

Company, under the provisions of the act of 1784, for one hundred shares, of £. 130 sterling each, as an addition to the navigation of the river is so far improved as to be at present that many thousand barrels of flour, besides much other produce brought to market on the surface of its waters, and that the safe and the judgment and opinion of persons best qualified to decide; is practical

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The committee find, that the general assembly of Maryland, heretofore impressed with the great and lasting benefits resulting from an easy communication with the fertile counties watered by the Patowmack and its tributary streams, subscribed the sum of five thousand pounds sterling in aid of this important undertaking, and in the opinion of the committee, additional reasons now exist to induce the state to augment the number of its shares by a further subscription. It is at once obvious to every reflecting mind, that exclusive of the profits to be derived from the tolls on the amount of the sum subscribed, the state is deeply interested in promoting the navigation of the river to improve its western lands, to draw the produce of a great and valuable part of Virginia and Pennsylvania to its shores, to quicken industry, promote commerce, and, by opening communications between the sources of the Patowmack and the waters of the western world, to raise the credit, wealth and power of this state, to that scale which it should always occupy, and to which its local situation, improved to advantage, eminently entitles it.

The committee conceive too, that the tolls which will be payable upon the completion of this extensive object, must of necessity in a few years be peculiarly productive, and of course will augment the revenue of government in proportion to the amount of its interest in the capital. An increasing fund, upon which the state may hereafter calculate with certainty, which will keep pace with and must be founded upon the progressive prosperity of the community, which has its basis in the extension of our commerce, is readily collected and paid with facility and cheerfulness, must certainly be a political desideratum of the first importance.

Upon the whole, the committee are of opinion that the legislature of Maryland ought to subscribe for as many additional shares in the Patowmack Company as their funds will admit of, and that the president and directors of said company should have a discretionary power to make the canals and other works on said river of any dimensions which in their judgment are best calculated to secure and perfect the easy and safe navigation of said river, and that an act should pass to carry the prayer of said petition into effect.

Which was read.

By order,

J. O'BRYON, 3d. clk.

Mr. Roberts, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Jacob Loockerman, of Talbot county; report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion that the prayer thereof ought to be granted, inasmuch as the alteration of the road therein mentioned will meet with the approbation of many persons immediately interested, and cannot injure the public. All which is submitted.

Which was read.

By order,

J. HARWOOD, clk.

Mr. M'Mechen, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to extend Pratt street, in Baltimore-town, westerly until it intersects the turnpike road leading from the said town to Frederick-town; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

On the second reading the bill to prevent the removal of persons from this state who have petitioned, or may petition, for freedom, the question was put, That the words "knowing the petition to be filed," be inserted in the enacting clause of the said bill? Resolved in the affirmative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

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