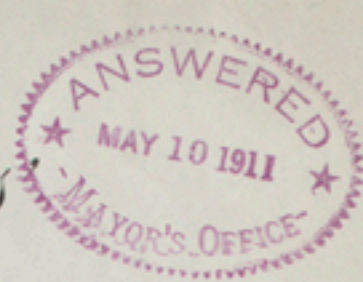


BOARD - 8 11124000

Board of Coroners
Borough of Manhattan
New York.
70-74 Lafayette Street.



ISRAEL L. FEINBERG.
PRESIDENT.
JAMES E. WINTERBOTTOM.
HERMAN HELLENSTEIN.
HERMAN W. HOLTZHAUSER.
ANTONIO DALESSANDRO,
CHIEF CLERK.

New York City May 6th 1911.

Hon. William J. Gaynor, Mayor,
City Hall.

Dear Sir:

We are forwarding herewith a copy of the verdict found Monday, April 17th, by a coroner's jury sitting in inquest on deaths occasioned by the fire in the Asch Building on March 25th last.

The Board of Coroners for Manhattan have not been content with the performance of their routine duty in this case. The disaster was of such terrible extent, the loss of life so great, and, to our minds so totally unnecessary had proper precautions been taken, that we feel that such a sacrifice should not be allowed to pass with the mere punishment of the men responsible. It will double the awfulness of the disaster if no less is learned from the 146 lives sacrificed to modern business greed; the inefficacy of the building laws or the inefficiency of the enforcement of those laws.

A jury composed of architects, builders, engineers, contractors and others interested in the real estate business, have rendered their verdict and accompanied it by recommendations of changes in the laws which shall insure against a repetition of this holocaust. Their recommendations, based on the findings of fact as to the cause of the loss of life in the Asch Building fire and on their knowledge of what the requirements should be in building a structure that shall not afterwards prove a menace to the human beings employed therein, are, we believe, entitled to an unusual consideration.

In making the selection for this jury the Board of Coroners believed that the results now at hand, and which had been anticipated by us, would be but a slight portion of the total results. We hoped that future generations might profit from our work; we believed that factory conditions would be bettered by increased protection against fire; we believed that the conditions for factory workers would be ameliorated by compelling all buildings in which workers were to be crowded, to be so arranged that there should not be added to the ordinary danger of the employment the additional danger of fire or panic. We hoped to see the effort

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CORONER.

THOS. L. THOMPSON.

SECRETARY.

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to increase building and factory profits a fraction of a percent by skimping stairways, huddling the workers into confined spaces, providing inadequate fire escapes and seeking ever some new way to evade the strict letter of the law, subordinated to the efforts of architects, builders and factory proprietors to provide for others such conditions as they would want for themselves.

We appeal to you to give the recommendations of this jury your most careful consideration and to co-operate with the proper authorities in securing their adoption into laws, TO THE END THAT THE 146 PERSONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.

Yours respectfully,

Isaac L. Rosenberg Pres.
Norman W. Holtzhausen,
J. Winterbottom
Herman Helleusteni

Board of Coroners.

Borough of Manhattan.