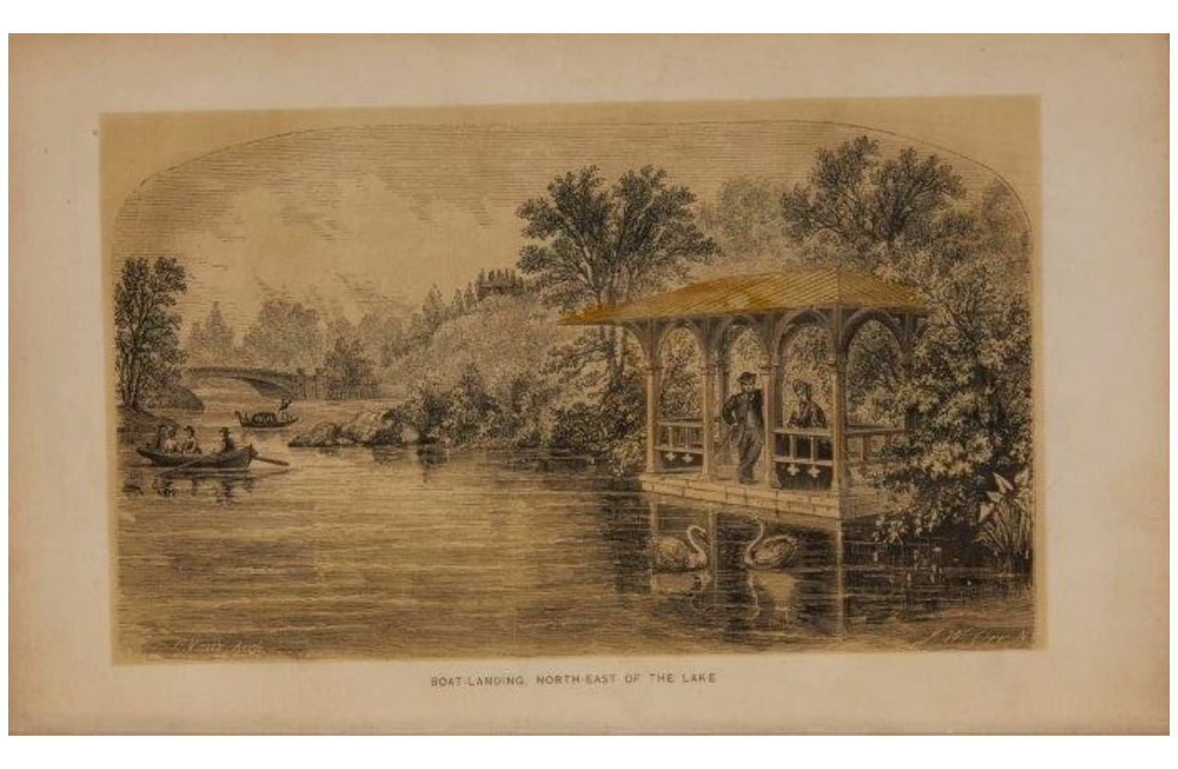
NYC
Records & Information Services

Municipal Library Notes - January 2022
SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CENTRAL PARK

