

make provision for its payment. A much less time, had our hands been unfettered and adequate means been provided, would have sufficed for the completion of the entire work. In consequence of our being left to our own means, confessedly inadequate, and never supposed to be competent, the work is yet incomplete, and still yields no revenue corresponding to our actual advances, or to the return of an interest upon our payments.

Discouraged and disheartened, as we have sometimes been, by the apathy which seems to have succeeded to the enthusiasm which formerly prevailed, and to the influence of which we yielded, we have, nevertheless, pressed forward in our great work, relying upon the ultimate aid which Congress would soon or late afford. We have employed all our energies and all our means to promote the object which we had at heart. We have not stood idly by, invoking the aid of Hercules; but with manly resolution and vigorous zeal, we have applied our own shoulders to the wheel, until our strength is well nigh exhausted, and we are compelled to invoke that aid, which is essentially necessary.

The means and resources of the original parties to this scheme being confessedly inadequate to its completion, we are compelled to approach your honorable bodies, with a most earnest request for prompt and efficient aid. We have carried the canal, executed in a manner which deserves and must receive your commendation, more than one hundred miles above tide water. We are within sight of a country which, on the best authority, we confidently expect will place upon its bosom an ample supply of the productions of its soil and industry, to render an adequate return to the proprietors of the stock in the company; and so far, realize the most liberal anticipations of the friends of the scheme. The convention has been assured, from a quarter entitled to its unqualified confidence, that when the canal shall have reached a point to which it is expected to be navigable early in the ensuing spring, there will be placed upon it a trade which will furnish an annual revenue of \$200,000 beyond its present receipts. The tolls will then yield an income of six per centum, upon the entire sum which will have been expended. We are further assured, from a quarter equally entitled to our confidence, that when the canal shall be completed to the Coal banks above Cumberland, sources of commerce will be opened, which will supply an annual in-