Direct Route East and West.

A line drawn directly west from Poughkeepsie will pass through Chicago and Omaha, and very close to Cleveland, Sandusky, and Toledo, while Cincinnati and St. Louis lie to the south of it. No great western cities lie north of the line but Detroit, Milwaukee and St. Paul; and to reach these by rail, one must go around the south side of Lake Erie, which is south of the line. If a railroad could be built due west from Poughkeepsie, therefore, it would be the most direct route for the stream of travel east and west. Every mile north or south of this city, or of the direct line east and west, that a passenger on his way west goes before crossing the Hudson, is just so much out of the way, and adds accordingly to the length of the route, the time consumed in the passage, and the expense of carrying.

Distance Saved by the Poughkeepsie Bridge Route.

There are now three great lines between New York and the West—the Pennsylvania Central, the Erie, and the New York Central. The first two are compelled to transport passengers across the Hudson by ferry, and must with our present engineering facilities continue to do so. The third—the only all-rail route—has its bridge at Albany, 75 miles north of the points aimed at, and every car that runs over it must not only run that 75 miles northward to no purpose, but somewhere on its way must and does turn southward again for an equal distance. The same is true of the roads terminating at Jersey City. There is now no all-rail route for coal from the mines of Pennsylvania to the East but the roundabout one by way of Albany, from 80 to 125 miles longer than the route through Poughkeepsie.

From Scranton, Pa., and the Coal mines of that region, to that part of Massachusetts centering about Springfield, and of Connecticut centering about Hartford, BY THE WAY OF ALBANY, over present railroad lines, the proximate distance is 318 miles.

(Note. The actual distance to Hartford by this, the only all-rail route, is 331 miles, to Springfield 305, to Boston 403, and to Providence 421 miles.)