

1853  
April 25

Opinion of  
Recorder rel:  
to Sgt Sheehan  
selling at Auction

Although there is no express mention of the  
Crown in the Act which imposes a duty on auctioneers, and  
a penalty on parties in the City who act as auctioneers without  
license, yet I think it highly probable that the rule whereby  
the King is exempted from the operation of all statutes -  
imposing taxes so might be held to apply and excuse  
Sheehan from the penalty, as it seems he has only sold  
Government property by order of his superiors. The law admits  
of argument, but I had from the first doubts of the power  
of enforcing the act in sales of Government stores, and  
suggested to the Collector to call upon Sheehan in the hope  
he would have yielded to the notice. The 17<sup>th</sup> section of the  
1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the same act is very express in maintenance  
of Crown rights. The 1<sup>st</sup> Clause points out the mode of trying  
the question if the Council should deem it necessary to do so.  
I would not recommend such a course as the inclination of  
my mind is that it would not succeed.

320.  
42  
519.

Malpas 29 March 1853

Signed Saml. Maudoch  
Recorder

When on Motion the same is received  
and quite satisfactory.

Had following report of Special Committee  
relative to hiring Mr Shields property for a Hospital

Report of  
Committee relative  
to hiring Mr Shields  
House for a Hospital

Mr Shields agrees to let the City Council  
have the cottage formerly occupied by the Commissioners of the  
Poor facing the Common near Mr Robies field with the use of  
part of the Barrow if required for one year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April  
1853 and ending 1<sup>st</sup> April 1854 for the rent of twenty five  
pounds to be put in good order by Mr Shields and to be left  
by the tenant in the same order - also on shed

Signed A. Primrose  
" Robt. A. Shumming  
" W. G. Anderson

When on Motion it is agreed that said  
premises be taken on the terms proposed and that the  
Building be taken possession of by His Worship the Mayor  
on behalf of the City and that he make the necessary  
arrangements with the Health Officer, which on being put  
is passed.

The



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The City Council next take up the By Law or Ordinance relative to the Common. The same is read a second time. Clause by Clause

By Law rel:  
to Common  
Read 3<sup>rd</sup> time

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Clause on Motion same is passed

Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Clause, On Motion same is passed

Read 3<sup>rd</sup> Clause On Motion same is passed

Read 4<sup>th</sup> Clause On Motion same is passed

The same is again read a third time when on Motion the same is passed, directed to be fairly engrossed and to be transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Executive Council for approval,

Read following Memorial of James Cullen and William Bilby Measurers of Salt and Grain and of Coal

To His Worship the Mayor and then

Memorial of  
Messrs Cullen & Bilby  
Measurers

Honors the Aldermen of the City of Halifax

Having been kindly appointed to the Office of a salt and grain Measurer and weigher but whereas finding my affliction hinders me from performing that duty satisfactorily to your Honors and the Public and whereas no change can be effected legally without a resignation of said Office. I now tender my resignation as a salt and grain Measurer and weigher to your Honors and humbly solicit your Honors will take a favorable opinion of my case and select me, to the Office of Coal Measurer which now becomes vacant, and whereas Mr James Cullen in Consort with me has been willing to make a change and finding that no change can be effected legally without a resignation He now tenders his resignation as a Coal Measurer and trusts that your Honors will appoint him to the vacant Office of Salt and Grain Measurer

Signed James Cullen

William Bilby

When on Motion said resignations are directed be received

On Motion the City Council direct said vacancies be filled up

On Motion William Bilby is proposed as a Measurer of Coal in place of James Cullen. The names are then taken when there appeared for William Bilby 13 votes He is therefore unanimously elected a Measurer of Coal for the City

Or

Measurer of Coal  
Wm Bilby  
elected



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Measurer of Salt &  
Grain  
Jas Bullen  
elected

On Motion James Cullen is proposed a Measurer and weigher of Salt and Grain in place of William Bilby, the names are then taken when there appeared for James Cullen 13 Vtes He is therefore elected a Measurer and weigher of Salt and Grain for the City.

