

Report of Committee

The Joint Standing Committee on Roads and Bridges which was ordered to consider the expediency of adopting a more convenient and expeditious method of opening and shutting the Draw of the West Boston Bridge, respectfully ask leave to report as follows.

Your committee have taken much pains to examine the Draw, and its foundation, and have consulted competent engineers and men accustomed to building Draws and Bridges, and from information thus obtained, we feel confident that this draw which now subjects the traveling public to unreasonable detention, can be made to turn with ease and dispatch. In the present condition of the draw its weight rests upon wheels twenty two feet from the centre ^{which} necessarily requires great power to move it but slowly. Draws as large as this are constructed so as to open in less than one minute: while this one takes from five to fifteen minutes.

They would recommend First. That the

draw be made to turn entirely round thereby saving much time, as it would be closed as soon as the vessel is through the Bridge. Second. That the truss above the draw be so altered as to bring most of ^{the} weight upon the centre pivot. They would also recommend that the foundation under the pivot be strengthened by driving more piles.

Your committee have assurance from the Union Rail-Road Company that they will pay one thousand dollars towards this improvement, if done satisfactorily.

Your Committee are of opinion that the whole cost will not exceed five thousand dollars and they recommend the passage of the accompanying order.

For the Committee

John H. Merriam.

Repair

74

Draw on W. Boston Bridge

Sept. 11. 1867