary for me to pay for the work. The trouble with which I am confronted is that I have no money with which to pay for such work, and I am entirely at a loss to know how to handle such questions. I, therefore, respectfully submit the case to you with the hope that you may make some suggestion whereby I may be able to certify to McLaughlin Bros. that S. J. Martenet & Company's survey is correct.

The establishment of lines appears to me rather more mixed up than the establishment of grades. The duty is placed upon the City Engineer to establish lines, but owing to the fact, that the City Surveyors of the past have kept no records from which these lines could be established, the only way to get them established is through some private surveyor.

Mr. S. J. Martenet was City Surveyor for many years, and he kept the records whereby these lines might be reproduced but these records are not accessible to the general public. The records filed in this office are of such a character that I can find nothing from them; moreover, under the law, I must employ the City Surveyors to make surveys for me.

In this particular instance, the probabilities are that the City Surveyor would follow S. J. Martenet & Company's lines, as he would probably be unable to get any other lines.

This is another of the cases which made me so anxious to have all the work of this character handled through the Topographical Survey, and everything be absolutely under the control of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, rather than under the control of private sur-