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1839 to 1840 Missouri Internal Improvement Minutes

George Champlin Sibley

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AN ACT
WITH ITS SUPPLEMENT
TO ESTABLISH
A GENERAL SYSTEM
Or
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS
In the
STATE OF MISSOURI
To which is subjoined,
THE JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
Of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At their first meeting, in May, 1839. And at their subsequent meetings in Sept.
'39 & Decem. 1840. Including their general report to the Gen. Assembly of 29th
Dec, 1840.

Internal Improvements

At a stated meeting of the Board of Internal Improvements, begun and held at St. Louis, on Monday the 2nd day of September 1839, the following named members appeared and took their seats-

Geo. C. Sibley, President-

Robert White and B. F. Robinson-

Absent, Hugh Meredith & Cornelius Davy-

On motion, Mr. Robinson, adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, September 3rd.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment-

Present, Messrs. Sibley- White And Robison

Absent, Messrs. Meredith any Davy-

Adjourned till 11 o'clock. Tomorrow morning-

Wednesday, September 4th.

The Board met according to adjournment-

Present, Messrs. Sibley, President

White, Robinson, and Meredith-

Absent, Mr. Davy, who has not been heard from-

On motion of Mr. Robinson, the following order was adopted unanimously- to wit- It shall be the duty of the geologist who may be employed agreeably to the order of this Board passed on the 14th day of May last to select and deposit in the Office of the Chief Engineer all such specimens as he may deem useful, in showing the mineral resources of the Osage River,

and also, to keep secret any valuable discovery or discoveries that he may make, till otherwise ordered by the board.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it was ordered, that the President of the Board shall have power to administer to all persons, who are, or may be hereafter, employed under authority of this Board, such Oath and Oaths; as may be necessary to the faithful discharge of duties required by law.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock. Tomorrow morning-

Thursday, September 5th.

The Board met agreeably to the last adjournment.

Present, Messrs. Sibley, White, Robinson and Meredith.

Absent, Mr. Davy, not heard from

Internal Improvements.

Mr. Robinson offered the following Resolution-

Resolved. That hereafter no epistolary communication same shall have been submitted to the consideration of the members thereof in session- provided however, that any correspondence as aforesaid, may be filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Board- (On this resolution Mr. Sibley desired the Yeas & Nays) Yeas- Messrs. Robinson, Meredith & White. Nay- Mr. Sibley.

So the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered- That the President of the Board prepare as full & complete a Statement of the Accounts of the Board up to the 30th Inst. as is practicable: Shewing 30 the amount of monies drawn from the treasury by the orders of the Board-in whose favor drawn- How much has been expended- by whom & on what account- and report the same to the auditor of Public Accounts.-

Adjourned till tomorrow morning 8 o'clock.

Friday September 6th

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present- Mr. President- Mr. White, Robinson & Meredith.

Absent- Mr. Davy- not yet heard from.

The President laid before the Board a communication from the Chief Engineer, in the following words to wit- "Engineers Office St. Louis Sept. 4th 1839."

To G.C. Sibley Esq.

Pres. Bd. of Int. Impts.

Sir:

"I herewith submit for the

Information of the Board, a brief statement of

The progress made in the duties assigned me by

The board at their meeting in May last.

Two Corps of Engineers have been organized.

One consisting of I.P. Cunningham Principal As-

Sistant Engineer, at a salary of \$1250 per

Annum- Wm. R. Singleton. Jun. Assistant, at

\$60 per month- B.H. Gordon, Jun. Assistant, at

\$60 per month- To Wm. Russell Rodman, at \$65

Per month- This Corps is at present engaged

In the Survey of a route for the Iron Mountain Rail Road.

The other Corps, consisting of Robert Walker

Principal Assistant Engineer at a Salary
Of \$1250 per annum- L.H. Amsden Jun. Asst.
H.S. Miles Rodman at \$45 per month-
This corps is now engaged in the Survey
Of Salt River- and there is a cook in
Service of each party at \$30 per month
And the other laboring hands, including the
Flagmen, are engaged at \$25 pr. Month for the
First party, and \$20- for the second- For the
Transportation of the tents & of the first party
A team and driver is employed. For the
Second a Boat is used & a boatman employed
At \$30 pr. Month.

The pay of Mr. Amsden I have left
Blank, and submit to the board the following
Statement of the circumstances connected
With his engagement; in the belief
That they will find in them sufficient reason
To induce them to fix his salary at a
Higher rate of compensation than that
Fixed by their order of the 9th May last.
Immediately after my appointment I
Addressed a note to Mr. Walker and one

To Amsden tendering to each the Situation
Of principal Assistant at a Salary
Of \$1250 per annum- Mr. Amsden was
At that time engaged professionally in
The State of Indiana. After waiting a
Reasonable time and hearing from neither
Of the Gentlemen written to and the
Service being urgent I secured the services
Of Mr. Cunningham who was on
The ground and ready to commence
Immediately- Soon after Mr. Walker
Arrived and was received in to service.
Not knowing the locality of Mr. Amsden
It was a long time before my letter reached
Him; immediately upon its receipt
He resigned his situation and hastened
To join my Corps. It will thus be
Seen, that Mr. A resigned his situation
In Indiana and entered the Service
Of this state, under the expectation of
Receiving a salary of \$1250 per annum
While by the order of the Board, I can only
Employ two assistants at that rate of com-

pensation- It will also be perceived by
the board that the Corps under the direction
of Mr. Cuningham has one more
Assistant than originally contemplated.
This the nature of the Service rendered
Necessary, as Mr. Cuningham is compelled
To be frequently in advance of his party
To make the necessary examinations in
Order to select the ground upon which
The instrumental surveys shall be made
This will be much less necessary in the
Surveys of the Rivers, and when the party
Enters on that service he will be engaged
In copying the surveys of this state in
The office of the Surveyor General, who
Has kindly permitted the use of the
Records in his office for that purpose
In order to enable me to comply with
That part of the internal improvement
Act. Which requires the Chief Engineer
To make an accurate map of this State
This map has already been commenced
And the work will progress as opportunity

Shall permit—Under the order of
The Board of the 14th May last, I have appointed
Dr. H. King as Geologist, to assist
Expended in the service the sum of
\$427.17/100 in payments made to the
Gentleman forming the Corps of Engineers,
And which is properly chargeable to
The General Improvement fund and not to any
Particular service- And I have to request
The Board to take such order in the matter
As will put me in
Possession of that amount

Respectfully &

Wm. H. Morell

Chief Engineer

Internal Improvements

Which report of the Chief Engineer was accepted by the Board and ordered to be entered on the Journal of their proceedings and filed.

On motion Mr. Robinson, it is ordered that the sum of One Thousand Dollars, be placed in the hands of G. C. Sibley (The President of the Board) as a fund to meet the contingent expenses of the Board-Said Sibley first filing his bond with security as the Law directs—Mr. Robinson then offered the following resolution.

