

1) Customs Office May 10/93
 Col O Busby
 Superintendent

Sir

I have before me the letter sent you from the Director of the Mint ~~U.S.~~ dated May 9th 1933. In noting items of the letter, 1st Voucher #630, Haller and Kepler's Bill for Electric supplies and repairs, amounting to \$235.⁰⁸ While this amount as an aggregate seems excessive, and the length of the ~~appalling~~ bill, and its numerous items, I am satisfied ~~that~~ ^{that} it is correct, and as low in price as can be obtained from any other firm. Competition in this business seems to be "nil" and I rather think a combination has been formed. I only know that the firms of W & K are very prompt

2) When sent for, with the numerous alterations and particularly the new extensions of ^{the} building I cannot advise the alterations & supplies necessary ~~supplying~~ the repairs to complete the rooms and make ~~them~~ ^{them} serviceable for the purposes intended. Such as the Carpenter Shop, Plumber, gas & Steam fitter, Painter & occasionally the artificial light, ~~at times to meet by~~ It ~~did~~ ^{was} not ~~found~~ ^{deemed} safe to introduce gas for lighting, or a stove or small furnace for glue pots. ~~While admitting~~ ^{two latter} The ~~2 glue~~ ^{base} pots with electric apparatus. ~~fixed to bottom~~ ^{attached} and seem excessive at ~~of same~~ ^{at} the price stated in ~~bill~~ ^{bill} at \$13 ^{each} ~~net~~ ^{but as} this is ~~the~~ ^{the} standard price I think a big price. I could not buy lower than the firm quoted. I will thank you for their safety and ~~reassurance~~ ^{reassurance} ~~concern~~ ^{concern} to you. Dampness in ^{the} basement and vaults cause trouble in the rising and I see no way to make anything permanent putting

Mr R. L. ...

4) and Rufinus Laverdier ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~in~~ ^{on} ~~his~~ ^{the} office. The Currier's office ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~on~~ ^{on} ~~the~~ ^{the} floor above and at the Eastern extreme of the building from the ^{There all} Medal ^{striking} room. ~~All~~ ^{all} in my judgement, required ^{there being but in} Speaking tubes and so recommended ^{to} facilitate business connected with ^{the} offices, at all times ~~important~~. I cannot present myself at your office, ^{or that} office of the Chief Clerk and await a conference, when you are busily engaged, ^{as} ~~and~~ my attention ^{is} required in all parts of the building, and ⁱⁿ my own office work. This I hope will explain the cause of Alteration and supplies requisite to put tubes and bells in proper shape ~~and that they~~ ^{to make them} ~~more~~ ^{more} efficient for communication when my presence and services are required by you -

2^d - Explaining Voucher # 633. Edison Electric Light Co # 615. 95. I have directed Mr. Keist and his helper and the Foreman of the Museum

5) ^{have been} and vigilant myself, turning off all unnecessary lights when not required. I have made this a study and failed to know how to remedy the apparent waste of Electricity, ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} Abstract Clerk's room, I find, at times, all lights burning and ~~they~~ ^{that} complain then, the light is defective, ~~and~~ ^{and} find ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{at} times in the Deposit Weight Room, ~~the~~ ^{at} same, Cashier Room - Currier's office & Coining Room. I have found, ^{at} 3 o'clock P.M. gas & Electricity both burning in Accountant Silver Bars room and this situated on the upper floor. When interrogated, Mr. Groff informed it was necessary or he would not do it - all the Offices & Rooms pertaining to important business fail to turn off temporarily while ~~the~~ ^{the} occupants are absent from their desks, I have for a month at a time watched carefully every day and could only

reduce to a fraction the amount of saving on
 the preceding bill corresponding month &c
 Professor Marks Electrician and Engineer
 has sent experts here and after examining
~~failed to find a~~ ~~did not~~ ~~and~~ stated they
 could not find a remedy only to watch
 our lights and turn them off when not
 using &c The report of the Electric Meter
 is a scientific matter ~~and~~ ^{Statement} derived from
 the weight of deposit upon the plates.

