

File No. 13725

Baltimore, December 11, 1911.

Messrs. Charles H. Mettee,  
Frank Simmons, and  
Harry Hauf,

Committee of the Baltimore Federation of Labor.

Gentlemen:

10119

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 11th inst., inquiring 'What department of the City of Baltimore, if any, has jurisdiction in the open violation of the Eight-hour Law and payment of the current rate of wages?

In reply I beg to say that the Grand Jury is the proper body to take cognizance of the Violation of the law with regard to the hours of labor and current rate of wages as with regard to all other violations of the law. All that any department of the City can do is to put into its contracts that the contractor shall obey these and other laws and Ordinances of the State and City. Any violation of any law or Ordinance is a matter to be inquired into, in the first instance, by the Grand Jury, and, if an indictment is found, to be tried by Jury.

In your letter you state that you were informed by the Sewerage Commission that they could take no action, as the City Solicitor had informed them that they would render the city liable for damages for delaying the work. This evidently refers to some opinion rendered by my predecessor as I have not given the Sewerage Commission any opinion on the subject.

Very truly yours,

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

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