Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Engineer's Department.

Montreal, 31 Aug 1893

My dear Bernard,

We have a good deal of trouble in painting our bridge iron-work in getting the metal clean & free from rust. and scale. No doubt mechanical means are the best as far as they will go, & we use a ~~iron~~ wire brush with advantage; but there are angles & corners which are still hard to clean. Any rust or scale under the paint is of course fatal in time.

In a recent article; benzine, and also a "pickle of weak acid," are recommended for cleaning off rust. What I wanted to ask you is, whether you know of any solvent that will dissolve the black & red oxides without acting seriously on the metal itself. The metal is a mild steel of about 0.15 to 0.30 carbon, which of course may resist corrosion a shade better than iron. I have not yet been able to find anything satisfactory for the purpose.

Yours sincerely,

William.

W. B. Dean

Aug 31/93

Re. rusting of metal bridges