

the management of it, he agreed to. But here he stopped and denied that this section would accomplish either of these objects. He proclaimed here that it would strike a deadly blow at the prosperity of the city of Baltimore. The whole control of this work was to be placed in the hands of the people of the District of Columbia, who would work it for their own benefit, and against the interests of the city of Baltimore. It would produce a ruinous competition between the canal and the railroad, both would suffer by it, and also the State of Maryland. The gainers would be the people who would get their coal transported at a nominal rate, and the people of the District of Columbia. We may know now who the trustees are, but do we know who they will be twelve months hence? They are the representatives of the bondholders and may be changed at any time to suit the purposes of the latter. Have we got to the condition as to say that we have no men in the State of Maryland fit to manage this work, that we must go to New York and the District of Columbia to find them? He believed now that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was in a fairer condition of prosperity than ever before, that its prospects were better than ever before. He had a proposition which he should offer, if this section was stricken out, for the appointment of five commissioners to serve without compensation, selected from the best men of the State, to manage the affairs of the company. He denied the assertion of his colleague that the interests of the bondholders would be identical with the State, they were, and are likely to be, directly antagonistic.

Mr. Alvey had not intended to say a word on this subject, but he thought where such momentous interests were concerned that he would be derelict to his duty if he sat here and gave a silent vote. Were they not here for a purpose like this? Were they here to make contracts with people of the State of Maryland? Were they not confined to the work of making a fundamental law for the State? Members had often before claimed that they were trenching upon the powers of the Legislature, and now, in the last hours of the session, they were asked to make a private contract. It was not fair to put this in the constitution; the people wanted the constitution, and might be forced to sustain a measure which, if submitted