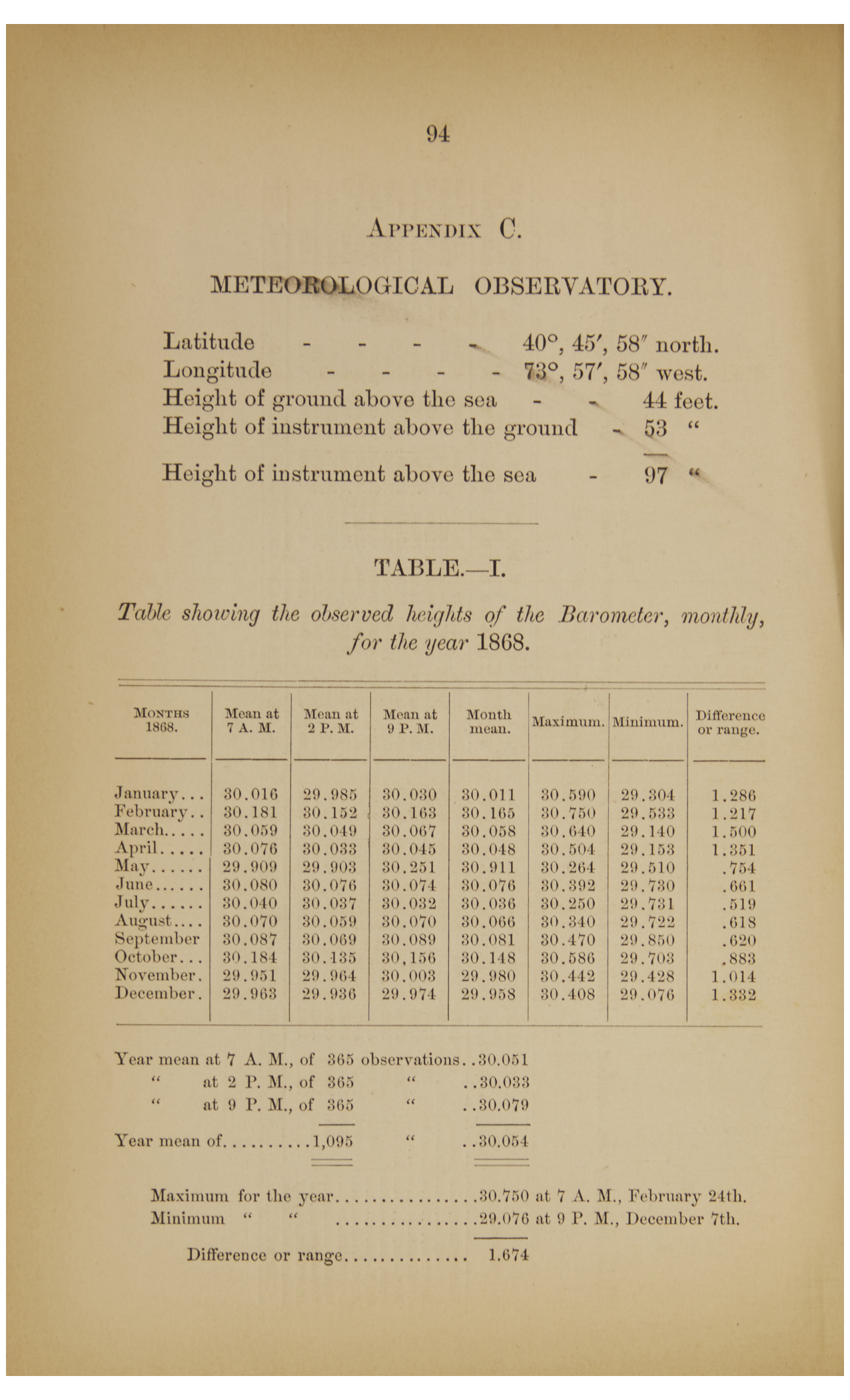
Spotlight on: Board of Commissioners of Central Park

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The Board of Commissioners of Central Park was established in 1857 by New York State law. Its central mission was to oversee the development of Central Park and uptown Manhattan. The Board held a contest to decide who would design the park and the winners were Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.


BOAT LANDING, NORTH-EAST OF THE LAKE

An image of the boat-landing from the 1863 Annual Report.



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APPENDIX C.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY.

Latitude	40°, 45′, 58″ north.
Longitude	73°, 57′, 58″ west.
Height of ground above the sea	44 feet.
Height of instrument above the ground	53 “
Height of instrument above the sea	97 “

TABLE.—I.

Table showing the observed heights of the Barometer, monthly, for the year 1868.

MONTHS 1868.	Mean at 7 A. M.	Mean at 2 P. M.	Mean at 9 P. M.	Month mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Difference or range.
January...	30.016	29.985	30.030	30.011	30.590	29.304	1.286
February..	30.181	30.152	30.163	30.165	30.750	29.533	1.217
March.....	30.059	30.049	30.067	30.058	30.640	29.140	1.500
April.....	30.076	30.033	30.045	30.048	30.504	29.153	1.351
May......	29.909	29.903	30.251	30.911	30.264	29.510	.754
June......	30.080	30.076	30.074	30.076	30.392	29.730	.661
July......	30.040	30.037	30.032	30.036	30.250	29.731	.519
August....	30.070	30.059	30.070	30.066	30.340	29.722	.618
September	30.087	30.069	30.089	30.081	30.470	29.850	.620
October...	30.184	30.135	30,156	30.148	30.586	29.703	.883
November.	29.951	29.964	30.003	29.980	30.442	29.428	1.014
December.	29.963	29.936	29.974	29.958	30.408	29.076	1.332

