For THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

WESTERN COMMERCIAL ROAD.

Design for forming a company for the purpose of opening and promoting the completion of a commercial, or post road, leading from the Capitol in the city of Washington, through George Town, up the Potomack River, and thence across the Allegany mountain to the states of Ohio and Kentucky; pursuing the shortest and best level which professional investigation may be able to determine, under the approbation of a committee of management, to be elected among the first competent number of subscribers, for the purpose of superintending the primary proceedings.

It is presumed that the following interests may, at present, be advantageously combined in exertions and advances, for promoting an improvement so obviously beneficial to all men, and so peculiarly interesting to government, and to the adjacent countries through which it may pass, viz.

1. The United States—in Congress.
2. The state of Virginia.
3. The state of Maryland.
4. The state of Kentucky.
5. The state of Ohio.
6. The Connecticut western reserve.
7. The landed interests of the banks.
8. The commercial interests of the Chesapeak bay.
9. The towns of Washington, George Town, Alexandria, and many others.
10. Individuals in the western country.
11. Individuals situated on the Potomack.
12. Many classes of speculative adventurers, and bodies corporate, &c. &c. all of whom might become share holders in some shape or other.

It is apprehended, that, the greatest part of the difficulty is to devise some means of setting about the business, in a way in which all the several interests may be combined and brought into action; and as the most improved countries in Europe have reduced their mode of proceeding in such cases to almost a regular system, founded on the solid basis of long *practical experience*; it may not be improper to suggest their method as an outline to begin with.

When, either from the experience and observation of individuals, or the result of frequent popular conversations, an interesting public improvement is contemplated, a few of the most spirited (and generally clear sighted) individuals convene together, by particular agreement, for the purpose of arranging some eligible method of setting the thing on foot; and these having called a fuller meeting, either by circular letter or public advertisement, the leading characters are convened, and a clerk and chairman selected.

A petition is then proposed to the legislative body, or bodies, with whom the necessary indulgence may rest; and receives the signatures of individuals, as in other ordinary cases. A subscription is, at the same time, opened at the rate of five, ten, or any other convenient per centage, as a kind of *pre-emption instalment*, to be credited on the proposed companies books, in payment towards the shares subscribed for; and this being deposited in the hands of a treasurer then chosen, and a committee of management appointed, an engineer (with the assistance of his surveyor, &c.) is employed to ascertain the nearest, levellest and best practical rout or routs; and to furnish the committee with suitable plans, sections, and a report on such matters and things as may be brought in question before the legislature, or in competition, in other respects.

The petition and subscription is, in the meanwhile, pushed actively on, to an extensive accumulation: it being best to avoid cramping the amount of shares; as there will always be lateral branches of profitable improvement to be added, if the funds should exceed the disbursements, an event which seldom happens.

In Europe, a solicitor is generally appointed to assist the committee in matters of legal care; and the engineer, or his assistant, is mostly required to attend the committee of the legislature for the explanation of professional matters.

If, on the present occasion, an active spirit should come forward, they may expect, from the writer, much material assistance; as well as an elucidation of their Western commerce and topography.

It will probably be considered, at first glance, as an almost insurmountable undertaking *to construct a commercial road several hundred miles through a mountainous country.* If men will but reflect for a moment, that many hands make light work, and think how expeditiously they have seen a large harvest shorn by a mere frolic of many reapers, their fears ought to vanish. It is easy to combine the whole force of this great and interesting undertaking in one mutual act of the several legislatures; and to parcel out the work to COMMITTEES *along the road*, in districts of five, ten, or twenty miles each, as may be found convenient. The distance from the Capitol to the mouth of Savage River, (a branch of Potomack) is two hundred and sixteen miles; and from thence to the navigable waters of those vast western regions of which we can scarce comprehend a competent idea, is but seventeen miles, ascertained by the agents of the Potomack Company, about 1790, by an actual mensuration.

Now, if this part of the road was only made good, it would begin to remunerate largely, in toll, from the moment it was completed; and that remuneration would help to extend the road, besides the advantage which the intermediate country would draw from an easy communication between the Eastern and Western commerce.

The various routes which are presented for the Kentucky branch of this road, suggests the propriety of a farther investigation before it is ultimately determined at what place the point of junction shall be formed. Of the general route of the *North Western division*, leading through the state of Ohio to Detroit, (a road of the greatest importance to the community) we shall be able to form the best approximate idea by following the old Indian route according to an actual mensuration of it in 1764.

