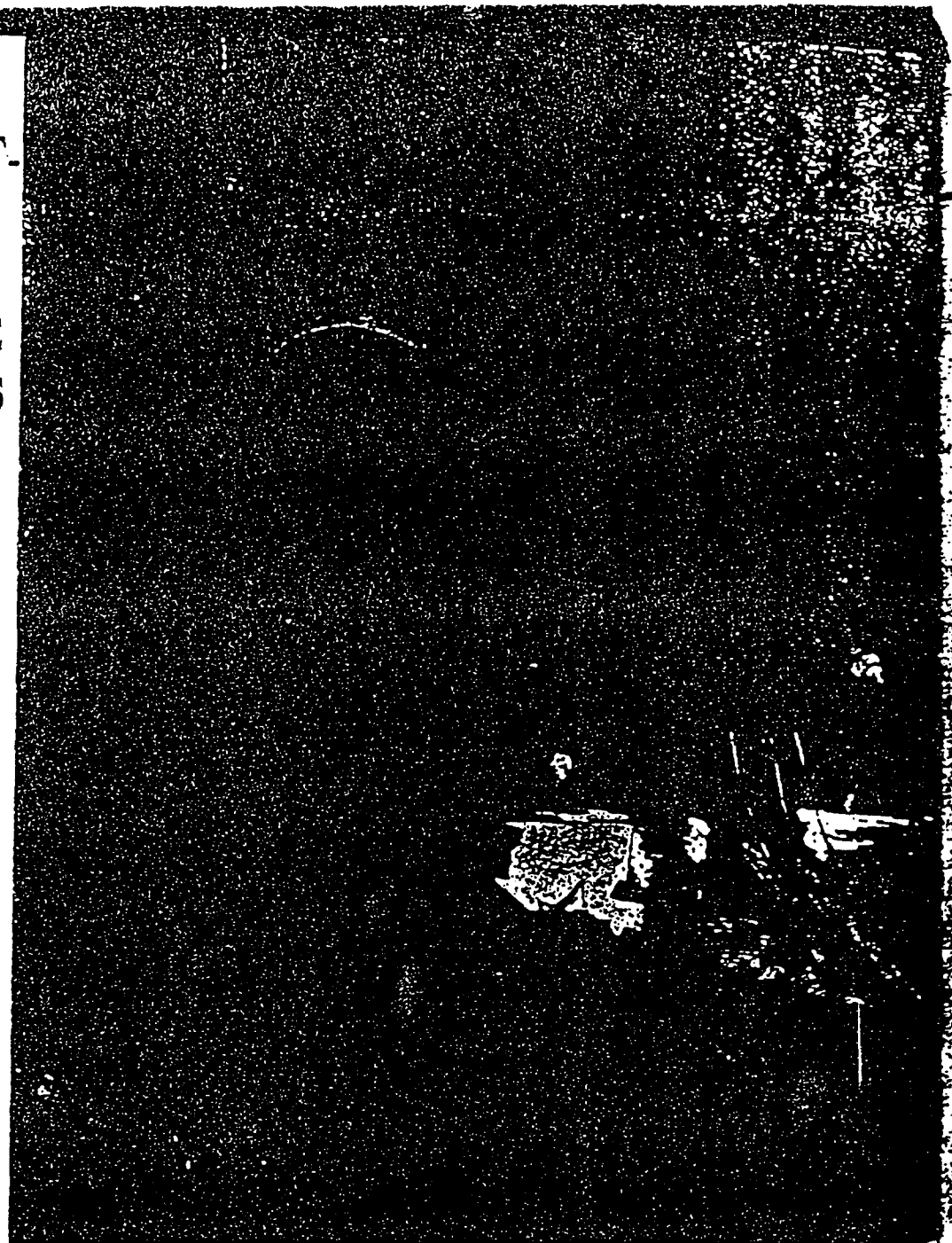


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THE ENGINEERING ARM OF THE CITY
DESIGNS • CONSTRUCTS • OPERATES
BRIDGES • PUBLIC BUILDINGS
SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

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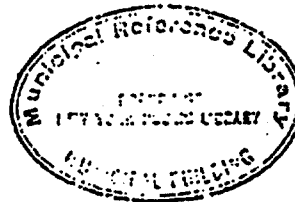
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY OF NEW YORK



THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

1940



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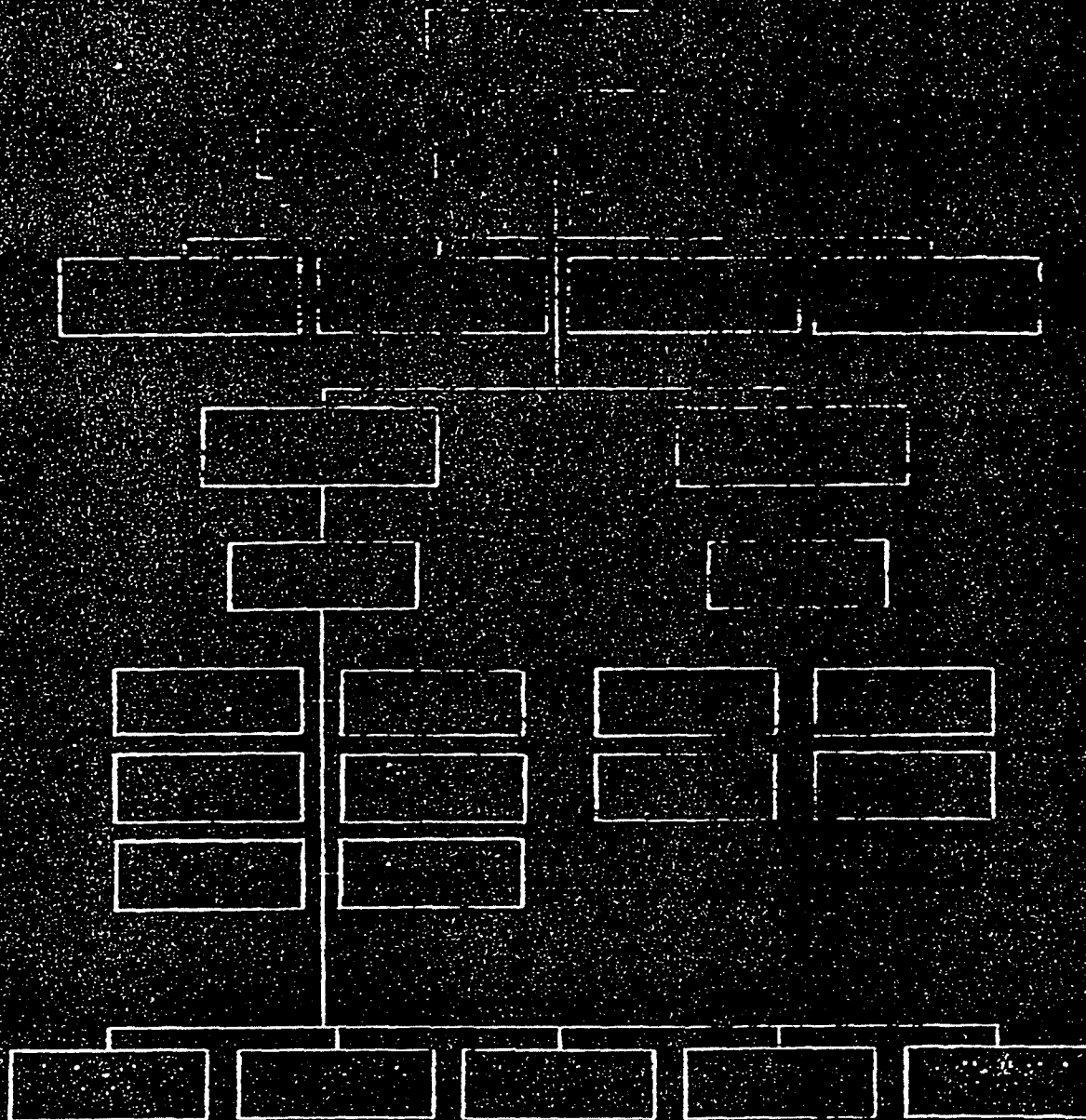
IRVING V. A. HUIE
Commissioner

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STAFF AND LINE ORGANIZATION



NEW YORK CITY.
JANUARY, 1941.

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DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

SECTIONS—

CONTRACT
SUBSURFACE EXPLORATIONS
PAINT MIXING
TOPOGRAPHICAL
MATERIAL TEST
MOTOR EQUIPMENT

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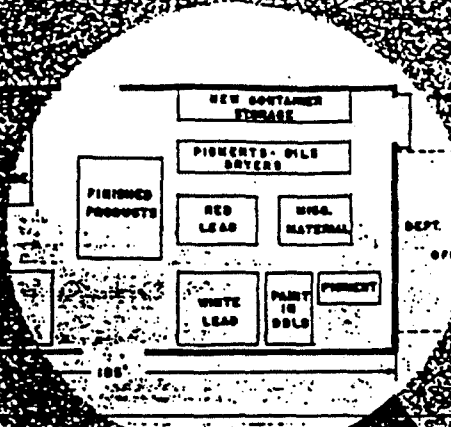
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PAINT MIXING & TESTING SECTION

The Paint Mixing and Testing Section, organized in 1938 for the purpose of economically producing better and more specialized paints, has become so well established as an important cog in the smooth running municipal machine that increasing demands from all City departments are taxing its present facilities to the utmost. To successfully cope with the growing volume of orders flowing to this section, plans are under way to increase the present capacity of the paint shop from 650 gallons to 1000 to 1250 gallons per eight hour day. It is anticipated that enlarged space, more machinery and additional personnel will be secured this next year.

