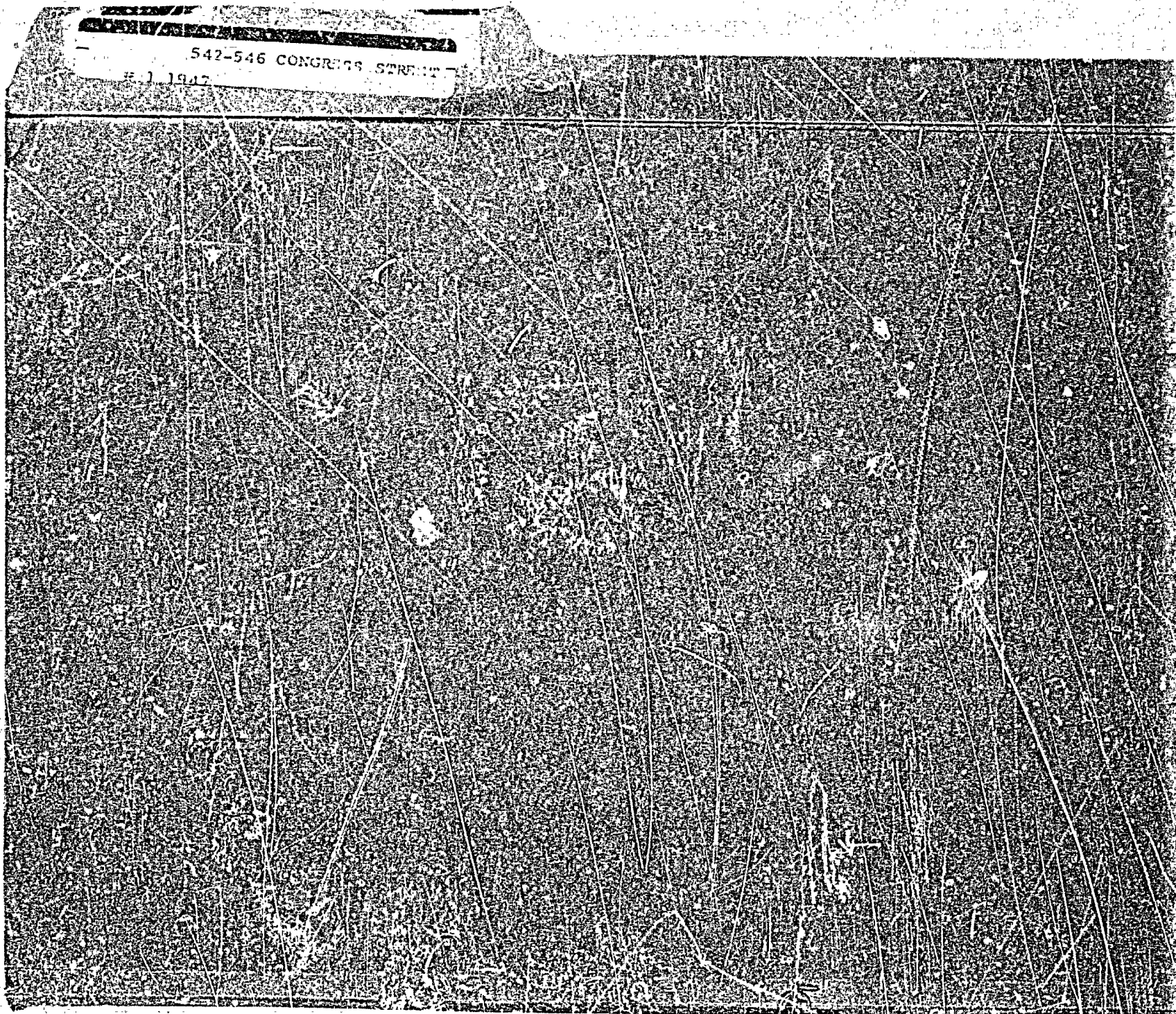




542-546 CONGRESS STREET
J 1942

Form 3806-S (Rev. 11-46)

Receipt for Registered Article No. 13092

Fee paid 25 cents. Class postage ✓

Declared value 25 Surcharges paid, \$ 0.00

Return Receipt fee 0.00 Spl. Del'y fee 0.00

Delivery restricted to addressee: None

In person ✓ or order None Fee paid 0.00

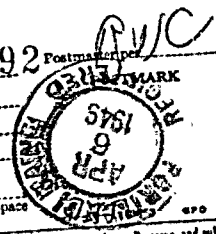
Accepting employee will place his initials in space

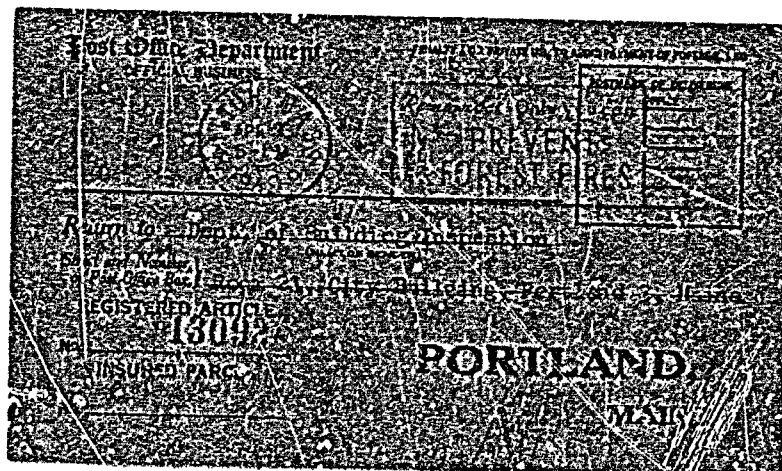
Indicating restricted delivery.

NOTICE TO SENDER—Enter below name and address of addressee as an identification. Preserve and submit

with receipt in case of inquiry or application for indemnity.

