

part, or mole, will be very valuable, as being a ship wharf on one side, and a boat wharf on the other, and warehouses may be established on the shores and on the mole so as to receive the lading of the boat at one end, and pass it out to the ship at the other, in such numbers as to bring competition in their use to prevent monopoly; in short, it gives great facilities for trans shipment of property at the least possible expense.

On the other hand, if a small basin was formed near the market, it could not hold more than thirty or forty boats, and would present no facilities for the cheap trans-shipment of property. The boat used on the Canal must descend into the river to meet the vessel, and be exposed to storms; the warehouse around the basin would be limited, and, of course, monopolized if profitable. The warehouse could never be so situated as to receive the lading of the boat at one end, and pass it out to the ship at the other, if the weather did not permit the boat to come along side of the ship.

If I was to give a comparative opinion of the value of the one compared with the other, I should readily declare that the Rock Creek Basin was worth and would sell for more than its whole cost, when the other would not sell for a dollar. This is placing the whole matter on a comparative view of their worth; but I would place it in another point, and say boldly that, in my opinion, this great work, if prosecuted to its intended extent, cannot be prosperous without this Basin, in giving that ready and cheap facility to trans-shipment of property which is calculated to reduce the expenses to its minimum value; and at no other place along the Potomac river, at or above Georgetown, have I been able to discover a place which will give equal advantages without a much greater expense. The Committee will recollect that in forming a Basin along the margin of the river above Georgetown, there must be a great amount of excavation of rock and earth, and I know of no place where a deposit of this excavation could be permitted.

3d. "What amount of work between the Locks at the Little Falls and the mouth of "Rock Creek has been returned?"

The Resident Engineer has returned to the Board payments

\$11,336 67

There is also lumber on hand and under contract, as I am informed by the contractors of—say

25,000 00