

and of a design now obsolete. Some 3 years since to accommodate the passage of our heavy engines these bridges were strengthened by wooden supports which were put in with the consent of the Harbor Commissioners on the understanding that if they were found to obstruct navigation that they would be removed or new bridges erected. More than a year since the Company was notified by the Commissioners that navigation was being obstructed, and the Company was ordered to remove the supports or build new bridges, and it has only been through the leniency of the Commissioners that the matter has been deferred until the present time. It is now necessary that the new bridges should be erected.

EQUIPMENT

In regard to the equipment of the Company I report that ~~At~~ the close of the present year the Company will have in service 154 engines, which is a sufficient number to move the freight equipment of the Company, which consists of 5320 cars of all descriptions. The coal and coke cars already provided have proved sufficient for the immediate requirements of that branch of the business, but for many months past the other business of the Company has been seriously effected through the lack of a sufficient number of box cars and flat cars.

Upon the completion of the 3 new iron furnaces and more than 1000 coke ovens now in course of construction or under contract, an increased number of coal and coke cars will be absolutely necessary, and it is greatly to be desired that a steady and continued increase to the box car equipment of the Company be provided. An increase in freight equipment will require a proportionate increase in the number of engines. During the present year the Company has provided new equipment to the value of about