

that collections from amounts long due are unreliable, and cannot be made a basis of calculation to meet the requirements of the Treasury. In this approximate of disbursements only the sum of fifty thousand dollars has been allowed, as likely to be called for by the Eastern Shore railroad companies under the Act of 1860, but as the proviso in this Act, which directs that the one-fourth only of the amount awarded to each county shall be paid in any one year, has been repealed by an Act of the present Legislature, and the Treasurer will be called on to pay over the larger portion of the whole amount of \$500,554.34, within this and the coming year, to the different works of internal improvement now being urged forward. The demands on the Treasury will be augmented by this additional amount. And as by every consideration of justice and sound policy we are called on not longer to disregard the claims of our sister counties of St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert for aid in the construction of works of internal improvement, which have already been recognized in the thirty-fourth section of the third Article of the Constitution, your Committee think it would be advisable to place it in the power of the Treasurer to meet at any time the demands from these sources, when their citizens shall have taken the initiative, and complied with the conditions which this Legislature will most probably enact, and make precedent to their enjoyment of these funds, which are intended for their benefit, and the development of the resources of their section of the State. Should the whole amount of five hundred thousand dollars be placed at their disposal in this and the next year, we shall have to provide for a demand on the Treasury of \$1,151,000 for the several purposes hereinbefore indicated. The works of internal improvement on the Eastern Shore have nearly all been placed under contract, and if the distributive shares from the State are paid within the current and the coming year, subject to the provision that before they can be drawn from the Treasury, the Comptroller must be first satisfied that an equal amount has been subscribed and paid in by the company making the demand, the whole of that productive section of our State will be brought into connection with the main arteries of internal improvement to the North of us, and by short steamboat transit from Somers' Cove to Norfolk, no less closely connected with those to the South of us.

Every principle of right as well as expediency makes it proper and urgent that this long deferred justice should be meted out to these portions of the State, whose resources have been allowed to lie dormant and undeveloped by advantages secured by taxation to other and more favored sections, and which they have submitted to without a murmur. The interest on the amounts paid by these counties into the Treasury of the State for works of internal improvement,