

File No. 19953 Continued.

of any property which the City Collector proposes to sell for taxes or assessments, for which the City Surveyor gets \$3.50. This could be changed by the Legislature, and it ought to be changed, as it is an absolutely unnecessary charge upon the delinquent tax-payer. The description of the property is all on the Land Records and could be furnished by the City Solicitor's Department, and there is absolutely no sense in having it surveyed preparatory to advertisement for sale for taxes.

The Topographical Survey and its powers and duties are regulated by ordinance, being Article 39, page 1171 of the City Code of 1906. It seems to me that the power and duty of establishing grades should be in the Topographical Survey rather than the City Engineer, though, of course, it is not very material whether the establishment and changing of grades be placed with the City Engineer or the Topographical Survey, the practical object to be gained being the consolidation of that whole matter into one.

As a practical solution of the difficulty, I suggest that we get an Act of the Legislature placing the whole matter of establishing and changing grades, either in the Topographical Survey or in the City Engineer, and repealing the Act of 1904, which puts that whole matter in the hands of the City Engineer. This would revive the provision of the Charter giving the City power to prescribe by ordinance the duties and compensation of the City Surveyor, and the City could then, by ordinance, assign the City Surveyor to such duties as might be directed by the City Engineer or the Topographical Survey, and fix a salary for his compensation instead of fees as now provided.

When you have had time to think over the matter, you can let me know what your views are, and I will prepare an Act, if it is thought advisable, to try to accomplish whatever may be decided upon.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) S. S. Field,

City Solicitor.