Supervisor of  
Coal elected

On Motion William Madden is appointed Supervisor of Coal in place of James Cullen this day appointed a Measurer and weigher of Salt and Grain

Read following amended report of Special Committee relative to Measurers and Weighers of Salt and Grain

To His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen in Council

Report of Comtee  
rel: to Measurers of  
Salt, Grain, Coal &  
amended

Your Committee appointed to investigate into the way and manner the various Measurers of Grain and Salt, Wood and Coal have discharged their duties for the past year having given the matter submitted to them their earnest consideration beg leave to report,

Your Committee having summoned to their presence the two Supervisors and made due enquiry into the efficiency of the several incumbents under their control they arrived unanimously to the conclusion that more than ordinary care should be observed in choosing Measurers and weighers of Salt and Grain &c, inasmuch as large interests are frequently committed to their trust, The duties incumbent on them are onerous and responsible demanding health and strength, integrity, intelligence, firmness and judgment. The Grain Measurer and weigher especially must be competent to keep an accurate account, have a knowledge of Arithmetic sufficient to enable him readily to count up multiply and divide. He is in fact the general accountant of Seller and Buyer as well as the watchful servant of the Public, the only appeal in many instances in settling of disputes between disagreeing parties. He should be a person of sufficient respectability to command the confidence of all parties, experienced in the qualities of Grain and competent to judge when damaged or musty. These remarks are also applicable to the Measurer of Coal who is the arbiter and judge frequently in cases of difference between the Buyer



398  
1853

April 25 - buyer and seller or carter and a wholesome check if he  
faithfully discharge his duties on all,

Respecting present incumbents have to  
report that of eight measurers and weighers of Salt & Grain  
four having the experience of many years service are in  
every way competent, one absent on leave (a person far ad-  
vanced in life and rather feeble and three recently appointed  
untried.)

Of the Coal Measurers four are competent  
one not very efficient is absent on leave, three recently ap-  
pointed untried. Some of the incumbents have enjoyed  
sinecures in their failing to discharge the duties imposed,  
but sharing alike in the aggregate earnings of the whole, a  
practice which your committee strongly condemns believing  
that the labourer only is worthy of his hire, and recommend  
that the supervisors of each company be instructed to report  
all delinquencies of subordinates, who fail or neglect effi-  
ciently to perform the duties imposed from whatever cause.

Respecting the Measurers of Grain & Salt  
Your Committee are satisfied that a public necessity for at  
least eight efficient weighers and measurers exists,

Your committee having learned with  
regret that the two persons rejected by the Council at the late  
annual election of officers, (Willy and Neating) who had  
faithfully served the City for a number of years even  
before the town was incorporated were most efficient  
Officers largely enjoying the confidence of the mercantile  
community. Your committee therefore recommend that  
in the event of vacancies occurring that the parties here  
named be privileged by election to renew their connection  
with the public service as measurers of Grain and Salt,

All of which your committee respectfully  
submit

Signed Richard Nugent Chairman  
When on Motion said report is passed

A vacancy having taken place in the  
Office of Weigher and Measurer of Salt and Grain by removal of  
a William Fultz, a Motion is made that the City Council  
do now proceed to fill up said vacancy, which on being  
put is passed,

Read Memorials of John Kelly and Ambrose Neating (See  
April file) Ambrose

Memorial of John  
Kelly and Ambrose Neating



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Measurer of Salt and Grain elected. A. Keating

Ambrose Keating having been proposed a Measurer and Weigher of Salt and Grain in place of William Fultz, the names are taken when there appeared for said Ambrose Keating, 13 votes. He is therefore unanimously elected a Weigher and Measurer of Salt and Grain for the City,

The following resolution is next introduced

Resolution as to Capability of Measurers of Salt and Grain

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to ascertain the capability of the present Measurers and Weighers of Salt and Grain, and report the same to the Council, and that Aldermen Egan Noble and Salter be that Committee, which on being put is passed,

Report of Hackney carriage Committee

Read following report of the Committee relative to Hackney Carriages  
The Committee of the City Council appointed for the Supervision of the Owners and Drivers of Hackney Carriages hereby order and direct that for the future the Stand for all such Carriages shall be in Willis Street on the East side of the Postoffice Building, that at all times as the Carriages arrive on the Stand they shall be formed into two lines, one facing South and the other north from the Small Centre gate of the Postoffice Building, and as often as a vacancy occurs by a Carriage being withdrawn from either line those in the rear shall immediately close up in succession, those numbered from one to ten to take the North side of the gate heading South and those numbered from ten to twenty to take the South side heading north, the passages to the Building to be kept clear, And the Committee further order that the Owners and Drivers of Carriages be more punctual in their attendance and keep near their Horses.

