

will connect with the canal by means of rail roads down those water courses to Wills' Creek, and thence down that creek to the canal at Cumberland. These companies, together with individual proprietors, cover with their property from one-fourth to one-third of the whole amount of coal discovered, and will be enabled to supply any amount of coal equal to a demand that does not exceed the capacity of the canal.

Your committee have already observed, that nearly every canal in England, and all in this country designed and used for the transportation of minerals, are connected with the mines by rail roads of not less length than those that will be required near Cumberland, which have almost invariably been constructed at the expense and for the convenience of the several mining companies respectively.

The nearest point to Cumberland of the great coal deposit of the northern section, over which these companies are spread, is about eight miles, and it is four miles and a half in width. Independent of the capital already invested by these associations and of the funds provided by them for the opening of the mines, there can be no doubt that their means will enable and their interest will prompt them to make the necessary arrangements by rail roads and other improvements, to deliver at Cumberland quantities of coal and iron equal to any demand there may be at the time of the completion of the canal to that point not exceeding its capacity, if by a full appropriation at this session of the Legislature, they shall receive satisfactory assurance, that the work will be finished in two years.

To enable these companies to transport their minerals to the canal, rail roads will be required, as on other canals, averaging in length from ten to twelve miles; which will enable them to overcome advantageously the descent from the mines to the canal at Cumberland. As a great portion of the ground is favorable, the construction of these roads will not cost those companies more than twelve thousand dollars per mile, when they undertake them.

Having unfolded the vast resources of the Allegany coal fields, and the facilities with which any demand not exceeding the capacity of the canal can be supplied upon its completion to Cumberland provided an appropriation sufficient for that purpose shall be made at this session, we arrive at the enquiry which we proposed to make in the second place into the capacity of this work for transportation.