Worwith





Form 3406-5 (Rev. 11-45)

13093

Receipt for Registered Article No. _____

Fee paid _____ cents. Class postage _____

Declared value _____ Surcharge paid, \$ _____

Return Receipt fee _____ Spl. Del'y fee _____

Delivery restricted to addressee: _____

In person _____ or order _____ Fee paid _____

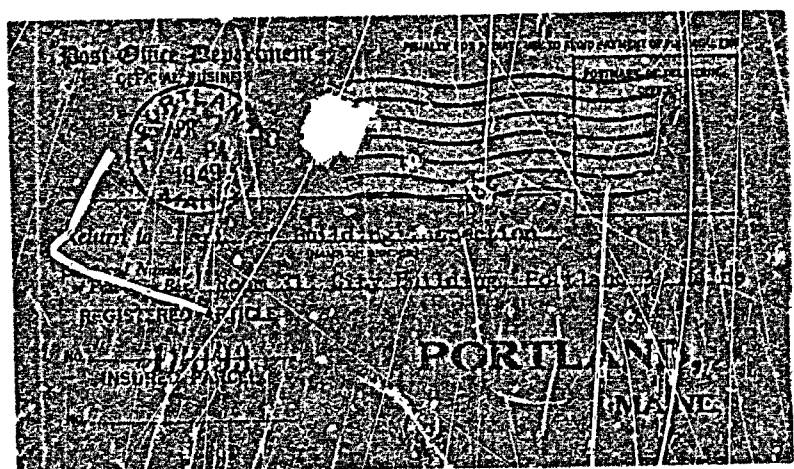
Accepting employee will place his initials in space indicating restricted delivery.

NOTICE TO SENDER—Faint below name and address of addressee as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry or application for indemnity.

River
(Name of addressee)

(P. O. and State of address)





RETURN RECEIPT

Received from _____ dated _____
of _____
for _____

Date of delivery _____

*The
Eastland*

*Mr. Warren McDonald
Inspector of Buildings
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine
4/21/49*



CONGRESS SQUARE HOTEL CO.
A. B. RINES, PRESIDENT

*The
Congress
Square*

GENERAL OFFICES
The Eastland

³
Portland, Me.

Apr. 12, 1949

Mr. Warren McDonald
Inspector of Buildings
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. McDonald:

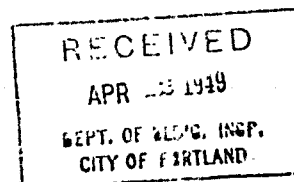
Enclosed please find copy of letter we received from the
F. W. Woolworth Co. in regard to the hardware on the entrance
doors of their Portland store.

Very truly yours,

HENRY P. RINES DEVISEES
AND
CLINTON F. RINES

By *George F. Kelley, Jr.*
George F. Kelley, Jr.

GR:RJ



C O P Y

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

120 Tremont Street
Boston 6, Mass.

April 11, 1949

Mr. George F. Kelley, Jr.
Eastland Hotel
Portland, Maine

Dear Sir: re: Store #138 Portland, Maine

Thank you for your letter of April 7th, together with the copy of Mr. McDonald's letter to you relative to the hardware on the entrance doors at our store in Portland.

Please be advised that we received the same letter from Mr. McDonald and have been delayed in complying with his request due to the delay in receiving the hardware from our hardware supplier.

This hardware is being furnished by Commonwealth Lock Co., Cambridge, Massachusetts, and we have advised them that same has to be delivered to the store and be installed prior to May 3rd.

We trust that we will be able to comply with Mr. McDonald's orders.

Yours truly,
F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

(Sgd) J. J. Jefferson
Supt. of Construction

JJJ:PAM

cc: #138



ES 48/1273-1

April 6, 1949

Henry W. Lines Levises &
Clifton P. Lines
157 High Street
Portland, Maine

Gentlemen:

Perhaps you have not heard before this of this situation in
conflict with the Building Code at the Woolworth Store. The enclosed
letter, representing formal notification of violation of the Building
Code and order to make good, is sent to you to prepare for any legal
measures which may be found necessary.

Please be assured that this formal step has only been taken
after about three years of unsuccessful negotiations with the Wool-
worth Company.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of buildings.

WHC/G

CC: Barnett I. Shur
Corporation Counsel

ME 45/1-75-2
Registered Mail
5/5/49

April 6, 1949

F. W. Woolworth Company
Attn: Mr. J. J. Jefferson, Supt. of Const.
120 Fremont Street
Boston 6, Massachusetts
Henry A. Rines Levisess & Clinton F. Rines
157 High Street
Portland 3, Maine

Subject: Notification of and order to
make good violations of the Building
Ordinance of the City in building
occupied by F. W. Woolworth Company
at 540 to 544 Congress Street and
99 to 111 Free Street in Portland,
Maine, as per Section 109 of the
Ordinance (copy enclosed)

Gentlemen:

Violations of the Building Ordinance of the City of Portland (known as the Building Code) are found to exist, as outlined below, in the building occupied by F. W. Woolworth Company as a retail store at 540 to 544 Congress Street running through to 99 to 111 Free Street in Portland; and the owner is hereby ordered to make good these violations before May 3, 1949.

The former store occupied by F. W. Woolworth Company at approximately the same location was reconstructed to make a new and much larger store, and the exterior doors on both Congress Street and Free Street fronts were not equipped with such locks or latches, and only such, that all fastenings which would keep the door from opening would be instantly released, without special knowledge or ability, merely by turning the customary knob or by pressure on a plate or lever, as required by Section 212-3-2.5 of the Ordinance, whether in a new building or in a building altered in such a manner as to increase the number of occupants.

Violation of the Building Ordinance also exists in that the building has been and is now being used, occupied and maintained contrary to the provisions of the Building Ordinance as to fastenings on these doors; and in that the owner or party in control of the building has been and is allowing its use, occupancy and maintenance contrary to the provisions of the Building Ordinance as to fastenings on these doors.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings.