Resolved—that no money shall be paid out of the contingent fund of (one thousand dollars) except by the special order of (37) the Board.- (Mr. Sibley desired the Yeas and Nays) Yeas, Messrs. Robinson, White and Meredith- Nay, Mr. Sibley.—

So the resolution was adopted—The Board then took up the report of the chief engineer- In the case of Mr. L. H. Amsden, mentioned in said report- The following resolution was adopted unanimously-

Resolved, that it is not expedient to increase the pay of Mr. L. H. Amsden, as is solicited by the Chief Engineer. On motion of Mr. White it is ordered that the sum of four hundred and twenty seven dollars and seventeen cents, be paid to Wm. H. Morrell out of the contingent fund on motion of Mr. White it is ordered that the sum of one hundred and seven dollars and thirty-seven cents be paid to John H. McMillion in full of his account to this day for services- extra services stationary etc. And that ten dollars and fifty cents be paid to Timothy Leaky for services to the Board during their present session- which payments to be made out of the contingent fund of the Board.

And then the Board adjourned to meet in this place, on the first Monday in May 1840.

G. C. Sibley

Monday May 4, 1840-

The Stated meeting of the Board of Internal Improvements appointed for this day, did not take place; only one member (G.C. Sibley) appearing.

Tuesday, May 5.

Mr. B. F. Robinson, the member from Cole County appeared today.

Wednesday, May 6th,

Messrs. Sibley and Robinson met this morning in conference and having received positive information that neither of the other directors would be in attendance at this appointed meeting; and that consequently there will be no Quorum for the transaction of business adjourned, till the next stated time of meeting, the first Monday in September next.

Internal Improvements.

City of St. Louis

G. C. Sibley

May 6, 1840

President.

City of St. Louis

Monday, Sept. 7, 1840

At stated meeting of the Board of Internal Improvements begun and held at St. Louis on this day, the following named Directors appeared to wit:

Cornelius Davy of Jackson County.

B. F. Robinson of Cole County.

Robert White of Scott County.

The President (G. C. Sibley, of St. Charles county) was in the city but his attendance prevented by indisposition.

Hugh Meridith, of Marion county, Absent from the State, and writes to the President that he does not expect to attend at this meeting of the Board.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock.- tomorrow morning.

Tuesday, September 8.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, Messrs. Sibley, President, Davy, White, and Robinson.

Absent, Mr. Meredith.

After calling the Board to order- The President stated, that principal business for the Board at this meeting is to prepare for their annual report to the State Auditor- And to the General Assembly- That a meeting of the Board will be necessary during the next session of the Legislature and should be held at the seat of Government—That there are several claims and accounts against the Board to be examined and disposed of; and that some steps should be taken immediately to obtain from the Bank at this place, a Balance of about Thirteen Hundred Dollars, yet due to the Board of the Twenty Thousand Dollars, appropriated by the General Assembly for Internal Improvements purposes; and authorized to be obtained by the governor on loan and which the governor supposed he had so obtained from the bank, but which the bank has not yet furnished, by about \$1,300. The President suggested that in order the better to dispatch business (examine accounts, etc.) the Board should go into interlocutory committee- Whereupon: on motion of Mr. Davy the Board adopted unanimously the following resolution- to with- Resolved—That the President be requested to address a note to the President of the Bank at St. Louis, inquiring whether the Bank will or will not furnish the residue of the sum appropriated by the General Assembly.

Internal Improvements

Resolved—That the Board will now go into interlocutory committee for the purpose of examining accounts and reports and preparing for their reports to the Auditor of Public Accounts, and to the General Assembly.

The Board continued in committee during the day, taking a recess at noon and adjourned until nine o'clock. Tomorrow morning.

Wednesday Sept. 9th 1840

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, Messrs. Sibley president

Davy, White, and Robinson

Absent, Mr. Meredith.

The President laid before the Board the Report of the Chief Engineer which was referred to interlocutory committee and ordered to be filed with the Secretary. The Board then went into committee and continued there in during the remainder of this days sitting. At 4 P.M. adjourned until tomorrow morning 9 O'clock.

Thursday Sept. 10th

The Board met agreeably to adjournment.

Present, Messrs Sibley President

White, Robinson and Davy

Absent, Mr. Meredith.

The President laid before the Board the following correspondence with the Bank, as per order of Tuesday last to wit.

Board of Int. Impts. St. Louis Sept. 8

Sir—The Board of Internal Improvement for the State of Missouri, now in Session, desire to call the attention of the Bank of the State of Missouri, to the circumstance of the detention on the part of the Bank of some Thirteen Hundred dollars of the twenty thousand borrowed by the governor under the act of the General Assembly, approved February 13th 1839, for Internal Improvement purposes etc.

In the settlement of their accounts with the State the Board have found it necessary to make requisition for the full amount of funds appropriated for their use by the Legislature; and feel it incumbent on them to obtain the Balance still due upon the loan, if practicable before they adjourn their present session and to this end they now respectfully ask the Bank to take into consideration the Subject as here presented; and communicate to them the result-to wit- Whether the Bank will or not place the above Balance to the credit of the State Treasurer? The Board beg leave to say that they wish an immediate answer to this note to enable them to take proper order on the subject in their report to the Legislature now preparing.

Very Respectfully

(Signed) G. C. Sibley Prest.

Board of Int. Impt.

Internal Improvements

To John Smith Esq.
President of the
Bank of the State of
Missouri
St. Louis

Answer-

The Bank of the State of Missouri
St. Louis Sept. 10th. 1840

G. C. Sibley

Prest. Of the Brd. Int. Impts.

Sir your communication dated 8th inst. Was received by me yesterday morning.

Our president Mr. Smith, to whom the same was addressed, being absent I have consulted as many of the directors as I could for the purpose of enabling me to give you an answer.

I would promise, that there must be some misapprehension on the part of your Board as regards the “detention” by the Bank of a part of Twenty Thousand Dollars designed by the Legislature for your use. It must be predicted upon the idea that the bank became the purchaser of the Bonds issued by the State. This is error. The Bank advanced the funds as upon an ordinary discount deducting the interest from the principal borrowed; designing reimbursement out of the Bonds furnished when the same should be sold –This has not yet been done.

I am authorized however with a view of accommodating your Board to Place to the credit of the Treasurer of the State Twelve Hundred, Eighty Six Dollars and Seventy cents additional, which will make up the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars afforded by the Bank for “Board of Internal Improvement” which sum is this day placed to his credit and he and the Auditor of Public accounts duly advised thereof.

I am very respectfully, etc.
(signed) H. Schurldscashier

Internal Improvements

The Board passed unanimously the following order, on motion of Mr. Davy- ordered by the Board that the Chief Engineer is hereby required to keep in the employ of the State, only such Assistant Engineers and Draughtsman as he may actually need, to complete proper maps of the different surveys finished and in progress, as also a map of this state, so that all may be completed about the commencement of the approaching session of the Legislature- and that all persons so engaged shall prosecute their respective duties at the city of Jefferson unless sent by the Chief Engineer elsewhere to obtain some necessary information.

On motion of Mr. Robinson it is ordered that the President of the Board prepare as full and complete s statement of the Accounts of the Board up to the 30th inst., as may be practicable, and forward the same to the Auditor of Public Accounts. Ordered also that it shall be the duty of each Commissioner of the Board and of the Chief Engineer to file with the Secretary of the Board without delay, such statements in relation to their respective accounts with the Board as may be necessary to enable the President properly to comply with the above order.

