

File No. 9283 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

test piles at the very start. In preventing us from doing so he has caused an expenditure of from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and we are now brought back to the point where we first asked to drive test piles.

Not only is this action of the Building Inspector unwarranted and irregular, but it is directly contrary to the clear statement of the Building Code. The understanding at the conference was that "the piles were to be tested in accordance with the Building Code." If Mr. Preston can show anywhere in the Building Code that piles are to be tested with more than twice the load they are called upon to bear, I will be willing to consider the test of 105-1/2 tons. It is specifically stated that the piles are to be tested with twice the intended carrying load, which in this instance would be 84 tons instead of 105-1/2 tons, and this requirement is in every case for piles driven in soft ground, and not in hard ground as is the case in this present instance. Furthermore, the Building Inspector has said that he requires the piles to sustain 42 tons to the pile, based on a mean diameter of the pile of 13 inches. The unusually severe test which he placed on the wooden pile driven at the Pumping Station yesterday, in which a 3,000 pound hammer was dropped 20 feet, with a penetration of less than 1/4 of an inch to the blow, figures out, according to well known and established engineering formulae, that the pile would sustain 51-3/4 tons as a safe load. Methods of this kind, based on formulae, are the way piles are tested in all large pile propositions. It is not usual to weight a wooden pile more than 20 to 25 tons as a maximum. Mr. Preston, therefore, proposes to weight this pile four times what it would be called upon even in extreme practice to bear. It is clearly evident, therefore, that Mr. Preston expects something to happen to this pile detrimental to the sustaining power of the soil, and in doing so we are submitting to a test that is not fair.

I enclose herewith a letter from Mr. H. L. Grube, a large pile contractor, whose experience in that locality is very valuable, in which he states that much heavier buildings have been placed on piles, under the present Building Inspector, within two blocks of the Pumping Station site, in which the driving of the piles stopped at the point to which we have excavated; that no weight test such as is required of us was made, and the building is still intact.