

An article copied in your widely circulated journal from an English paper headed "Prospects of the Russo Am. Tel." is calculated to mislead the public as to "this gigantic enterprise". In the first place Messrs Sibley and Ballou ~~are~~ <sup>have</sup> not "just contracted" for the construction of this telegraph. It is now in course of construction through B. C. & R. A. under grants from the respective <sup>governments</sup>. In the next place the W. U. S. Co has not subscribed a single dollar to the stock of this line, the stock has been taken by individuals and the W. U. S. Co is not interested to the amount of a single dollar in its stock or disbursements. The W. U. S. Co is however interested in its success to the extent of messages that may go over its lines on the way to or from Europe or Asia this is all the interest the W. U. or any other Co has in the success of the R. A. line,

We are told by this writer that ~~the R. A.~~ <sup>"it"</sup> is an untried experiment "to lay down electric wires in such disagreeable vicinity to the North Pole etc." This is, however, disagreeable not strictly true. The telegraph from S. P. through Finland around the Gulf of Bothnia where it connects with the Swedish line on to Stockholm and Denmark touches ~~the~~ about the same degree north



(2)  
as the extreme point of  $B_{\wedge} S_{\wedge}$  <sup>enough's</sup> unit, again the line  
from S.P. to exchange one of the coldest points  
in Europe touches  $6^{\circ}$  So that we see the proximity  
to the N.P. does not stop electricity on the wires —  
besides it is a well known and well tested fact  
~~that~~ in cold dry climates such as a great portion  
of the R.A. line will traverse that the Electric  
Tel. works infinitely better than in warm moist  
latitudes, As to Snow and Sleet I suppose there  
is quite as much of these in Russia where the  
Telegraph wires already stretch some 7000000  
as we will find on our line. In fact Sleet is  
less frequent in high northern latitudes than in the  
more middle ones; for instance on our own lines  
we find more Sleet than in Northern Rus. On the  
lower Danube and in the Caucasus the Rus. Tel. is  
more disturbed by this cause than in all the other  
parts of the Empire. And I can tell our Philosopher  
that neither snow or Sleet prevents the Tel. from  
extending, if it did we would not have a mile of  
Tel. in America far of all other countries we  
have more of these here than elsewhere

Now as to the bears and uncivilized savages  
"in promiscuous variety" our Philosopher if he thinks  
to stop the telegraph on their account he had better  
take a walk along the Pacific line from Omaha



minutes

to California and thence up through Oregon  
 and Washington to British Columbia New West  
 where the line is now open and make his  
 report on bears and Indians stopping the  
 progress of the Tel. "Fancy" he says, "suspending  
 on wooden poles a distance of 7000 miles -  
 as if <sup>nearly</sup> every mile of Tel, in <sup>graph</sup> America's <sup>+ Europe</sup> not  
 suspended on wooden poles. Again "Fancy" en-  
 veying all the requisites to the Eastern Extremity of  
 Siberia and leaving the wires exposed to winter  
 snows and summer thaws", as if this ~~was not~~ <sup>was not</sup>  
 the condition of every mile of post and wire Tel  
 in the whole world to the extent of some 40,000  
 miles. The pecuniary side of the matter next  
 receives his attention, he puts down £270,000 or  
 \$1,150,000 for interest and expenses this is based on the  
 \$10,000,000 capital 7% would be 700,000 leaving 450,  
 000 for expenses. If the line should not cost that  
 sum the interest would be that much less I suppose

The next question is of revenue; he gives us 200  
 messages a day at £8,14,6 or about \$3,100,000;  
 but suppose the messages should be twice  
 that number how then. Can the telegraphic



correspondence of the whole world be determined and fixed at two hundred a day; I think not when the message in Europe and America reach many millions a year. But his figures don't hold good. He puts a message from London to the Arctic at £2, 2.6, but by an convention with Russia this is reduced to about £1. 10, on through messages or call this £2. Then he says the charge from Behring's Strait to New York will have to be £2. 17, but I will call it £3. from the Arctic, for that is our line. This will give £5. for a through message, 200 a day will give £365,000 a year £146,000 of this goes to European and Russian lines £109,500 to our line and £109,500 to American lines. Of this £109,500 we get 40% <sup>gross</sup> back or £43,800 and about 20% from Russian lines, say about £20,000.

Thus we have £109,500, and the rebate of £43,800, on 200 messages a day at £5; but put the messages at 500 a day which will be quite low enough and we have £383,250, for our <sup>share of</sup> receipts



This calculation must be extended a little further than the messages from Sweden to New York <sup>outside of England,</sup> we must embrace the whole of Europe, Asia, and Egypt, including India, China & Japan; because the Russo-American line will connect with all these countries before it touches England. The message from France and Germany calculated in commerce and mails should be equal to England at the least.