

I take occasion also to comprehend in this answer, (and to invite the particular attention of the committee, and of the Legislature thereto,) the report of a select committee, and of the executive officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company on the subject of retrenchment in May last. (A printed pamphlet.)

These reports fully, and in minuter detail than can be presented otherwise, exhibit the order and economy which since 1837, have been gradually introduced into every branch of the company's service. Without a careful examination of the facts contained in these reports, it will be impossible for the Legislature entirely to comprehend the subject, or justly appreciate the labors and management of such a company.

Leaving these reports to the attention which the committee and Legislature will doubtless bestow upon them, it may be sufficient in this place to state, that the result shews, by undeniable facts and analogies, as the committee state, "*that at this time the operations of the company are conducted on so low a scale of expenditure, that it may be advantageously compared with that of any work of a similar character in the world.*"

I have no knowledge of any other "extra pay or additional compensation, which has at any time been given to any officer or agent of this company," than that to Caspar W. Wever, in the year 1836, as contained in the secretary's statement, unless the order may be supposed to relate to the commission agreed to be allowed to the president of the company for his agency abroad in 1839, for disposing of the sterling bonds of the State, delivered to the board in payment of the State's subscription to the capital stock of the company.

In case this should be the design of the inquiry, I have caused extracts to be made from the report of the committee of finance, proposing the allowance, and from the minutes of the board, by which it was confirmed, and hereto annexed marked F; and in regard to this matter, I deem it proper to state, that the same facts have heretofore been officially communicated in a letter to the chairman of the committee of internal improvements of the House of Delegates, on the 31st of January 1840, in answer to an order of the House of Delegates of the 20th of the same month.

In this letter, and the papers accompanying it, it has been my aim fully to reply to the entire scope of the inquiries comprehended in the order, and I believe it will be found that I have done so; if, however, the committee should be of a different opinion, it will afford me pleasure to give them access to the whole archives of the company in such form as they may prefer.

I have the honor to be, sir, your ob't, serv't.,

LOUIS McLANE, *President.*