The Board spent some time in committee, and then at ½ past 4 P.M. adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Friday, Sept. 11th, 1840

The Board met according to adjournment. Present: G. C. Sibley, Prest. C. Davy, Ro. White, and B. F. Robinson, Absent: Hugh Meredith. Messrs. Robinson, Davy, White, and Sibley filed their respective statements as required by the order passed yesterday. The President stated that he had received from Mr. Meredith and duly filed Sundry papers in relation to his accounts; from which he can obtain the requisite information etc. and the Chief Engineers' report now on file, will afford the needful information as to his accounts.

On motion the Board resolved as follows:

Resolved- unanimously that when the present session of the Board adjourns, it shall adjourn to meet in the city of Jefferson on the first Monday, (the 7th day) of December next, and that until otherwise ordered, all future meetings of the Board of Internal Improvements shall be held in said City of Jefferson. And the President is hereby required to take possession of all the Books, Records, Files, the papers of the Board and cause the same to be safely conveyed to the City of Jefferson and deposited in the office of the Chief Engineer, in charge of the Chief Engineer subject to the further order of the President or Board.

On motion of Mr. Davy unanimously ordered that each commissioner of the board shall be allowed Three Dollars per day, as compensation for services actually rendered.

Mr. Davy as from interlocutory committee reported to the Board that no final settlement could conveniently be made at this time with either of the commissioners of the Board, or Chief Engineer nor is it necessary to require such settlements.

That the committee has examined sundry claims and accounts presented against the board amounting in the whole (as allowed by the committee) to the sum of \$1544.15 besides sundry others not allowed or suspended for further explanation. That the funds now available to the board to meet these claims amount to no more than \$954.96. In view of this state of things, Mr. Davy offered the following for consideration to whereas it appears that there are several outstanding claims against the Board, not properly cognizable by either of the commissioners of the Board—and that there is an unexpected balance of \$454.96/100 of the contingent fund of the Board in the President's hands—and also in the state Treasury, at the disposal of the Board, a balance of \$500.

It is therefore, hereby ordered by the Board that the President G. C. Sibley is hereby authorized and directed to draw from the Treasury the aforesaid balance of \$500—(giving his Bond in the form prescribed). Which sum of \$500, together with the aforesaid balance of the contingent fund (\$454.96/100) the President is hereby required to use towards the payment of the following claims to wit.

1. John H. McMillan-----150.00
2. Jos. Wm. Russell-----152.50
3. John T. Cuningham-----427.80
4. Wm. R. Singleton-----299.12

And whereas, the following sums appear also to be due to the persons named Viz I. Peter Lindell assignee for a balance due Ro. Walker \$111.08

2. G. W. Meech-----Stationary etc. \$248.58
3. T. C. Dinnies Same-----61.86
4. Joseph Foster for camp and office furniture----93.21

And it is hereby also ordered by the Board that should there remain any Balance in the hands of G. C. Sibley commissioner on Survey contingencies of the Board, etc. he is hereby authorized and requested to use the same as far as it will go, towards the payment of the claims last named herein.

All which Report and orders were unanimously agreed to and adopted by Messrs. Davy White and Sibley. Mr. Robinson not present-having previously obtained leave of absence and left the city homeward.

On motion of Mr. White the Board now adjourned to meet at the City of Jefferson on Monday 7th day, December Next.

(Signed) G. C. Sibley.

President.

City of Jefferson-Wednesday, December 9th, 1840.

As in conformity with the last adjournment of the Board (Sept. 11th) the following named Directors appeared here this morning to Wit.

Geo. C. Sibley of St. Charles County. President.

Hugh Meredith of Marion County.

Absent-----

Messrs.

Cornelius Davy of Jackson

B. F. Robinson of Colo

Robt. White of Scott (resigned)

There being no quorum present adjourned till 9 o'clock. Tomorrow morning.

Internal Improvements.

Thursday December 10th

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present Messrs. Sibley, Meredith & Robinson.

Absent-Mr. Davy not arrived or heard from.

Mr. Sibley stated that his attendance sooner than yesterday morning was prevented by the death of a relation in his family-Mr. Meredith & Robinson were also unavoidable detained as they informed the Board- Mr. Meredith who was absent from the two last meetings of the Board- Stated the reasons for his absence which were by the Board considered good and Satisfactory.

The President called the attention of the Board to the principal object of the present meeting- namely to make up a Report to the General Assembly now in session in compliance with the 13th Section of the V. Article of the Internal Improvement act- And on motion it is ordered by the Board; that the board will now proceed as in Interlocutory Committee, to collect and arrange the necessary materials for a full and complete Report-to be laid before the General Assembly as soon as it can possibly be properly prepared- That the Board will assemble every morning at 9 O'clock. (Sundays excepted) for the dispatch of business, until all shall be completed- Adjourned.

Friday December 11th 1840

The Board met this morning at 9 O'clock.

Present Messrs Sibley, Meredith, & Robinson.

Absent- Mr. Davy not yet heard from

Mr. Sibley presented his report as the commissioner of the Board on the Survey of the Rail Road Route from St. Louis to the Iron Mountain which was ordered to be entered at large on the Journal- as follows

To the Board of Internal Impts.

“In conformity with the order of the

“Board passed on the 10th of May 1839

“Appointing me their commissioner to Superintendent

The Reconnaissance and survey

Of a Route for a Rail Road from the

City of St. Louis to the Iron Mountain

I entered immediately upon the duties

Assigned me and in conjunction with
The Chief Engineer caused the Survey
To be commenced as soon as the necessary
Preparations could be completed
Which were made principally under
The immediate direction of Maj.
Morale, in whose professional experience
I entirely confined to appoint and
Equip the party employed in that service.

We found at the outset that the
Number of assistants specified in the
Order of the Board of the 9th May 1839
Was insufficient to insure the most
Expeditions and economical execution
Of this survey and also that it was
Impracticable to hire any suitable
Common hands at the rate of wages
Fixed by the board.

Internal Improvements

We therefore employed an additional
Pay from twenty five to thirty doll.
Per month for laboring hands.

We were able however to reduce the
Wages of the Flagman by causing a
Common hand to perform that duty.

The survey was commenced at the
Shore of the Mississippi River in the
City of St. Louis, on the 9th day of
June and was completed at the
Summit of the Iron Mountain in
The Country of St. Francois on the
30th day of October 1839.

I then immediately, as soon as the
Bad weather permitted, caused
The party with the whole equipment
To be transported across the country
The Massies Iron works, where they
Were directed to commence a survey
Of the Maramac River, then I paid
Them all off in full to the 8th Nov.
Inclusive, and then transferred them
With all the public property attach
To Robt. White Esq. the commissioner
Of the Board under whose superintendence
The survey of the Maramac

River was to be conducted.

As the Board will look to the

Chief Engineer, and not to me for

A detailed report on this survey, I

Shall only offer here a few remark

In addition to what it is my particular

Province to State in relation

To the expense incurred in its accomplishment

From some notes of this survey in my possession furnished me by Maj. Morele, it appears that the length of the line as surveyed is 115 $\frac{3}{8}$ miles- that it passes the heart of the mineral region and also through intensive coal fields and Pine forests. That the greatest elevation above the general level to be overcome by a propelling power, in the whole about 12 miles, is Seventy feet to the mile, consequently requiring Engines of the largest class and a construction heavy and expensive in proportion. That the establishment of the Rail Road thereon, complete with all the necessary Engines, Cars, Coaches, Shops, etc. will require an expenditure of about Three millions of dollars; and that an annual revenue of nearly half a million of dollars will be required to yield a clear income of six percent on the capital invested.