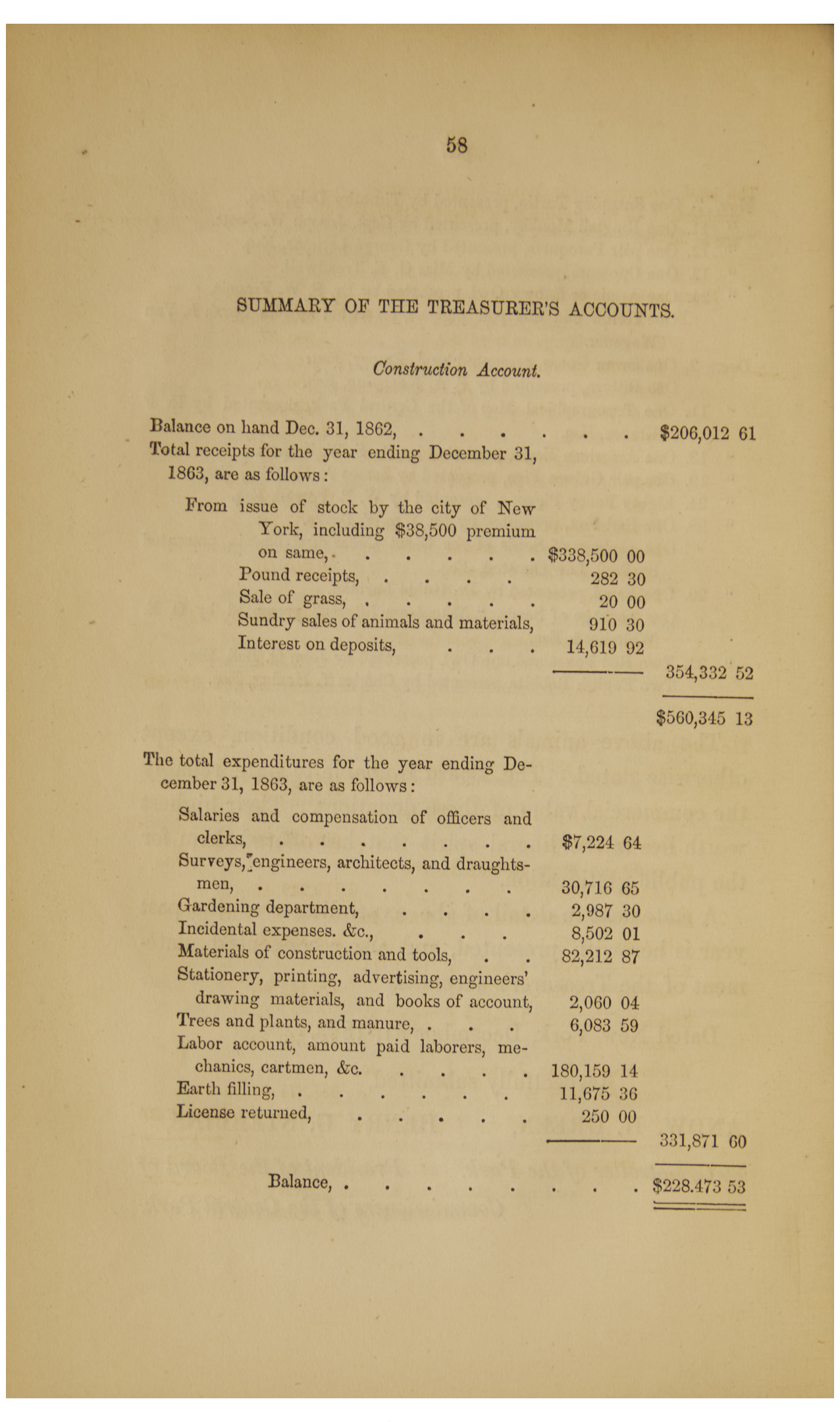
Year mean at 7 A. M., of 365 observations..30.051
“ at 2 P. M., of 365 “ ..30.033
“ at 9 P. M., of 365 “ ..30.079

Year mean of..........1,095 “ ..30.054

Maximum for the year................30.750 at 7 A. M., February 24th.
Minimum “ “ ....29.076 at 9 P. M., December 7th.

Difference or range.............. 1.674

Weather data from the Meteorological Observatory from the 1868 Annual Report.



