

File No. 13737 Continued.

Plumbing; Mr. Putts, tells me that he will not issue any permit to a journeyman plumber and that if the City Engineer is going to make the connections he cannot employ a journeyman plumber to do it, but must employ a master plumber who, in turn, will employ the journeyman to do the actual work. Putts told me over the 'phone that there are about six hundred master plumbers in Baltimore City; your letter says twenty; will you be kind enough to find out what is the correct figure? It can easily be ascertained, because the Health Department has a list of every registered plumber in the City.

My thought was to make either of the following changes, or perhaps both:

1. Require the Commissioner of Health to issue permits to journeymen plumbers.

This could be done by the Commissioner of Health changing his Regulations, or by Ordinance. But Mr. McGay thinks it would be difficult to pass such an Ordinance, on account of Labor Union complications. Of course, it could also be done by the Legislature.

2. Require the Board of Commissioners of Plumbing to issue a license to plumbers who may come to this city with a license from cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants, and who will take the oath, required by the Election Laws, that they intend to become citizens of Baltimore.

This, of course, could only be done by Act of the Legislature.

I thought I would lay all these facts before you, and await your suggestions as to the best remedy for the situation. In my judgment the situation is a serious one. It seems to me there are very suggestive indications that the master plumbers intend to hold up this city in the matter of making these sewer connections. I heard (I don't know whether or not it is true) that they have determined to add a lump charge of \$50 per house for the master plumber, in addition, of course, to the actual cost of the work and materials.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) S. S. Field,
City Solicitor.

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