The Delaware Terminus of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

(For the Press.)

MR. EDITOR:—Since you had the kindness to publish a communication for me, showing some few of the advantages of the plan I have presented to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for reaching the Delaware river terminus by a tunnel through or under Callowhill street, I have carefully read the various public comments of other correspondents upon that plan, as well as what they have offered to the consideration of the Railroad Company and the public in favor of projects of their own.

The objections, if they may be called such, against the Callowhill-street plan, appear to reduce themselves to the single item, cost; and those who have much more costly plans of their own, when all things are considered, to recommend, at League Island, Greenwich, and Washington street, seem to be greatly alarmed at the expense of mine, and, to encourage their fancy, have extended my idea till they make it over twenty times more ground than is required, and considerably more than is required for the per-cent commutation, and to realize its advantages both to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the city of Philadelphia.

By urging the single objection, cost, it seems to be admitted tacitly, in other respects, my plan is the most feasible and proper one; and certainly, if by it we get the uninterrupted use of steam-power to the shipping point, without any interfering with the other traffic and travel of a large and populous city, or being interfered with in any manner by their interfering, a great good will be accomplished, which without any meddle on the rail-road company to work its road more economically, but will so reduce the cost of transportation on produce as to help our shipping interests very materially.

In the detailed estimate which accompanied my former communication I gave what I believed was a careful and accurate account of the cost of an open cut from the Schuylkill to the Delaware, filled in with a brick school house enough for two tracks, including the cost of a railroad bridge over the Schuylkill, above any navigable point, and therefore not liable to the great inconvenience and extraordinary expense of a draw. In that estimate I placed the cost of the open cut at $800,000, which I may safely say is not larger than the cost of the other plans presented, none of which avoid the inconvenience of a surface route through a populous city, nor the necessity of using horse or mule power to get freight and passengers to the Delaware.

Few persons are aware of the great difference in cost between the use of steam and of horses or mules in transporting large quantities of goods and produce. The cost of steam power to move one ton one mile amounts to 1 30-100 cts. With mule or horse power, over a dirt road, as well as that of a paved street, it is 5 cts. per ton per mile, a difference in favor of steam of more than *six hundred per cent.* This enormous tax is now paid by our shippers and jobbers, and if we can get rid of it entirely, we will benefit the trade of this city to the same extent. The authority for this statement of cost is Chief Engineer Keasbey, Esq., who has had more and more costly plans of their own, when all things are considered, to recommend, at League Island, Greenwich, and Washington street, seem to be greatly alarmed at the expense of mine, and, to encourage their fancy, have extended my idea till they make it over twenty times more ground than is required, and considerably more than is required for the per-cent commutation, and to realize its advantages both to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the city of Philadelphia.

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The Pennsylvania Railroad Company paid the gross sum of $45,571.05 for the carriage, by mule power, of freight and passengers and for tolls, to and from West Philadelphia to their depots in and around the city; the nearest of which to the Delaware is Kensington depot, 2½ miles, or about half the distance required to reach the shipping point. The details are as follows:

Passengers	$15,483 80
Freight, 264,000 tons	20,712 75
Tolls or city	9,374 97

This sum of $45,571.05 represents a capital of $799,017.50, within $140,482 of the cost of constructing a tunnel, at ten per cent. profits of the company's own reports, and it shows that the expense of delivering freight and passengers to their depots in the city, not half the distance to Dock-street wharf, to be 10½ cents per ton, by mule force.

The amount of freight delivered to and received in West Philadelphia by private parties, from the railroad company, was 224,926 tons, and allowing the same cost for transporting it (though it is said to cost 25 per cent. more), and we have the sum of $25,417 25 to be added, making an entire cost of transporting and privately delivering, for the amount of 456,926 tons, passengers and tolls, to be 49,188 28. This represents a principal of $1,153,188, or $353,188 more than the cost of the tunnel.

To deliver this tonnage of freight and passengers at *Dock-street wharf*, which is necessary for the proper design of a depot, the Union Line would cost, as Mr. Thomson, the president of the company, shows, 25¼ cents per ton by mule teams. We have, therefore, this calculation:

456,926 tons at 25¼ per ton, 8 miles	$184,185
Passengers	36,310
Total	$220,495

This represents a principal of $2,674,488, nearly three times the cost of the tunnel.

Now let us see what it will cost to deliver this amount of tonnage upon the Delaware by *steam* through the Callowhill street tunnel, a distance of only 2 miles, at a cost of 30-100 cts. per ton per mile, or 6 cts. per ton for the whole distance:

456,926 tons, 2 miles, 30 cts. per ton	$27,415 56
Passengers to Broad and Callowhill	2,011 50
Total	$29,427 06

which represents a principal of only $297,267.50, leaving a balance of $856,920.75 which I may safely say is not larger than the cost of the other plans presented, none of which avoid the inconvenience of a surface route through a populous city, nor the necessity of using horse or mule power to get freight and passengers to the Delaware.

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