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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: C. N. Lee

Office of the *Hannibal and St. Joseph Rail
Road Co.*

Superintendents Department

Hannibal, Mo. December 24th 187 5

Col. R. S. Stevens
General Manager, &c.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 22nd is at hand.

Referring to the matter of bridge force I would say that our bridges and structures are in such condition that I am afraid that should we reduce the force in that department we shall have to pay dearly for it. Yesterday Mr. Fagan and myself made an examination of Grand River bridge and trestles and found them in very bad shape - that is the trestle approaches. The sills are very much decayed and quite a number of the uprights are entirely rotted off. There are quite a number of the same kind of structures on our road which need the most constant care and temporary repairs.

As you know most of our bridges and trestles are quite old and need general renewal but as long as we cannot afford to renew them, we must keep them safe. The bridge force now consists of seventeen men all told. Shall make a reduction in their pay but keep that number of men on until I hear from you again on the subject. When you return would like to have you make a person (*sic*) inspection of the bridges and trestles with me and then we can reduce or add to the force as you think best.

The other matters spoken of in your letter will be attended to. Mr. Courtright thinks it would hardly do under the present arrangements with the C. B. & Q. to refuse to pay a proportion of A. J. Cross' salary. I would

¹FROM: Book of Letters to R.S.S. from 8-1875 to 1-1876.

like to have your decision on that. Mr. Penfield is absent and as soon as he returns will direct him to reduce as per <?> your letter.

I arranged at Kansas City for water from the water works for which we are to pay \$60- per month for what we want for Engines, shops and cleaning cars, but none for Union Depot freight house. They wanted to limit us to four engines which I would not consent to <?> so that the number is unlimited. I contracted with parties there to put in ground 534 feet of 2-1/2" pipe with gauges and everything complete, except ?caane, for \$185.⁰⁰, the Water Works to pay half of this. This will permit us to do away entirely with one stationary engine and one man, beside a large saving of fuel, so I think it was good luck to have the old tank knocked down.

Our business is good. Our West-bound is fair and the East-bound very heavy. We will have a good showing for December. Please remember me to Mrs. Stevens.

Yours Respectfully,
C. N. Lee
Genl Superintendent

If you think it advisable to reduce the number of bridge men let me know at once.