WMB/G

Enclosure: Copy of Section 109 of the Building Ordinance to each addressee

CC: Barnett I. Shur
Corporation Counsel

Mr. McNeill, Manager (Sent 4/7/49)
F. W. Woolworth Company
540 Congress Street

PA 43/1275-

April 8, 1949

Mr. Stanley H. MacNeil, Manager
F. W. MacNeil Company
510 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. MacNeil:

Enclosed is a copy of a written notice and order which I sent to your company and to the owners of the land. It occurred to me that you as chief representative of the company in Portland would be much interested in this development.

You and I have not talked about the matter of fastenings on the doors since last summer I think, and you are aware as I am that no actual change has been made in the type of fastenings on the doors.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings

WMD/G

P. S. Through an error, this above mentioned letter was sent separately a day early.

*The
Eastland*



CONGRESS SQUARE HOTEL CO.
A. B. RINES, PRESIDENT

*The
Congress
Square*

GENERAL OFFICES
The Eastland

³
Portland, Me.

Apr. 7, 1949

Mr. Warren McDonald
Building Inspector
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

RECEIVED

APR 8 1949

DEPT. OF BLD'G. INSP.
CITY OF PORTLAND

Dear Mr. McDonald:

In reply to your letter of April 6 relative to the situation in conflict with the Building Code at the Woolworth Store, 540-544 Congress Street and 99-111 Free Street, Portland, Maine, wish to advise that we have discussed your letter with the Woolworth Company and have been informed that the hardware which complies with the building code has been ordered from the Community Lock Co. and will be installed as soon as it arrives.

Very truly yours,

HENRY F. RINES DEVISEES
AND
CLINTON F. RINES

By *George F. Kelley, Jr.*
George F. Kelley, Jr.

OK:EJ



St. W. Look with Co. 540. C. 1891

10/15/45 Letter sent to the President.
 Par. 1. Salaries, expenses, allowances, from State for
 catches, etc.
 Par. 2. About proposed arrangements with relation
 to concentration in one of your shore landings, to be
 made to be fixed.

3/6/47 Letter from Miss A. Widdowson
Constitutional mental health and identity
would like to talk it over

*
9/17/48 Letter to Mr.

8/17/48 Letter to Winstyl about hardware not being
fixed. Letter mentions conference 3/14/48 "I think
you think the evidence both with you described
based on the 'standards' and the accident
each with dead both in the 'working' hours and not
meet requirements of the 'law' - 'Crimone'
both with explanation each and dead both
in working down. Does not satisfy Bede.
If we can find evidence it is further back
my duty will compel me to do so.

8/20/45 Letter from Mrs. J. J. [unclear] re
arranged visit office.

3/1/46

3/31/47 Letter to J. A. McIntosh "all looking ahead in
small estate" - from Congress and all
insurance plans from the U.S. and give more
compliance with Act 212 & 25 of 3d ed. etc.

3/30/47 Notes on Conference
Mr. B.

3/20/47 Notes on Conference with Mr. B. and Mr. C. and Mr. D. and Mr. E. and Mr. F. and Mr. G. and Mr. H. and Mr. I. and Mr. J. and Mr. K. and Mr. L. and Mr. M. and Mr. N. and Mr. O. and Mr. P. and Mr. Q. and Mr. R. and Mr. S. and Mr. T. and Mr. U. and Mr. V. and Mr. W. and Mr. X. and Mr. Y. and Mr. Z.

3/26/47. Letter from Mr. Wentzel stating matters
referring to Henderson had been referred to

F. W. Hollenback Co. - - - 2

Mr. McNamee, Bartlett, Supb. and her most of
contact of you.

Note made by A. J. S. about meeting with
Mr. Jefferson about Douglas about
lock, etc.

* 8/24/48 Letter from J. J. Jefferson about handle
on lock and Mr. Bartlett thought this was of
mechanical nature. He said some deviation in
this matter.

7/13/48 Letter to Mr. Jefferson about custom lock
not meeting requirements of the Army order.
While letter handled to handle.

9/17/48 Letter to Mr. Jefferson about lock's design
and the importance of them because of the
many use of persons that could be sealed at
certain points.

9/21/48 Copy of letter to Commercial Lock Co. from
J. J. Jefferson received. In this letter Mr. Jefferson
has asked them to get in touch with you.

9/21/48 Letter from Mr. Jefferson saying he had
asked Mr. C. J. Bunker of Commercial Lock Co.
to see you.

Oct. 8, 1948 - Copy of letter from Mr. Bunker to J. J.
Jefferson asking him to visit his office to check
on lock.

10/2/48 Letter from Mr. Bunker stating he had
designed type of penic lock you suggested.

10/9/48 Letter to J. J. Jefferson asking him to send
you what he had drawn of the penic lock.
Told Mr. Bunker genuine penic penic lock
could be designed for these claims. I am particularly

S. W. Vanderbilt Co. at Chicago, Ill. 3

concerning the hardware to be used in the
pair of doors at Green St. and the pair of
doors at Congress Street.

11/29/48. Letter to J. J. Jefferson. "Since my letter of
Oct. 8 concerning the above subject, I have
heard nothing from you as to progress of
making." "Please let me hear soon, definite
answer immediately."

12/7/48. Letter from J. J. Jefferson stating they had
made arrangements for the pair of doors of hardware
and are extra careful.

12/9/48. Letter to S. W. Vanderbilt (J. J. Jefferson) advising
them about proper hardware being supplied.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WOOLWORTH BUILDING, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.



BOSTON OFFICE
120 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON 8, MASS.

HAN COCK 5140

C. W. DEVO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
A. L. CORNWELL, PRESIDENT
I. W. KETTER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES. & TREAS.
E. C. MAUCHLY, VICE PRESIDENT
G. F. TERPENNING, VICE PRESIDENT
F. R. COLE, VICE PRESIDENT

C. B. TRETHAWAY,
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

PAUL HOFER, JR., SECY. & ASST. TREAS.
J. T. LEFTWICH, COMPTROLLER,
ASST. SECY. & ASST. TREAS.
H. E. WILSON, ASST. TREASURER
C. P. LOVELL, ASST. SECRETARY
T. BROWN, ASST. SECRETARY

December 7, 1948

City of Portland
Department of Building Inspection
Portland, Maine

Attention: Mr. Warren McDonald

Gentlemen:

re: BP 45/1375-I---540-544 Congress Street
Store #138-Portland, Maine

We have your letter of November 29th, and wish to advise that we have arranged for the installation of hardware on the entrance doors at the above store, which will permit the opening of the doors without special knowledge or ability, merely by pressure on a plate on the sales room side of these doors.

