

years,) by the Central Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company, and the Borden Mining Company to stock the road with adequate machinery, and upon a guaranteed daily transportation of a large quantity of coal, agreements were made with each in 1864, and subsequently, *at the then prevailing and regular rates*, for a specified period of time. Both these special agreements have two years or less to run, and when they expire, it is not likely the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company will open the door to the complaint of its customers, by the renewal of any such engagements. The origin of any and all possible complaint or discontent with the charges imposed by this company, lie solely in the unfortunate fact that the railroad company could not look into the future, and see the cost of labor and materials of all kinds double up in value as they did *after* these several engagements were entered into.

The Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company does not believe it would comport with the State which conferred its charter, nor its own sense of fair dealing and honor to make any attempt to evade the exact performance of its part of these several compacts.

It has been previously stated that its outlay, in money, to maintain and equip the road in a manner to promptly meet all possible demands for transportation, during the past three years, has exceeded its income by more than half a million of dollars, and this too upon a line of only 33 miles in extent.

Whatever may be the result in the end, the agreements named must on their part be executed in good faith; but at their expiration, now near at hand, your Honorable Body may rely upon the fact that this company can have no motive to discriminate for or against any of the many interests which use its road, and that ultimately all such shall occupy a common basis so far as the action and policy of this corporation may effect it.

This communication, or answer to the order of your Honorable Body is entrusted to the personal care of its Superintendent for delivery, with instructions to appear before the Committee on Corporations, if necessary or required, and to answer such questions as may be propounded to him.

In attestation of the foregoing, the Secretary has been directed to sign this communication, and to attach the corporate seal of the company.

[SEAL.]

H. C. HICKS,  
Secretary.