

loaded, thus there must have been a delay: and in consequence, I had to throw my coal on the ground, and load it up again, which materially injures the coal, besides subjects me to an additional expense.

To your 7th and last interrogatory, asking me if individuals sending coal by the Rail Road, and transhipping from that work to Dam No. 6, are subjected to any inconvenience or disadvantage in carrying on the trade, I would say: 'The inconveniences and disadvantages are numerous. I have tried the experiment of sending coal by way of the Rail Road to Dam No. 6, and do not like the plan at all. The first inconvenience is—that we have to employ an agent to take charge of the coal on its arrival, at a heavy expense. Secondly. I am told, there can but two persons occupy the bins or boxes at Dam No. 6 at the same time, inasmuch as the Rail Road company have made but the two accommodations for to deposit coal; and should there be more persons engaging in the coal trade at the same time through that medium, they would have to throw their coal on the ground, some distance from the river bank, which materially injures our coal, inasmuch as that part of the coal which is lump, through the handling from place to place, becomes fine, and consequently injures its sale when at market; besides, we are at a considerable additional expense of re-loading our coal into our boats. Whereas, had we our Canal, we could bring our coal from our coal banks, put it immediately into our boats, and not disturb or handle it until it arrives in market. It is admitted by the Rail Road agents themselves, that coal being handled again and again, is a great injury to its quality, and would not receive it for their use. Thus sir, I have endeavored, briefly and candidly, to answer your several interrogatories, as far as my experience has led me.

I am, dear sir, with respect,

Your most ob't, humble servant,

GEORGE HOBLITZELL.

---

To Mr. STEINER, Agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Road Company, Cumberland:

DEAR SIR.—If agreeable to you, the committee appointed by order of the House of Delegates, respectfully ask a separate answer to each question here enclosed. The committee have no power, by order of the House, to take testimony, but are anxious to collect information relative to transportation upon the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and if consistent, they will be obliged to you for the information asked for.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

W. B. CLARKE.

January 30th, 1845.