

1
Austin, December 10th, 1853.

To the Board of Directors of
the "Texas, Western Railroad Company."

Gentleman:
In

pursuance of instructions received from the President of your Company, I have proceeded to make the following preliminary survey for your Road across the State, and designate, and mark out the most suitable track, or route for the same; - which I hope will prove satisfactory to your Company.

From the town of Marshall, in Harrison County, I commence and designate the route to be located as follows, for the "Texas, Western Rail Road Company, - running in a direct line South, 87° West, to, or near Hagens Ferry on the Sabine River.

Thence, upon a direct line with the same variation, to the meridian of Tyler, Smith County. Thence in a direct line to a point five miles N. W. of the intersection of the 32° of latitude with the Trinity River, being the most eligible point for the crossing of said Road.

Thence, due West upon a parallel with 32° to the Meridian of Corsicana in Navarro County, continuing westward with southing sufficient to intersect the Brazos River where the 32° of latitude strikes said stream.

Thence, pursuing a direct route West, on the said parallel of 32° till it strikes the main stream of the Colorado River, crossing said stream, continuing West, with a little southing, to a point three miles due South of the intersection of the 32° of latitude with the 103° of Longitude West from Greenwich, and 26° of ~~latitude~~^{Longitude} from Washington.

Thence, from said point, in a direct line, a little South of West to the Southern base of the Guadalupe Mountains; passing the same, pursuing ~~on~~ a course a few points North of West, to the old Spanish crossing on the Rio Grande, near Wright's Ranch, and seven and a half miles N. W. of the town of El Paso.

The whole distance thus surveyed, marked, and designated by me, from Marshall to El Paso, is seven hundred and fifty eight miles. The Country from Marshall to the Trinity River, is a little undulating, well watered and heavily timbered; - the soil productive, and well adapted to grading, presenting not a

single obstruction to a speedy and successful Rail Road Construction, ^{passing} through five Counties with an aggregate population of 48,000 persons, possessing real and personal estate to the amount of \$21,500,000,

From the Trinity River to the Brazos, the timber is neither so tall or abundant, but equally as good for Rail Road purposes, — the soil and surface of the Country is equal to the first named section, besides Stone for bridging, building and other purposes in abundance Iron ore, and extensive beds of coal are found on, and near this section of the route, — it is fast settling up, and it is thought to be the best wheat growing region in the State.

From the Brazos to the Colorado, the Country cannot be surpassed by any other, combining all the natural elements of wealth, with those that enter into, and form the basis of cheap, durable and profitable Construction of Rail-Roads; in fact, the same ^{may} be said, of the line, till you strike the Puerco River, with a single exception, (timber is not so abundant,) but even that, can be had in sufficient quantities along the line.

From the Puerco to the Rio Grande is the only obstruction (to a direct line) that presents itself on the whole route of survey; here, we are compelled to make a deflection to the South to avoid the spurs of the Guadalupe mountains, affording pine, Cedar, and oak in abundance, for the construction of the Rail Road &c.

This report, I beg to submit to your Board of Directors, believing it covers the object of my appointment, and in compliance with my instructions.

All of which, is respectfully submitted,

Richard M. Shinn
Agent.

The State of Texas } Personally came before the undersigned a Notary
County of Travis } in said county, Richard M. Shinn who did acknow-
ledge to me he had in his capacity as Agent execu-
ted the above Instrument for all the purposes &
Considerations therein expressed and contained
Witness my hand and Seal of office at Austin
this 16 day of Nov 1853

Francis T. Buffum
Notary Public
Travis Co

Old Miscellaneous File 8

Letter A.

Report of Richard M. Thoma
Agent U.S.

Filed in Gen. Land Office
by W. R. D. Ward

⁴ Filed in the Gen. Land
Office by W. R. D. Ward
on the 17th day of December
1853 at 4 1/2 O'clk P.M.

W. R. D. Ward

copy for Maj. Standa



Austin December 11th 1853

At a Case Session of the Board of Directors of the Texas Western Railroad Company - The annexed Report (Marked A) of our Agent Mr Shimm, who was duly appointed and Commissioned to Survey, locate and designate the route for the track of said road from Marshall to the Rio Grande at or near El Paso was carefully examined and discussed by said Board, and they have concluded to adopt the same.

And the said Board do hereby accept, ratify and confirm the Report of our said Agent, and order the same to be recorded in the books of said Company as well as in the General Land Office of the State of Texas at the City of Austin.

Done in the City of Austin
on the day and date first
above written

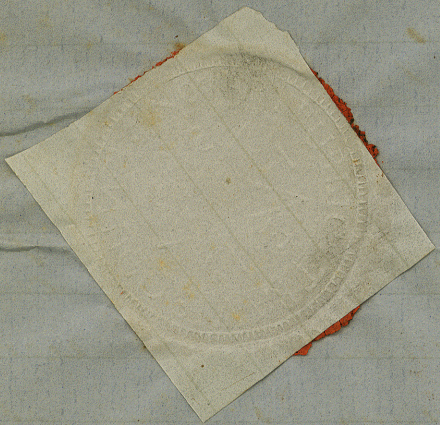
R. A. Hitchcock
Secy. Treas.

A. N. Ward
President
T. W. R. Co



Charles of Texas }
 County of Travis }
 Personally came before the
 undersigned a Notary in
 said County, W. R. D. Ward who
 in his capacity as President did acknowledge
 to me he had executed the within Instrum-
 ent for all the purposes and Considerations
 therein expressed & contained

Witness my hand & Seal of
 Office at Austin this 16
 day of April 1853
 Francis J. Duffass
 Notary Public
 Travis Co



Old Miscellaneous File 8

Filed in the Gen. Land
Office by W. H. D. Ward
on the 17th day of
December, 1853, at
4 1/2 O'Clock P.M.
S. Cook
Clerk

Counter # 75432