Committee Room 11 April 1833

- Signed A. Primrose
- William Dacey
- Robt Noble
- Richd Nugent

When on Motion the Same is adopted and directed to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> day of May next and that each Cabman be provided with a printed Copy,

Read



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Read following report of Committee of Common,

Halifax 4 April 1853.

The following statement of accounts for past year and Estimate for present with report were adopted to be presented to the City Council at its first meeting,

The Committee report to the Council the State of Accounts to this date as exhibited by the Books of the City Treasurer and shown by the different accounts and votes of this Committee viz. that during the past year the sum of Six Hundred and twenty five pounds Seventeen Shillings and Six pence has been expended not including thirty pounds due for the Superintendants salary, and the income has been (exclusive of the Five Hundred pounds borrowed) one Hundred and thirteen pounds Seventeen Shillings and Six pence leaving a balance of rents yet due for the past year of Sixty two pounds two Shillings and Six pence,

The Estimate of Work proposed for the present year, amounts to the large sum of Seven Hundred and twenty three pounds three Shillings and 1<sup>st</sup> providing for salary due Superintendant, two instalments and interest of borrowed money, Planting and protecting One thousand Lime, Elm, Horse Chestnut, English Oak, trees and Plantations finishing the Parks and Ponds, with the cost of Earth from Barrack Street,

The income will be about Three Hundred and Seventy three pounds three Shillings and 1<sup>st</sup> including rents due and four years rent of ground for reservoir of Water Company thus leaving a balance of three Hundred and fifty pounds to be raised, and from the Committees knowledge of the interest the Citizens have generally taken in the improvements of the Common (if it meet with the approval of the Council) it is believed the amount required may be fully realized by subscription, the immense number of persons of all ages seeking recreation and health on these extensive grounds since the improvements have commenced leads the Committee to such a conclusion, it is proposed that one member of the Committee with any other Alderman or Citizen taking an interest in planting the Common go round their respective Wards to collect,

The Committee Having to pay an  
orders

Report of  
Committee of  
the Common



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Overseer of the Common, who must be constantly on the ground for the preservation of it. Consider it their duty to ask the Council to direct those fines recovered for firing firearms, poundage of cattle, Geese and Goats penalties for trespass and infringing the laws, be placed to the credit of the Common fund, by the City Treasurer,

The Committee have found it necessary to ask for an ordinance to prevent the pasturing of Cows and Sheep, and to keep off cattle altogether during the improvement of the Common, the destruction by Cows this Spring on the new made promenades and banks will cause a considerable expenditure

The Committee are also of opinion that the Street Service be charged with the gravel taken from the Common,

The Committee find that a large amount of the income from rents have hitherto been expended for public roads around and closing the Common, this service the Committee are unanimously of opinion should be performed by Statute labor or monies derived from that service,

The Committee consider it advisable to recommend that His Worship the Mayor do call upon the Horticultural Society to plant trees around the Garden in the terms of the lease,

The Committee bring to the notice of the Council that some of the back lots have been taken up by those who occupy fronting on Spring Garden road,

The Committee are determined in carrying out the Ordinance or By Law relating to the Common, and it is their anxious desire so to improve and ornament this extensive area exceeding two hundred acres so as not only to be conducive to the pleasure but also the health of the Citizens

Respectfully Submitted  
Signed A. Scott Chairman

Expenditure



402  
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Expenditures in 1852.

Grubbing <sup>at 22</sup> 22:2:6	55-112-10		130 2 2
DRAINING 487 Rods	246		60 17 6
Mowing			" 14 "
4000 Granite Steps and 68 large Stone Flags for Bridges			30 11 "
Expended as Contributed towards widening Bridge on Spring Garden Road			14 " "
Salary of Overseer			28 " "
J. Parsons up for Port. fixing Drains &c			10 8 6
Amount paid for weekly labor making New Roads from St Andrews Corp promenades, top draining, Cartage of Manure, Grubbing land Sign Boards & Painting			319 7 9
Treasurers Commission			1 16 7
			<hr/>
			\$ 625 17 6

By Amount Borrowed	500 0 0		
By Rents Collected	112 2 6		
By Pasturage	1 15 0		613 17 6
			<hr/>
Over Expended			\$ 12 0 0

Estimate of Work proposed in 1853.

