

Resource sheet 1

Here are 6 arguments used by people in 1832 when talking about the good things about the new railway in Manchester.

- ❖ **It carries a lot of people.** Before the Liverpool and Manchester railway was built, coaches could only carry per day 688 persons. The railway, from its beginning carried 700,000 persons in eighteen months being an average of 1,070 per day.
- ❖ **It is reliable.** It has not been stopped for a single day.
- ❖ **It is safe.** There has occurred but one fatal accident on it in eighteen months.
- ❖ **It is cheap.** The fare by coach was 10s (*shillings*) inside, and 5s outside – by railway it is 5s inside, and 3s 6d (*3 shillings and 6 pence*) outside. The rate of carriage of goods is 10s per ton; by canal it used to be 15s per ton.
- ❖ **It is fast.** The time occupied in making the journey by coach was four hours – by railway it is one hour and three quarters. The time occupied in the journey by railway is two hours; by canal it is twenty hours. Goods delivered in Manchester the same day are received in Liverpool. By canal they were never delivered before the third day.
- ❖ By railway, goods, such as wines and spirits, are **not subject to the pilferage (*theft*)** which existed on the canals.

. From *Annual Register, 1832, Miscellaneous articles.*

Source: Gash, N., *The Age of Peel*, Arnold, 1968