All those offices which were brought into being by the Constitution of 1776, it would be necessary to interfere with, if any change was proposed at all; but this was not a case of that sort. He would vote to leave the Legislature to enlarge or diminish the duties of the office, according to the public exigencies, or to abolish it altogether, if the public interest should so require.

Mr. Bowie said that without the introduction of the amendment, it would be the duty of the State's agents to represent the interests of the State in those works, which would require them to examine into the interests of the State in reference to them. If this provision should be added, it might induce them to believe that it was intended to confer upon them a supervisory power over the chartered rights of the companies, which could not be conferred by the Constitution. The creation of the office itself would confer all the power which could be constitutionally conferred by this clause; and it might be understood to require such action as, if taken, would be an infringment of the rights contained in the charters.

Mr. Spencer said that there were three grounds upon which he should give his vote, to wit: he found that according to the charters of these companies, it was not possible for the State directly to elect these officers; and that by this provision of the gentleman from Frederick, and by the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county, there would be that control given to the officers elected by the State, which would enable them within the law, to have that kind of constant supervision which would enable them, under the law, to remove president and directors whenever they should be found to be deficient in the performance of their duties. He should vote for districts also, because there were antagonistic interests in different portions of the State; and he should vote for districts, in order to allow each section a representation.

Mr. Howard wished to say a word or two upon the question of power, in reply to the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Bowie,) in order to show that he did not fall within the category of those who wished to entrench upon the prerogatives of the charteers. The gentleman from Washington [Mr. Schley,] had stated this evening, that before they reduced the toll, they consulted the State's agents. His object was to direct the State's agents how to proceed when consulted. This was no infringement upon the rights of the company. It was a power which was exercised by the State's agents now, that he had proposed to make it their duty to exercise the power to examine the subject, and instead of taking into view the interests of the company as an isolated company, to examine the whole question. He merely had desired to say that this was no invasion of the rights existing under the charters.

Mr. Dorsey could not conceive how the number of men upon the Canal could have any connection with the political character of the board. Those employed upon the Canal boats were perfectly independent of the Canal. It might just as well be urged that the travellers upon a railroad, or in an omnibus, or a stage, were subject to the political influence of the conductors of these several vehicles, or of the officers of the turnpike, as that the boatmen upon the canals could be politically influenced by the directors of the canal.

Mr. Schley wished again to disclaim any imputations upon the motions of any gentleman; but his colleague [Mr. Harbine,] had stated the fact that there would be two whigs and two democrats upon the board, and he [Mr. S.,] deduced the argument in opposition to the scheme for that very reason, for when they met to elect president and directors, if they could not agree, no election could take place until the treasurer should be sent for to decide the matter. So in the question of the reduction of tolls, the treasurer must be sent for, and the whole matter rehearsed before him before he could decide.

Mr. Thomas said that gentlemen did not seem to feel the force of the principle, that where so much property was to be represented, all parties ought to be represented. What would be the condition of the Legislature, if the whole one one hundred and three members were of one political party? The yeas and nays could not be called, and every proposition would be passed through without opposition. It would be the most despotic tyranny that could be conceived of, and might lead to every species of abuse and corruption. As to the extent of the power to be wielded by this board, if it should be extended as proposed by the gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] there would be so much the more reason for putting it into the hands of the people to say who should be entrusted with such a power. Was there not intelligence enough in the great body of the people of Maryland to determine that question?

Mr. Dorsey moved that the Convention adjourn.

The motion was not agreed to.

Mr. Dorsey stated several amendments which he would propose, in order to prevent any inconsistency in the bill with the previous action of Convention, and was about to explain these amendments, when he yielded to

Mr. Crisfield, who moved to adjourn.

Mr. John Newcomer demanded the yeas and nays;

Which were ordered, and being taken resulted, Yeas 43, nays 31.

So the Convention agreed to adjourn.

Before the anouncement of the decision,

Mr. McHenry, (with the unanimous consent of the Convention,) gave notice that at the proper time he should offer the following as a substitute for the report and amendment:

"*Sec.* 1. The Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer shall constitute the commissioners of the public works and property for this State. The Governor shall be ex-officio President of, and the Secretary of State clerk to this board.

Sec. 2. dollars a year shall be allowed to the commissioners to defray their travelling expenses while in the performance of their duties as members of the board, but no