The survey has doubtless been accurately and faithfully executed and may be confidently relied on as the basis of any future prosecution of the contemplated improvement.

Internal Improvements

It ascertains a practicable route for a Rail Road between the two points, in the direction designated by the legislature, and altho' it may not now be expedient either for the State, or the company to undertake the work, the time will probably soon arrive, when the incalculable and

inexhaustible mineral reaches of the region, through which our survey passes, not to mention the mountain of iron ore at its terminus shall be more fully developed by individual enterprise, will demand even more costly facilities, if necessary for their diffusions, meanwhile the state will possess all the facts estimates etc., resulting from this survey which will be sufficient data for any future legislation on the subject.

The cost of this survey although considerably within the estimate and appropriation was unavoidably increased, not only by the higher rate of wages paid for laboring hands, but also by detentions consequent, on sickness in the party produced by their exposure during the extreme heat of summer in the dense thickets and flinty hills among which the line of the survey was obliged to pass-and I may add with truth and propriety that it was also increased by the extortionate charges of many of those from whom the necessary subsistence and other supplies for the party were obliged to be purchased along the route.

The Board will perceive that the party engaged in this service was in the field Five months including the few days occupied in their transfer to the Maramec. The principal asst. Engineer and the Rodman were in service and under pay six months being employed the first month principally in preparing the outfit for the Rail Road and other surveys-for which service they were wholly paid out of the Rail Road fund which was in my hands.

Including this last named expenditure, amounting to \$169.42/100 The Rail Road reconnaissance and survey has cost the sum of Three Thousand, seven hundred & one dollars & thirty one cents (\$3701.31/100), which the Board will find exhibited in ample detail in the statement and accompanying vouchers herewith presented-all which this report are respectfully submitted.

City of Jefferson
December 11th, 1840

G. C. Sibley

Mr. Meredith laid before the board his final report on the Salt River Subway, which was ordered to be recorded in the Journal-and is in the following words to wit.

Report of Hugh Meredith commission for the survey of Salt River made to the Board of Directors of Internal Improvements for the state of Missouri Dec. 11th 1840.

Having been appointed by the Board of Directors of Int. Improvements at a meeting in May 1839, commissioner for the survey and Reconnaissance of Salt River and having concluded the duties of that appointment, I respectfully present my report accompanied by an account of the disbursements and the sustaining vouchers.

The survey was commenced August 30th and completed Dec. 1st 1839. The result will appear in the report of the State Engineer to which I refer for all details & estimates. A chart of the survey has been completed and may be seen in the office of the Engineer.

The Amount of disbursements authenticated by vouchers as is shown in the account has been \$1614.78/100 as shown per voucher No.43 of this amt. \$155 arises from attendance on the Board and an examination of the Rail Road route-leaving \$99.44/100 for services and expenditures on Salt River Survey. Sixteen dollars eighty two cents (\$16.82/100) is also justly chargeable to the contingent fund having been expended not especially for the Salt River Survey but for the general service. This amt. of \$16.82 added to the \$153- above makes a sum of \$169.82 which should be deducted from the whole Amt. paid by me Viz. \$1614.78 having a balance of \$1444.96 the true amt. paid by me as commissioner on Salt River.

From the account now presented it appears there is still a Balance of \$36-due L. H. Amsden for services rendered as surveyor on this survey which will show the whole cost of the survey to have been \$1480.96.

Some of the Vouchers it will be seen were taken in the name of Wm. H. Morell and H. H. Amsden who acted at times as agents for me during my absence from the party occasioned by the sicknesses of my family. Motives of Economy, for the interest of the state, also induced me occasionally to disburse through these gentlemen, as by this means my constant attendance was rendered unnecessary. The expenditures upon this survey have been much increased by delay in procuring the building instruments from Baltimore, in consequence of which it became necessary to traverse the whole line twice. The survey has, however, been completed in a satisfactory manner, & the respective duties of the gentlemen employed have been fulfilled with much attention, industry & ability.

This is one subject alluded to in the report of the Engineer, which I respectfully point out to your particular attention-Salt River has been recognized as a navigable stream, both by the General Government & by an act of the Legislature of Missouri. This recognition had indeed a preference, with many persons, to purchase in the section of country fertilized by the waters of this Stream.

They justly consider that its navigation is a right secured to them under the sound enactment of the State, which if not further improved by slack water, or otherwise, should at least be preserved in its natural & unobstructed condition. This right has been violated in several instances by the construction of Dams across the stream, without Locks or other means of passage for Boats. If such individuals as have erected Dams, or who may thereafter erect them were obliged to construct suitable Locks, upon such regular & systematic plan, as might be furnished by the Engineer, this right would be preserved inviolate; the water could be employed for manufacturer purposes & in the course of time the whole length of the stream would be improved into a slack water navigation.

The first duty of the Board under the Act by which it has been organized is “to ascertain the most proper objects of thereon to every general assembly.” In accordance with this instruction, I will suggest to the Board an object in which a large portion of Northern Missouri is deeply interested, & especially that portion in which reside my more immediate constituents- Viz: A road from Hannibal on the Mississippi, by the most direct route to Brunswick, on the Missouri River, surveyed & laid out by a competent engineer, with a view to its gradual improvement by, or otherwise as the wisdom of future legislatures may direct. This road is required at the present time, & the urgency of demand rapidly increasing; Surveyed & laid out in this way, & with this view, it would become at once the great highway of the interior country to the River markets; the care & attention of the people would be bestowed upon it; the countries immediately interested would make appropriations for its improvement; the Hills would be cut & sloped, the low spots embanked & elevated & the streams bridged. All with little, or no other cost to the State Treasury than that of the first survey. And, at some not distant day, when the mighty resources of our fertile soil shall have been further developed by private enterprise, fostered by such prudent steps as the one above recommended, & the wealth of the country will justify the measure, a direct route, graded & rendered solid from use, will have been prepared for such other improvement as the country may then require & the Legislature authorize.

(Signed)

H. Meredith

The following is the report presented by Robert White Esq. late commissioner of the Board to superintend the Survey of the Maramec River—ordered to be entered at length upon the journal-Viz:

To the Board of Internal Improvement-

Robert White appointed by the Board by Order of 10th of May A.D. 1839 to superintend the reconaissance & survey of the Maramec River as commissioner, submits the following report of his labors to the Board.

Previous to entering definitely upon the duties assigned me by the Order of the Board I spent a portion of my time at assisting at the reconaissance of the Survey of the Salt River, and also that of the Rail Road route from the city of St. Louis to the Iron Mountain in St. Francis County. However, I entered upon the discharge of the duties assigned me by the order of the Board aforesaid, on the 15th day of October A.D. 1839. My attention was first turned to the construction of Boats & Crafts & making other necessary preparations for the survey of said River, the reconnoitering party not being present. But said party joined me on the 8th day of November A. D. 1839 & we immediately proceeded from the head of Big Spring at Massies Iron Works in the prosecution of the contemplated work.

