dentant Directors were elected by the State's agents. The tolls could not be reduced without the sanction of the Maryland State agents. So that the law already gave them all the control it was practicable to exert. This control might be made more extensive, if the Company should apply to the Legislature for further aid; but this was not likely to occur, as it could not obtain it under this new Constitution.

Now, insert this amendment, that the Board should have the power, &c., and it would be confering powers which it could not exercise. The agents would not displace the Board for reducing the tolls, because the tolls cannot be reduced without their sanction. And, to remove the Board for a reduction of tolls, would be a censure upon the acts of the State agents themselves. The object of his remarks was to show that the State had already all the control it was possible for her to attain. Then, again, how could the State agents known whether the rate of tolls was right, or wrong? They could only tell from the facts that came before them, and such other knowledge as they had upon the subject. Suppose that persons engaged in the transportation of a certain article, notify the Company that the article is taking another course to market, because the toll is too high, and suppose upon investigation, it is ascertained that another route is prefered and used, simply because it is cheaper. Upon such a state of facts, the question would arise, is the Canal to lose or retain the revenue derived from the trade in that article? If the toll be suffered to stand, the effect is, that the trade is lost—if the toll be reduced, the trade is not only regained, but enhanced in amount. Under such circumstances, could any board be censured for a reduction of toll?

He did not intend to embark in this subject of tolls, (which he supposed would be irrelevant,) except in reference to the amendment of the gentleman, now under consideration.

Upon the subject of coal, in which the State had a deeper interest than in any other, a committee was appointed on that subject, and was engaged two or three months in obtaining facts—the price of and demand for the article in the Estern markets, the various kinds of coal that came into competition with it, the cost of mining, transportation, &c. &c. All these and many other matters of minutiæ were carefully collected by the order of the Board of Directors, and laid before the Board, by whom they were scrutinized with great care.

Upon a review of all those facts, the Maryland State agents might come to the conclusion that it would be necessary to reduce the tolls on a given article on the canal, which rate to one not cognizant of the subject in all its bearings, might appear to be too low.

It seemed to him that no well-thinking man could cavil at such action, under such circumstances. We all knew that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was never constructed as a coal road. It had never been able to bring to market more than 146,000 tons a year, and it might be a ruinous thing for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to have its tolls so adjusted as to enable the railroad company to prosecute this trade. You might, and probably would, regard a rate of toll adapted to the business of the canal, as ruinous to the railroad. In other words, the experience of all the canals upon which this subject had been fairly tested, was that in proportion to the reduced rate of toll, in that same proportion did you augment the revenue. Upon the New York canals the reduction of 20 and 25 per cent, had invariably increased the trade in a greater ratio. Agents of Maryland had now all the control which he apprehended his friend from Baltimore county desired to give them by his amendment. They had a supervisory power; they had, in fact, a veto upon the power to reduce the tolls on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and it was impossible that this Convention could go further. The rights of that company being secured by charter, could not without its consent, be further interfered with. For these reasons he should vote against the amendment.

Mr. Dorsey said:

It was with no small degree of embarrassment that he rose to take part in the warm and exciting debate now taking place, before this Convention. He witnessed with regret the warmth and apparently personal interest or feeling, with which the amendment of the gentleman from Frederick, had been assailed by many of his, [Mr. D.'s,] most intimate and esteemed friends, who seemed to speak and act as if they were defending themselves against unjust and disparaging charges made against them; in which their honor, their motives or their character were involved in our decision. He begged leave to state in the outset, that he preferred no such charges; that he heard none made by others, that he entertained no such opinions of their conduct; that the great sensibility and excitement which they had evinced, were uncalled for by the occasion. In sincerity he declared that for the State's agents and for the president and directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, as far as he knew them, he entertained the most profound respect and regard. And as for his friend from Montgomery, with whom, from his early boyhood, he had ever been on terms of the most intimate, affectionate and confidential intercourse, a suspicion of intentional dereliction of duty or perpetration of any act that he believed to be wrong, never for one moment entered his imagination; and tthat he entertained the same opinions, as to the conduct of all the persons to whom he had referred. But great as was his confidence; it had not made him blind—he could not shut his eyes against the light; he comes here elected by the people of Anne Arundel, under no promises, no pledges, but the untrammeled representative of the State of Maryland, determined, to the best of his feeble judgment, conscientiously, faithfully to discharge his duty, without fear, favor or affection. He was resolved, as far as his vote could effect it, to do equal justice to all, to protect the weak against the aggressions of the strong; to secure and protect the rights and interests and promote the prosperity