This hardware is being furnished by the Commonwealth Lock Co., and we have authorized them to manufacture this hardware immediately so that arrangements can be made for the installation.

Yours truly,
F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

J. J. Jefferson
J. J. JEFFERSON
SUPT. OF CONSTRUCTION

JJJ:PAM

cc: Mr. Melanson
Commonwealth Lock Co.
#138

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1948

DEPT. OF BLD'G. INSP.
CITY OF PORTLAND

DP 45/1375-1
(540-544 Congress Street)

December 9, 1948

F. W. Woolworth Company

Attn: Mr. J. J. Jefferson, Supt. of Construction
120 Tremont Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Subject: Hardware on entrance and exit
doors at Free Street and Congress Street
fronts of the Woolworth Store at 540-
544 Congress Street in Portland

Gentlemen:

From the wording of Mr. Jefferson's letter of December 7, I am concerned lest the new hardware being furnished and applied at considerable expense and then be found in non-compliance with the Building Code and our Public Assembly Ordinance, especially in view of the fact that the part of the store where food is served to the public has to be classified as a place of public assembly.

This latter feature and the necessity of providing genuine anti-panic hardware, as defined by our Building Code, (crash bar clear across each door) on the pair of doors at Free Street nearer the end of the lunch counter and on the pair of doors at Congress Street nearest the end of the lunch counter. Your letter of December 7 indicates that all of the doors are to be equipped with such hardware "which will permit the opening of the doors without special knowledge or ability, merely by pressure on a plate on the sales room side of these doors". That type of hardware will not meet the requirements of the ordinances on the two pair of doors indicated, and this letter is for the purpose of advising you of that fact so that improper hardware will not come here and be installed for those two pair of doors, thus compelling me to go to the licensing board as regards your victualer's license.

As to the other doors it is my understanding of your letter that there will be the plate named on each door of each pair.

Very truly yours,

McD/C

Inspector of Buildings

CC: Commonwealth Lock Company
1859 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Attn: Mr. O. J. Buntin or Mr. Melanson

Mr. McNeil, Manager
F. W. Woolworth Company
540 Congress Street

Brown Construction Company
562 Congress Street

BP 45/1375-1
(540-544 Congress Street)

12/10/1948

November 29, 1948

Mr. J. J. Jefferson
F. W. Woolworth Company
120 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Subject: Locks and hardware on the Congress Street
and Free Street doors of the F. W. Woolworth
Store at 540-544 Congress Street

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

Since my letter of October 8 concerning the above subject, I
have heard nothing whatever as to progress you are making.

The situation whereby your large store, which everybody knows
has been constructed under the present Building Code, exists with door
hardware contrary to the Building Code after all this time, has become
intolerable.

Please let me have a very definite answer, immediately, as to when
the entire matter may be cleared up, and make that time very soon, or I
shall be compelled to turn the situation over to our legal department to
compel compliance. That I very much dislike to do.

Your situation in this matter is fully appreciated in that you took
over this territory without any knowledge of what the obligation was, Mr.
Wentzel, who knew the problem, having been promoted to a larger area.
Nevertheless we must deal with the proposition as being under the control
of the one company from the beginning. I am enclosing a copy of this letter
so that you may send it to Mr. Wentzel if you so desire. Or, if you wish
to send me his new title and address, I will communicate with him direct.
Certainly the Woolworth Company is responsible for this situation, and we
cannot endure it much longer.

Very truly yours,

WMB/O

Inspector of Buildings

Enclosure: Copy of this letter

CC: Brown Construction Company
562 Congress Street

②

Report July 6, 48.

Report July 6, 1901.
Went over present situation with Mr. McNeil, store mgr.

Inspection of 5-5-47 on frame 1
 shows same situation remains same as inspection of 5-5-47 on frame 1
 previous page.

Par 13. Apparently matters in this f. m. have been lost in the shuffle. Mr. Wertz met with some of the local concern agents, refrigeration, and this office not contacting the heating and the stove installers, both out of town, after getting their side of the story.

In spite of F.W. Woodworth's letter Apr 11/47 stating that label was on way, I could not find a label today. Mr. McNeil is to take this up immediately.

In a letter to East Bay, memo of May 20, 49, attention was called that the ^{official} standard heating and cooking devices would have to be built up until burner cable is a burner and based. Application was applied for May 7, 49 ^{and are} ^{renewed} ^{file}

I believe the above are the only remaining unfinished matters on this job.

W. L. Luntz (Mr. M. L. Paul, Mgr.)

540-544 Congress St.
8-5-44

Inspection check of fire alarm mechanism
of March 22, 44, result of conference of Mr. Wenzel, Police
and Mr. McDonald.

For 7-6-48, Inspection report made with Mr. McNeil, Mgr. See Pg. 2 (over)

Par. 1 - Nothing has been done about hardware on the
outside doors except the one on New St. toward Brown St.
They have installed a new one to its on this standing door.
This is nothing but the ordinary top and bottom bolt
locking device, with the turn handle so located that
a person could operate it. However, this does not seem, at
its best, any more positive than a knot in an emergency
case, and while it all has been satisfied the law.

7/6/48 door on New
fire alarm and O.K. Lock set on pit 18 from basement not changed
purpose of door with the McNeil, (Mgr.) and a head of door
prepared the vestibule lock set in place of what he
now has. said he would have his more work done this

O.K. - Third part of this Par. as to 2nd floor stair and
circuit passage to it on first floor.

