

that to Philadelphia being 394 miles. The distance from Lake Erie to Elmira in New York by the New York and Erie rail road will be 205 miles, and from Elmira to N. York city will be 303 miles; whilst from Elmira to Baltimore by the rail road to Williamsport, and thence by the Pennsylvania canals will be but 245, a difference in favor of Baltimore of 58 miles.

Thus also the distance from Baltimore to Montezuma, on the Erie Canal in the State of New York, by the above mentioned route to Elmira, and thence by the Chemung Canal, the Seneca Lake and Seneca Canal to Montezuma, is 329 miles, whilst from Montezuma to New York by the Erie Canal is 366 miles, a difference in favor of Baltimore of 37 miles. From these brief statements the committee will perceive that the whole trade of the lake country, and of that portion of the western country, the trade of which finds its avenue to the Atlantic States through Pittsburg, will be thrown open to the enterprise of the citizens of Maryland, on the most favorable terms, so soon as a connection shall be found between Baltimore and Wrightsville.

If more time were allowed, a number of comparisons might be drawn between the advantages of such a route to the West, and those constructed in other States. It is hoped however that what is said above, together with an inspection of the accompanying map, will satisfy the committee that the value of the route from Baltimore to Columbia, has not been over estimated by the company.

6. At what time did you ascertain your inability to pay the interest due the State?

The payments required on account of the construction of the road, and for the current engagements of the company were so great, that the president and directors were aware in the month of September last, that unless additional means would be procured, the company would be unable to pay the interest to the State and city, for the quarter ending on the 30th of that month. On the 15th September, the board determined to present a memorial to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, (about to hold an extra session on the 17th) asking for further aid; but that body having adjourned early in October without affording to the company any assistance, no means were at their command to meet the payments for interest to the city and State, or the other engagements of the company.

7. What circumstances induced the failure of payment of said interest?

The means at the disposal of the company being insufficient to carry on the road to its completion, and to pay the accruing amount of interest, one of these objects only could be accomplished. The company might have retained a sufficient amount to pay the interest for the quarter ending the 30th September by previously suspending all operations on the road; but it was deemed of paramount importance to complete the road as early as was practica-