Balance over expended			12 " "
Two Superintendants Salary			30 " "
Cont. due to Allro of 3.8.6. See Minutes 1.9.1	14 17 7		
do do Taylor of H. B. Taylor 4/6	2 15 6		5 13 1
First years Instalment cont. Interest \$80. 2 Years do do 5/6			155 " "
To plant 1000 Trees	243		62 10 "
To Expenses planting & Protecting same			125 " "
To top Dress ground including Grubbing			60 " "
To save brook and finishing new pond			70 " "
To repair & spare \$30. To plant Chap. Plantations \$75			145 " "
Superintendent and Overseers Salaries			58 " "
Pay for cart. for contract with Mr McGuire			100 " "
			<hr/>
Income			\$ 723 3 1
Balance to be collected next	62 10 6		
Out of present year due 1 July	172 13 "		
5 years do from Water Company	245 " "		
To 316 cont. East for Streets	27 2 4		
Probable Sale of Earth	35 17 3		343 3 1
			<hr/>
To be raised by Subscription			\$ 350 0 0

By Archd. Wm. Chairman,



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When on Motion said report report is received adopted and directed to be published

Petition of Edw. Jost rel: nonpayment of Fire Tax, withdrawn

Read Petition of Edward Jost relative to nonpayment of Fire Tax. On Motion Alderman Nugent has leave to withdraw said Petition.

Several Accounts having been submitted for payment the same are directed to be submitted to the Committee of Public Accounts for their examination and approval.

Report of City Treasurer rel: to tenders for loan of £2,000

The City Council next take up following report of City Treasurer relative to tenders received by him for the loan of £2,000 to the City

City Treasurers Office  
Melbourn 25th April 1853

Sir  
I have the honor to enclose the undermentioned tenders for a loan to the City of Two thousand pounds, under a late Act of the Legislature

They were opened this day at 10 O'clock P.M. before Alderman Noble, Gibson and Adams

I have the honor to be

Sir,  
Your most obedient servant  
Edmund L. Martshorne  
City Treasurer

- |                                  |  |                       |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Tenders                          |  |                       |
| No 1 Diocesan Church Society     |  | at 5 percent interest |
| No 2 Bank of Nova Scotia         |  | at 5 " " " "          |
| No 3 J. B. Bland Esquire         |  | at 5.7.6 " " "        |
| No 4 Union Marine Insurance Comp |  | at 5.10.0 " " "       |

To His Worship the Mayor  
to to to

A Motion is made that the tender of the Diocesan Church Society be accepted.

Motion in Amendment that the tender of the Bank of Nova Scotia be accepted.



1014

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Sender of  
Bank of Nova Scotia  
Accepted  
\$2000

The Amendment being put and there appearing for it of and against it to the Amendment is therefore carried and the original lost, and the Council direct that His Honor the Recorder be requested to draw up the necessary document,

The following resolution is next introduced

Resolution  
Constables Uniform  
de re

Whereas by an Ordinance of the City Chapter C. Clause 10 it is ordained that the Constables are constantly to wear the dress appointed for them and it appearing that no dress has been so appointed, Therefore Resolved that the Constables dress shall be as follows, and to be constantly worn. A Blue cloth frock coat buttoned up with upright or stand up collar, with the letter P in white lace or tape on each side of collar and the number of said Constable. The collar and cuffs to be trimmed with two strips of white lace or tape, Trowsers to be of Blue cloth, Black Stock or Handkerchief, with a Black Hat with a Plated badge, marked Police in front,

Resolved that the following be the numbers of the Constables viz

For Ward No 1	to be numbered 1 and 2
" " No 2	" " 3 and 4
" " No 3	" " 5 and 6
" " No 4	" " 7 and 8
" " No 5	" " 9 and 10
" " No 6	" " 11 and 12

Resolutions of  
Comtee City Property

Alderman Noble Acting Chairman of Committee of City Property read from minutes of Committee certain resolutions passed by the Committee on 22 April relative to making certain alterations in the Court House, likewise for application for right of Way from Board of Ordinance to Fish Market

Amendment  
3 Section By Law  
rel. to Stone pipes

The following Amendment to the 3rd Section of the By Law relative to Stone pipes are directed to be made and the approval of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Council requested to the same "All fines to be paid by the owner, agent, or occupant of the dwelling or apartment."