7/11/48 Can you get par. - O.K.
Fire escape not yet satisfactory, find no means of
getting from W. L. Luntz - (Mgr.) Fire escape as shown
on credit Chambers permit 47/22 has not been followed and
is not satisfactory. A section of W. L. Luntz parapet, adjoining
hotel wall, is still cut away, and new fire escape
landings high for small access. (Note: Plan of building shows
fire escape on 2nd floor level)

7/11/48 O.K. - The door from the Pick-trail, New St. side, leading
on to roof has a vestibule lock set.
As yet there are no guard rails to guide one
to the fire escape and if there were there is no
convenient way to get on the fire escape. The only readily
accessible way from the low level is a ladder on the
Congress St. side toward Brown St. to the high level (office
and employees restaurant area) there is a large
the opposite side (west of the hotel) to the new fire escape
and climb up 32 or 34 ft. in landing. - OVER -

EP 45/1375-I
(540-544 Congress Street)

October 8, 1948

Mr. J. J. Jefferson
F. W. Woolworth Company
120 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Subject: Type of fastenings on the Congress Street
and Free Street doors of F. W. Woolworth Store
at 540-544 Congress Street

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

I have a letter from Mr. Bunten of Commonwealth Lock Company with regard to the above subject, enclosing a copy of his letter to you.

I am hastening to write to you so that we may have no further misunderstandings. Mr. Bunten and I had a long talk about all of these matters, and I do not have the benefit of whatever illustrations he has sent to you. Not to delay this important and pestiferous matter any longer than necessary, but in order to make sure that whatever you ask approval of your people upon, will meet the requirements, I suggest that you send me whatever you have in the way of illustrations so that any discrepancies may be picked up before the matter goes to your headquarters.

I do not agree with the last paragraph of Mr. Bunten's letter as to the matter of finding the mortice opening in the threshold wide open so that the former bottom bolt could be engaged, had anything to do with my non-acceptance of the Cremone bolt. Acceptance of the Cremone bolt was settled a long time ago in the negative with Mr. Worrell—before any Cremone bolt was put on this door.

I told Mr. Bunten and I still believe that with the special gift he has for designing all kinds of lock genuine anti-panic hardware can be designed for these double-acting doors which will afford sufficient security. If that is not done, the employment of an automatic burglar alarm, such as A. D. T., would meet the needs, I should think not only better but at less expense than a watchman. One of our new chain stores is already equipped with an automatic burglar alarm.

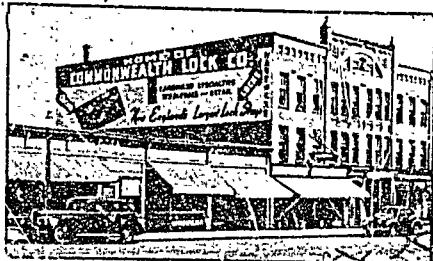
I am particularly concerned with the hardware to be used on the pair of doors at Free Street and the pair of doors at Congress Street nearest the end of your lunch counter because our Public Assemblage Law requires that these two pairs at least be equipped with anti-panic hardware irrespective of the application of the Building Code to the other entrance doors as means of egress from a mercantile establishment.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings

RMcl/G

CC: Mr. C. J. Bunten
Commonwealth Lock Company
1853 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 40, Massachusetts



TROWBRIDGE 1720
KIRKLAND 3238

COMMONWEALTH LOCK CO.

New England's Largest Lock Shop

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL HARDWARE

1853 MASS. AVE.

CAMBRIDGE 40, MASSACHUSETTS

BUILDERS'
HARDWARE

Manufacturers of
HARDWARE
SPECIALTIES
SWEEPING
COMPOUNDS

FOUNDRY
PRODUCTS

CARBALUM
THRESHOLDS

STAINLESS STEEL
HARDWARE

DOOR CHECKS
KEY & LOCK
SERVICE

ALUMINUM
HARDWARE

SPECIAL
HARDWARE
TO DETAIL

CAST METAL
GRILLES

October 2, 1948.

Mr. Warren MacDonald, Building Inspector
Portland, Maine.

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you for your courtesy to me the day I visited your office. I have designed a type of panic lock you suggested. This is really a fine thing for a theatre or night club or to go on single-acting doors.

I am about to submit this panic device to Mr. Jefferson of the F.W.Woolworth Co., who in turn will have to take the matter up with his superiors; however, my experience with the Underwriter's Laboratories and the Police Departments of Boston and other cities would not allow me to recommend this type of bolt to any department or chain store for the reason any owner of such stores should have a certain type of lock for protection, which they would not have with this device. I believe that according to the building laws such type of exit lock should have been used with this store; and according to Section No. 212E2.5 of your code, one turn of a knob or lever must open a 3' door entrance. You mentioned using one of these bolts on each door and this I do not believe would apply to the law as written as you would have to have two operations to open the entrance doors.

Awaiting a reply from Mr. Jefferson to see what type of device his superiors will approve on this job, I am,

Very truly yours,

O. J. Buntin
O. J. Buntin.

c.c Mr. Jefferson.

RECEIVED

OCT 4 1948

REPL. OF BLD'G. INSP.
CITY OF PORTLAND

RECEIVED

OCT 7 1948

DEPT. OF BLD'G. INSP.
CITY OF PORTLAND

October 2, 1948.

Mr. J. J. Jefferson
F.W. Woolworth Co.,
120 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have designed the type of panic lock suggested by Mr. MacDonald for your Portland store and would appreciate your visiting this office to check same prior to submitting it to your superiors for their consideration or approval.

Knowing from past experience the problems of securing double acting doors, I cannot honestly recommend this type of locking device for your type of store and would not approve it for the Underwriter's Laboratories.

I investigated four breaks in the past two weeks for the Boston and Waltham Police Departments and two of these breaks were entered through this type of panic hardware. If you should ever use this type of hardware, I suggest that you employ the services of a watchman as an added protection, with your methods of operation.

Mr. MacDonald suggested putting a panic lock device on each door. This arrangement I do not believe would comply with the building code as one operation is required to open a 3' door and with your 2'-10" doors, one operation is required to open both doors.