	MILES.
From Pittsburg to Kushkuskie, on big Beaver creek	45
up East branch of Beaver to Shawingo	15
to Pamatuning	12
to Mohoning on West Beaver creek	32
up Do. to Salt Lick town	10
to Cayahoga river	32
to Ottawas town on Cayahoga	10
Total	156

From this last place there is a navigation open to every part of the Upper Lakes; and the trading route, (by the use of birch canoes and small portages) is known to be in constant practice, and explored by the Canadian traders to, perhaps, the extent of three thousand miles beyond the mouth of Cayahoga on the Southern bank of Lake Erie.

Besides the advantage of the fur and peltry trades, which have for a considerable time past, employed a number of vessels, and induced the adjacent governments to build vessels of war for the regulation and protection of commerce on Lake Erie, our citizens should be more generally informed that there are considerable towns and very ancient settlements in those territories; that the French made settlements there more than two hundred years ago, which have been progressively accumulating; that in the year 1765, the English built houses and laid out gardens and improvements in the town of Detroit, which would not (even at this day) disgrace the city of London; that many respectable English subjects have now settled on the opposite side of the water, and made beautiful improvements; that the citizens of the Eastern states have peopled the vast country on the Southern banks of Lake Erie; and that the whole country is rich in mines, flour, fruits, cattle, horses, and every other production of the Middle states.

Add to this, if they will consult Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia (page 21 to 24)—they will find that the central port of this vast commerce (Detroit) brings the grand mart of this interior trade five hundred and eighty miles nearer to Washington than the route it takes, at present, to New York; and not less than, perhaps, fifteen hundred miles nearer than through the long frozen countries of the River Saint Lawrence; giving, *for ever*, the advantage of a perpetual season, against that hard fated climate where commercial remittances are locked up more than half of the time employed in their trade.

A BACK WOODSMAN.
July 1st, 1805.

PUBLIC VENDUE.

TO be sold at public vendue, at the late dwelling house of JOSEPH HODGSON, deceased, on the 15th day of July next, at 11 A. M. all the personal property belonging to the estate of said Hodgson, consisting of parlour and kitchen furniture, fine and coarse hats—furs of various kinds—hatters' wool, and a good set of hatters' utensils, consisting of kettles, blocks, &c. &c. likewise one good milch cow. The terms of sale will be, for all sums under twenty dollars, *cash*; and for all sums over twenty dollars a credit of six months will be allowed,—by the purchaser's giving bond bearing interest with approved security.

REBECCA HODGSON, *Adm'x*
Washington city, June 29, 1805.—5.

N. B. The convenient dwelling-house, garden, and out-houses to be let on moderate terms, which is now occupied by Mrs. Hodgson,

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, JULY 8.

ON Thursday the anniversary of our national existence was celebrated with the usual demonstrations of joy. At dawn the day was ushered in by a grand salute from the artillery at the Arsenal. At eight o'clock the colors of the national vessels were raised amidst firing at the Navy Yard. All the ships were dressed, and presented a very handsome appearance. During the course of the morning several detachments of militia in uniform paraded, and went thro' various evolutions. At noon another grand salute was fired from the Navy Yard. About this hour, company began to wait upon the President, and in the course of a short time his spacious rooms were filled with a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, including the officers of the government, strangers of distinction and citizens, among whom refreshments were liberally distributed. The President received the congratulations of his fellow citizens on the return of the anniversary of their liberties with the satisfaction which naturally flowed from a recollection of the interesting scenes through which his country had passed, from realising in their full extent the blessings of self government, and from a consciousness of his own agency in establishing and securing the national liberties. Every one present exhibited feelings of lively interest at the return of this great day amidst circumstances so honorable to the character, and so auspicious to the happiness of his country; feelings which were heightened by the happy effect of a powerful band of music, playing patriotic airs at short intervals. At one o'clock the militia passed in review before, and saluted the President. About two o'clock the company separated, and distributed themselves in parties arranged for the further celebration of the day.

At four o'clock a large company, composed of the heads of department, other officers of the government, strangers of distinction and citizens, set down to a handsome dinner provided at Stelle's hotel. Mr. Robert Brent, mayor of the city, in the chair, supported by Captain Tingey and Col. Wharton.

After dinner the following TOASTS were drank, each followed by a discharge of artillery, and a patriotic air by the band, and the whole interspersed with songs.