Read



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of 18 April

Read following letter from Secretary of Province

Provincial Secretary's Office  
Halifax April 18<sup>th</sup> 1853

Letter from  
Prov. Sect's re:  
additional loan

Sir

Having laid your letter with its enclosures, before the Lieutenant Governor I have been commanded to acquaint you for the information of His Worship the Mayor and the City Council that the explanations furnished are satisfactory, and that an order in Council will be sent to you in a few days, authorising the expenditure to the extent required in the report of the Committee of City accounts being £1500

I have the honor to be

James Stuart Clarke Esq  
City Clerk

Sir  
Your obedient servant  
Gideon Joseph Howe

Keith Mayor

AK

April 26

Measurers of  
Salt and Grain  
Sworn

James Cullen and Ambrose Keating having taken the oath of Office are this day sworn into Office as Measurers and Measurers of Salt and Grain for the City in the presence of His Worship the Mayor,

Measurer and  
Supervisor of  
Coal. Sworn

William Madden sworn into Office as Supervisor of Coal Measurers in presence of His Worship the Mayor and William Pithy having taken the oath of Office prescribed by law is this day sworn into Office as Measurer of Coal in presence of His Worship the Mayor

Keith Mayor

AK



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1853  
May 2

At a Special meeting of the City Council held this day, present, His Worship the Mayor; Aldermen Anderson, Power, Adams, Noble, Scott, Fetter, Morrissey, Gibson, Primrose, , O'Neil, Davey, , Sargent, Woodell, Knight, King, and Longard,

The City Council were summoned to make an order for the expenditure for the present year and the necessary arrangements for borrowing the sum of Four thousand Four Hundred pounds for building City Market, and to appoint a Superintendent and Clerk for the Streets and the transaction of other business,

Read over proceedings of 25 April

Memorial  
W.M. Harrington & others  
rel: to Supt of Streets

Alderman Knight submits Memorial of W.M. Harrington and others against the appointment of Mr Superintendent of Streets. On Motion same is received,

Memorial  
R. Sengilly & others  
rel: Lime Kilns

Alderman Power submits Memorial of Robert Sengilly and others relative to erection of Lime Kilns near Fresh Water Bridge. On Motion same is received,

Report of Comtee  
rel: Duties of  
Clerk & Supt of Streets

Alderman Scott submits report of Special Committee relative to regulations for government of Superintendent and Clerk of Streets, On Motion same is received

The City Council next take up the Letter of the Honorable Provincial Secretary of 26 April,

Provincial Secretary's Office  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 1853

Letter  
Hon. Secy  
rel: increased  
expendment

Sir,  
Referring to the correspondence which has passed between us, in relation to an increased expenditure upon the City of Halifax. I have now the honor by the Command of the Lieutenant Governor to enclose to you a copy of a Minute of Council passed this day, and by which you will perceive that the required permission to the extent of £1500 for the year 1853 has been granted

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Obedt Servant  
James Stewart Clerk Eq<sup>r</sup>                      Signed, Joseph Howe  
Read



1853  
May 2

Read Minute of Lieutenant Governor and Council of 26 April 1853

At a Council held at Government House the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1853.

Present His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor &c &c &c

Read a Letter from the City Clerk addressed to the Provincial Secretary enclosing certain resolutions passed by the City Council and praying permission to increase the Assessment on the City of Halifax beyond the limits now by law allowed, to the extent of Two thousand pounds

Minute of Governor and Council relative to increased Assessment

Read also further Correspondence between the Provincial Secretary and the City Clerk, together with a report made to the City Council by their Committee of Public Accounts,

As it appears by that report, that the sum of Fifteen hundred pounds will be sufficient to provide for the services for which a special Assessment is required, and it is ordered, that to the extent of Fifteen hundred pounds, permission be given to increase the Assessment upon the City of Halifax for the year 1853

Attest extract  
Signed Joseph Howe, Clerk

When the following resolution is introduced

Resolution relative to Assessment of £6500 for year 1853

The Committee of Public Accounts having reported and submitted their estimate to the City Council, that for the purpose of meeting the various amounts due by the City that it will be absolutely necessary to Assess the Citizens in the sum of Six thousand Five hundred pounds, and His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Executive Council having by an order in Council of 26 April 1853 granted permission that the sum of One thousand Five hundred pounds should be assessed on the Citizens beyond the amount limited by the Act, viz Two thousand pounds,

