

Question. Do you know the parties to the Brooks and Barnum bill?

Answer. I know some—Mr. Brooks, Col. Hoffman, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Barnum.

Question. Were those gentlemen of substance and capital?

Answer. They were gentlemen of substance.

Question. Were they able to carry out the proposition which they made?

Answer. I should think so, entirely.

Question. Their proposition was made before the Travers bill was passed, was it not?

Answer. I understand their proposition contemplated originally five cents, and they afterwards reduced it, during the pendency of the Travers bill, to three. I understand that some of these gentlemen had retired upon the ground that they did not think three cents would pay—although I am not prepared myself to say that a road may not be worked at three cents fare and make a handsome profit.

By Mr. Hambleton. You have not determined to your own satisfaction that if a three cent bill had been passed it must necessarily have failed?

Answer. I am not decided upon the subject; I am, by no means, prepared to say that it would not pay.

Mr. Hambleton. I hold in my hand a communication which appeared in the Baltimore papers, signed by Messrs. Mankin, Popplein, Stabler, and the gentlemen named in the Brooks and Barnum bill, and indorsed by Messrs. Hoffman, Barnum and Brooks, in which they emphatically deny that they ever withdrew their names, or ever said that they would not have accepted a three cent bill.

The Chairman. Was that statement made before the passage of the five cent bill or after?

Mr. Hambleton. The date does not appear?

Witness. Do not understand me as stating that any of these parties withdrew.

Mr. Hambleton. Certainly not; you are only stating general rumors.

The Chairman. Mr. Brooks was examined in regard to that matter, and stated that he never made any such statement to anybody. Did I so understand you, Mr. Brooks?

Mr. Brooks. Yes sir.

Question. State when the subject of city passenger railways in Baltimore was first mooted?

Answer. Really, I cannot tax my memory; I think it had engaged the attention of the City Council at the previous session.

Question. A year previous?

Answer. Yes sir; I think so.

Question. At the time it was first agitated, there was an apparent apathy, you say, about taking hold of it?

Answer. When this last bill was pending I was impressed myself with the idea (whether I was correct or not, I do not pretend to say) that we should have to go elsewhere to get capital to construct the road. In regard to the three cent fare, I must beg to repeat that I am not prepared to say it will not be remunerative. I think four cents will pay very handsomely, and I have a better opinion of these street railroads now than I had sometime ago, seeing the crowds that are passing over them.