The party consisted of Principal assistant Engineer, Surveyor, Rodman & laboring hands. We continued in the prosecution of our labors until the 30th day of November A.D. 1839 when the weather growing cold & inclement and by order of the Chief Engineer, We repaired to Jefferson City, at which time most of laboring hands were discharged.

The young Gentlemen forming a part of the party being retained in the Chief Engineer's office. On the first day of April in the year 1840 I again repaired to the City of Jefferson, equipped again and proceeded to continue the Survey of the Maramec where we left off.

However, before we recommenced our labors on our arrival at The Maramec River, we were detained some two or three weeks in procuring laboring hands, some of those whom we had previously engaged having left us about the time of our commencing business. When we recommenced our survey and unremittingly continued our labors until the 30th day of August

A.D. 1840, having completed the survey, with the exception of thirty miles of leveling which has since been completed.

In August, when we discontinued our labors we were compelled to do so in consequence of the illness of some of our party. In truth, we were detained at least two weeks during the time engaged in the survey and reconnaissance of the Meramec previous to August, in consequence of the indisposition of some of the party, and in consequence of a small accident which happened one of our Boats, which occasioned the loss of the one of our most important instruments; which however was finally recovered.

I respectfully refer the Board to the report of the chief engineer for a more detailed and satisfactory report of the survey of the Meramec. The whole amount expended by me on said survey is Three Thousand and one dollars and five cents which is evidenced by the accompanying exhibit and vouchers marked A. and made a part of the report. There is yet owned and owing several persons as follows:

To Wm. R. Singleton as P. A. Engineer	\$46.00
Mr. Page as Rodman	\$68.75
Joe, Black Boy as hand	\$105.33
T. M. Anderson as Rodman	<u>\$33.00</u>
	253.08
Add expended	<u>\$3001.05</u>
	\$3254.13
Deduct (per voucher) this sum not properly chargeable to this survey	<u>\$45.50</u>
Cost of Maramec Survey	\$3208.63

(Signed)

Robt. White.

The Board Adjourned.

Internal Improvements

Saturday December 12th 1840

The Board met this morning at 9 o'clock.

Present, Messrs. Sibley, Robinson, and Meredith.

Absent, Mr. C. Davy, not yet heard from.

Mr. B. F. Robinson, commissar. On the Osage River Survey, filed his final Report thereon, which is ordered to be placed on the Journal and is in the words following- to wit:

To the Board of Internal Improvement-

In addition to the foregoing accounts current, I take the liberty of subjoining- That the expenses of the Osage Survey and reconnaissance were necessarily increased in consequence of a delay of the party occasioned by high water, and (82) also by reason of the remote situation of Oscola, the point of commencement, from navigation, the transportation of stores etc., to that point amounting to two hundred dollars, being more than their original cost.

In addition to this I will state that the disbursements made by me by an order of the board of May 1839 (See Journal Page 25) for a Geological examination of the valley and contiguous regions of the River Osage amounting to about Eight Hundred Dollars likewise increased the expenditures on the survey of that river, and the amount paid out for that examination I presume was more than anticipated by the Board at the order passed their body.

By an examination of my account it will be seen that there (83) has been expended by men on the survey of the Osage River the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred and five dollars and fifty-five cents, including the Geological Examination, and exclusive of my account for services, per diem etc. as will be seen by voucher No. 50.

The Balance Due for that survey is \$313.78 as follows: To B. Gordon \$65.16, T. Anderson \$142, N. Overshown \$51.87 and to Edwd. David \$54.15.

Besides the balance due me as per account to meet these demands then is in my hands amounts and notes to the amount of ninety six dollars and twenty five cents.

I cannot conclude without adverting to the peculiar inconveniences under which a large and respectable population of Missouri labor in consequence of their remoteness from navigation.

Salt, sugar, coffee, and many of the necessities of life cost than double and triple at what they can be purchased at, or near, our navigable rivers; and this too, it should be recollected, although they have flowing through their very midst a magnificent stream: one that could be made navigable (250) two hundred and fifty miles at a cost of about two hundred thousand dollars. Economy, as much as I admire its, here loses its charms, and indeed becomes wasteful extravagance. Extreme parsimony not infrequently occasions poverty to individuals, and may not too rigid an economy impoverish a state, or a nation, by retarding its developments, and cramping the industry and Enterprise of the People?

Very Respectfully

B. L. Robinson
Comms. Of Osage Resorv. And Survey

Internal Improvements

The Board Adjourned until Monday.

Monday December 14th 1840

Present this morning

Messrs. Sibley Prest. Meredith and Robinson

Absent, Mr. Davy, and not yet heard from.

Mr. Sibley laid before the Board Statements of all his accounts as commissioner and agent of the Board, accompanied by forty five vouchers, in duplicate and asked the Board to examine and pass upon them. Messrs. Meredith and Robinson, thereupon extend upon that duty as in committee and the Board adjourned until tomorrow, nine o'clock.

Tuesday, December 15, 1840

Present, Messrs, Sibley Prest. Robinson and Meredith

Absent Mr. Davy, not yet heard from

Mr. Meredith accounts were by him laid before the Board this morning, with vouchers No. 1 to in duplicate and Messrs. Robinson and Sibley directed to examine them and report thereon. Adjourned

Wednesday, December 16th

Present, Messrs. Sibley, Robinson and Meredith

Absent, Mr. C. Davy, not yet heard from

Mr. B. L. Robinson's accounts and vouchers were, at his request, taken up and referred to Messrs. Meredith and Sibley to examine and report thereon. Adjourned

Thursday December 17th

Board meets at the office of the Chief Engineer

Present, Messrs. President, Meredith and Robinson

Absent Mr. C. Davy not heard from yet

Mr. Robert White late Commissioner of the Board on the Maramac River Survey presented all his accounts and vouchers, in duplicate, to the Board this morning which were referred for examination to Messrs. Robinson and Meredith. Major Morrell, Chief Engineer, also

presented his accounts, vouchers etc., for examination and adjustment which were referred to Messrs Robinson and Sibley.

Afternoon

Messrs. Meredith and Robinson report on the accounts of Geo. C. Sibley, that they had examined and found them all correct. That he received at different times, by orders of the Board, for disbursement as their Commissioner and agent, the sum of six thousand and five hundred dollars (\$6,500). That he has filed vouchers (45 in number) showing an aggregate just charge against the Board and the State of six thousand seven hundred and eight dollars and eighty one cents (\$6,708.81) and that there is due him thereon two hundred and eight dollars and eighty one cents (\$208.81). That his charge for personal services and contingent expenses is \$657.23 altogether, since (87) the 1st of May 1839, to wit:

As commissioner in the Rail Road Survey	\$198.00
Postage and Stationery	<u>2.05</u>
See Voucher No. 9 on file-----	\$200.05
As Prest. And Director of the Board	\$447.00
Postage, Stationery etc.	<u>10.68</u>
See Voucher No. 45 on file-----	<u>\$457.68</u>
Six Hundred fifty seven 73/100 dolls.	\$657.73

On Mr. Meredith's accounts, Messrs. Sibley and Robinson report that they have examined and find them all correct as stated by him. That he received from the Board \$1500 for disbursement as Commissr. On Salt River Survey. That he has filed vouchers proving an aggregated expenditure of \$1600 78/100 (including \$252 66/100 for his personal services) and that there is now due him from the State, One Hundred and fourteen dollars and 78 cents.