Resolved that the sum of Six thousand Five hundred pounds be assessed, collected or levied on the Citizens agreeably to the report of the Committee of Public Accounts, for and towards, City Purposes, and the support of the Poor for the ensuing year, and that the City Clerk give the necessary



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May 2

necessary order to the City and Ward Apepers to make said  
apement agreeably to law, which being put in paper,

Read following returns of William Grant  
John Parker, Samuel Carter, and John Winters, Weighers  
of Flour,

Return of the number of Barrels Flour  
and Meal weighed by William Grant for the Quarter ending  
31 March 1853

Number Bbls	Bbls short weight	Lbs short
<u>4342</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>738</u>

Subj for 31 March 1853

Signed William Grant, Weigher

Memorandum of Flour weighed from 31  
January to 31 March 1853

Number Bbls
<u>1190</u>

Signed John Parker Weigher

An account of Flour weighed by me  
from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 March 1853

Number of Bbls	Bbls short weight	Lbs short
<u>3952</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>649</u>

Signed John Winters Weigher

Return of number Barrels Flour and  
Meal weighed by Samuel Carter for the Quarter ending  
31 March 1853

Number of Bbls	Bbls short weight	Lbs short
<u>4632</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>982</u>

Subj for 31 March 1853

Signed Samuel Carter Weigher

Alderman Gibson submits Memorial  
of Hugh Hartshorn Esquire Agent of the Royal Insurance  
Company. On Motion the Same is received

Read Memorial of W. M. G. Black &  
Agent of Star Life Insurance Company. (For Memorial see  
May file)

Read

Quarterly  
Returns of  
Flour Weighers

Memorials of  
Hugh Hartshorn  
W. M. G. Black &  
Agents of Insurance  
Companies



1853  
May 2

Read Letter of City Clerk of 22 April addressed  
to the various agents or Secretaries of Insurance Offices

Office of City Clerk  
Halifax 22 April 1853

Sir

Having neglected or omitted to file in this  
Office agreeably to the 19 Section of Chapter 1 of the Act con-  
cerning the City of Halifax, an Affidavit in Writing -  
containing a precise statement of the actual net income  
of the business done within the City during the year ending  
31 day of December of the last year I am  
directed by the City Council to demand from You the penalty  
prescribed by the Act. Viz Ten pounds for said neglect or  
omission

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant.

Signed James S Clarke  
City Clerk

Letter of  
City Clerk to  
Various Insurance  
Companies

- Geo Whidden Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Mutual Company
- Wm Hartshorn Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Royal Insurance Company
- Martin G Black Jr Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Sun Insurance Company
- W. L. Evans Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Union Mutual Company of Boston
- W. Johnston Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Merchants & Traders Ins Coy
- James Tremaine Esq  
Agent or Secretary of the  
Life Mutual Assurance Co of Baltimore

Letter  
W. L. Evans (See May file)

Read Letter of Mr W. L. Evans of 25 April

Memorial  
Hugh Hartshorne

Memorial of Hugh Hartshorne Esq this day  
submitted is directed to be taken up and read (See May file)

Read following opinion of His Honor the  
Recorder of 19 April

Recorder



1853  
May 2Recorder Office  
19 April 1853

To His Worship the Mayor

I beg leave to report on the twenty five returns of Joint Stock Companies which you handed me this day for inspection as follows,

Four appear quite correct and received intine A

One correct after time B

Fifteen correct in substance and received intine, but deviating from form prescribed C

Five correct as to income but deficient in not stating the real or personal estate held by Company if any D

Three which deviate largely from the law both in form and substance E

On reflection I think of my duty to recommend that they should all be acted upon by the Clerks, except the three last marked E. These are so useless it is not worth while to give them to the Clerks

I do not think it would be expedient to demand penalties in any of these cases. In most instances the Companies doing business of any amount, they have made returns, which appear fully to meet the spirit, if not the letter of the law, and I believe all the errors have arisen from inadvertency and want of information. (this law having been only passed in 1851)

I would recommend that in future the forms required be furnished in Printed Blanks to every Company with precise instructions requiring them to obey them literally, and intimating that on any neglect so to do the penalties would in future be strictly enforced

I remain with respect

Your Obedt Servant

Ignor Deamus Murdoch  
Recorder

Read following letter of His Honor the Recorder of 20 April

Recorders

Opinion of  
His Honor the  
Recorder  
rel. to Insurance  
Actment