

theless, to do my duty to the last. I thought under the circumstances, that I ought not to anticipate the action of the Board, which was evidently about to be performed.

I will merely add, that it was with myself during the latter part of my service, as it had been more or less ever since the change in the direction with those officers not regarded as "politically friendly" to the President, it was impossible for them and myself to secure the same faithful performance of work, generally, as formerly under the same specifications and regulations, and in consequence it will be found at certain points on the unfinished canal, that there has been inferior work done, resulting from political influence; an influence wholly unknown to, and unfelt upon the work during the first eleven years of the company's existence.

*Interrogatory.*—State whether the last estimate made by you and assumed by the President and Engineer in their reports to be correct, will in fact be sufficient to complete the canal to Cumberland, if the whole amount be at once appropriated in available funds? State also what would be the effects of partial appropriations upon the cost of the work and the time of completion?

*Answer.*—I had hoped that the revised estimate of this winter would by this time have been in possession of the committee, to have had something definite upon which to base my reply to this interrogatory; but as it is not, my reply must necessarily be an imperfect one.

The estimate of December, 1838, for the completion of the canal to Cumberland, which was confirmed by that of December, 1839—and which the present officers of the company say will, in all probability, be more than sufficient for the purpose, was, in my opinion at the time, ample—and I have since had no reason to doubt the correctness of that opinion, as to the then sufficiency of the estimate. The fall in the cost of labor and provisions since December, 1838, may compensate for the losses to which the company has been subjected during the same period, in consequence of the abandonment of the contracts and from payments to the contractors in a depreciated currency, the effect of which latter is to keep up a high rate of prices. Should a full and available appropriation be now made in current funds for the completion of the canal to Cumberland, it would make a difference in the cost of the remaining work of