Canal Office
Chicago May 11th 1849

Capt. Wm H. Swift
Cust. Bd of Trustees

Sir,

Considerable difficulty occurred in the early part of last season from the improper management of rafts upon the Canal, which induced me to withhold further permits as provided in Sec. 135 of Rules, By Laws &c &c. It is often a difficult matter to discriminate between persons who would, and those who would not manage a raft properly until they have made a trial, and still more difficult to prevent improper persons from obtaining their object indirectly.

I would therefore recommend that Sec. 135 be repealed — allowing any person to raft timber subject to the general regulations — relying upon the penalties as stated in Secs. 710 38. 39 & 40 to insure their proper management.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Sat
Edwd. B. Talcote
Chf Engr.