This process I ~~am~~ ^{can} not ~~intelligent~~ to follow
 and ignorant as ~~to~~ ^{not being an electrician, so as} ~~to~~ ~~understand~~ and see
 practically that the government is duly
 and honorably dealt with, and ~~consequently~~
 must submit to the Electric Co, ~~and~~ depending
 upon their honor and reputation of its
 Officers - I think we should have an Electrician
 appointed such a man as Mr. James
 Employer of Walker & Kepler, ~~and~~ ^{such a step} ~~this~~

^{might} ~~may~~ assist greatly in determining some of the faults, ~~traces~~ &c -

~~Not forgetting~~ The use of Electric Motors ~~must not be forgotten~~ - ^{The} one in the Assay Department is running constantly, ^A ~~an~~ Fan Motor for Ventilation, ^{in fans, and other}

Electric Fans for Ventilating Rooms - ^{The mine is a} low building surrounded by very tall ones ~~Ground and Betty buildings~~ ^{on} farm days and ^{these fans} clear atmosphere these are called into use;

The only way to test the whole matter is to cut off all these improvements, ~~and~~ for a month - ~~and~~ This would demonstrate

whether the Meter is correct or not, or ^{whether} ~~we~~ ~~are~~ honestly dealt with ~~as~~ ~~the~~ supply ~~is~~ charged in the bill of items

3rd - Voucher # 665 for \$ 325.95 ^{gas bill} for three months

~~For light~~ ^{at} ~~very little~~ small amount is used ^{for light} ~~the~~ ^{and Assay} ~~are~~ ~~running~~ ~~totally~~ by ~~gas~~ ~~Assay~~ ~~furnaces~~ ~~totally~~ ~~by~~ ~~gas~~

8) This alone in the two Departments is quite an item. You will note plain, no charcoal or any other fuel is used in these departments and ~~apparently expenses~~ ~~without~~ ~~considering~~ the use of gas that makes the aggregate -

H^d Voucher # 691. for three Water Coolers costing \$ 30.45. Would say the three Coolers are situated as follows One in Carpenter Shop 3^d story so that time might be saved, if not placed there, the men would be compelled to go down the Stairway to Repairing Room and this room with its valves in process ~~which~~ should not be visited by any outside men from other depts. The next point would be the Melting Room. I do not think this would be a good policy. as our rules safely provide against any intrusion by visit of men from other departments. The next point would be the

9) Basement, Now take the time traversed by
workmen from the top story to the Basement
3 flights of spiral stairway to get a drink
of water. I think must surely recommend the
purchase of this one Cooler -

Cooler # 2, for use of office Silver Bar account-
ants, Specially, This I recommended for
I think any time saved in a busy department
is a credit to some account or the help to
make the end of the year a prompt settlement
If this was not ^{so} situated as it is, The Clerks
must necessarily be compelled to go down
stairs for water

Cooler # 3, Assay Department and M & R
Laboratory, top story Extension & all 3
Cooler to save time of Officers, Clerks & men
employed and running up and down stairs

May this accounting of this office and ex-
plaining items which I must be forced to do
in any case and at all times, be received at Washing-
ton in the Earnest wish of Yours Respectfully
James E. Mather Custom

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

May 10, 189*3*

O. C. BOBBYSHELL,

Superintendent.

SUBJECT:

*Custodian's Report of
expenditures Quarter
ended Mar. 31. 1893.*

1893

No. of Inclosures,

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 181

[Please note, the original letter contains numerous struck-out words. Please see the original images for redetected text.]

[Abstract:] Custodian's Report of expenditures Quarter for Mar. 31, 1893.

Custodians Office
May 10, 1893

Col. O.C. Bosbyshell
Superintendent

Sir

I have before me the letter sent you from the Director of the Mint dated May 9, 1893. In noting items of the letter, 1st voucher #630, Walker and Kepler's Bill for Electric supplies and repairs, amounting to \$235.08. While this amount as an aggregable seems excessive, and the length of the bill and its numerous items appalling. I am satisfied it is correct, and as low in price as can be obtained from any other firm. Competition in this business seems to be "nil" and I rather think a continuation has been found. I truly know that the firm of W and K are very prompt when sent for, with the numerous alterations and particularly the new extensions of the building. The repairs patterns & supplies necessary to complete the rooms and make them serviceable for the purposes intended must be applied. Such as the Carpenter Shop. Plumber, gas & steam filter. Painter must occasionally use artificial lights.

[Written in margins:] Storekeeper, accounting clerks, silver bars, assay gold room. M & R shipments Laundry & Melter's Room, Assay Dept.