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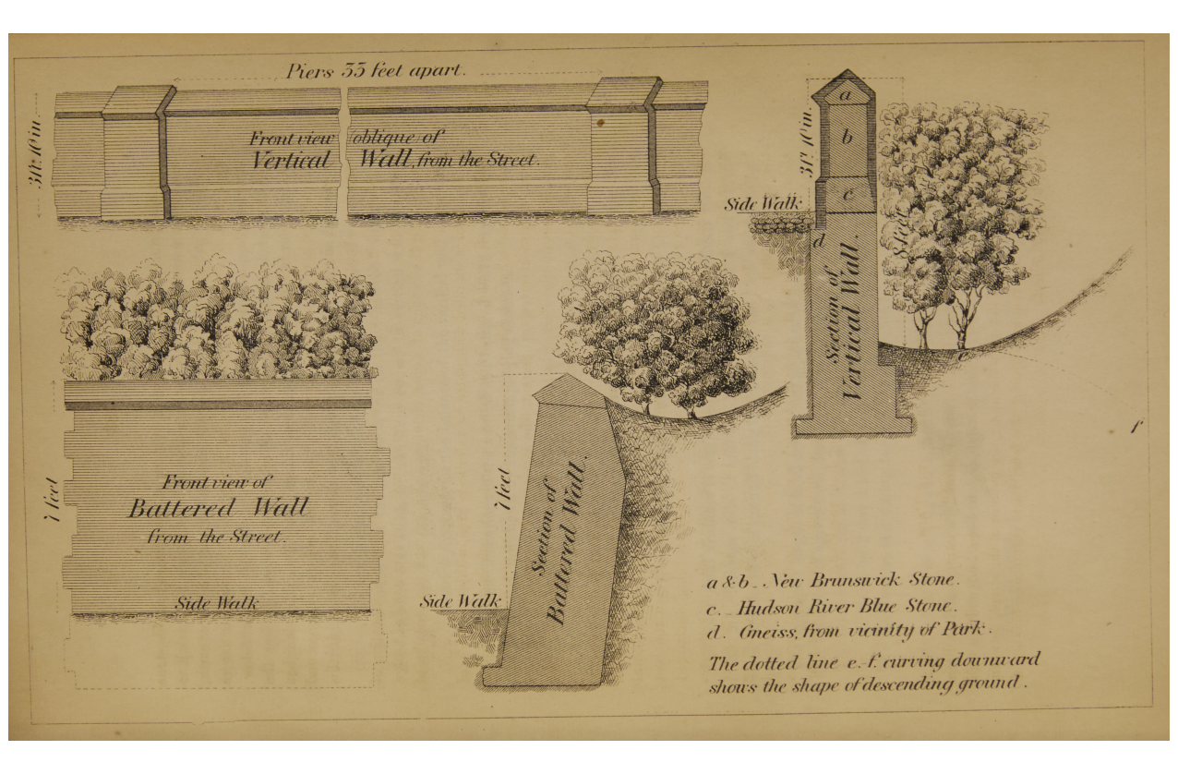
SUMMARY OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

Construction Account.

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1862,		$206,012 61
Total receipts for the year ending December 31, 1863, are as follows:		
From issue of stock by the city of New York, including $38,500 premium on same,	$338,500 00	
Pound receipts,	282 30	
Sale of grass,	20 00	
Sundry sales of animals and materials,	910 30	
Interest on deposits,	14,619 92	
		354,332 52
		$560,345 13
The total expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1863, are as follows:		
Salaries and compensation of officers and clerks,	$7,224 64	
Surveys, engineers, architects, and draughtsmen,	30,716 65	
Gardening department,	2,987 30	
Incidental expenses, &c.,	8,502 01	
Materials of construction and tools,	82,212 87	
Stationery, printing, advertising, engineers' drawing materials, and books of account,	2,060 04	
Trees and plants, and manure,	6,083 59	
Labor account, amount paid laborers, mechanics, cartmen, &c.	180,159 14	
Earth filling,	11,675 36	
License returned,	250 00	
		331,871 60
Balance,		$228,473 53

1863 Summary of the Treasurer's Accounts.


Piers 33 feet apart
Front view oblique of Vertical Wall from the Street
Front view of Battered Wall from the Street
7 feet
Side Walk
Side Walk
5 feet
Section of Battered Wall
Side Walk
Section of Vertical Wall
a & b. New Brunswick Stone
c. Hudson River Blue Stone
d. Gneiss from vicinity of Park
The dotted line e. f. curving downward shows the shape of descending ground

Diagrams for the building of the inclosing wall adjacent to 59th Street.

