

lead on the Lake shore than can be afforded on the Mississippi, our miners can procure their necessary supplies more cheaply, generally, at the lake cities than at Galena, or other points on the river where they have been in the habit of trading, and this including the cost of transportation. The teams of which the *Courier* speaks, returned loaded with salt, which was obtained at Milwaukee for about \$2.50 per barrel, and can be sold in the mines at about \$7 per barrel."¹ The same subject is again brought up a few months later, and more detailed statements given of the comparative cost of transportation by the two routes.²

On January 21, 1842, Governor Doty approved a resolution of the State legislature requesting New York to abolish the Erie canal tolls on pig and bar lead. In his letter of December 1, 1841, to Governor Seward, regarding the matter, he says: "Our miners have produced more than twenty millions of pounds of lead during this year, and the difficulties, delays and expense of transportation upon the Mississippi and the ocean, and the return freights of merchandize, are so great that if they can receive any encouragement to ship their lead and copper across the lakes they are ready to give their business this direction. If no toll is charged upon either article until the trade becomes established—say for two or three years—it would be an inducement for its commencement early in the spring."³

The result of this request was, that the tolls on the Erie canal were promptly reduced.⁴ But the shipments of lead

¹ *Wis. Enquirer*, Aug. 11, 1841.

² *Id.*, Dec. 4, 1841.

³ *Madison Express*, Feb. 5, 1842. See also, Williams, *N. Y. Annual Register*, 1836, p. 172: "It will be seen by the comparative statement of tolls that the rates are reduced generally to the constitutional minimum. The trade of the canals might be materially augmented by a reduction of the toll on some articles below the constitutional minimum. This is particularly applicable to lead, which, by a reduction of the toll, might be transported in great quantities from the Galena mines through our canals to New York."

⁴ Lapham's *Wisconsin* (ed. 1846), p. 46.