On the accounts of Mr. Robinson, Messrs. Meredith and Sibley report, that they have duly examined them with the vouchers filed; and are satisfied that his statement of receipts and disbursements is correct. There is evidence of an aggregate expenditure on the Osage River Survey of \$2905 55/100 to which add Mr. R's charge for his personal services (\$603) and some other contingencies noted in the same voucher, No. 50 amts. To \$33 02/100 will in all make the sum of \$3541.57. Mr. Robinson received from the Board \$3500 in State funds and also \$18 on account of a horse sold, and acknowledges notes and accts. in his hands due the State and Board amounting to \$96 25/100--\$3614.25. Amt. disbursed per vouchers 3541.57 leaves the balance due by Mr. R. \$72 68/100 which he holds in settled notes etc.

Messrs. Robinson and Meredith report as follows on Mr. R. White's accounts. That they have examined them carefully with the vouchers filed, and believe them to be correctly stated. The 45 vouchers exhibited show an aggregate disbursement by Mr. W. of \$3001 05/100. He received from the Board \$3000, consequently there is now due him one dollar and five cents from the State. Mr. White charges:

For his Services as Commissr.	\$357.00
His Services as Director	266.75
His contingent expenses	<u>32.00</u>
	\$633.75

Which charges are embraced in his amt. of disbursements per his vouchers Nos. 42-43-44.

Messrs. Robinson and Sibley to who was referred for examination the disbursement account of Wm. H. Morele report thereon as follows. That the sum of One Thousand Dollars was placed in Major Morele's hands by order of the Board of May 10th 1839, (see page 20) for which his Bond is on file in the Secretary of State's Office-And that the further sum of four hundred &

twenty seven 17/100 dollars was paid him by under of the Board passed September 6th 1839 (see pages 35 & 37) making altogether the sum of \$1427.17/100.---which is the whole amount that is chargeable against him on this account. Major Morele has produced satisfactory evidence contained in 46 vouchers filed with his account that he has disbursed in the service the sum of Sixteen Hundred & fifty one 05/100 dollars (\$1651.05/100). And that there are now due him from the State on this account the sum of Two hundred & Twenty Thou. Dollars & 88 cents (\$223.88/100)

On motion of Mr. Meredith it is hereby ordered by the Board, that the President draw upon Cornelius Davy, Commissioner of Grand River for the sum of Two Hundred & eight dollars & eighty one cents (\$208.81). In favor of George C. Sibley, also for one Hundred & fourteen dollars & seventy eight cents (\$114.78). in favor of H. Meredith. And also for the sum of five hundred forty one dollars and twenty seven cents (\$541.27) in favor of Major Morele. All to be paid out of the Balance remaining in his hands as per his account filed in the Auditor's Office.

The following order was adopted by the Board on Mr. Meredith's motion, to wit:

Whereas it appears from B. F. Robinson's accounts on file, that he holds certain notes & claims amounting to Ninety Six 25/100 dollars, which are the property of the State at the disposal of this Board.

It is hereby ordered that the collection of said dues shall be confided to Mr. Robinson; and that out of the proceeds thereof he shall discharge the Balance that appears due him on his disbursement account (\$23.57) and the residue (\$72.68) he is hereby authorized & directed to pay into the hands of Commissr; or Agent as this Board may appoint to receive & disburse the same.

On motion of Mr. Meredith it is hereby ordered that the sum of Two hundred & eight dollars & eighty one cents be allowed to Geo. C. Sibley, being the Bal. due him on his Acct. rendered & filed. And that the sum of one hundred fourteen dollars seventy eight cents be allowed to Hugh Meredith, for a Balance due to him upon his accounts rendered & on file which sums to be paid out of moneys in the hands of Wm. H. Morele, Chf. Engineer, to be by him accounted for, provided, that the Bal. due to Robt. White (one dollar & 5 cts.) and the Bal. due to Wm. H. Morele on his disbursement account (\$223.88) shall be paid out of the said fund & the residue paid to said Morell towards his 5th Quarter salary.

On motion of Mr. Meredith it is hereby ordered that the President is required to notify Cornelius Davy of the foregoing orders (relating to the funds in his hands) and also that he is required to file his final accounts as commissioner of the Board, accompanied by vouchers in the office of the Board of Directors and also in the office of the State Auditor with the least possible delay.

On motion of Mr. Meredith it is hereby ordered, that the president of the Board, Geo. C. Sibley is hereby appointed commissioner and agent of this board to receive whatever moneys may be due the board from any source, and also to receive any moneys that may be hereafter appropriated by the General Assembly now in Session for the use of the Board of Internal Improvements (said Sibley executing sufficient bond as by law required) and to disburse the same promptly in the payment of all accounts allowed by the Board together with such as may arise from the completing the business in the Chief Engineer Office and account for the same to the proper office without any unnecessary delay.

On Mr. Robinson's motion it is ordered by the Board, that the examiners of the accounts of the several commissioners and Chief Engineer, be authorized and required to affix suitable

certificates thereto: and that one set of each with the vouchers pertaining there onto set be filed in the office of the State Auditor and that these filed in the office of the Board shall be held subject to any call of the general Assembly.

Mr. Meredith offered the following which was adapted, to wit: It is ordered by the Board that Geo. C. Sibley and B. F. Robinson be this board to the General Assembly which they are hereby acquired to communicate to that body as soon as the appropriate documents can be prepared and copied that are referred to in said report and also that said committee shall exercise a general superintendence over the records and files of the Board and the same dispose if in such manner as may in their opinion be most for the public interest.

At the suggestion of the President the Board requested the Chief Engineer to furnish forthwith an accurate list of all outstanding claims against the Board in his Department; giving the true amount of each up to the 15th inst: including his own salary due and also an estimate of the probable expense to be further incurred in completing the Maps of the five surveys finished and the said chief engineer be required to furnish an inventory of all the instruments office and field furniture and other public property in his charge or possession. And in conformist with his order the Chief Engineer Immediately handed in lists of which the following copies, directed by the Board to be inserted in the Journal, to wit:

Due to L. A. Amsden-----	Services-----	\$541.06
B. Gordon		423.16
I. W. Rupell		168.75
T. M. Anderson		257.88
W. R. Singleton		252.00
W. H. Morrell		389.07
L. W. Much, for stationery		248.58
I. C. Dinnies and Co.	Stationary	61.86
I. P. Cuningham	Services	143.80
Joseph Foster	Camp Furniture	85.21
I.T. Stibbs	Repairing Tents	18.00
Lublitt and Campbell	Blankets	42.00

John Wells	Office Rent	120.00
C. Gunn	Printing Circul.	7.50
Post Office	City of Jefferson	8.44
Hill & Rasin	Candles	32.00
I. Paulsel f	Wood	30.00
Servant and Wood Chopper		30.00
For Sheet Iron Fenders		3.00
For Copies of Surveys		5.00
Mr. Blettner	Repairing Instru.	<u>24.00</u>
	Total	\$3391.41

Internal Improvements

Estimate to 15th Feb. to wit:

Amsden	2. mos. services	\$208.33
Gordon	Same	120.00
Singleton	Same	120.00
Russell	Same	90.00
Anderson	Same	90.00
Morrell (chief engr.)	Same	333.33
Servant and wood cutter		40.00
Fire Wood		60.00
Candles		18.00
Office Rent and Repairs		40.00
Stationary etc.		30.00
Cloth and Roller for Map		<u>10.00</u>
		\$1159.66
Amt. now due and estimated to the 15 th of Feby.	In all	\$4551.07

Inventory of Articles belonging to the State of Missouri (100) and connected with the
Engineering Dept.