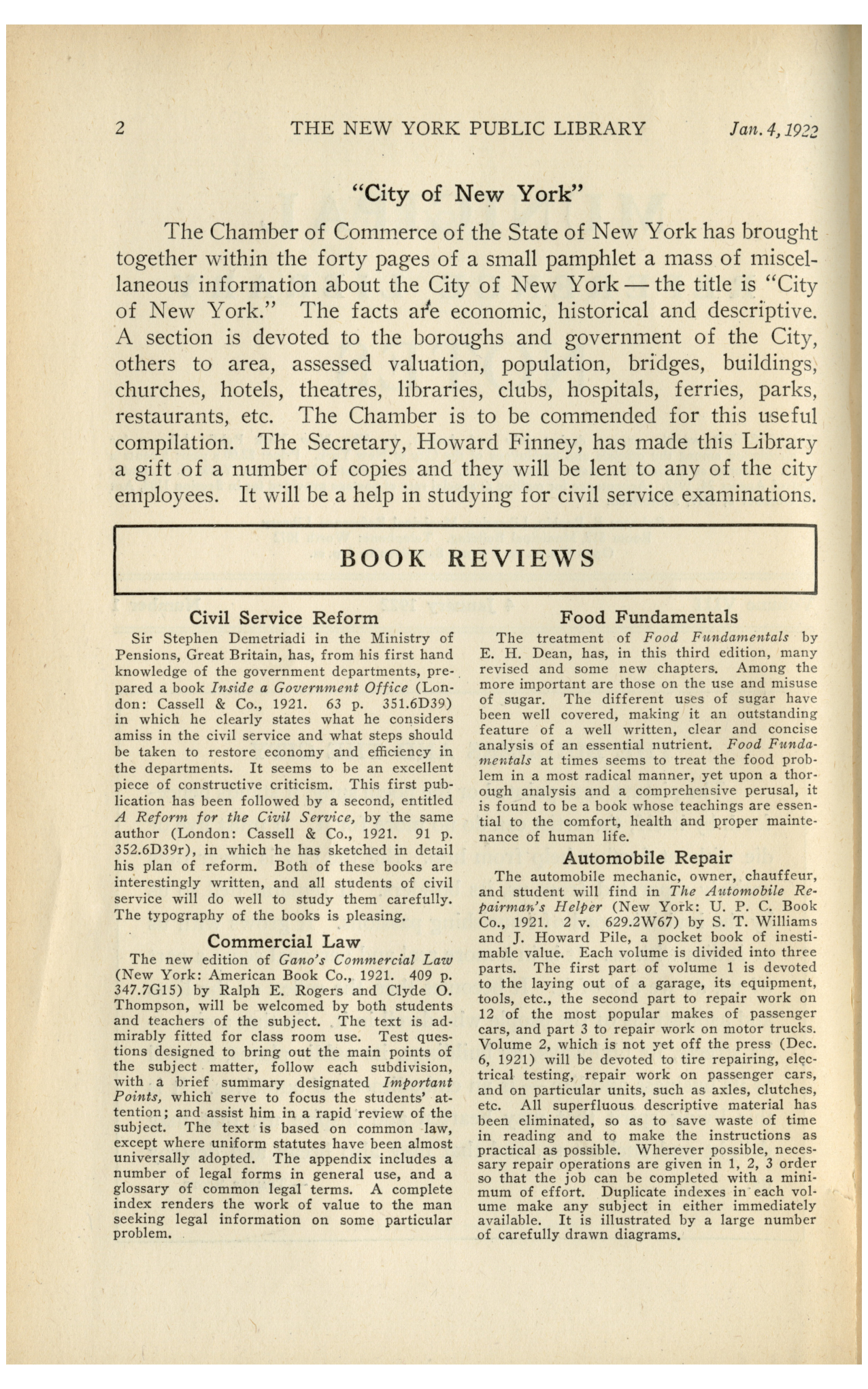
The New York City Department of Parks was established in 1870 and took over management of Central Park. However, the reports from the Commissioners offer a unique glimpse of the early history and management of the park.

Facts about New York City 100 Years Ago

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

Municipal Reference Library Notes published for January 4, 2022 featured a description of a pamphlet about New York City. This forty-page pamphlet was published by the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York.

Here is a description of the "City of New York" as published in Municipal Library Notes:



2 THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY *Jan. 4, 1922*

“City of New York”

The Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York has brought together within the forty pages of a small pamphlet a mass of miscellaneous information about the City of New York — the title is “City of New York.” The facts are economic, historical and descriptive. A section is devoted to the boroughs and government of the City, others to area, assessed valuation, population, bridges, buildings, churches, hotels, theatres, libraries, clubs, hospitals, ferries, parks, restaurants, etc. The Chamber is to be commended for this useful compilation. The Secretary, Howard Finney, has made this Library a gift of a number of copies and they will be lent to any of the city employees. It will be a help in studying for civil service examinations.

BOOK REVIEWS

Civil Service Reform

Sir Stephen Demetriadi in the Ministry of Pensions, Great Britain, has, from his first hand knowledge of the government departments, prepared a book *Inside a Government Office* (London: Cassell & Co., 1921. 63 p. 351.6D39) in which he clearly states what he considers amiss in the civil service and what steps should be taken to restore economy and efficiency in the departments. It seems to be an excellent piece of constructive criticism. This first publication has been followed by a second, entitled *A Reform for the Civil Service,* by the same author (London: Cassell & Co., 1921. 91 p. 352.6D39r), in which he has sketched in detail his plan of reform. Both of these books are interestingly written, and all students of civil service will do well to study them carefully. The typography of the books is pleasing.

Commercial Law

The new edition of *Gano's Commercial Law* (New York: American Book Co., 1921. 409 p. 347.7G15) by Ralph E. Rogers and Clyde O. Thompson, will be welcomed by both students and teachers of the subject. The text is admirably fitted for class room use. Test questions designed to bring out the main points of the subject matter, follow each subdivision, with a brief summary designated *Important Points,* which serve to focus the students' attention; and assist him in a rapid review of the subject. The text is based on common law, except where uniform statutes have been almost universally adopted. The appendix includes a number of legal forms in general use, and a glossary of common legal terms. A complete index renders the work of value to the man seeking legal information on some particular problem.