1. The Day. May its effulgence, thro' revolving ages, shine as unclouded as on this day—*Hail Columbia.*

2. The People, just to themselves, grateful to their benefactors.—*Yankee Doodle.*

3. The Constitution of the United States. Our own free choice, and the noblest monument of the wisdom and virtue of a free people.—*Washington's march.*

4. Thomas Jefferson, the penman of the declaration of Independence. Felicity to him, whose whole life has been devoted to the happiness of others—*Jefferson's march.*

5. The memories of Washington and Franklin, once associates in glory, now participants of bliss.—*Roslin Castle.*

6. The memory of the deceased statesmen and heroes of the revolution. May the independence they atchieved and their own glory be immortal. *104th Psalm.*

7. The States, free, sovereign and independent; ramparts, which can neither be shaken by licentiousness, nor sapped by power.—*Independence.*

8. The territories. Candidates for state honors, may they in the mean time be treated with respect and affection.—*No. Fifty four.*

9. The militia. The bulwark of a Republic—the protection of freemen—the dread of tyrants. *Col. Wharton's march.*

10. The army and navy. May that valour, which has not been surpassed, continue forever to be guided by justice. *The battle.*

11 Our country, whether by birth or adoption, may we indulge no feelings of partiality or aversion to other countries inconsistent with her welfare.—*Rural felicity*

12. Union. "United we stand, divided we fall." Infamy to him, who, by word or deed, would subvert it.—*Come let us prepare.*

13. Peace. The nursery of our strength, the precursor of our glory.—*Come then all ye social powers.*

14. Education, the right of every human being, may communities feel their obligation to diffuse its blessings. *Music.*

15. Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, the firm and indissoluble pillars of national prosperity.—*How sweet thro' the woodland.*

16. National honor, which consists in vindicating our own rights, and not in invading the rights of others.—*Genl. Wilkinson's march.*

17. Freedom of conscience, of speech and of the press. May it pierce the darkest recesses with the radiance of truth, and truth only.—*Genl. Jackson's march.*

18. The nations of the earth. Nature has made us *their* friend—time will make them *ours*. *General Dearborn's march—Bass drum and other drums.*

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After the above toasts were drank, the heads of departments retired, when the President gave the HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

After a rational enjoyment of the pleasures of the day, the company separated at an early hour, in perfect harmony and good will.

At sun set another grand salute from the Navy Yard closed the honors of the day.

The *Washington Juvenile Society* celebrated the Anniversary of American Independence in the following manner:—

Agreeable to a resolution passed by the Society, the members assembled at their Society room at 10 o'clock A. M. when an oration commemorative of the day was delivered by *Geo. Sweeny*, President of the Society; after which several select appropriate pieces were delivered by the members, before a small but respectable audience. A short time after, the young gentlemen retired to partake of a repast prepared for the occasion.—After dinner the following toasts were drank, viz.

It may be proper to observe that there was no kind of liquor drank but the truly innocent and republican liquors of beer and cyder.

1. The Day we celebrate—the Anniversary of the birth of our National Independence. 6 *cheers.*

2. Thomas Jefferson——May the gratitude of his country, and the smiles of Heaven ever reward the penman of the Declaration of American Independence. 6 *cheers.*

3. The Executive of U. States——Firm, free, and independent. 3 *cheers.*

4. The memory of Washington——May the important services he rendered his country, ever be remembered by the grateful sons of independent America. 9 *cheers.*

5. The Revolutionary Patriots——The remembrance of the services they rendered their country, are deeply imprinted in the hearts of all grateful Americans. 3 *cheers.*

6. A speedy emancipation to our brave countrymen in Tripoli; and soon may they again enjoy that liberty they so well deserve. 3 *cheers.*

7. May the sufferings of our fellow citizens in Tripoli teach their countrymen an early lesson of humanity, and to emancipate the unfortunate sons of Africa. 6 *cheers.*

8. Washington City, the infant seat of an independent republican government——Soon may the sails of commerce be unfurled in her harbors. 6 *cheers.*

9. The Washington Juvenile Society. May the institution gain encouragement and the members gain applause. 6 *cheers.*

10. The encouragers of literature. 3 *cheers.*

11. The People of France——the political apostatisers of republican principles. 3 *groans.*

12. Manufactures, Commerce and Agriculture. 6 *cheers.*

13. The Militia of the U. States—the surest safeguard of republican governments. 3 *cheers.*

14. The Arms of the United States. May they ever be successful in a good cause, but never be used in a bad one. 6 *cheers.*

15. Our infant Navy——May it prove an effectual check to Tripolitan piracy. 3 *cheers.*

16. May Tyranny ever continue to be a stranger in this land of freedom. 6 *cheers.*

17. The American Fair——May the beauties of the mind ever surpass the appearances of the person. 9 *cheers.*

In the evening they all retired to their respective homes in sobriety and good order, and remarkable as it may appear, such was the strictness of their regulations, that there was not an oath made use of during the day by one of the company.

SUBSCRIPTIONS towards endowing a *Permanent Institution for the Education of Youth in the City of Washington*, published for the information of the electors of Trustees by the Committee appointed to collect subscriptions.

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