

1000 daily, while the extent of travel on Lake Erie may be estimated from the Report of the President of the Board of Internal Improvement of the State of Michigan, for 1844, by which it appears that an average of 20,000 passengers per month arrive at Detroit by Steamboats, during five months of the year, making a total of 100,000 passengers without taking into account those who travel by Propellers and Sailing vessels, and who are known to be numerous. 10,000 Tons of Freight per month is the amount stated by the same authority, to arrive in Steamers. Leaving therefore the unascertained travel and traffic out of the question, we may, from the above data, form an approximate estimate of the amount of foreign travel which will pass over the *Great Western Railway*. At present the passage between Buffalo and Detroit is performed by first class Steamers in 36 hours; but by the Rail road it might be accomplished in 12 or 14 hours. Considering, therefore, the great saving of time, as well as the increased comfort and safety by Rail way, the Board are of opinion that out of the 100,000 who pass up Lake Erie in the season, it may safely be assumed that two-thirds would travel by Rail road; this at 3 cents per mile, which is a lower rate than is usual, would amount to within a fraction of £500 per mile; from which, deducting £200 for running expenses, will leave a profit of £300 per mile, which would be about 7 per cent upon the cost of construction, allowing the road to cost £4,300 per mile; this does not take into account the travel from the Western to the Eastern States, the Provincial travelling, or the transport of Provincial and American freight; nor does it take into account the annual increase of this trade and travel which must be very considerable; and the Board beg to draw attention to the fact, that for at least half the year, navigation may be said, (for all useful purposes,) to be closed on the Canadian Lakes, by

Arrivals
at Detroit.

Merchandise.

Length
of passage
from Buffalo to Detroit.

Profits
from foreign travel