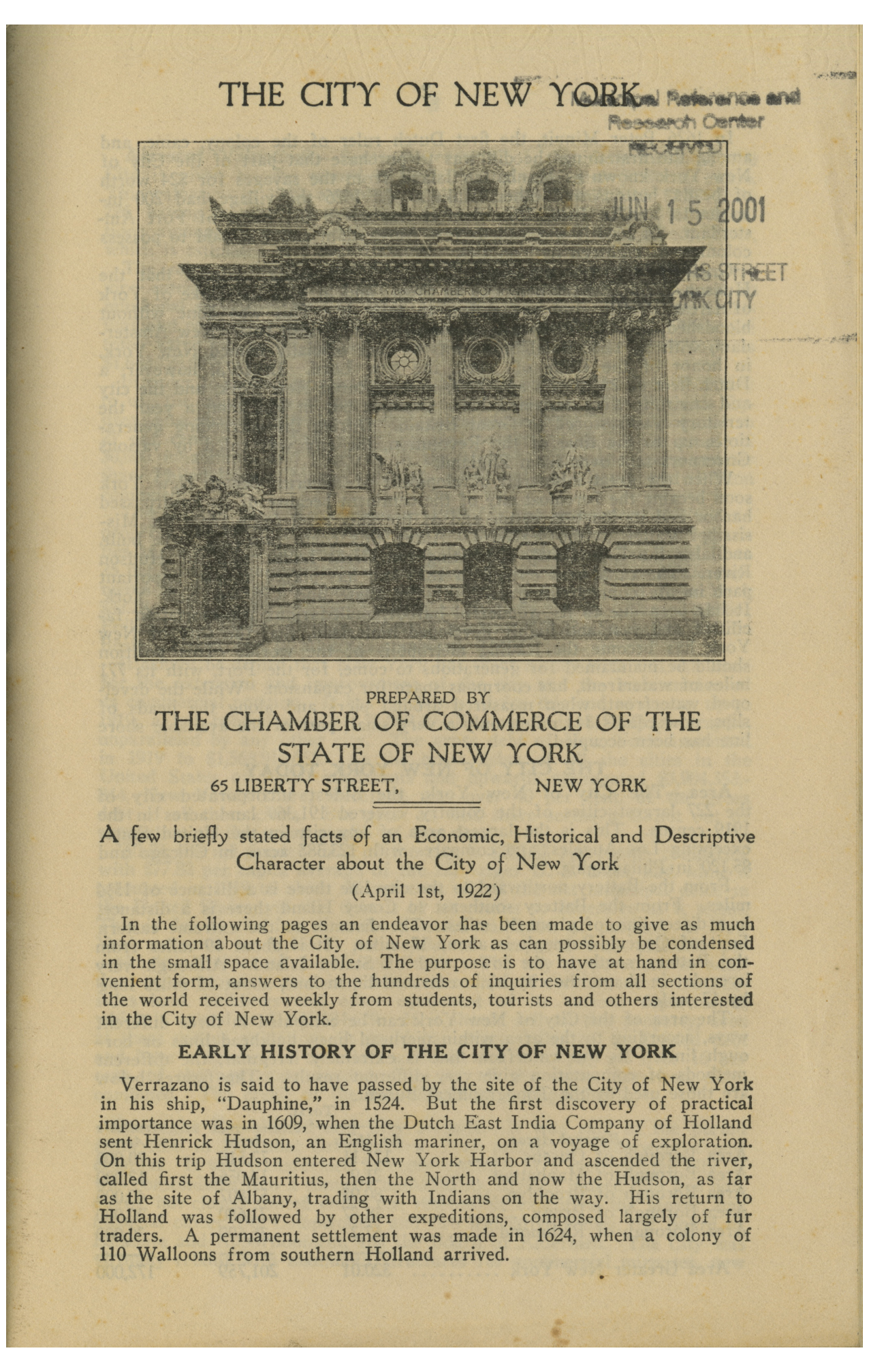
Food Fundamentals

The treatment of *Food Fundamentals* by E. H. Dean, has, in this third edition, many revised and some new chapters. Among the more important are those on the use and misuse of sugar. The different uses of sugar have been well covered, making it an outstanding feature of a well written, clear and concise analysis of an essential nutrient. *Food Fundamentals* at times seems to treat the food problem in a most radical manner, yet upon a thorough analysis and a comprehensive perusal, it is found to be a book whose teachings are essential to the comfort, health and proper maintenance of human life.

Automobile Repair

The automobile mechanic, owner, chauffeur, and student will find in *The Automobile Repairman's Helper* (New York: U. P. C. Book Co., 1921. 2 v. 629.2W67) by S. T. Williams and J. Howard Pile, a pocket book of inestimable value. Each volume is divided into three parts. The first part of volume 1 is devoted to the laying out of a garage, its equipment, tools, etc., the second part to repair work on 12 of the most popular makes of passenger cars, and part 3 to repair work on motor trucks. Volume 2, which is not yet off the press (Dec. 6, 1921) will be devoted to tire repairing, electrical testing, repair work on passenger cars, and on particular units, such as axles, clutches, etc. All superfluous descriptive material has been eliminated, so as to save waste of time in reading and to make the instructions as practical as possible. Wherever possible, necessary repair operations are given in 1, 2, 3 order so that the job can be completed with a minimum of effort. Duplicate indexes in each volume make any subject in either immediately available. It is illustrated by a large number of carefully drawn diagrams.

