

FURTHER PAPERS ON NORTH ARM BRIDGES

(OMITTED FROM REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE).

[TELEGRAMS.]

NEW WESTMINSTER, January 4th, 1890.

W. S. Gore, Surveyor-General :

One, if not two, piers, with spans, of North Arm Bridges carried away by ice. Shall any measures be taken to save *débris*?

(Signed) JOHN SPROTT.

VICTORIA, B. C., 4th January, 1890.

Geo. W. Catt, Seattle :

It is reported one or two piers and spans, North Arm Bridge, carried away by ice. Government holds your company responsible for all damage. Suggest you take immediate steps to preserve property.

(Signed) W. S. GORE.

[Copy sent to Mr. McMullen.]

VICTORIA, B. C., January 4th, 1890.

John Sprott, New Westminster :

Get Mr. Turner to go with you, examine and report circumstance and condition of North Arm Bridges.

(Signed) W. S. GORE.

VICTORIA, B. C., January 8th, 1890.

NORTH ARM BRIDGES.

SIR,—Your letter of 3rd inst., enclosing a supplementary report or rejoinder to the report of the Municipality of Richmond, through their engineers, has just been received.

On the 4th instant I was advised that the bridge had sustained damage from the ice, and at once wired your Mr. Catt at Seattle:—"It is reported one or two piers and spans, North Arm Bridges, carried away by ice. Government hold your company responsible for all damage. Suggest you take immediate steps to preserve property."

To-day I am in receipt of a report from the Government Road Superintendent, to the effect that several of the piers have been damaged, one of the spans carried away and fast in the ice half a mile above the bridge, and another span adjoining in a precarious condition. I have wired you and Mr. Catt to-day to the above purport, and urged you to take immediate action.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

*J. McMullen, Esq.,
42 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal.*

VICTORIA, B. C., January 8th, 1890.

SIR,—I wired you on the 4th inst.: "It is reported one or two spans, North Arm Bridge, carried away by ice. Government hold your company responsible for all damage. Suggest you take immediate steps to preserve property."

To-day I have again wired you, also Mr. McMullen: "Several piers damaged and one span of North Arm Bridge carried away by ice. Another span in danger. Necessary for your company to take immediate action to preserve property."

As you will no doubt proceed to the bridge site immediately, it is unnecessary for me to enter into particulars regarding the unfortunate disaster.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

*Geo. W. Catt, Esq.,
Chief Engineer, San Francisco Bridge Co.,
Seattle, Wash.*

[TELEGRAMS.]

SEATTLE, January 8th, 1890.

W. S. Gore, Victoria:

Our man on the ground to-night. Our view of this matter that we are not responsible for damage.

(Signed) SAN FRANCISCO BRIDGE CO.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 8th, 1890.

*W. S. Gore, Surveyor-General,
Victoria, B. C.:*

Your telegram referred to our Mr. Catt, who will take prompt action in the premises.

(Signed) J. McMULLEN.

SEATTLE, WASH., January 17th, 1890.

W. S. Gore:

We deny our liability for damage from ice at North Arm. Our man there will give you any assistance he can if Government wishes to do anything.

(Signed) GEO. W. CATT.

VICTORIA, B. C., January 18th, 1890.

*Geo. W. Catt,
Chief Engineer, San Francisco Bridge Co., Seattle:*

Since you refuse to act, Government will take necessary steps to prevent further damage, charging cost to you, and will also, so soon as ice subsides, repair injury at your expense.

(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

SEATTLE, WASH., January 18th, 1890.

W. S. Gore, Surveyor-General:

If Government wishes we will repair damage at North Arm at actual cost of work, labour and material, and leave question of responsibility to be settled when we can confer with you.

(Signed) GEO. W. CATT.

VICTORIA, B. C., January 20th, 1890.

NORTH ARM BRIDGES.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your telegram of 18th inst., stating, "If Government wishes, we will repair damage at North Arm at actual cost of work, labour, and material, and leave question of responsibility to be settled when we can confer with you."

In reply, I am instructed to say that the Government have no objection to your proposal being carried out on the distinct understanding that in case it is ultimately decided that your company are not responsible for the damage done, that you are to be paid the actual cost of repairs as represented by authentic receipts and vouchers for payments made by you in respect of the work; but, on the other hand, if it is decided that your company are responsible for the damage, under the provisions of your contract, then the cost of repairs shall be borne by you.

In any case it is, of course, understood that the repairs are to be made in a thoroughly substantial and workmanlike manner to the satisfaction of the Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

W. S. GORE,

Surveyor-General.

Geo. W. Catt, Esq.,

*Chief Engineer, San Francisco Bridge Co.,
Seattle, Wash.*

[TELEGRAM.]

SAN FRANCISCO, January 20th, 1890.

To W. S. Gore, Surveyor-General:

We took prompt action to prevent further damage. Mr. Catt will see you personally relative to repairs.

(Signed) J. McMULLEN.

SEATTLE, WASH., January 28th, 1890.

W. S. Gore,

*Surveyor-General, Lands and Works Department,
Victoria, B. C.:*

SIR,—Our Mr. Bogart is on the ground at North Arm Bridge, and reports that it would be impracticable to repair the damage until a driver could be got upon the ground, which is impossible at the present time owing to the fact that there is ice in the river between North Arm and New Westminster.

I shall go there and see you in reference to the matter just as soon as possible, but there can probably be but little done towards any repair work until after the present ice in the river is out. Our Mr. Bogart will take such steps as circumstances will admit of to prevent further damage.

Yours truly,

SAN FRANCISCO BRIDGE CO.,

By GEO. W. CATT.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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