I still believe Mr. MacDonald would have approved the Cremorne bolt had it not been for the fact that some one in your store dug out the cement in the threshold of the inactive door and when making an inspection of the installation was surprised that these doors did not open by one turn of the handle. This I cannot blame him for. However, I would suggest that you have your maintenance man, when installing this type of locking device, turn a heavy screw in the hole and then fill it with smooth cement in order that this can never be used for locking in the future.

Awaiting your reply I remain.

Very truly yours *D. J. Reardon*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WOOLWORTH BUILDING, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.



BOSTON OFFICE
120 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON 8, MASS.
HAN COCK 5140

C. W. DEYO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
A. L. CORNWELL, PRESIDENT
J. W. KIEFFER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES & TREAS
E. C. TOUCHLY, VICE PRESIDENT
G. F. FENNING, VICE PRESIDENT
J. H. CLAY, VICE PRESIDENT

C. B. TRETHAWAY,
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

PAUL HOFER JR., SECY & ASST TREAS
J. T. LEFTWICH, COMPTROLLER,
ASST SECY & ASST TREAS.
H. E. WILSON, ASST TREASURER
C. M. LOVELL, ASST SECRETARY
T. BROWN, ASST SECRETARY

September 20, 1948

Mr. Warren MacDonald
Building Inspector
City of Portland
Portland, Maine

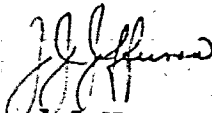
Dear Sir:

re: Store #132--Portland, Maine

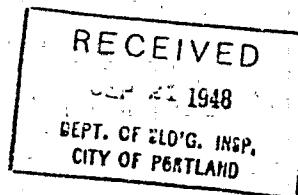
I wish to thank you for the opportunity to discuss the above subject with you last Thursday and as we discussed, I have contacted Mr. O. J. Buntin of Commonwealth Lock Company, requesting that he review the matter with you, after he has made an appointment for a definite date to meet you.

We are attaching hereto a letter which was sent to Mr. Buntin, and we trust that after you have had this meeting with him that definite arrangements can be made for the compliance of the proper hardware on all the doors at the above store.

Sours truly,
F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.


J. J. JEFFERSON
SUPT. OF CONSTRUCTION

JJJ:PAX



cc: Mr. Warren MacDonald ✓

dict'd 9/17/48

September 20, 1948

Commonwealth Lock Company
1859 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. C.J. Buntin

Gentlemen:

re: Store #153--Portland, Maine

On September 16th, we reviewed the locking devices on the entrance doors at the above store with Mr. Warren MacDonald, Building Inspector of Portland, Maine.

It was Mr. MacDonald's opinion that we were not entirely complying with the code requirements as far as the hardware on these doors are concerned, and we asked whether or not the installation of a Cremona bolt on each door with the cylinder locks blanked on the store side to prohibit the use of a key to lock the door would meet with his approval. Mr. MacDonald did not believe that if we gave this serious consideration that we would want to make this type of an installation, however, for several reasons which we explained to Mr. MacDonald, we are much more anxious to comply with his recommendations with this type of installation than with the installation of a panic bar type of lock on the standing doors. Since we are not experts on the various type of hardware, which might be available, we asked Mr. MacDonald if he would mind discussing the matter with you, since we understand that you have had considerable experience with the Underwriter's Laboratories relative to the entrance door hardware, and have also had a great deal of experience in investigation work with Mr. Bodreau of this State relative to hardware on doors in conjunction with State Fire Laws.

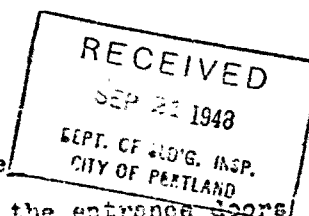
Mr. MacDonald was very agreeable to this suggestion and asked that we have you phone him and make a definite date for a meeting in order to discuss the matter. Confirming our telephone conversation of today, it will be appreciated if you will call Mr. MacDonald on Monday, September 20th, and arrange for a meeting in his office without delay. Mr. MacDonald is anxious that we do something to comply with his request, and we are also anxious that his request be complied with to the interest of everyone concerned.

Your prompt attention to this will be greatly appreciated, and we shall also appreciate a report of your discussion of the matter with Mr. MacDonald.

Yours truly,
F.W. WOOLNORTH CO.

JJJ:PAH

J.J. JEFFERSON
SUPT. OF CONSTRUCTION



EE 45/1575-I
(540-544 Congress Street)

September 17, 1946

Mr. J. J. Jefferson
Superintendent of Construction
F. W. Woolworth Company
120 Tremont Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Subject: Locking devices on exterior doors
of the Woolworth Store at 540-544 Congress
Street

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

I shall be glad to go over the matter of fastenings on these doors with your hardware man, as we talked in the office yesterday, but a new feature has developed which seems to make anti-panic hardware on at least part of the doors all the more mandatory.

I find that there are 90 seats at your lunch counter. This capacity taken together with the employees at the lunch counter makes the capacity of the lunch counter more than 100 persons, thus qualifying that part of the store under our Public Assembly Ordinance and our State Enabling Act as a place of public assembly.

Our Public Assembly Ordinance requires that where serving places of assembly accommodating more than 100 persons, all exit doors shall be equipped with anti-panic hardware.

While it is true that the particular floor area occupied by the lunch counter would not accommodate more than 150 persons, the fact that there is no line of demarcation or fire separation between the place of public assembly and the store and there is a constant passing back and forth between the two means that we would have to classify some undeterminable part of the customers' space as place of public assembly.

Thus it appears that the Public Assembly Ordinance would require anti-panic hardware at least on the pair of Front Street doors and the pair of Congress Street doors closest to the end of the lunch counter.

I trust that you will hasten your hardware man's trip so that we can get this entire matter adjusted quickly as the time is at hand when the temperature and weather will make it necessary to keep all doors closed.