"City of New York" or "A few briefly stated facts of an economic, historical and descriptive character about the City of New York" is part of the Municipal Library Collection. Below is the front cover:



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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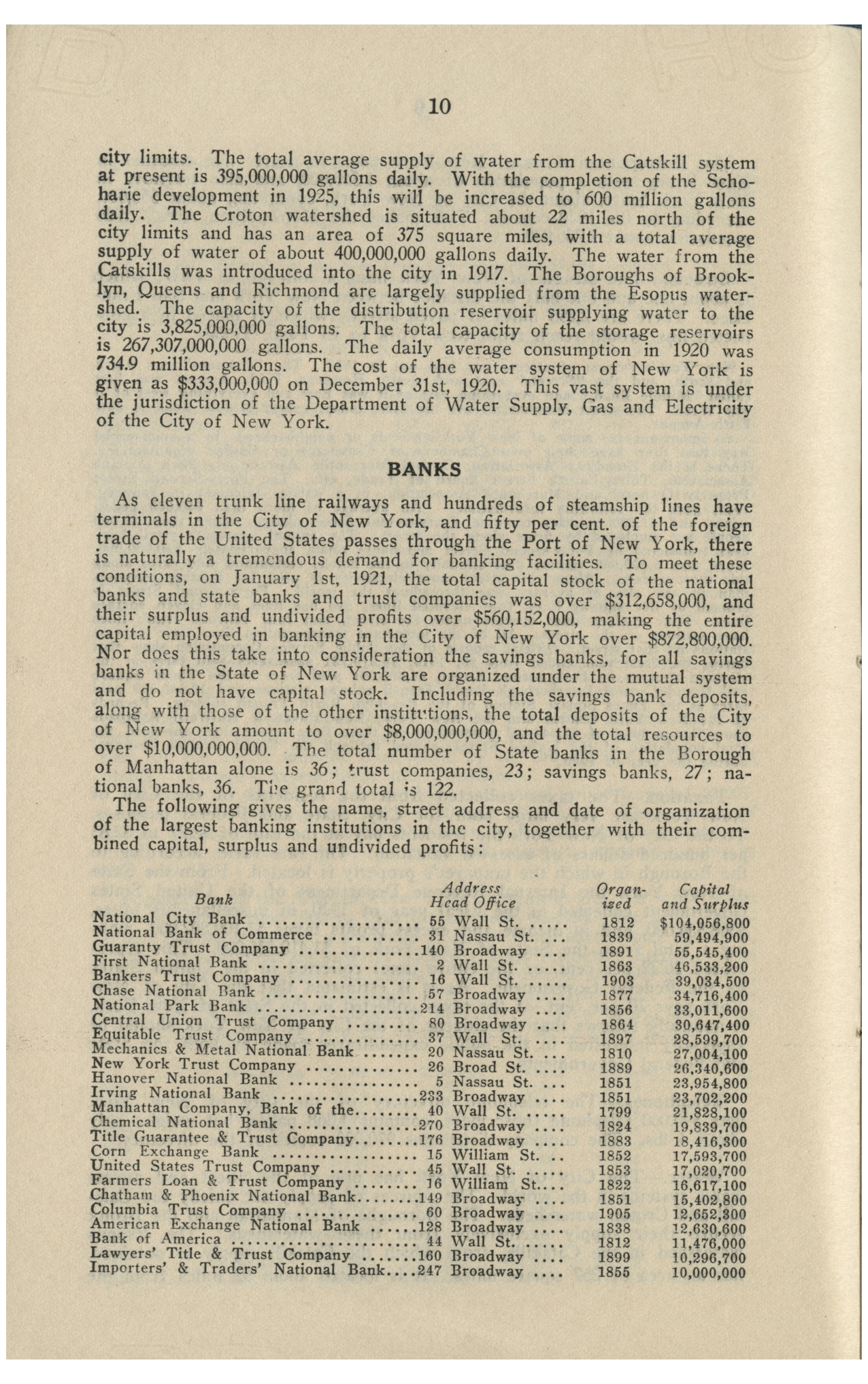
A few briefly stated facts of an Economic, Historical and Descriptive Character about the City of New York
(April 1st, 1922)

In the following pages an endeavor has been made to give as much information about the City of New York as can possibly be condensed in the small space available. The purpose is to have at hand in convenient form, answers to the hundreds of inquiries from all sections of the world received weekly from students, tourists and others interested in the City of New York.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Verrazano is said to have passed by the site of the City of New York in his ship, “Dauphine,” in 1524. But the first discovery of practical importance was in 1609, when the Dutch East India Company of Holland sent Henrick Hudson, an English mariner, on a voyage of exploration. On this trip Hudson entered New York Harbor and ascended the river, called first the Mauritius, then the North and now the Hudson, as far as the site of Albany, trading with Indians on the way. His return to Holland was followed by other expeditions, composed largely of fur traders. A permanent settlement was made in 1624, when a colony of 110 Walloons from southern Holland arrived.

