

*J. C. Walker.**H. G. Kepler.**Electrical Supplies.**Electric & Gas Fixtures.**Walker & Kepler,
Electrical Contractors.**531 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia.*

Feby. 28/94.

*Licensed by**Philadelphia Fire Underwriters Association.**Telephone 1088.*

Mr Jas. E. Mac Lane,

Custodian- U.S. Mint,

Phila.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to your verbal inquiry with reference to the electric light wiring in U. S. Mint, we would say, when the building was wired, it was considered to be the best work of the kind that could be done with the appliances manufactured at that time. This work was inspected by the best experts of the Edison Company and also approved by the Philada. Inspector for the Fire Underwriters' Assn. and a certificate of inspection given as being a first class piece of work. Owing to the peculiar conditions in the places where acid is used in the process of manufacturing of coins and the fumes arising from same, we feel it safe to advise you that with your present wiring and appliances, the trouble of grounds and leaks will still continue. Even if all trouble would be removed for a time it would be only a matter of a short time when something else would show up in other portions of the work and therefore be a continual expense of repairing and the paying of current not used through the lamps.

J.E. MacLane-

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The appliances of to-day being far superior to those manufactured when your work was done, we think it advisable for you, if you still desire to use the current for light and power, as it would be a saving, to reconstruct the work throughout and place all wires and appliances in the building in such a manner that it would be guaranteed to give satisfaction and such a guarantee can be given if the work could be done with the best appliances that are now manufactured. The best method of construction would be to place every wire in the Interior Conduit & Insulation Co's. wrought iron armoured tubing, the inside of the tubing being lined with treated paper. All elbows, joints, etc. being put together, the same as if placing the piping for gas, water or air and all cutouts, switches and safety devices in such boxes being made of fire and moisture proof material thereby protecting every portion of such work from any deposits of carbon or other metal influences.

We would also suggest having special fixtures for the electric lights and not the placing of the wires on your present gas fixtures and in all places where deposits of carbon or metals are liable to be found ⁱⁿ the electric sockets, or lamps should be placed in glass steam tight jars and the switches controlling such lights to be placed as above described.

This is only the experience of those having had long, varied and practical experience in the business. No doubt, you may be able to find plenty of unexperienced contractors who will say they will fix the wiring up to be satisfactory, but if so, they do not

J.E.MacLane-

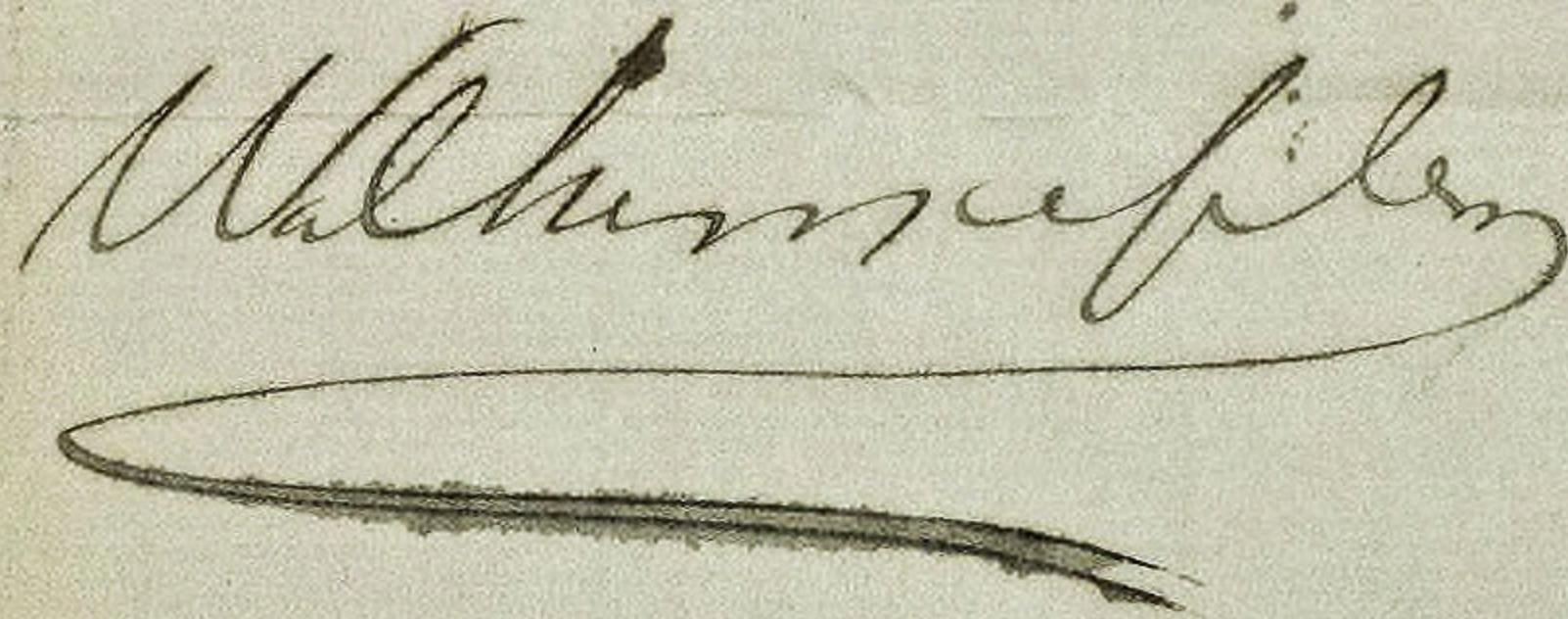
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know what they would be getting into and it would cost a continual expense for repairs.

With reference to an approximate price for such work in the manner as above described with two years guarantee that the work will not cost anything for repairs, we would say, the price for 500 lights would be from \$3000 to \$3500.

Trusting this information is satisfactory and it may be of some benefit to you, we are,

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. E. MacLane", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

W.

July 28/94
U. S. Treasury Department.

Col. O. C. B.

Sir

By Phone I understood
 we will have a verbal Appendix
 to the letter transmitted, from
 either Mr. Haines or Mr. Kiple.
 Do you not think it would be
 a good thing to open the question
 of contracting for lighting, by the
 Army, basing on the number
 of lights, arranging the time -

Yours &c

Jess

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 185

Walker & Kepler,
Electrical Contractors.
Philadelphia.
February 28, 1894

Mr. Jas. E. Mac Lane,
Custodian – U.S. Mint,
Phila.

Dear Sir: -

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The appliances of to-day being far superior to those manufactured when your work was done, we think it advisable for you, if you still desire to use the current for light and power, as it would be a saving, to reconstruct the work throughout and place all wires and appliances in the building in such a manner that it would be guaranteed to give satisfaction and such a guarantee can be given if the work could be done with the best appliances that are now manufactured. The best method of construction would be to place every wire in the Interior Conduit & Insulation Co's. wrought iron armored tubing, the inside of the tubing being lined with treated paper. All elbows, joints, etc. being put together, the same as if place the piping for gas, water or air and all cutouts, switches and safety devices in such boxes being made of fire and moisture proof material thereby protecting every portion of such work from any deposits of carbon or other metal influences.

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NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 185

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Trusting this information is satisfactory and it may be of some benefit to you, we are,

Yours respectfully,
Walker & Kepler

W.

[Enclosed note:]

February 28, 1894

U.S. Treasury Department.

Col. O.C.B.

Sir,

By "phone" I understand we will have a "verbal appendix" to this letter tomorrow, from either Mr. Walker or Mr. Kepler. Do you not think it would be a good thing to open the question of contracting for lighting, by Electricity, passing in the number eight, averaging the time.

Yours &c.
Jim