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Letter from Jonathan Knight, Chief Engineer.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BALT. & OHIO RAIL ROAD,
Baltimore, January 11th, 1841.

To LOUIS McLANE, Esq.,
President, &c. &c.

In accordance with your request, I have now the honor to submit the following statements and observations in relation to what it has cost the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company to carry flour upon their road.

An estimate presented to me by James Murray, superintendant of Machinery at Mount Clair, shows the actual average cost to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company of the net tonnage of all articles and commodities conveyed upon their road, during the year ending on the 30th September, 1839, to be 4½ cents per ton per mile. The calculation is made as follows, viz:

Total amount received for the transportation of passengers, the mails and tonnage, for the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road in the said year. See statement A, page 13 of the 13th annual report of the company, \$407,347 50

Of which, the amount received for passengers and the mails carried on said road,	\$135,866 16	
And for tolls from the passenger business of the Washington Branch,	37,994 28	
Also for tolls from the tonnage business of said road,	12,212 26	
Amount to be deducted		186,072 70

And the amount received during the said year, from the tonnage business of the B. & O. R. R. was \$221,274 80

Of this amount, there was received from the tonnage passing westward,	\$110,957 84	
And from that passing eastward	110,316 96	
Total		\$221,274 80

The average price charged by the company for carrying the tonnage westward, was, as nearly as may be, 6 cents per ton per mile, and eastwardly, 4 cents per ton per mile. Hence is deduced the equivalent number of tons carried one mile, viz:

Westward tons	1,849,297	
Eastward	2,757,924	

Total tons carried one mile in the year, 4,607,221