

FORT SMITH AND CHOCTAW BRIDGE COMPANY.

APRIL 24, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DUNHAM, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 7031.]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred House bill 7031, to authorize the Fort Smith and Choctaw Bridge Company to construct a bridge across the Potean River, on the lands of Mrs. M. A. Bower, in the Choctaw Nation, near Fort Smith, Ark., have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report it back with amendments and recommend its passage.

The communications of the Secretary of War and the Chief of Engineers are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington City, April 9, 1888.*

SIR: In reply to the request of your committee, dated the 22d ultimo, for the views of this Department upon House bill No. 7031, Fiftieth Congress, first session, authorizing the construction by the Fort Smith and Choctaw Bridge Company, of a bridge across the Potean River, on the lands of Mrs. M. A. Bower, in the Choctaw Nation, near Fort Smith, Ark., I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed report, of the 7th instant, from the Chief of Engineers, who recommends certain amendments in lines 2, 5, and 9 of section 2, and an additional section, as indicated in the accompanying copy of the bill.

The Department concurs in the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

HON. M. L. CLARDY,
Chairman Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C., April 7, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith a bill (H. R. 7031, Fiftieth Congress, first session) "to authorize the Fort Smith and Choctaw Bridge Company to construct a bridge across the Potean River on the lands of Mrs. M. A. Bower, in the Choctaw Nation, near Fort Smith, Ark.," and beg leave to recommend that it be amended as follows:

In section 2, line 2, strike out the word "fifty," and insert in lieu thereof the word "seventy."

Same section, line 5, strike out the word "twenty," and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty"; same section, line 9, after the word "point," insert "and give a clear opening of seventy feet in width."

It is also recommended that section 7 be changed to section 8, and that a new section be inserted, as follows:

SEC. 7. This act shall be null and void if actual construction of the bridge herein authorized be not commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date thereof.

It may be proper to remark that this report is understood to refer exclusively to the plan and location of the bridge, and in no way considers the granting of authority to acquire land, right of way, etc., questions which do not properly come within the purview of this office.

The proposed amendments are indicated upon a copy of the bill herewith submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DUANE,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Engineers.

Hon. WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

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