

there are some in which its interposition becomes its highest duty. No act could be so promotive of the general welfare as the opening, by its aid, both to the Northern and Southern routes. Upon the latter is an immense extent of territory, full of natural wealth, but which, without a Railroad, is utterly beyond the reach of settlement or commerce. Aid extended to both lines, instead of weakening the public credit, would greatly strengthen it. The method or source of the present financial strength and prosperity of the country is getting to be well understood. Our means will increase just in the degree in which we render available the wealth that now lies dormant in our soil. It would be felt that a reasonable amount of aid to each of these enterprises would diminish rather than increase the public burdens. Government would always be in advance instead of being out of pocket on account of such aid.

I have not dwelt upon the value of the territory within and west of the mountain ranges, although it is probable that this portion of the line will be the most valuable and productive. All this region is known to possess great agricultural capabilities, and to be rich in all the more valuable minerals. Its great water-courses would prove valuable auxiliaries to the road, as well as greatly facilitate its construction.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

HENRY V. POOR.