

(pages 18 and 19) are still in the hands of the company, ready to be delivered up to any officer of the State properly authorised to receive them. Pursuant to the purpose announced in the paragraph alluded to, we have since tendered them to the present Treasurer of the State—but like his predecessor in office, he also, declined to receive them, on the alledged ground of a want of authority to do so. We would, therefore, respectfully suggest, that a resolution be passed by the General Assembly, authorising and directing the Treasurer to receive and receipt for the same, in order that they may be cancelled and destroyed at the time, and in such manner as may be provided for the cancellation of the coupons received by the State in payment of its taxes.

During the past year the Canal has been subjected to but few casualties. Only two slight breaches occurred, which interrupted the navigation but a few days, and a suspension of about three weeks, took place during the excessive drought in the month of September, in consequence of the low water in the river, and the defective condition of Dams No. 4 and 5. These Dams were promptly repaired so as to afford a sufficient present supply of water for the navigation; and, with the addition of a few more repairs, and gravelling, which ought to be attended to as soon as the company can command means to accomplish it, a recurrence of a similar state of things would be thoroughly provided against. In the annual report of last June, the Board indicated certain improvements on the Georgetown level, and its appurtenant works, which were called for by a due regard to a judicious economy. Since then, though not to the extent recommended, the Board have caused some improvements to be made on that part of the line, and have contracted for others, which are now in progress, and will be completed during the winter. The improvements finished, are the tightening of the Little Falls feeder, by which that level is supplied with water, and the raising of the guard banks of the canal at such points as are most exposed to the overflow of the river. The improvement in progress is the construction of a tumbling waste, two hundred and fifty feet long in the clear, which it is thought will hereafter furnish a sufficient security against breaches, on that portion of the canal in ordinary freshets. The Board have only been deterred, from making this improvement of the dimensions mentioned in the June report, by the limited extent of their means. In addition to the work above mentioned, the Shenandoah outlet lock, near Harpers-Ferry, has been raised at its river end, and the adjacent canal banks somewhat elevated. This also has been a point, where breaches have been frequent from the overflow of the river, but the improvement alluded to will hereafter form an effectual barrier, and render this part of the line secure. The whole sum expended in the above mentioned improvements to the close of the year, amounts to \$2,981, and the entire cost, when completed will not exceed \$5,500.

The saving from breaches may more than compensate for this outlay in a single year.