Office Furniture.

- 5 Walnut tables-2 Do. Wash Stands
- 4 Pine Drawing boards-3 mahogany rulers
- 1 Walnut Ruler-12 Mahogany Triangles
- 4 Tin Cylinders-2 pr. Tongs-1 Shovel
- 9 Candlesticks-2 Wash pans- Ldo. Bowl

1 pitcher-1 Vol. Public Works of Great Britain

Vols. Land Transactions of the institution of Civil Engineers

Instruments

2 levels and tripods-2 compasses and

2 rods and targets- 1 beam compass

1 protractor-2 slope instruments

1 Pocket compass-1 magnifying glass

2 Tape measures-2.50 ft. chains and pins

1 Small Boat Anchor-3 Axes-1 Ditto

7 Hatchets-6 Hatchet belts-2 brush knives

1 drawing knife 1 Auger-1 Box Small Instruts.

Camp Equipage

4 wall tents and 3 flies-1 cooks tent

2 large mess chests- 2 small do.

10 camp stools-9 mattresses

9 pillows-24 pairs blankets

4 Large tin Buckets-2 Small Do. 2 Tin Kettles

2 Large Pots-1 Small Do. 4 ovens and lids

4 Gridirons 4 Tin boilers-2 Stew Pans

3 Frying Pans-1 Sheet Iron Ditto-9 Tin pans

4 Tin coffee pots-2 tin tea pots-6 tin cups

3 Tin Dippers-3 Coffee mills- 1 skimmer

1 flesh fork-2 sieves-1 pr. Shovel and tongs

2 shut Iron fenders-1 spider
21 Dining plates-7 Dishes-2 pitchers
2 Sugar bowls 21 tea cups and 18 saucers
17 Soup Spoons-19 tea Do.-1 Large Iron Do.
1 Bowl-12 Brattannia Tumblers-1 set Castors
20 Knives & 15 forks-2 carvers & forks
2 steels & 12 salt celler-1 Buffalo Robe.

And Mr. Robinson reports that the following are in his possession, to wit:

1 large Spy Glass
1 Box for Mineral Tests
2 Geological Picks-

Mr. Robinson reported to the Board that there is due from the Board-To Michael Aubuisen, for balance of services as chairman on the Osage River Survey the sum of fifty one 87/100 dollars—51.87—And also to Edward Davy for services as chairman on the same Survey the sum of fifty four 75/100 Dollars--\$54.75.

Which accounts Amt. to \$104.62 the Board recognizes & allows.

And Mr. Robert White late Commiss. On the Maramec River Survey states that there is due for services rendered on that survey-

To Joseph Canonge, Boatman \$105.33

To Jno. Page, Flagman 68.75

Which two accounts amounting to \$174.08

The Board recognizes and allows-

On motion, ordered, that the president prepare a statement of the accounts of the Board with the Stat. to be laid before the General Assembly with the Journal & other documents preparing to accompany the Report of the Board-Which order the Pres. Executes as follows---

See next page.

Internal Improvements

Dr. the State of Missouri in Acct. with

For expenditures on Osage River Survey	3541.57
Ditto on No. Grand River Survey	1675.14
Ditto on Salt River Survey	1614.78
Ditto on Maramec River Survey	3001.05
Ditto on the Rail Road Route Ditto	3701.31
Ditto by G. C. Sibley Agt. On Sundry Acct.	3007.50
Ditto by Wm. H. Morrell—ditto—ditto	1223.88
Ditto by Acct. Chf. Engineer's Salary	2316.34
Amt. of Sundry claims outstanding agst. The Bd. p. lists pages 98-99&102	3672.11
	\$23,753.68
Balance per contra	3599.43
Add the estimated expense of finishing the maps, plans & now in progress, ord. by the Board as by the Act directed-see the estimate page 99	1159.66
Amt. of appropriation respectfully asked by the Board	\$4759.09

The Board of the Internal Improvements Cr.

For Amt. of the Appropriation received at Sundry Times from the State Treasurer	\$20,000.00
Amt. rec. per B. F. Robinson Commiss. For Sundries Re-sold	114.25
Amt. rec. per C. Davy Commissioner. For a Boat Resold	40.00
	20,154.25
This Bal. due the Bds. Int. Impts.	3,599.43
	\$23,753.68

Dec 17, 1840.

E. E.

G. C. Sibley, Prest.

There being no further business to detain the Board in Session, nothing having been hard from M. Davy, and Meredith being very desirous to return home, it was moved by M. Meredith to adjourn till the next regular meeting in course; and the Board accordingly adjourned to meet at this place on the first Monday in May 1841

G. C. Sibley

Pres. Of the Bd.

City of Jefferson

December 17th 1840

Memorandum December 29th 1840

The Board having adjourned, Mr. Davy not arrived or heard from, and Messers. White and Robinson having resigned their offices as Directors; I am left here alone to attend to the business of the Board. For the information of the Committees of the two Houses of the General Assembly on Internal Improvements, and all others officially interested I give notice, that all the

records, files, or belonging to the office of the Board, will be immediately deposited in the offices of the Board, will be immediately deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, Subject to the orders of the legislature, or either Branch, and to the inspection of all authorized persons, and further, that I shall remain in this city during the present week to answer any calls for information in my power

G. C. Sibley

City of Jefferson

Pres. Bd: Int. Impts.

City of Jefferson

December 29th 1840

Sirs

I have the honor to lay before the General Assembly the accompanying very full report of the Board for Internal Improvements.

Very Respectfully Sirs
Mo. Obt. Set:
G. C. Sibley
Prest. Of the Board

The Honorable

The President of

The Senate of Missouri

Report of the Board of Internal Improvements to the General Assembly of Missouri

December 29th 1840

In conformity with the 13th section of the 1st article of the Act, entitled an Act to establish a General System of Internal Improvements in the State of Missouri approved 11th February 1839,

the Board of Internal Improvements appointed and organized by authority of Said Act, have the honor to lay before the General Assembly now in Session the following Report.

By appointment of the Governor, the Board was duly organized at the City of St. Louis, the first week in May 1839 and immediately set about the performance of their prescribed duties. The early appointment of an experienced Chief Engineer, who sustains a high rank and reputation in his profession, enabled the Board to commence operations without any delay, further than was necessary to obtain suitable assistants and Laborers, and to provide instruments and proper outfits for the two engineering parties ordered. And as it was believed at the outset, that it would be but barely practicable to complete the five surveys ordered, within the time prescribed, with the Maps, Plans, Estimates etc; and that the means placed at the disposal of the Board for those objects would probably prove insufficient (especially if the pay of the Directors and Salary of the Chief Engineers, and the necessary office expenses should be taken from that fund), a vigorous exertion and rigid economy were strictly enjoined on all to whom were entrusted the work to be performed and the expenses to be incurred and paid.