Very truly yours,

WJG/G

Inspector of Buildings

CC: Mr. McNeil, Manager
F. W. Woolworth Company
540 Congress Street

Brown Construction Company
562 Congress Street

BP 45/1375-1
(540-542 Congress Street,
Woolworth's store)

September 13, 1948

Mr. J. J. Jefferson
Superintendent of Construction
P. W. Woolworth Company
120 Tremont Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Subject: Locking devices on the entrance doors
of the Woolworth Store at 540-542 Congress
Street

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

Replying to your letter of August 4, I have looked over this Commons bolt arrangement at the easterly Free Street entrance door many times, but never when the door was locked, so as you requested, I went up to the store and Mr. McNeil had the doors locked and then we opened them. I would like to accede to your request, but my duty will not let me do so. This arrangement in my judgment does not satisfy the requirements of the Building Code. Neither does it afford the maximum of safety that your patrons are entitled to.

After going over this troublesome matter a number of times with Mr. Wentzel and the contractors it seems unnecessary to launch into a detailed explanation of the reasons why I think this hardware will not satisfy the requirements either of the law or of maximum safety. Suffice it to say that should, through some unexpected eventuality, any one of these double doors be locked or remain locked while the store is open for business and a panic occur to such an extent that quite a number of persons rush for this particular exit, I have no confidence that the person who first reached the door would have sufficient time and room to turn the "T" handle before he or she would be flattened against the door so tightly that nothing could be done. Thus both doors would remain locked and the people would pile up against the door. With an anti-panic bar across the bolted door, the more violent the rush the more quickly both doors would be opened.

Really, Mr. Jefferson, I think you are straining pretty hard in raising obstacles to putting on this safe hardware. The extra cost feature does not seem valid because both Mr. Wentzel and the contractor knew about the problem from my letter of October 15, 1945, and everyone will have to admit that the kind of hardware they installed in the first place did not in any sense comply with the Building Code. That hardware still remains on most of the doors.

I have been fairly conversant with the extensive steps toward safety in Boston and in the State of Massachusetts since Coconut Grove. These have been difficult and very valuable contributions to safety, but it is my belief that the authorities are not taking into account sufficiently the terrible possibilities of panic in a large retail store or similar establishments.

As to the accident hazard created by the anti-panic bars, you are no doubt aware of the fact that when the store would be open for business the top and bottom bolts would be retracted by pressing down on the anti-panic bar, and the bar locked in that position causing little more projection from the door than the push bar which you have across the latch of the door now. No doubt this anti-panic bar can be "streamlined" if this slight projection is considered a hazard.

As to security, if the anti-panic bar could be operated from the outside by a wire hook, certainly it would not take a very ingenious burglar to operate the T handle in the same way. Where the doors swing out only as in the case of the doors which you

Mr. J. J. Jefferson

September 13, 1948

have fisted with the Cremone bolt, there should be no security problem. I believe the Congress Street doors at least are double acting and that always calls for special treatment. We have no objection to your leaving the round dead bolts on the working door in each case. From observing the action with the Cremone bolt, I am satisfied that pressure on the anti-panic bar on the standing door will open both doors even if the working door were locked into the standing door with a dead bolt.

To show how little things occur to counteract safety devices, upon examination of the doors where the Cremone bolt is, it was found that the material used to plug up the original bottom bolt "mortise" in a threshold, had come out at the time of our inspection.

As to the time element for procuring the anti-panic bolts, the longer you wait the longer it will take. On October 15, 1945 all interested were notified of the special problem with these doors. After the new store had been opened without the proper hardware on any of the doors, my letter of March 3, 1947 called attention to that discrepancy and said that wherever the doors were double acting anti-panic bolts would be needed on both doors of each pair. On March 20, 1947 Mr. Kentzel was in the office with Mr. Edward Brown of the contractors and we went over this and other matters, and it was my understanding that Mr. Kentzel was to have anti-panic bolts put on one door of a pair so that it could be tried to see if operation of the anti-panic bar would open both doors if the cylinder lock were in the "locked" position. Later appeared the Cremone bolt not on the double acting door but on a single action door. My letter of last August 17 and yours of August 24, brings us down to date.

Will you not notify us no later than September 24 that you will proceed immediately to have this hardware made right and what your estimate is as to how soon all may be in order?

Very truly yours,

WMCD/G

Inspector of Buildings

CC: Brown Construction Company
552 Congress Street

Mr. McNeill, Manager
F. W. Woolworth Company
540 Congress Street

Dear Mr. McNeill:

I did not want to defend my position to the extent of telling Mr. Jefferson that on Saturday morning when we examined the door we found that the store had no key and had unlocked the door by operating the Cremone bolt. At first glance this appears like support of the Cremone bolt idea, but further thought will show there would be only another step to leave the doors locked.

Warren McDonald

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WOOLWORTH BUILDING, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

C.W. DEYO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
A.L. CORNWELL, PRESIDENT
I.W. HEFFER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES. & TREAS.
E.C. MAUCHLY, VICE PRESIDENT
O.F. TERPENNING, VICE PRESIDENT
F.R. COLE, VICE PRESIDENT


BOSTON OFFICE
120 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON 8, MASS.
HAN COCK 5140

PAUL HOFER, JR., SECY & ASST TREAS.
J.T. LEFTWICH, COMPTROLLER,
ASST SECY & ASST TREAS.
H.E. WILSON, ASST TREASURER
C.M. LOVELL, ASST SECRETARY
T. BROWN, ASST SECRETARY

C.B. TRETAWAY,
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

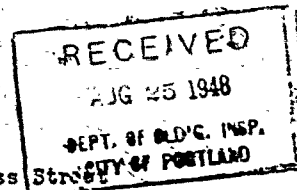
August 24, 1948

City of Portland
Dept. of Building Inspection
Portland, Maine

Attention: Mr. Warren McDonald

Gentlemen:

re: BP 45/1375-I -- 540-542 Congress
Portland, Maine



I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the time which Mr. Sears of your Department was able to spend with the writer, Mr. Buntin of Commonwealth Lock Co., and Mr. Evans of Brown Construction Company in your office yesterday relative to the above store.