It was not deemed safe to introduce gas for lighting, or stores or small furnaces for glue pots. The two latter Electric apparatus attached are seen excessive at \$13.00 each net, but as this the standard price. I could not buy lower. I took them for their safety. Dampness in the basement and vaults cause trouble in the mining and I see no way to make anything permanent pertaining to electricity. Every item is carefully watched by Mr. Keller, Receiving Clerk, and myself. The supplies for experimental assay trials of metals, I deem important; as well as for the chemical processes, such as precipitating and separating &c. under the Melts and Refiner's and Assay's skill. To know what they require is beyond my judgements. The same of the Coiner and Engraver. All Operations Officers I think are intelligent and supposed to know just what is required, I as a general Servant, subjected to their demands, when they recommend any improvement – or need any repairs. The demand for the storage of silver bars in the basement was caused vaults & space for vaults to be vacated by its store-keeper and Receiving Clerks and these parties placed these strips above the basement. The Melter and Refiner's Laboratory – Silver above his office. The Coiner's office is on the floor above and on the eastern extreme of the building from the medal striking room. There all in my judgement, required speaking tubes and I so recommended these being just in, to facilitate business commenced with the offices. I cannot present myself at main office or that of the Chief Clerk and await a conference, when you are busily engaged as my attention is required in all parts of the building, and in my own office work. This I hope will explain the cause of Alienation and supplies requested to put tubes and

bells in proper shape to make them efficient for communication when my presence and services are required by you.

2d Explaining Voucher #633. Edison Electric Lights Co. \$615.95. I have directed Mr. Hirst and his helper and the Foreman of Workmens and have been vigilant myself in turning off all unnecessary lights when not required. I have made this a study and failed to know how to remedy the apparent waste of electricity. In visiting the Abstract Clerks room, I find, at times, all lights burning and complaint then that the light is defective. I find the same at times in the Deposit Weight Room, Cashier Room, Coiner's Office & Coining Room. I have found at 3 O'clock P.M. gas and electricity both burning in accountant silver bars room and this situated on the upper floor. When interrogated, Mr. Grop informed it was necessary or he would not do it. All the offices & rooms pertaining to important business fail to burn off temporarily while occupants are absent from their desk. I have for a month at a time watched carefully every day and could only reduce to a fraction the amount of saving on the proceeding bill corresponding month or Professor Marks Electrician and Engineer has sent experts here and after examining state they could not find a remedy only to watch our "lights" and turn them off when not using &c. The report of the Electric Meter is a scientific matter derived from the weight of deposit upon the plates. This process I can not follow not being an electrician, so as see practically that the government is duly and honorably dealt with, and must submit to the electric co, depending upon the honor and reputation of its officers. I think we should have an Electrician appointed such a man as Mr. Jameson, Employee of Walker and Kepler. Such a step might assist greatly in determining some of the faults, waste, &c.

The use of Electric Motors must not be forgotten. The one in the Assay Department is running constantly. A fan motor for ventilation in vaults and then Electric Fans for ventilating rooms. The Mint is a building surrounded by very tall ones. On warm days and close atmosphere these fans are called into use. The only way to test the whole matter is to cut off all these improvements for a month. This would demonstrate whether the meter is correct or not, or whether we are honestly dealt with, as to the supply charged in the bill of items.

3d - Voucher #665 for \$325.95 for their monthly gas bill. A very small amount is for light. The Engravers and Assayer's furnace are run by gas.

This alone in the two Departments is quite an item. You will note please no charcoal or any other fuel is used in these departments.

4d - voucher #691, for three water coolers costing \$30.45. Would say the three coolers are statement as follow One in Carpenter Shop 3d stay so that time might be saved. If not pleased then, the men would be compelled to go down the stairway to Separating Room and this room with its value in places, should not be visited by any outside me from other depts. The next point would be the Melting Room. I do not think this would be a good policy, as our rules safely provide against any intrusion by visits of me from other departments. The next point would be the Basement, now take the time traversed by workmen from the top story to the Basement 3 freights of spiral starting to get a drink of water. I think would surely recommend the purchase of this one cooler.

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Cooler #2 for use of office Silver Bar accountants, specially. This I recommended for I think any time saved in a busy department is a credit. If not so situated, the clerks would necessarily be compelled to go down stairs for water.

Cooler 3. Assay Department and M & R Laboratory, top story extension &c all 3 cooler to save time of officers. Clerks & men employed and running up and down stairs may this accounting of this office and explaining items which I would be pleased to do in any care and at all turns be received at Washington is the earnest wish of yours respectfully.

James E. MacLaue,
Custodian