An example of information included is this List of Banks in the City of New York:



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city limits. The total average supply of water from the Catskill system at present is 395,000,000 gallons daily. With the completion of the Schoharie development in 1925, this will be increased to 600 million gallons daily. The Croton watershed is situated about 22 miles north of the city limits and has an area of 375 square miles, with a total average supply of water of about 400,000,000 gallons daily. The water from the Catskills was introduced into the city in 1917. The Boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond are largely supplied from the Esopus watershed. The capacity of the distribution reservoir supplying water to the city is 3,825,000,000 gallons. The total capacity of the storage reservoirs is 267,307,000,000 gallons. The daily average consumption in 1920 was 734.9 million gallons. The cost of the water system of New York is given as $333,000,000 on December 31st, 1920. This vast system is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity of the City of New York.

BANKS

As eleven trunk line railways and hundreds of steamship lines have terminals in the City of New York, and fifty per cent. of the foreign trade of the United States passes through the Port of New York, there is naturally a tremendous demand for banking facilities. To meet these conditions, on January 1st, 1921, the total capital stock of the national banks and state banks and trust companies was over $312,658,000, and their surplus and undivided profits over $560,152,000, making the entire capital employed in banking in the City of New York over $872,800,000. Nor does this take into consideration the savings banks, for all savings banks in the State of New York are organized under the mutual system and do not have capital stock. Including the savings bank deposits, along with those of the other institutions, the total deposits of the City of New York amount to over $8,000,000,000, and the total resources to over $10,000,000,000. The total number of State banks in the Borough of Manhattan alone is 36; trust companies, 23; savings banks, 27; national banks, 36. The grand total is 122.

The following gives the name, street address and date of organization of the largest banking institutions in the city, together with their combined capital, surplus and undivided profits:

Bank	*Address Head Office*	*Organized*	*Capital and Surplus*
National City Bank	55 Wall St.	1812	$104,056,800
National Bank of Commerce	31 Nassau St.	1839	59,494,900
Guaranty Trust Company	140 Broadway	1891	55,545,400
First National Bank	2 Wall St.	1863	46,533,200
Bankers Trust Company	16 Wall St.	1903	39,034,500
Chase National Bank	57 Broadway	1877	34,716,400
National Park Bank	214 Broadway	1856	33,011,600
Central Union Trust Company	80 Broadway	1864	30,647,400
Equitable Trust Company	37 Wall St.	1897	28,599,700
Mechanics & Metal National Bank	20 Nassau St.	1810	27,004,100
New York Trust Company	26 Broad St.	1889	26,340,600
Hanover National Bank	5 Nassau St.	1851	23,954,800
Irving National Bank	233 Broadway	1851	23,702,200
Manhattan Company, Bank of the	40 Wall St.	1799	21,828,100
Chemical National Bank	270 Broadway	1824	19,839,700
Title Guarantee & Trust Company	176 Broadway	1883	18,416,300
Corn Exchange Bank	15 William St.	1852	17,593,700
United States Trust Company	45 Wall St.	1853	17,020,700
Farmers Loan & Trust Company	16 William St.	1822	16,617,100
Chatham & Phoenix National Bank	149 Broadway	1851	15,402,800
Columbia Trust Company	60 Broadway	1905	12,652,300
American Exchange National Bank	128 Broadway	1838	12,630,600
Bank of America	44 Wall St.	1812	11,476,000
Lawyers' Title & Trust Company	160 Broadway	1899	10,296,700
Importers' & Traders' National Bank	247 Broadway	1855	10,000,000

New York City Government Web Archives at DORIS

By Pauline Toole, Commissioner

The Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) harvests content from City government websites and social media accounts. These records are available in the online Municipal Library.

Websites: DORIS harvests three levels of content from all nyc.gov websites on a quarterly basis. The end-of-year harvesting began on December 16, 2021, and will conclude on December 31. We have been conducting this "crawl" since 2018, and the contents are accessible through the Municipal Library: https://www.archive-it.org/collections/12420.

Social Media: All posts to/from official City social media accounts that have been listed with us are harvested by ArchiveSocial and made available via the Municipal Library. Posts go back to 2011 and will continue to be harvested under the existing citywide contract. They can be found at http://nyc.gov.archivesocial.com.

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