

Antigonish N.S. 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1874

Dear Sir

You have on the other side a copy of a proposal which I have just made to the Commissioners of the Salt Railway, and to the Montreal Telegraph Company. Many years experience in Russia proved the efficacy of the plan which I intend pursuing. Will you kindly aid me in obtaining the aid of a fully reliable Engineer, and a Professor of Chemistry for this purpose if needs be? They must of course be adequately remunerated by the Companies benefiting. I made the same offer to the Western Union T. Co. New York.

The success of this affair is of great moment to me - after having devoted to the Salt Works 4 years, and the little capital left me after my losses in Russia, intrigue & opposition have brought the Works to a stand still for want of funds; and I must unfortunately seek some other engagement. Efforts were paid to the works lately by the Directors, at a meeting of the Shareholders it was resolved, yet to make another bore hole, & trial, but the sum assigned is so small that unless unusual luck attends them little or no good will be done. Until Spring all operations will be suspended. I am free to act as I wish. I assure you that the enterprise is yet good, & may be made very profitable by the aid of adequate Capital and energy!! The bore hole which I was at work on when you visited the works I continued to the depth of 166 feet 6 ins. in the same direction of dip as that which you saw - without meeting with a bed of Gypsum or any rock, only a few boulders, unless we are now in rock as the last prospect was. We never cut more than very salt water the clay column to the last; and a few feet before we left off work, while drilling with the chisel hand clay press we came to a soft place 1 1/2 feet deep that the hole & rods almost sunk with their own weight: we got some of that soft clay (like butter) up with

our sand pump, or shell and found it so strongly impregnated with brine  
that exposed to the heat of fire it soon became completely coated with salt.  
This place then we may conclude was formerly a brine run, which has  
become in the course of ages filled up with alluvial deposit.

There were ten mines, however not yet, perhaps beneath them of iron  
stones of fine quality of iron? Come from Pennsylvania think  
that by deep boring we may strike oil!

The soft place named was the depth of that kind we passed  
through varying from ten feet deep, evidently old brine runs.

I must sincerely wish to call your attention to American  
Company to work here: the Halifax folk have not pleasure in  
bearing the cost made by the Corporation of London at Cypress for  
a pumping station of 61 feet deep, beginning by 12 inches diameter  
ending with 3 inch bore of 4 inch diameter. I have bored in three  
barrels 1034 feet and 3 feet more: paid for 3/4 acre land, exploration,  
buildings &c have cost span 80 feet by 24 x 2 tanks & all wholly  
for work & salt trees: lumber for a wood railway to landing place  
& have expended only \$31,000.00! I have been Engineer explorer &  
and worked for three years to save expense: and am the best of engineers.

Hope Sir you will be good to give your kind aid in finding  
an Engineer & Chemist reliable for greatly shall be thankful at a  
Copy how to act. As summary end of the parties written to accept  
my offer I will inform you

I am

Dear Sir

Yours truly

Jeriah Osborn

Respectful Servant

to you

A proposal for a simple method of preserving timber from decay,

1. I propose a simple, cheap, and easily applied method for preserving timber from decay (telegraph posts, sleepers &c.) so that they shall some years longer than usual; in some cases probably twice as long.
2. By that method these posts already put up may be treated; <sup>these</sup> that are only beginning to decay may be so treated that the decay will be arrested, and their durability ensured for some years.
3. In order to judge the question, I propose to name on my part an Engineer, and a Professor of Chemistry, the Company to do the same. These to decide if what I propose is effectual, by correspondence, or one meeting only; they to be empowered to cheer a fifth if need be, and their decision to be binding on both parties, both as to the goodness of the plan, and as to what sum shall be paid for the communication of the same.
4. As a trial of the method is not needed to prove its efficacy, the Company to pay all travelling, and professional costs attending this arrangement.
5. As at present no means are employed to preserve timber for the above named purposes, although the process I propose to be the adaptation of a known principle, the great simplicity, and easy adaptation being its greatest recommendation, as it is not so employed for the purpose in question, the recognition of its efficacy by the judges shall entitle me to a fair remuneration.
6. An engagement or agreement being signed by both parties, I will furnish each of the Gentlemen chosen a detailed description of the process.

Antiquist N.C.

Jeriah Beason.

7 Oct 1864

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at 163*

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