

Board or of the President directing the stopping of this survey received by me, antecedent to its being arrested in the way stated; though shortly subsequent I did receive a letter from the President, expressing, as well as I can recollect, an opinion as to the propriety and expediency of stopping the survey, and it may be, directing that it should be arrested; but in reference to the precise character of this letter, I cannot be positive.

The President goes on to say: "If an appropriation had been made, at the last session of the Legislature, the services of many of these officers, in my opinion, could have been dispensed with. In the absence of such an appropriation, much of the work in progress was abandoned, and as several contracts were completed from time to time, the directors considered it to be their duty, to diminish the number of officers under pay."

The idea is here distinctly conveyed by the President, that in consequence of the failure of the last Legislature to make an appropriation, much of the work in progress was abandoned"—when in fact *all* the abandonments of work occurred in the middle of December 1839, under orders of the board *before* the meeting of the Legislature. Since the first day of that session of the Legislature there have been *no* abandonments of work.

As for the dismissals of officers on the unfinished canal—the first reduction took place on or about the first day of December 1839, and was made under an order of the board by and thro' the chief engineer,—he having previously stated that a reduction was advisable. This reduction was as great as *at* and *for* the time I considered expedient.

A second reduction of officers occurred while the Legislature of last winter was in session, and was in opposition to my advice, *as to the time*;—it being in the midst of the calculations and duties consequent upon the then recent abandonment of a large amount of work. My opinion was, and I re-stated at the time, that the services of the officers about to be dismissed were needed for a while longer to close up the final estimates of the abandoned contracts with which they were familiar, and to give them time to arrange their books and papers; that otherwise injustice might be done to the contractors and to the company, and embarrassments ensue to the officers remaining in service. The additional time (which would have extended