The Paint Mixing unit operates under an accounting procedure devised by the Department of Purchase by which the required raw materials are put in a separate inventory. The finished product made in strict accordance with specifications is distributed on requisitions from the Department of Purchase storehouse.

The paints at present produced are classified in general as enamels, flat paints, lead paints and chlorinated rubber paints. During 1940 the output of this Section was 53,600 gallons of finished paint of which 50% was used by the department. Of this latter amount, much of it a very specialized product, 15,400 gallons was used in sewage disposal plants, 12,500 gallons on bridges and 1700 gallons in public buildings.

It is important to note that in addition to fitting the kind of paint to the specific problem, the saving in cost averaged about \$.60 per gallon or approximately one-fifth. For the year's output, the total saving on the City's paint bill, based on actual costs, was over \$30,000.

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20,000 GALLONS OF PAINT IN THE RAW—75 tons of white lead, 50 tons of red lead, several hundred gallons of oil in drums, dryers, pigments and other materials for the manufacture of finished paints.

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MATERIAL TESTS SECTION

Operation

The Materials Section continued through 1940 in its work of controlling by inspection and laboratory tests all materials entering into public works. Over 16,000 laboratory tests were made to check materials submitted for approval and use.

This Section maintains a current record of approved materials acceptable under the legal requirements of the Board of Standards and Appeals, and the Department of Housing and Buildings, and which meet the criteria of experience, service and laboratory test established by the Department of Public Works. Materials are normally inspected, tested and accepted at the source of supply, although special cases require blanket approval based upon investigation and subject to inspection and test of the materials delivered to the work. Manufacturers, producers and jobbers prone to deliver unacceptable material are stricken from the Department's list of approved suppliers.

Developments of Special Interest

Portland Cement: During the year the Department changed its method of control and its specifications for Portland Cement by adopting the standards and securing the inspection service of the New York State Department of Public Works. By this change cement equal to the best manufactured in the country is obtained without premium and at an extremely low cost of inspection and test.

Masonry Mortar: A new practice was established of sampling masonry mortar at the work directly from the mason's tub to obtain representative samples for laboratory strength tests. This procedure is an innovation in the masonry construction field considered very desirable for its moral and psychological effects, as well as for the technical data it makes available.

Materials Display

During the year, the Materials Section, in cooperation with manufacturers, started the installation of a display of architectural and engineering construction materials and full scale examples of several types of masonry construction. Although not fully completed, it is now functioning as a means of aiding architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors and materials suppliers to establish standards and to more clearly define the requirements of the Department for the various types of materials of their special application. This display, designed in this Section and utilizing the space also serving as its office quarters, was developed somewhat after the pattern of the government display at Washington. It is actually a materials library and, judged by the practical value ascribed to the federal exhibit, it promises to have a measurable influence on efforts to simplify the selection and use of materials and to establish standards of quality and utility within a required economic range.

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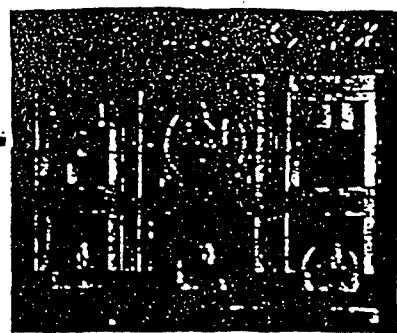
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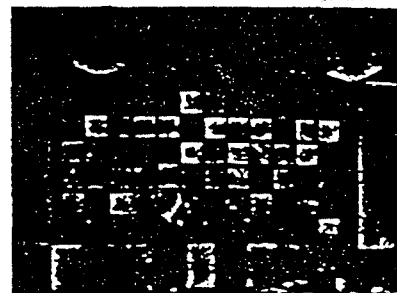
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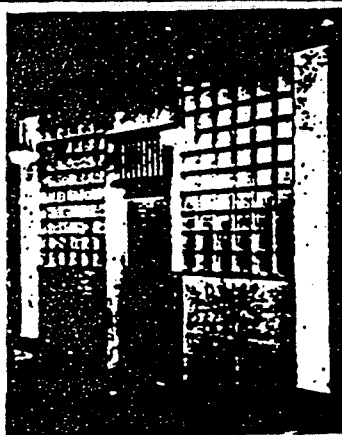
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A Library of Architectural and Structural Materials

This permanent exhibit installed in the offices of this Section provides full scale examples of types and varieties of materials and their installation.

In addition to those illustrated, a number of other displays are in place as well as several sections of masonry walls showing accepted standards of materials and construction details.



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1. Panels of insulating board faced with natural-wood veneers.
2. Ceramic-glass structural tile wall surmounted by aluminum fenestration glazed with several types of glass.
3. Stainless steel door flanked by glass block with aluminum separators; wainscot of architectural terra-cotta.
4. Architectural terra-cotta in plain and moulded shapes.
5. Representative domestic marbles.
6. Walls of plywood and beams surfaced with flexible wood display cabinet of wood veneers. Ceiling of acoustic tile and floor of asphalt tile.

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