

MORGE STEPHENSON L.S.

Tapton House, July 16th 1844

the Promotors of a line of Railway from Cockermouth to  
Workington

Gentlemen

Having examined the line of Country betwixt  
these two Towns for the purpose of making a Railway I have only  
considered the nature of the work required for the construction of  
Railway on the route I have stated, and I am satisfied that  
£3000 per mile will be sufficient for a single line including land  
and stations. I am supposing the land to cost £150 per acre (that is  
the average), and 7 acres per mile: but to be quite safe we will say  
£4000 per mile. For the latter sum I would guarantee the construction  
of the line crossing the river five times with good substantial  
wooden Bridges and proper Station houses where required. Supposing the  
line to be eight miles long at £8000 per mile which will  
amount to £64,000.

From the favourable nature of the gradients I feel  
quite justified that the line can be worked for about 33 per cent of  
the gross income.

Having now given you the sum required to make the  
line, and also the sum required to work the line, these two statements  
will enable you to judge whether a traffic case can be made out to pay  
a fair per-centage on the outlay. My own opinion is that it will be  
a safe and profitable investment; but before any thing more is done,  
I should recommend that a Statement of traffic be made out by some  
careful person.

I can collect from other railway Acts the charges of different  
articles per mile, when this part of the business has been gone  
through you will be able to form a pretty correct judgement as to  
the merit of the scheme.

I am Gentlemen

Your mo: Obt.servant

Geo. Stephenson

MS 1163