

the 5th of October. The election laws required two weeks' notice of an election in Baltimore, and although it was perfectly competent for the Convention to obviate this difficulty and prescribe any day on which the election should occur, it was not thought advisable that it should take place on the second Wednesday in October, which would be but four days after the constitution went into effect.

The amendment was adopted, and the bill passed—yeas 94, nays none.

The report of the committee on public works, relative to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, was taken up, the question being on the motion of Mr. Syester to strike out the third section.

The Convention then went into committee of the whole on the subject, Mr. Dent, of St. Mary's, in the chair.

Mr. McKaig said it was important to understand this question to look into matters when the canal failed and declared itself bankrupt, and into the preferred bonds, to the holders of which it was now proposed to surrender up the canal.

Mr. McKaig then gave a review taken from the published statements of the various subscriptions of the State to the canal, which finally reached \$7,000,000 subscriptions, and \$5,000,000 stock, and gave the State entire control, which she has retained until the present time. The work was abandoned by the stockholders and then taken up by the State. If the work was given up the State of Virginia might complain that the contract made in the act of 1844 had been violated, as Virginia had guaranteed the repair bonds with the understanding that Maryland was to take control. To this it might be answered that Virginia sent her Attorney General, Randolph Tucker, here in 1860, who urged this measure, and now she had General Bradley Johnson here urging it again, and this he thought was a sufficient reason.

It was found in 1835 that unless the canal was finished to the mineral region of Allegany, it would be worthless, and \$7,000,000 would be sunk, as the canal in the other counties through which it then passed did not pay its expenses. The alternative was with the State to finish the