

File No. 11817 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SEWERAGE COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE
CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE
AMERICAN BUILDING.

Baltimore, September 13, 1910.

Brig. Genl. Peter Leary, Jr., Chairman; and
Gentlemen of the Sewerage Commission.

Dear Sirs:-

I return herewith the letter of Mrs. Marie Metzger, dated July 29th, received with your letter of July 30th, regarding damages to her property, No. 104 S. Duncan alley.

Our inspector on this work reports that the building showed old cracks prior to beginning our work, and that braces were put up between this building and the one across the alley, which was also in bad condition; that the excavation was started on July 19th and the contractors worked overtime in order to secure the bracing in the trench. Sheeting 8 feet long was used and it was driven to the bottom of the trench as excavated. All of the sheeting was left in. The soil was a wet sand with some water. The pipe was laid on July 20th and the trench two-thirds back filled. Small cracks were first noticed by the owner on July 20th and the attention of the foreman and inspector called to same.

The Division Engineer in charge of this work reports that the sewer in Duncan alley in front of this house is 3 feet 3 inches west of the east curb and on the opposite side of the street from the house in question. He states that he does not think the sewer work did any damage at all to this house.

I also enclose herewith a letter from the contractor, dated September 6th, disclaiming responsibility for the alleged damages.

As there seems to be some doubt about the damages to this property having been caused by the work of our contractor, and as the contract places the responsibility for all damages upon the contractor, I would suggest that the matter be referred to the City Solicitor for an opinion as to the responsibility of the contractor in this case, who, it seems, used a great deal of care in the work of constructing

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