

and never can be used for political ends. That is the great reason which induces me to vote to sell the State's interest in dividend paying stocks in works of internal improvement. The banks do not come within that category. The banks I believe to be in such a condition that in no event can the State lose by holding on to its stock. I hope, therefore, that the motion to strike out that provision for selling the bank stocks belonging to the State will not prevail.

Mr. ABBOTT. Is there any power vested in any one to convert the stock, or to give consent for the conversion of the stock now held by the State into a government bank?

Mr. MILLER. Certainly, that can be given.

Mr. ABBOTT. Who have that power?

Mr. MILLER. The State directors would have the power to assent to it.

Mr. ABBOTT. By an act of the legislature?

Mr. MILLER. I think they would have the power to do it even without an act of the legislature.

Mr. NEGLEY. I shall vote against the amendment of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, because I think that now is the time to sell even your bank stock, for the reason that now they are generally above par. I know that selling the interest in the banks in my county, the State would now realize a very handsome premium, it may be twenty per cent., and if they hold on to this stock, under the legislation of the federal government in regard to the banks, they may be compelled to close; and it is a question with me whether in the end the State would get more than par. They may get par, and they may not get par; because we cannot foresee the result of a financial crash that may come upon us at any time. We cannot foresee the effect that this financial crash may have upon the parties who are indebted to the banks. It is all doubtful and problematical. The State may get par for the stock, and may get a part of the surplus which the banks have on hand, or that surplus may be entirely absorbed by the losses of the banks in a financial crash, or more than absorbed. I am therefore in favor of allowing the commissioners to sell the stock of the State in the banks. I think they can get more for them now than they would be likely to do at any time.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. NEGLEY. I move the following amendment:

"And provided further, that no corporation shall be permitted either directly or indirectly, to purchase the interest of the State in any of the public works hereby authorized to be sold, (so as to control their operations to the detriment of the public interest.)"

I will state that in the western part of Maryland, we of Washington county particularly, are very anxious that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal should not fall into the

hands of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad closed up, which would be very detrimental to that portion of Maryland on the line of that canal, and yet it might be very desirable to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. We do not want them to get the control of it in such a way as to put up the toll on that great State work so far as to destroy its usefulness. To avoid that is what we are aiming at.

Mr. PUGH. The gentleman and I stand upon precisely the same platform. All my efforts have been directed to that one end. The only course for us to pursue is to try and reach that end. I have an idea that it is the object of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to secure the control of that canal, in some way; and I believe it would be very detrimental to the interests of the State. My idea has been throughout that the only course at all in which the State would be safe, would be either to put an article into this constitution absolutely forbidding the legislature to dispose of the public works at all, if that can be done, or to require that they should pay for the stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and for whatever other works they purchase, an amount, dollar for dollar, equal in value to the public debt of the State. That I presume would be a check.

The gentleman's amendment I do not think would reach the object at all, because it is utterly impossible to prevent, by any such amendment any corporation now existing in the State, from getting the control of any piece of property whatever that is offered at any kind of public sale. They will do it any how. They will pursue the object unceasingly until they attain it. And in the end the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company will be here what the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company is in New Jersey, where it owns the railroads and the State besides. I do not know that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will buy this stock as a corporation; but their interest will buy it, secure it, and have the control over it. To all practical intents and purposes they will own it whenever you put it into the market.

It is their intention to own it. They will come to the legislature, if there is no article put into the constitution to prevent it, year after year, until they do secure the control in one manner or another of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. I only refer to that one company in this respect. But it has been suggested frequently that a New York company wanted to buy the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. I do not know so much about that as some other members of this body. I believe that at one time it was considered a *bona fide* company. At that time the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company were rather weak. To-day they are rather stronger. But it does not make a particle of difference