

I am of opinion, from the rough survey of the country, that a line up to, say Viborg, cannot with the working stock, including stations, be made for less than £ 10,000 per mile, but it must be manifest that untill I have made the surveys and prepared all the plans and estimates, I cannot speak with absolute certainty as to the cost.

I am willing to proceed with all the surveys up to Viborg with branches to Ballum, Horsens and Aarhus, and if on receiving all my detail propositions the government do not accept them, on their paying me the sum of four thousand pounds, all my plans and details to be theirs.

Assuming the capital to be say £ 10,000 per mile, including working plant, stations etc. the government shall pay me £ 5,000 per mile in 4 per Cent bonds, the other £ 5,000 per mile, I will find.

I will work the line for 50 per Cent of its receipts and equally divide with the government the other 50. This arrangement to be for fourteen years.

This should be considered to be fair and even liberal.

But I am willing to go beyond this and allow the government after 50 per Cent of receipts has been taken for the maintenance and working of the line to take each year *all* the balance until the 4 per Cent on the £ 5,000 per mile bonds has been received by them, if in any year it does not reach 4 per Cent the government loses to that extent, but I get *nothing* on my half, and it is that I am in my own mind certain of results, that I give them this preference.

When the government have had 4 per Cent and the share capital four per Cent the whole beyond to be equally divided.

I am not disposed to do more and I feel the offer is so fair and liberal, that if it is not accepted I shall feel I offered all that was right, and cannot have cause for regret.

Ever my dear Mr. Westenholz

most truly yours

S. Morton Peto.

R. Westenholz Esq.

Oversættelse.

Cromer, 20. Oct. 1855.

Til Statsraad R. Westenholz.

Jeg har igjen nøie overveiet Sagen om Nordlinien, og i Betragtning af, at jeg enten maa tage min Stab fra Danmark i Nar eller lade den være ledig, som jeg ikke kan, har jeg bestemt mig til at bede Dem gjøre følgende Forslag, og, medmindre jeg faaer et bifaldende Svar til 31te December, vil jeg betragte alle Forhandlinger som endte, og ikke antage, at jeg derefter kan høre paa noget Forslag, om det gøres, da jeg har mange Tilbud fra andre Regjeringer, og det er hovedsagelig paa Grund af min Forpagtning af den sydslesvigiske Linie, at jeg ønsker at blive beffæstiget med at bygge Linien Nord efter.

Jeg troer det bedst at gaae denne Ve. General Drholm var ganske enig med mig paa min Forflaring, at det ei kunde ventes, at jeg skulde holde min Stab i Landet, da Alt, hvad jeg forlangte, om mine Tilbud ikke antoges, var Tilbagebetaling af £ 4000, imod at Regjeringen beholdt alle Overslag.