

augmentation of trade, and the increased labor and responsibility; yet the increase has been made in such a manner—multiplying the duties of some, and altogether discontinuing others—as that the aggregate amount paid on this account is less now, than in 1835, or any intermediate year. Indeed, the expenses, including salaries of officers, and the general economy in the affairs of the company, will bear an advantageous comparison with any other company known to me; and the attention of the board is constantly directed to introduce, wherever it may be practicable, still greater frugality in the administration of their duties.

From these considerations, and from a thorough conviction that the charges for transportation allowed by law are inadequate to the services rendered, the company confidently hope the Legislature will allow the proper increase.

The State is now a large stockholder in the company; and although she is to a certain extent a preferred stockholder, it is not doubted that a disposition will be felt to confer some advantages upon her partners in the enterprise; and, especially that she will not be less considerate of a work in which she has so deep an interest, than other States have been of works prosecuted entirely by individual capital.

If the charge for the transportation of flour and the other excepted articles be fixed at a rate not exceeding eight cents a ton per mile, the board may safely be relied upon so to regulate the charge within that limit, as not to divert the trade from their road into any other channel.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LOUIS McLANE,
President of the Balt. and Ohio Road Rail Co.