We were sorry that you were away from your office yesterday and could not discuss this subject with you personally, but we believe that Mr. Sears is familiar with the points which we brought out during our discussion. Mr. Sears advised that he would give you a report on this subject and that he would refer you to Mr. Evans of Brown Constr. Co. for any further information which you may desire.

In checking the installation which we have at the present time, one of the Free Street entrances, and also in checking section 212e2.5 of your Building Code, we believe that we complied with the requirements of the code with the installation which we have made.

We did not remove the surface mounted hardware for locking the doors which was originally installed, however, the top bolt of this hardware was removed making it impossible to lock the door with same, and the recess in the threshold for receiving the bottom bolt was filled with material so as to not allow the use of this bolt for locking the doors. The bottom bolt was left in place, mainly for locking the doors in open position.

Mr. Evans was unfamiliar with the installation of this Cremone bolt, and we asked him to look at the installation in our presence. The door was locked and after doing so, we asked Mr. Evans to try the door as an emergency to get out of the store. He immediately turned the T handle on the bolt, pressed on the doors, both of them opened, and he walked out through same.

It was Mr. Evans' opinion that this would meet your requirements, and we asked if he would give you the same demonstration which we gave him, and he agreed he would follow up same with your office.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WOOLWORTH BUILDING, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.



BOSTON OFFICE
120 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON 8, MASS.

HAN COCK 5140

C. W. DEVO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
A. L. CORNWELL, PRESIDENT
J. W. KEEFER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES. & TREAS.
E. C. NAUMCHLY, VICE PRESIDENT
G. F. TERPENNING, VICE PRESIDENT
F. R. COLE, VICE PRESIDENT

C. B. TREHAWAY,
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

PAUL MOER, JR., SECY & ASST. TREAS.
J. T. LEFTWICH, COMPTROLLER,
ASST. SECY & ASST. TREAS.
H. E. WILSON, ASST. TREASURER
C. M. LOVELL, ASST. SECRETARY
T. BROWN, ASST. SECRETARY

Mr. Warren McDonald

Pg. -2-

August 2, 1948

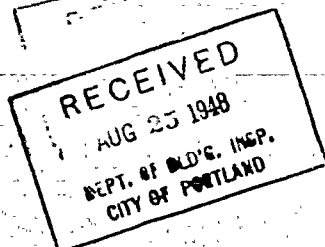
This installation may not agree with your Code, but we would appreciate your giving same your consideration. Since we have gone to considerable effort to have this installation approved in all of the states and cities handled by this office, and with the exception of the above store, same has been granted. We might advise that the City of Boston upon seeing this installation investigated with this office relative to who manufactured same since they have approved this type of installation for all doors in this City.

Mr. Bunten advised that if panic-type of bolts had to be installed, that there would be considerable delay in receiving same since his source of supply is away behind in delivery. As a guess, he estimated it would take at least eight to ten months to receive panic bolts for this type of installation. He also advised that the cost of the panic bolt and the cost of installation would amount to quite an expense, whereas the type which he has furnished would not run to much more than \$200. installed on all our entrances.

There are several reasons why we are not anxious to install the panic bolt type of lock, one of which is due to the fact that we cannot properly secure our doors since it is very easy to open same from the outside by the use of a wire hook, and another reason is that the handles create an accident hazard, resulting in our having to obtain approval of the hardware from our Insurance Company before any installation can be made.

It will be further necessary that we obtain approval from our New York Office prior to making any change in the type of hardware used, since we have to follow the standards set up by our New York Office.

We trust that upon an investigation of this condition with Mr. Evans that same will meet with your approval, and we shall appreciate hearing from you further on the matter.



Yours truly,
F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

J. J. Jefferson
J. J. JEFFERSON
SUPT. OF CONSTRUCTION

JJJ:PAH

cc: Brown Construction Co.

#138

Woolworth Store

Mr J. J. Jefferson, 120 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., who has taken Mr. Wentz's place, was in with Douglas Evans and the man who furnishes their locks. He said that all locks on the door on the street which has been fixed as a sample except the Cremone bolt, have been made inoperative but left on the door for appearances sake. They claim that by turning the Cremone bolt and pushing both doors can be opened and therefore Building Code requirements seem to be met.

He suggested that, if you have not actually seen the Cremone bolt work when door is locked from the outside, that you get in touch with Douglas Evans when they were taking up to the store to show just how it works, and have the manager lock the door and then try opening it from the inside. The hardware man said that a knob could be furnished instead of the T handle if necessary.

agf

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WOOLWORTH BUILDING, NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

C. W. DEVO,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
A. L. CORNWELL, PRESIDENT
I. W. HOFFER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRES. & TREAS.
E. C. MAUCHLY, VICE PRESIDENT

BOSTON OFFICE
120 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON 8, MASS.

HAN COCK 5140

G. F. TERPENNING, VICE PRESIDENT
F. R. COLE, VICE PRESIDENT
PAUL MOFFER JR., SECY & ASST. TREAS.
J. T. LEITCH, ASST. SECY - TREAS.
C. H. LOVELL, ASST. SECY

C. B. TRETHAWAY,
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

March 26, 1947

Mr. Warren McDonald
Inspector of Buildings
City of Portland, Maine

RECEIVED

MAR 27 1947

DEPT. OF BLD'G. INSP.
CITY OF PORTLAND

Dear Sir:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the very pleasant interview that the writer had with you and I appreciate the time that you gave me in connection with the recommendations pertaining to our new building in Portland.

The few matters remaining, such as entrance door hardware, etc., have been referred to our Outside Superintendent, Mr. Melanson, and he has been instructed to contact you in the near future and install hardware on one of the front entrance doors to determine if it meets with your full approval.

Also, in accordance with your request, I wish to advise you that the installers of the boiler heating system was P. A. Dolan Company, 237 Broadway, Boston, and the stoker was installed by the Whitty Company, Inc., 86 Western Avenue, Boston, and the mechanical refrigeration was installed by the Frigidaire Division, General Motors Sales Corporation, 25 Blandford Street, Boston (Attention Mr. F. L. Oliver).

Yours very truly,

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

By

[Signature]
Superintendent of Construction

JAW/s1