

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 87

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF STATE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS,

Augusta, Maine, January 25, 1909.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in
Legislature assembled:*

Chapter 53 of the Resolves of 1907 provided as follows:

Resolved, That the State commissioner of highways be instructed to inquire into the necessity of such a bridge (a bridge between Van Buren village, Aroostook County, Maine, and the village of St. Leonards, in the County of Madawaska in the Province of New Brunswick,) cause a survey to be made to ascertain the most suitable site for a bridge at the point in question and the probable expense of erecting such bridge, acting if practicable in concert with such person or persons as may be delegated by the authorities of the Dominion of Canada or of the Province of New Brunswick with a view to agreeing

upon the best method of accomplishing the desired result, and report thereon to the next legislature and that the sum of four hundred dollars be and is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of such survey, provided, however, that any unexpended balance of said appropriation shall revert to the State.

In conformity with said resolve the State commissioner of highways begs leave to submit the following report:

Soon after the adjournment of the 1907 session and twice during the summer of 1907 the commissioner made a personal visit and a general inspection of the site of the proposed bridge. We also tried to secure the co-operation of the New Brunswick government through correspondence and by personal calls on representatives of the government, but all of these efforts were fruitless. Accordingly, we undertook the work directed by the resolve, independently.

NECESSITY.

In order to determine the necessity for such a bridge we decided to have taken a census of the traffic during a week in the summer of 1907 at four of the ferries crossing the St. John river between said towns. We also had taken another census of the traffic during the latter part of April, 1908, when crossing could be made freely on the ice, and another census of the traffic immediately following, when the ice was leaving the river and crossing was thereby rendered dangerous.

Reports of these counts of the traffic are as follows:

During the week of August four to August eleven, 1907, a total number of 1,084 teams and 3,833 passengers crossed these ferries. In the eight days from April fifteen to April

twenty-three, 1908, a total of 1,439 teams and 4,866 passengers crossed the river. The largest number was counted April eighteen, viz: 311 teams and 996 passengers; the smallest number was counted April twenty-three when only 40 teams and 539 passengers crossed. On that day crossing became dangerous.

During the eight days following April twenty-three less than 100 teams and 500 passengers crossed at the risk of their lives. Copy of the affidavits relating to the April census is hereto attached.

SURVEY.

During the fall of 1908 we caused a survey of two possible crossings of the river to be made; copies of plans and profiles of said survey are submitted herewith. From a study of these plans and a report of the engineer making the survey it appears to this office that the upper site, or location No. 2, as indicated on the plan, is the most feasible and economical site upon which to construct a bridge.

ESTIMATE OF COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE.

General specifications for proposed superstructure, together with plans of the location, were prepared and submitted to sixteen bridge companies asking for approximate prices on the bridges for each of the locations shown on plan. Six companies submitted approximate estimates on the cost of superstructure for each of the sites. For the No. 1 location, estimates for the superstructure varied from thirty-nine thousand to fifty thousand dollars. On the No. 2 location, the location which is deemed the most feasible by this office, estimates ran from thirty-one thousand to forty thousand dollars.

We have made some little study in this office of proper substructure for a bridge at location No. 2. As a result we estimated the cost of all necessary excavations, foundations, masonry piers and abutments, together with engineering and incidental expenses, at thirty-five thousand dollars. Accordingly we estimate the cost of constructing a bridge at location No. 2, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Substructure—Excavation, foundations, masonry, engineering and inspection.. | \$35,000 00 |
| Superstructure—Four steel spans, about 175 feet each | 40,000 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | \$75,000 00 |

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL D. SARGENT,

State Commissioner of Highways.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT.

We, the undersigned, Sylvain Martin and Azarias Lapointe, both of Van Buren, in the County of Aroostook and State of Maine, hereby certify under oath, that at the request of Hon. Patrick Therriault of Grand Isle, State senator, we have counted the teams and persons who crossed the St. John River, at Van Buren, on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd days of April, 1908, and that the number of teams and persons who crossed said river at this point were as follows, viz:

| Date. 1908. | No. of teams. | No. of persons. |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| April 15 | 278 | 663 |
| " 16 | 199 | 403 |
| " 17 | 256 | 661 |
| " 18 | 311 | 996 |
| " 20 | 149 | 652 |
| " 21 | 112 | 477 |
| " 22 | 94 | 477 |
| " 23 | 40 | 537 |

We do not consider that the above is a good average, as the ice was getting to be very bad, and there is no doubt that there would have been many more teams and persons who

would have crossed, if the ice had been in good condition.

Dated at Van Buren, this twenty-seventh day of April, A.
D. 1908.

SYLVAIN MARTIN,
AZARIAS LAPOINTE.

STATE OF MAINE.

AROOSTOOK SS.

April 27, 1908.

Personally appeared the above named Sylvain Martin and
Azarias Lapointe, and made oath to the truth of the above
affidavit by them subscribed.

Before me,

ABRAHAM J. DUBAY,

Justice of the Peace.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

January 29, 1909.

Presented by Mr. THERRIAULT of Aroostook and on his motion tabled for printing pending reference to Committee on Ways and Bridges.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary.*