The letter to effect these objects, the Board deemed it most advisable, to appoint of their body a Commissioner to superintend the disbursements etc. of each Reconnaissance and survey; and to place such sums of money at the disposal of each commissioner, as upon careful estimates was considered adequate to defray the expense of the work confined to him, requiring Bond and Security from each as directed by "The Act" for faithful disbursements. In pursuance of this plan, the Board placed \$3,500 in the hands of B. F. Robinson, an appointed him their commissioner on the Osage River Survey. \$2,500 in C. Davy's hands as Commiss. On the North Grand River Survey \$1,500 in H. Meredith's hands as Commissioner on the Salt River Survey. \$3,000 in Rt. White's hands as Commissioner. On the Meramec River Survey \$5,000 in G. C.

Sibley's hands as Commiss. On the Rail Road Route Survey. And in the hands of the Chief Engineer, the sum of \$1,000 for disbursement in his department, for instruments etc. making in all, as thus appropriated, the sum of \$16,500 which is covered by Bonds and Security approved by the Governor, now on file in the Office of the Secretary of State.

For the sake of brevity, reference is here made to the "Journal of the Proceedings of the Board of Directors" which is herewith presented in full and from which the Legislature may readily obtain exact information in relation to the whole action of the Board and their Commissioners; embracing especially, the various accounts of expenditures, which references to the vouchers, in very ample detail.

All the Surveys ordered by "the Act" have been completed as will be seen from the Report of the Chief Engineer which is herewith communicated, and to which the Board would respectfully invite the particular attention of the Legislature appended to that interesting Document, will be found the report of H. King who was employed under and order of the Board passed 14th May 1839, to make a Geological examination of the Osage River country.

The Plans, Maps, and of the Surveys (so necessary for a right understanding of them) are not yet finished. They're now being prepared in the engineer's office, with all diligences, and will, it is expected, be all completed together with the Map of the State, as far at that can be finished for the present, by the 15th of February prox. All these Maps, especially the large Map of the State, will doubtless be properly appreciated by the General Assembly. They will all be faithfully and accurately executed, from the very best data; and will be almost indispensable to the State, in the event of any future prosecution of the works of improvement to which they refer.

No copies of any of these Maps have yet been ordered by the Board, for the use of Counties, or for the Office of the Secretary of State; because the additional expense would be considerable, and because such copies can be procured if desirable, at any future time.

All the Commissioners of the Board (except Mr. C. Davy) have made reports to the Board of their proceedings; and have filed detailed accounts of their disbursements, with Vouchers to Sustain them, in the Office of the Board, and with the State Auditor; as has also the Chf. Engineer. Full notices of all those Accounts and Reports will be found in the “Journal of the Proceedings of the Board”, already referred to in this report.

As nearly as can be readily ascertained, near enough for the present purpose, the Several Surveys have Cost, exclusive of the Maps, Plans, estimates and proportionate office expenses as follows. The Osage River, with the Geological Survey,

231 3/8 Miles	\$3648.35
The North Grand River.....110 miles....	1725.00
The Salt River.....75 3/4 miles.....	1544.96
The Meramec River.....172 1/2.....	3208.63
The Rail Road Route.....115 3/8.....	3701.31

The remainder of the appropriation (\$6171.75) has all been expended. \$1595.14 of it in payment to the President and Directors of the Board, as such, and to their Secretary, and for Books, Stationary, Office Rent and Other Contingent expenses of the Board. \$2316 34/100 to the Chf. Eng. For his Salary, \$477 68/100 for Instruments. \$1379 51/100 for Services of Engineer & Draughtsman in Office, and \$403.08 for Office and field furniture, and other contingent expenses of the Engineering Department.

In carrying into effect the Act of the Legislature, the Board are well satisfied that they have faithfully performed all their duty, and they can testify also to the zeal, industry, perseverance and efficiency of the Chief Engineer and his assistants, without which it would have been entirely impracticable for the Board to have finished all the Surveys ordered by "The Act" within the present Season. In executing the orders of the General Assembly, the Board have been governed in their expenditures by a proper regard for economy. But the funds placed at their disposal have been found inadequate to meet their engagements up to the 15th Inst. Including the per diem pay and Expenses of the Board and Salary of the Chief Engineer amounting to \$4800 65/100, which payments, the Boards, with Submission are of Opinion are not properly chargeable to the appropriation.

Not only has the whole appropriation been exhausted, but there are claims now outstanding against the Board, and the State, that have been examined and allowed, amounting to the Sum of \$ 3672 11/100 and in addition to this, it is estimated that the expense of completing the Maps now in hand, a work enjoined to the Board by "The Act" and which they have no authority to omit or suspend will amount to the sum of \$1159 66/100 making altogether, the Sum \$4831 77/100 from which should be deducted \$72 68/100 in the hands of one of the Commissioners in uncollected Notes and Accounts; And there remains to be provided by the General Assembly, the Sum of \$4759.09 All which are more particularly set forth in the accompanying Journal of the Board and Accounts on file, at the disposal of the Legislature.

The Board respectfully ask of the General Assembly an appropriation of \$4759 to enable them by their Commissioner and Agent to discharge all present arrearages, and to meet the estimated expenses now accruing; with such as may actually accrue in this service, to the 15th of February prox.

There are now on hand in the Chief Engineer's Office, a Variety of Instruments, and articles of furniture etc. (as per inventory in the journal, pages 100-101) to be disposed of as the Legislature may direct. And also a Considerable collection of mineral and Fossil Specimens of a highly interesting character; which if properly arranged and preserved, would form the Nucleus of a Cabinet useful to the State.

In accordance with the law under which this Board has been organized requiring them to ascertain the most proper objects of improvement in relation to roads and navigable waters, and to report thereon to every General Assembly the Board would now respectfully suggest that in addition to the objects they have recently had in charge, there are two others, which are deemed of great public importance; as they would involve but a trifling expense, they are respectfully recommended.

The first is a Road from Massey's Iron works, to a point on the Missouri River, about ten miles below the mouth of the Gasconade, to be surveyed and laid out as a State Road by a competent engineer. For further information in this subject, reference is made to the accompanying letters from Mr. Massey to the Board.

The second object is a Road from the Town of Hannibal on the Mississippi, by the most direct route, to the town of Brunswick, at the mouth of Grand River, on the Missouri; to be also laid out under authority of the legislature, by a competent Engineer, with a view to such future improvement by paving or otherwise, as may be deemed proper by succeeding Legislatures. On this subject, reference is respectfully made to the report of Mr. Meredith to the Board, found in the Journal of their Proceedings. (Pages 74-75-76)

Very respectfully submitted, by order of the Board of Int. Impts;

City of Jefferson
December 29th 1840

G. C. Sibley
President

Documents accompanying the above Report

1. A full copy of the Journal of the Board
2. A detailed & very full report of the Chief Engineer (with D.H. King's Geological Report appended) embracing the Data & estimates of all the five Surveys etc.
3. Mr. Saml. Massey's letter to the Board, of last Sept.