They have, in most instances, been given to the lowest bidder, and where they have been awarded to another bidder, it has been at a figure as low as the lowest bid.

It is a notorious fact that the stone for the East River Bridge is supplied at prices lower than any that have ruled for twelve years previous. In my opinion, they have been furnished at the lowest living rates compatible with an adherence to the specifications.

The same holds true in regard to purchases of lumber, cement, gravel, iron, etc. The contracts for ironwork in the caissons have in two cases resulted in direct loss to the contractors. In a majority of instances prices have been so low as to result in constant trouble to the Inspection Department in keeping supplies up to the required standard of quality.

It has been alleged that supplies have been furnished by members of the Company, at prices prejudicial to the interests of the bridge. In all such cases I know that the supplies have been furnished after a reasonable competition, and at rates lower than those of any other bidder.

I can further say that every dollar's worth purchased for the bridge has been expended in a legitimate manner, and for the proper purpose for which it was designed, and nothing whatever has, to my knowledge, been diverted into any outside channel. I am in daily attendance at the bridge, give it my whole time and constant superintendence, and am therefore in a position to give an honest judgment on this question.

As regards the inquiry whether all supplies purchased have been necessary for the bridge or not, I would say in reply that the Engineer must of necessity be the sole judge in regard to this matter. Every thing is procured upon his own direct requisition, or that of authorized assistants, and since he is charged with